



WINTER 2011

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Happy Holidays and welcome to our special end-of-year edition with personal greetings from our Board of Directors. We approach the end of 2011 with renewed energy and a grateful heart for all that we have been able to accomplish. This is directly due to the many generous friends who gave so much of their time and money to our cause. It's been an extraordinary year for the Bo M. Karlsson Foundation, and we thank you profusely for helping us succeed in meeting our goals for the year.

Two members of our own extended BMKF family, former board member, Jackie Garces, and Alice Villa, daughter of founding director Patty Villa, have written poignantly for our "Why I Give" segment. Their words deeply touch and encourage us to continue doing the work we have started.

There is much left to do and we value your support. Please consider giving the gift of education with a donation in a loved one's name this holiday season, and help us raise the number of recipients for next year. With the number of applicants increasing each year, we are hoping to award 15 scholarships in 2012 and I know that together we can do it!

Thank you,

Sonnia J. Karlsson
Founder/Executive Director ■

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BOARD NEWS

PERSONAL MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BIPASANA SAKYA JOSHEE
INTERIM BOARD PRESIDENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

During this season our thoughts often turn to thanks for our families and support systems. Ever since I've become involved with the Bo M. Karlsson Foundation, these thoughts are often followed by those of our wonderful scholarship recipients and of the amazing global support system we have been able to help develop for them. This means you! Some of our dedicated and talented young women have emotionally supportive family, others do not, but all lack the support for resources to help them achieve their dreams of higher education. As we reviewed their essays this summer, I felt the strength of their ambition as well as the incredible glimmer of hope they could hardly believe, that someone half way across the world would support them in their goals. Their disbelief is well founded: no one else is doing the kind of work we together are doing for the young women in Nepal. On behalf of all our scholarship students, thank you for your support and continued engagement with the Bo M. Karlsson Foundation.

May you enjoy the upcoming holidays, knowing you have spread the spirit of the season far beyond the loved ones you are spending it with.



BRETT CARLSON
BMKF BOARD MEMBER

I feel very lucky having had the opportunity over the years to have visited, worked, or lived in 76 nations around the world, from the salt deserts of Bolivia, to small nations in the South Pacific, to Burma, Bali, from Morocco across North Africa to Egypt, Switzerland, France and Iceland, to Machu Picchu in Peru, to China, Thailand, India and Nepal...and a lot of other incredible places. I am often asked which places are most remarkable or which location would I recommend for a lifetime experience. Nepal always appears in the top 3 of that list! A nation nestled between India and China with some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. It's a spiritual place where the people have a difficult yet full life. Nepalese have an incredible culture, and have taken on the responsibility to protect one of the most remarkable places on the planet. I have volunteered to join the Bo M. Karlsson Foundation because of the focus of the foundation to help bring positive change by educating women in Universities in Nepal to continue the work that is needed to protect this most remarkable region, elevate women to equal status in the culture and further develop a foundation to protect the treasures of Nepal.

Thanks to all of you that have helped BMKF reach and exceed our goals this year! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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ALICE HAYES

BMKF BOARD AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER

It's fun to be part of an organization that delivers such a necessary resource to young women who need and appreciate it. 2011 was a particularly good year for the Bo M. Karlsson Foundation, thanks largely to the success of our fundraising auction, Mahilaa Night. I'd like to offer my thanks to all of you who helped make it so, through your donations, by coming to the auction and by volunteering. I hope you and your friends and families will have time together to share in the fun of the coming holidays!



MARILYN MITCHELL

BMKF BOARD AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

I first became a Board Member of the Bo M. Karlsson Foundation in March 2011 and I continue to feel so appreciative to be able to give back to a country that I have come to love so much. Living in Nepal for a year brought me days filled with peace, excitement, beauty and most of all, a new sense of what it means to connect with others. The people of Nepal taught me the simplicity of relating to one another and being there for each other. Ever since my return to Seattle in 2002, I'd been looking for a purposeful opportunity to give back to the country that enriched my life so thoroughly.

Witnessing Mahilaa Night, along with all of the generous donations that have come in throughout the year, has felt like a blessing. I was able to see us raise enough money to add scholarships for underprivileged women in Nepal. I can't emphasize enough how far your donations go... it truly is the difference from a woman having to stay in her small village for a lifetime and having the opportunity to go to school and embark on a career that allows her to give back to her family, her community, her country, but most importantly, herself.

Cheers to hopes of a wonderful holiday season for all!



