



**TWOWORLDS**  
cancer collaboration

# Reportage 2022



# President's Perspective

Dr. Simon Sutcliffe



## Welcome to Reportage 2022 our annual progress update.

In 2022, Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration's common purpose and partnerships flourished. These past two years – through the height of the COVID-19 pandemic – have expanded our collaborations and reinforced our vision.

Whether you live or die of cancer, or other serious illnesses, should not be determined by where you live or your circumstances. As global citizens, we have an obligation to **Close The Care Gap** increasing care equity and accessibility.

These are challenging times globally amid conflicts, humanitarian disasters,

climate change, and economic stresses. It is too easy to find differences rather than look for what makes us all similar. The inequitable response to the

## As global citizens, we have an obligation to **Close The Care Gap** increasing care equity and accessibility

COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine distribution amplified this.

At Two Worlds Cancer, we believe in equitable and accessible care – and advocate for that. We see it demonstrated by our partner organizations in their passionate pursuit of the best care for those in their care.

Last year saw enormous progress because of the dedication of our partners, Two Worlds Cancer's volunteers, and you – our donors.

The evolution of our organization and our vision is reflected in our new logo introduced this past year. Along with efforts to **Close the Care Gap** reducing the burden of cancer requires that we **Close the Circle** on cancer care. This means extending our collaborations

in palliative care to cancer prevention, early detection and diagnosis, treatment, and curative care – and ensuring optimal care without financial distress.

This year is a pivotal year for our organization. An opportunity to build on the momentum of our impact on palliative and end-of-life care and make an impact on reducing the burden of cancer through comprehensive cancer control. As our organization has evolved this past year, we have expanded both our volunteer base and our part-time staff while maintaining our priority to keep administrative costs as low as possible.

In 2023, we must do more if the disparities of health outcomes are



## This year is a pivotal year for our organization

to be overcome. Poverty, education and gender inequity, ageing populations, and climate change impacts are obstacles – but disparities of health and cancer control can be overcome through knowledge, education,

partnership, collaboration, and your generous support.

In this time of global economic recession, Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration will depend more on your continued generosity. Help us build compassionate care that helps **Close the Care Gap** and **Close the Circle** on life-limiting illnesses.

On behalf Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration – thank you.



# Collaborations

## Sunflower Children's Network

**Our Network supports five regional centres for children's care in South and Southeast Asia.**

In 2022, the reach of the Sunflower Children's Network expanded with online education, in-person workshops, and new doctors from India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines joining the pediatric palliative care fellowship program.

The pediatric palliative care fellowship was endorsed in 2022 by **The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health** (United Kingdom).

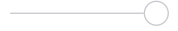
The fellowship is a one-year, hybrid education program which combines virtual education, clinical training experiences at the Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care in India, and mentorship from international experts.



In 2015, a regional children's palliative care program in Hyderabad, India served as the catalyst for the Sunflower

Children's Network. Today, our Network supports key regional healthcare centres in India, Nepal, Bangladesh,

# Sunflower Children's Network



Philippines, and Canada. It's creating collaborations between regions with similar care challenges and solutions.

Our Network's progress is only possible through your generous support:

► Three Pediatricians completed palliative care fellowship training in 2022: Dr. Alden Uyvico, from National Children's Hospital (Philippines), Dr. Sabitha Binu Ninan from Cancer Institute WIA (India), and Dr. Zannat Ara from Dhaka Medical College Hospital (Bangladesh). Each will go on to establish and lead palliative care programs in their respective health centres.

► In early 2022, our Network and the **VJ Wardia Hospital** in Mumbai, India signed a memorandum of understand-



## Our Network supports five regional centres for children's care in South and Southeast Asia.

ing to work together to provide training and complete new clinical programming.

► The Sunflower Children's Network is partnering with **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital** (Bangladesh) to expand the pediatric palliative care program for children in Narayanganj. **The Narayanganj Community Project** provides home-based care and support for children with serious illnesses.

