



EDUCATE THE CHILDREN
INTERNATIONAL



SOM LAXMI'S STORY

Som Laxmi Thami is 34 years old, married with children. Neither she nor her eight siblings (four of whom died young) ever went to school. She spent her childhood doing arduous household chores, and married at 18.

When ETC began working in her village in mid-2014, Som Laxmi was eager to participate in our programs. She joined our Gurans women's group and completed ETC's basic literacy training in 2014/15, and is now enrolled in and regularly attending one of our advanced literacy classes. Through this experience, she became more personally confident and convinced of the value of education, and encourages her own daughters (enrolled in grades 8, 5, and 4) to study hard.

Som Laxmi is also the **Leader Farmer** for her women's group, meaning that she attends all ETC agricultural trainings and shares what she learns with her group peers. She took out a loan of less than US\$20 from her women's group's microcredit fund last year, using that money to purchase irrigation piping. Applying the skills gained through ETC, she and her family earned approximately US\$280 in 2015 by raising and selling various types of vegetables. This represents a huge increase in family income. She also raises goats, chickens, and buffalo for milk and eggs as well as for meat.

Pictured: Som Laxmi in her garden.



Like all of our women's group members, Som Laxmi received support from ETC to build adequate shelter after her family's home collapsed in the quakes. The family is still living in that temporary shelter while saving up to rebuild a permanent home. Although the government has allocated about US\$2,000 per family to assist with rebuilding, most of that money has not yet been paid out — and in any case, it won't be nearly enough.

Som Laxmi is one of 973 ETC women's group members who are all in the same boat. Every one of them suffered considerably from last spring's earthquakes. Every one of them is committed to working hard to make her own life and the lives of her family members better than before. **Now more than ever, they want and need the training and resources that ETC provides, to help them grow more nutritious food and to earn more money.**

YES, I WANT TO HELP NEPALI VILLAGERS LIKE SOM LAXMI!

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

You can make a secure online credit card gift at www.etc-nepal.org/donate.php

If you prefer to write a check or to have us process your credit card gift, please fill out the following:

Amount: \$2,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other: _____

Check enclosed OR Charge my credit card: Visa MC Amex Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. date: _____ 3-digit code on back (required): _____

Clip this form and mail to: ETC, P.O. Box 414, Ithaca, NY 14851-0414

Scholarship Distribution

One of the many benefits of joining an ETC women's group is that each member is eligible to have one of her school-age children receive support to enable them to attend school. This program helps 500 or more children each year — with preference given to daughters, because when a family cannot



afford to send all its children to school, it is the girls who are most likely to be kept home and expected to do housework and care for their younger siblings. Families from miles around flock to ETC's festive scholarship distribution events. Children and parents alike are so thrilled to receive this important support! **Pictured left:** Children and parents at the Babare VDC distribution event in February. **Pictured above right:** ETC-Nepal Executive Director Mira Rana and Education Director Laxmi Basukala present a child with her supplies bag, as her happy mother looks on.

Update: School Reconstruction

Homes were not the only buildings destroyed by the spring 2015 earthquakes. Every one of the 30 schools with which ETC has been working since mid-2014 was also damaged or ruined, as were most schools in our old program areas. With the timely support of so many of you, ETC ensured that the thousands of students enrolled in these schools could resume their interrupted educations as quickly as was reasonably possible, in temporary classrooms.

Nepal's government has allocated approximately US\$1,500 per school for post-quake reconstruction — obviously not nearly enough. ETC is therefore working hard to improve the temporary facilities, making them sturdier and more weather-proof. Pictured at left is a metal frame building with concrete foundation, presently being built at Saptamai Primary School through the generous support of the Nepal Center of North Carolina.



Save the Date!

**Sunday,
May 15,
3-5 p.m.**



Central NY friends, watch your mailboxes for an invitation to our upcoming benefit event.

Enjoy wine-tasting and hear about ETC's latest and ongoing activities!

*Photos throughout by
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Educate the Children

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