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BOARD NEWS

PERSONAL MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS *continued...*

SUZANNE RILEY

BMKF BOARD SECRETARY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Wow! It's been an amazing year for the Bo M. Karlsson Foundation! I am so happy and proud to be part of this organization that is making such a difference in the world. I believe very deeply that education is the most important factor in lifting anyone out of poverty, but this is especially true for women in parts of the world where they have so few opportunities. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our generous donors for the support you have shown to these amazing young women! Your contributions are going a long way towards building better lives for them and their families, as well as communities across Nepal. Empowering these young women and strengthening their families and communities is the best gift you could possibly give. As both a woman and a mother of a daughter, it is truly heartwarming to see the progress that is being made as a direct result of your generosity. Thank you so much for all you do!

Happy Holidays!

SUJAN SHRESTHA

BMKF BOARD AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

I come from Nepal and a culture where goddesses are worshipped and blessings asked for prosperity, success and happiness, but at the same time women are perceived as the ones who make no contribution to their culture. In the process, they are not sent to school — instead, they are taught household chores to help their mothers complete everyday tasks. Even though the notion of unequal gender participation in the society is changing, the practice is still prevalent in rural Nepal and underprivileged families. Even my mother was never sent to school, and when she realized the importance of education, it was too late because she got married and started having children while still a teenager. This scenario is very typical in places like Nepal where we ignore the importance of educating women, and this has to change. It is for this same reason that I joined the Bo M. Karlsson Foundation — to bring efforts to send underprivileged women of the world to higher education.

Thank you for your kind patronage and have a great season in the coming days! ■



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WHY I GIVE

JACKIE GARCÉS

Why I give?

I give because I am able. My father, a retired school custodian and an immigrant who never had the opportunity to go to high school, always says to me, “give if you are able.” He believes that if you have extra of anything, whether it is time, food or money, you give.

I give to the Bo M. Karlsson Foundation to honor my father. Because he understands the value of a good education and he believed in me. He worked extra jobs to ensure he could save enough to help me and some of his nieces in the Philippines attend college. Many young women in Nepal have the same dreams about their education as I had at their age, but oftentimes are prevented from achieving their educational goals because of their economic circumstances. I was fortunate to have a great dad and I give because I want to help a young woman become self-reliant and confident, and to help her achieve her dream of an education.



ALICE VILLA

My daughter dreams of being a writer. For years she reflected fancifully and happily on this aspiration, until one day, perhaps as the wisdom of adolescence began to shed new light on the world, it struck her that she had no concrete idea of how to make that dream into reality. She came to me distressed and discouraged. I pulled her close to me and smooched her and hugged her, and then we began to talk. We talked about what would help, and what steps she could take to prepare herself to be a writer. Together, we mapped out an educational plan for her that involved taking writing classes at the community college and local writing center, attending lectures by visiting authors (including Lemony Snicket), and finding a writing mentor. Now she’s learning how to construct plots and develop characters, how to build the discipline to sit down and write, how to let words flow, and how to edit. She’s surrounding herself with people who have published books, and people who are working their way there. She knows she’s laying the foundations, and now she reflects happily and confidently on her dreams.

I am profoundly thankful that I can provide this education to my daughter and help her build her dreams. I am profoundly thankful for my own education, which has opened opportunities for me that I never would have even imagined possible. My life is full and wonderful.

I give to the education of women to express gratitude. I give because my own empowerment is only worthwhile if I can empower someone else, as well. I give because someone else’s daughter has dreams to make real.

Thank you, Sonia, for helping us bring light where it is so needed. ■





SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

WAYS TO GIVE SUPPORT

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

- One-time donation by check or money order
- One-time donation by credit card via PayPal on the [BMKF website](#)
- Set up automatic monthly donations

MATCHING GIFTS

Check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program.

OTHER WAYS OF GIVING

- Participate in fundraising events (make in-kind donations, volunteer, or purchase items)
- Donations in Memoriam
- Donate stocks and securities
- Use [GoodSearch.com](#) and [Goodshop.com](#) and select us as your charity of choice
- Purchase a BMKF gift card (for any occasion)
- Host a party (with our support)

CORPORATE GIVING

Corporations or small businesses can sponsor one of our events, sponsor a recipient, or share revenues with BMKF.

For more information please contact us at info@bomkarlsson.org. ■

HOW FAR YOUR DOLLAR GOES IN NEPAL

DONATE	FUND A YOUNG WOMAN'S ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR...
\$50-99	School Uniform or Transportation Fees
\$100+	Exam Fees or Books
\$250+	Room and Board Fees
\$500+	Tuition/Expenses for Education, Journalism, or Music Studies
\$750+	Tuition/Expenses for Accounting or Media Studies
\$1000+	Tuition/Expenses for Nursing, Physics, Business, Math, or Law
\$1500+	Tuition/Expenses for Engineering, Biology, Pharmacy, Art, or Environmental Science
\$2500-3500	Tuition/Expenses for MGDP - Country/Rural Physician Program