► **BC Children's Hospital** in Vancouver, Canada joined the Network this year to participate in a new twinning partnership with **Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital** (Nepal). The goal of this joint venture is to **Close the Circle** on childhood cancer by improving care at each step of a child's journey with cancer treatment,

# Sunflower Children's Network



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improving early cancer diagnosis and treatment, as well as supportive and palliative care.

► The Sunflower Children's Network formalized a new partnership with Kanti Children's Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal. The goal is to develop a centre of excel-

lence in children's palliative care which will serve as a national training centre and hub for children's palliative care in Nepal.

► Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration participated in **London Global Cancer Week 2022** focusing on our children's palliative care partnerships. Dr. Megan Doherty hosted our virtual presentation with Sunflower Children's Network partners: Prof. Gayatri Palat (India); Dr. Sudhir Sapkota (Nepal); Dr. Spandana Rayala (India); Dr. Maria Liza Naranjo (Philippines); and Dr. Stuart Brown (New Zealand).



# Collaborations

## Project ECHO

**Two Worlds Cancer's online education reached 871 healthcare providers in 2022.**

Education and mentorship remain key to Two Worlds Cancer's mission. Since 2018, Two Worlds Cancer has used the **Project ECHO** model to train, connect, mentor and support healthcare providers giving them new skills and peer support to provide palliative and end-of-life care for children, adolescents, and adults across South and Southeast Asia. Since 2020, more than 3000 healthcare providers have participated.

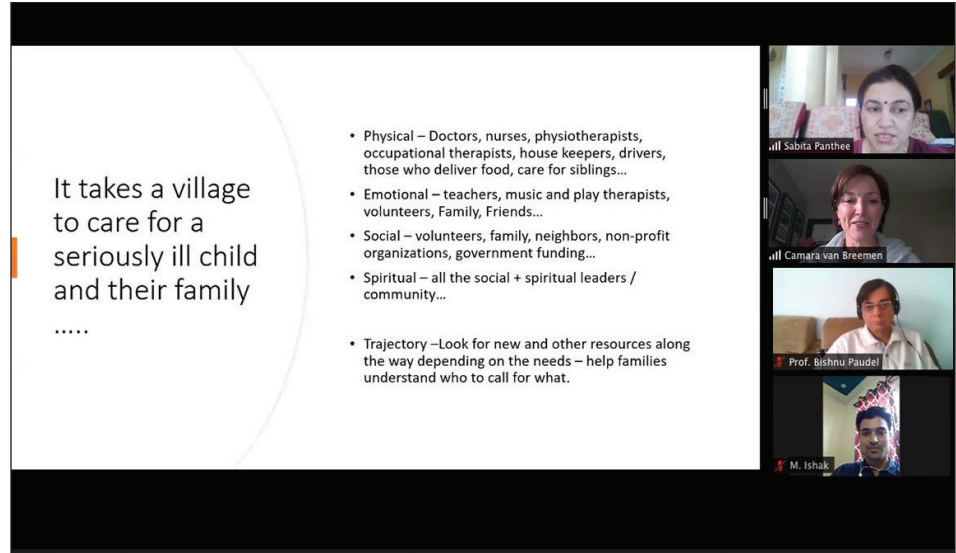
**Project ECHO** was developed at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center as a collaborative model of medical education and care – a virtual sharing of collective knowledge that helps **Close the Care Gap**.

It takes a village  
to care for a  
seriously ill child  
and their family  
.....

- Physical – Doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, house keepers, drivers, those who deliver food, care for siblings...
- Emotional – teachers, music and play therapists, volunteers, Family, Friends...
- Social – volunteers, family, neighbors, non-profit organizations, government funding...
- Spiritual – all the social + spiritual leaders / community...
- Trajectory – Look for new and other resources along the way depending on the needs – help families understand who to call for what.

