



# FRIENDS OF PATAN HOSPITAL

## Update 2023

December 2023

Friends of Patan Hospital

1980 Dahlia Street

Denver, CO 80220

Friends of Patan Hospital is a 501 (c)3 charitable organization that supports health care in Nepal.

### Rukum Hospital

As Patan Hospital has become more self-sufficient in recent years, FOPH has found new avenues for fulfilling our charter to advance healthcare among the poor and underserved in Nepal. Through a series of personal connections with current and former medical missionaries to Nepal, we were able to facilitate the transfer of \$20,000 from a donor-advised fund in the U.S. to a small rural hospital in the

mid-western region of Nepal called Chaurjahari Hospital Rukum.

This small hospital was founded in the 1990's by TEAM, an American Christian missionary organization, but was forced to close down during the ten-year civil war. Rukum Hospital was eventually reopened by a national Nepali Christian NGO called HDCS (Human Development and Community Service) and is still the only

hospital in the region. It sees up to 300 patients per day, handles up to 50 inpatients at a time, and performs about 3,000 surgeries per year. Hospital staff also perform community outreach and health education, with a special emphasis on reaching the poor, remote, and marginalized. You can read more about HDCS and the hospital at [www.hdcsnepal.org](http://www.hdcsnepal.org).



*Rukum Hospital, a small rural hospital in mid-western region of Nepal.*



# Latest News from Patan

## Mercy Clinic

The Nepal Lhomi Society is another Nepali Christian NGO that was originally founded to promote mother-tongue-based education for the Lhomi people group near the Tibetan border and has since expanded into health care and community development as well. Through additional personal connections with American medical missionaries in Nepal, FOPH has entered into a partnership with a donor-advised fund in the U.S. to transfer funds to the Nepal Lhomi Society for construction and operations at their Jhyambe Menkong “Mercy” Clinic in the remote mountain village of Chepuwa, Nepal (see map). This five-year commitment will send \$25,000 for clinic construction and \$20,000 per year for operational ex-

penses starting in 2023. Mercy Clinic has been operating out of the home of the local pastor but is now constructing its first free-standing building and a road to the clinic. Staffed by Nepali health care providers equivalent to

nurse practitioners in the US, the clinic provides maternal and child services, health check-ups, medications, basic lab services, and health education. Learn more at [www.nelhos.org.np](http://www.nelhos.org.np).



Above: Patients line up for care at current Mercy Clinic. At left, map inset shows location of Chepuwa, home to Mercy Clinic. Below: Construction has begun on a new Mercy Clinic.



## Okhaldhunga Hospital



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Nestled in the remote foothills of the Himalayas due south of Mount Everest, Okhaldhunga Hospital is a Christian mission hospital run by the United Mission to Nepal. It provides primary care services, community-based rehabilitation services, inpatient medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and orthopedics and a school of nursing. Doctors in training do three-month rotations at Okhaldhunga for extra training in rural medicine, basic surgery, and OB/GYN. The hospital treats about 36,000 outpatients and 6,000 inpatients per year. Thanks to the efforts of former board member Dr. Rebecca Mashburn, who personally served at Okhaldhunga from 1996 to 2000, FOPH has sent thousands of dollars in support to this worthy hospital over the years, including almost \$7,000 in the past two years. Sadly, Dr. Mashburn passed away this year at age 63 after a long battle with cancer. FOPH is committed to continuing our support for this worthy hospital in memory of Dr. Mashburn. Learn more at [umn.org.np/page/okhaldhunga-hospital](https://umn.org.np/page/okhaldhunga-hospital).

### Patan COVID Lab

FOPH would like to recognize Fred and Catherine De Sauvage of Foster, California, who in February 2022 generously gave \$10,000 to support the Patan Hospital COVID testing lab. Patan was front and center in Nepal's COVID care during the pandemic, providing both ICU care for severe COVID patients as well as continuing to provide non-COVID-related emergency care to patients testing positive for COVID.

### Charity Care Fund

Our most important priority at FOPH over the years has been to contribute as much as we can to the Charity Care Fund at Patan Hospital. This fund provides the means for the hospital to care for patients who are unable to pay even the modest fees charged by the hospital. Thanks to the financial growth of our endowment and the generosity of you, our donors, we were able to give \$100,000 to this fund over the past two years.

## Rest In Peace

FOPH has lost several of its charter board members in the past two years.

- **Dr. Rebecca Mashburn** passed away in March 2023 after a long battle with cancer.
- **Amy Hecht**, wife of FOPH founder Jim Hecht, passed away peacefully at home in June 2023 after a long and productive life of service.
- Long-time board member and devoted friend of Patan Hospital **Bob Shields** passed away in May 2022.

### Rukum Hospital • Late-breaking news:

On November 3, 2023, the region around Rukum Hospital was hit with a 6.4 magnitude earthquake, killing around 200 people and injuring hundreds more. The hospital has been at the epicenter of disaster relief and care of the injured and was immediately distributing tarps, blankets, food, and hygiene kits to the hundreds of households affected. They are also preparing for the long-term care and rehabilitation of the newly disabled. FOPH is prepared to send immediate financial support for these efforts. If you would like to contribute, you can send your donation to FOPH marked "Rukum Hospital".



## *Patan Hospital*

**F**ounded in 1982 as a Christian mission hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal, Patan Hospital has evolved into a Nepali-run independent multi-specialty medical facility seeing over 440,000 patients per year. It maintains the values of its founders, providing high-quality, compassionate care to all comers, regardless of ability to pay, and remains financially sustainable by keeping charges at a level that most families can afford. The Patan Academy of Health Sciences, now with schools of Medicine, Nurs-

ing & Midwifery, and Public Health, was established in 2010 for the purpose of training and equipping medical personnel to serve in remote underserved areas throughout Nepal.

A coterie of talented, visionary Nepali physicians has turned Patan Hospital into one of the premier medical institutions in Nepal, both for patient care and for medical education. They are educating the health care policymakers of the future and performing cutting edge research to find

creative ways to tackle the difficult problems at the intersection of poverty and health. By investing in the intellectual and human capital of Nepal, they are setting up Patan Hospital as a model for other developing nations to follow. Friends of Patan Hospital is privileged to support the vision of these dedicated professionals and follow their lead as they prioritize the hospital's needs and set a course for the future.



### *The PAHS Mission Statement*

**The Patan Academy of Health Sciences is dedicated to sustained improvement of the health of the people of Nepal, especially those who are poor and living in rural areas, through innovation, equity, excellence and love in education, service and research.**

### *How You Can Help*

FOPH sends out only one mailing per year asking for your support, and this is it. As always, 100% of your donation goes toward its intended purpose - we take nothing out for expenses. You can designate your donation to any of the healthcare entities that FOPH supports. Checks can be mailed to Friends of Patan Hospital at 1980 Dahlia Street, Denver CO 80220, or you can give online via PayPal at our newly redesigned website [www.foph.org](http://www.foph.org).