In 2022, our Project ECHO palliative care training and mentorship included six programs; 68 sessions; with 922 participants from South and Southeast Asia,

and participants from African nations. In total 301 doctors, 305 nurses, and 316 other healthcare providers including pharmacists, counselors, social workers,



# Project ECHO

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physiotherapists, health assistants and community workers/volunteers.

Two Worlds Cancer volunteers logged more than a combined 300 online-hours providing ECHO training. This does not include the hours of course preparation or the support provided to our colleagues and partner organizations on WhatsApp or Signal during and after the sessions.

The 2022 Project ECHO programs included:

## Introductory Programs

- ▶ ECHO Introductory Palliative Care in Nepal
- ▶ ECHO Introductory Palliative Care in Sri Lanka

**922 participants**

**68 sessions**

**6 programs**

**1 year**

- ▶ International Pediatric Palliative Care ECHO - a basic introductory course
- ▶ Introductory Palliative Care Course for Humanitarian Health Workers \*
- ▶ Pediatric Palliative Care – a basic introductory course for Humanitarian Health Workers \*

\* These programs were offered in partnership with PallCHASE (Palliative Care in Humanitarian Aid Situations and Emergencies) and Project ECHO.

## Advanced programs

- ▶ ECHO Pediatric Palliative Care - an advanced course for physicians.





# Collaborations

## India

### **The Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care is internationally recognized and a hub for palliative care development in South and Southeast Asia.**

Since 2010, Dr. Palat has been leading the Two Worlds Cancer's palliative care activities in India with the generous support of **The Rix Family Foundation**. She has quietly cared for patients, supported families, mentored doctors, nurses, social workers and other allied healthcare workers. And she has tirelessly advocated for palliative care not only in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh but throughout India, and South and Southeast Asia.

In February 2022, Dr. Palat was appointed as **Professor of Palliative Medicine at the Mehdi Nawaz Jung Institute**. With her appointment, the **Indian**

**Diplomate of the National Board Fellowships** program began at the Institute with three fellows currently training in adult palliative care.

Today, your generous donations also support these Two Worlds Cancer initiatives with our partners in India:

▶ **Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care** – Support for the continuing development of the clinical strategy, along with leadership, training, and mentorship.

▶ **Complex Palliative Care** – In 2022, the Acute Palliative Care Unit at MNJ Institute which operated a six-bed unit expanded into a 25-bed unit in a new building, providing complex hospital-based palliative care.

▶ **Project ECHO** – The Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care is the hub for our online ECHO programs including other countries in the region.

▶ **Mandara Children's Hospice** – In 2013, Two Worlds Cancer was one of four partners that helped fund the establishment of the Kumudini Devi Hospice in Hyderabad. In 2021, a 10-bed children's hospice – The Mandara Children's Hospice - opened at the Kumudini Devi Palliative Care Centre.

▶ **Niloufer Children's Hospital** – A multidisciplinary team provides palliative care support for new-born, infants and children at this hospital, including the intensive care units.

▶ **Home Care Program** – Ten van-

# India

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based teams provide patient and family care six days a week including two vans dedicated to caring for children. Support is offered around the clock with team nurses taking mobile calls at night. This

program grew from two home care teams which were funded by generous donations to Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration from 2010-2012\*

\* Today the program is sustained by funding from NGOs in India. It's this type of grassroots initiative that your donations support – programs that Two Worlds Cancer helps fund based on needs identified by our local partner organizations and the ability to become sustainable in the future.

► **Telangana Palliative Seva Kendras (PSKs)** – These community-based cancer and palliative care centres provide palliative and end-of-life care in all 31 districts in the state. These local clinics are trained and supported in-person and on-line by the Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care.

\*These clinics grew from the Rural Outreach Program originally supported by Two Worlds Cancer.

# India

► **Kurnool PSKs** – In July 2022, the first PSK opened in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh. The Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care provides training and support for this PSK expansion to Andhra Pradesh.

► **Kurnool Palliative Care** – The **European Society for Medical Oncology**, a leading international organization for medical oncology, recognized the Kurnool Palliative Care Centre as a *Designated Centre of Integrated Oncology and Palliative Care* for 2022-24. This is a prestigious award for the Kurnool team reflecting their dedication and hard work\*.

\* The Kurnool centre at the Kurnool Medical Centre & Government Hospital, Andhra Pradesh has been generously supported by a long-time donor and advocate of our vision and mission.



► **St. Mary's Hospital** – Continued support for the rural hospital located 45 km from Bengaluru, Karnataka which provides emergency, in-patient, home

care, and palliative care for people with life-limiting illness.



# Collaborations

## Nepal

**Two Worlds Cancer continues the support for our Nepali partners' vision of a professional palliative care community.**

Many people in Nepal travel great distances over difficult terrain to access palliative care. This results in unnecessary pain and suffering, and limited options for treatment and cure. Our partners' vision includes a centre for palliative care excellence in Nepal building care capacity across rural Nepal – care that is accessible and directly impacts children and adults living with life-limiting illness.

In collaboration with our Nepali partners, Two Worlds Cancer is developing an extensive education and clinical training program for healthcare professionals



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using a 'train the trainer' approach. The outcome will be 'palliative care hubs' throughout Nepal with healthcare providers trained in palliative care, enabling quality care across the country.

This ambitious project is strongly aligned with the **National Strategy for Palliative Care** in Nepal developed in 2016 by the Nepal Ministry of Health, Nepali care providers and Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration with the goal of

# Nepal

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developing Nepali-led, sustainable population-based palliative care.

Thanks to donors like you, and our dedicated volunteers, our programs build

on the original relationships and hospice-twinning programs with Canadian hospices in Nanaimo and Victoria, Canada, and palliative care units at hospitals in Bhaktapur and Bharatpur.

Today, your generous donations support these initiatives in Nepal:

► **Twinning Projects** – Ongoing twinning between **Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital** (BCH) and Two Worlds Cancer. Palliative care specialist Dr. Bikash Anand leads the palliative care program at BCH overseeing the in-patient palliative care unit, out-patient pain clinic, home visit program, and staff education and clinical training.

► **Nurse mentoring and training** – Two Worlds Cancer volunteers with adult and children's palliative care nursing expertise are collaborating with Nepali nursing leadership to develop education and training of nurse leaders and bedside nurses with the goal of sustainable palliative care programs

# Nepal

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throughout all of the country's seven provinces.

► **Project ECHO** – In January 2022, Two Worlds Cancer launched a 15-week collaborative, online training and mentorship series for Nepali healthcare providers – *Project ECHO Introduction to Palliative Care*. The series with the **Nepal Association of Palliative Care** was funded by a grant from the **Rural Coordination Centre of BC** through their *Rural Global Health Partnership Initiative*.

► **Home-based care programs** – Embracing the World Health Organization's foundation of hospital-based and home-based care, BCH is taking the lead in providing in-home palliative and end-of-life care.



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► **Rural Palliative Care** – Building on the success of the Makwanpur Rural Pilot Program, initially funded by Two Worlds Cancer, we are working with our partners in Nepal to expand rural

palliative care to Dharan District, in eastern Nepal. This project will increase capacity for local palliative care for rural home visits, community care, district hospital and hospice care.

# Nepal

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► **Hospice Care Expansion** – Continued collaboration with local and international funders supporting the construction of a new building for **Hospice Nepal**, increasing available

beds for patients, and providing greater access and improved palliative care for children and adults.

► **Specialist Support** – The use of technology, such as WhatsApp, has facilitated timely communication and real-time problem solving of particularly complex palliative care cases.

Nepali healthcare providers can reach out to our palliative care network and share their cases, share solutions, and ask for advice and guidance from program mentors.



# Collaborations

## Bangladesh

**Our programs are helping build compassionate care in Bangladesh.**

This past year, through the Sunflower Children's Network, Two Worlds Cancer supported the **Narayanganj Community Project** – a healthcare project that provides home-based, health and palliative care for children, and their families, living with serious illnesses in the city of Narayanganj in central Bangladesh.

Faced with issues of access and affordability, many of the 166 million living in Bangladesh are unable to get needed care. The country also carries the substantial burden of humanitarian crises – the aftermath of severe cyclones, rising sea levels, and the on-going Rohingya refugee crisis.



Today, your generous donations support these Two Worlds Cancer initiatives in Bangladesh:

► **Children's palliative care training – Dhaka Medical College Hospital** organized a pediatric palliative care workshop: *Hands on Training on Pediatric*



# Bangladesh



*Palliative Care*, to improve palliative care knowledge, skills and communication among physicians caring for children with cancer. The workshop included three international faculty – Dr. Megan Doherty (Canada), Dr. Ishak Mohammad

(India) and Dr. Smriti Khanna (India) with additional virtual teaching from Drs. Mike McNeil and Justin Baker from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (USA).

► **Virtual Education** – Introductory Palliative Care Course for Humanitarian Health Workers. Partnering with local faculty, several versions of this course were offered to humanitarian healthcare providers caring for the more than one million Rohingya refugees, who are living in the displaced-persons camps in Bangladesh.



# Collaborations

## Sri Lanka

**In 2022, palliative care activities in Northern Province and Eastern Province continued to be significantly impacted by the on-going economic crisis.**

Our colleagues continue to face shortages of even basic medical supplies. In June we launched a *Humanitarian Appeal for Sri Lanka* as the country faced growing scarcities resulting from the social and economic crisis. 100 percent of funds raised went directly to support the purchase of urgently needed medical supplies.

**Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care** serves as the training and mentoring hub for the Sri Lanka healthcare providers advancing care for patients in the Northern and Eastern provinces.



As a result of the ECHO training, community palliative care programs have expanded to include four of the five districts in the Northern Province.

Online education continued and even with the ongoing crisis some participants have managed to continue their palliative care work, but staffing

# Sri Lanka

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challenges are immense given the present demands on the health care system. Mentorship and clinical support continue virtually with the assistance of international faculty.

Two Worlds Cancer continues efforts to advocate with local administration and government for more dedicated clinical time for palliative care. Hopefully, with improved economic stability in the coming years, a more sustainable path forward for palliative care services can be established.

Today, your generous donations support these Two Worlds Cancer initiatives in Sri Lanka:

► **Virtual education** – In collaboration with the Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care and ECHO India more than 20 doctors and nurses completed an online introductory palliative care course in early 2022.

► **Virtual patient care** – Our Two Worlds Cancer volunteers provide input on individual patient care and ongoing support and mentorship for healthcare providers via Zoom and WhatsApp.

► **Local government support** – There remains significant interest from local governments and health administration to support palliative care

including the recognition of the lack of healthcare providers with palliative care training. At present, the economic crisis means local funding for healthcare is in short supply.

► **Oral cancer screening and early detection research** – Due to the economic crisis, Two Worlds Cancer and **UBC School of Dentistry** put on hold the anticipated oral cancer screening, rural pilot project. When it goes ahead, this pilot will be based on the success of our collaboration in Telangana, India.



# Collaborations

## Philippines

**Through the Sunflower Children's Network, National Children's Hospital received support for their new children's palliative care team.**

Today, your generous donations support these initiatives in the Philippines:

- ▶ **Clinical Support** – Regular virtual clinical discussions with international experts.
- ▶ **Multi-disciplinary team training** – A doctor, nurse and social worker traveled to India for clinical training at the **Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care**.
- ▶ **Project ECHO** – The National Children's Hospital team conducted an *Introductory course on children's palliative care* for pediatricians in the Philippines.



Courtesy Dr Xiohara Gentica

- ▶ **Specialty training** – A partnership between National Children's Hospital and the **University of Ottawa** has been formed to support the development of specialty training in children's palliative care in the Philippines. The partnership

will allow the development of national training and accreditation standards by adapting and learning from established training programs in Canada.



# Financials

## Your Donations

**Thanks to donors like you, Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration can help develop programs from grass-roots projects to self-sustaining initiatives.**

Until our partners see self-sustainable levels of funding from local donors and governments, we need your continued support for this journey.

Your support not only provides immediate care for many who suffer with cancer and other serious illnesses – providing pain relief and emotional support to them and their families – it provides local healthcare providers the opportunity to lead and advocate for that care.

And that means greater numbers of children and adults will receive the care

**84% of your donations go towards improving care for those with serious illnesses**

that is their human right.

Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration's team of healthcare volunteers provide hundreds of hours of free clinical support to our programs each year. In 2022, our operating cost was 16% which means 84% of your donations go towards improving program care in South and Southeast Asia.

Our partners have ambitious plans as they build healthcare capacity for their countries.

In 2023, we estimate our funding need to be \$600,000 to grow and sustain our programs.



# Your Donations

## 2022 Program Expenses (CAD)

Sunflower Children's Program	\$ 114,055
India – Hyderabad Program	\$ 103,640
India – Kurnool Program	\$ 47,951
India – St. Mary's Hospice	\$ 10,757
Nepal Program	\$ 31,466
Bangladesh Program	\$ 4,502
Oral Cancer Screening Program	\$ 720
Other Programs	\$ 398
General Office and Fundraising	\$ 62,521
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 376,010</b>



## 2022 Revenue (CAD)

Donations – Individuals and Corporations	\$ 156,942
Grants – Foundations and Trusts	\$ 171,000
Interest Income	\$ 3,242
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 358,206</b>



# Directions

## Your Continued Support



### Your generous support helps Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration to deliver on its vision.

The need for equitable healthcare is urgent as populations grow and age, cancer and chronic diseases increase,

and urbanization surges. The challenges include the limited access to health-care in many countries and the lack of healthcare providers trained in palliative care and specialized, non-communicable disease care.

Our mandate is to take the lead from our partners as they know best how to build compassionate care and capacity locally.

Our relationship with individuals and organizations in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines helps build impactful programs that directly improve the care and lives of those living with serious illnesses. **Closing the Circle** for Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration also means **Closing the Gap** in healthcare disparity through locally led healthcare initiatives and shared knowledge.

Two years after the start of the pandemic, the lifting of travel restrictions has given our volunteers the opportunity to again visit programs in India and

## Your Donations

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Nepal this past year. These trips established new personal and organizational relationships that help Close the Circle on cancer care.

Today, there are growing palliative care programs across South and Southeast Asia impacting the lives of those with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. This has happened through the advocacy and sustained efforts of our local partners.

But the reality is that none of this would be possible without your belief in us. And your continued and generous support of our programs in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines.



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Your support allows Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration to deliver on its vision.

As we head into 2023, our initiatives continue to grow:



## Your Donations

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► The **Centre for International Child Health** through the generous support of the **BC Children's Hospital Foundation** provided a two-year, \$40,000 seed grant to support our team of international palliative care experts to train and mentor healthcare providers from across Nepal. The project will be led by Dr. Manon Ranger, PhD, RN (**UBC and BC Children's Hospital Research**).

► Our Fellowship program continues to expand. In 2023, this program is supported by more than 30 faculty members from eight countries volunteering their time and energy to train and mentor the Fellows. This year four doctors will be trained, from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and the Philippines.

► In March a team of volunteer nurses and doctors traveled to the National



Children's Hospital in the Philippines to focus on developing children's palliative care, collaborating on education and training initiatives.

► In April, a volunteer team of doctors and nurses will travel to Nepal to focus

on helping build compassionate care and care capacity for adults in need of palliative care throughout Nepal.

► **Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital** plans an expansion which will provide more dedicated beds to provide palliative care to more patients and their families as referrals are out pacing present capacity at the hospital east of Kathmandu.

Thank you for supporting us through the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and today as the future brightens and we work to **Close the Circle** and **Close the Care Gap**.

Please visit our new website to learn more about our programs and impact.





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