



Global OGB Association (GO)



NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2024

TOPICS

**Child Sponsorship
- New**

**Cottage Repairs –
Halted**

**Bike for DGH 2024
– Update**

**Betty Sherriff
Arena – Fund
Raising**



**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
IN 2024**



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Greetings from Minnesota USA, where we have hunkered down to endure long winter months. I hope this message finds you all warm and well.

It is with great honour that I write to you as the incoming Chairman of Global OGB Association (GO). I look forward to continuing to work alongside each of you to guide and support the sustained growth of Dr. Graham's Homes (DGH). Through a collaborative and unified approach harnessing the human capital of OGBs and supporters worldwide, we can achieve the strategic objectives set forth by the Board of Management (BOM) and foster an environment where DGH thrives and continues to make a meaningful impact on the lives of children.

Thank you to everyone in the GO Management Committee for your years of dedication and service to the Global OGB Association (GO) and Dr. Grahams Homes. I am excited for the work ahead and the opportunity to collaborate with you all.

My 'first' Newsletter to the OGB GO Members highlights a number of important issues and the launch of two exciting new projects. The 'Child Sponsorship Scheme' and the remodeling of the 'Betty Sheriff Arena'.

Child Sponsorship:

Last year, my predecessor Anirban mentioned the "Sponsor a Child" initiative in his video update at the UK AGM, and which is available for all to see on our GO Youtube Channel. We are thrilled to announce that we are closer to making this initiative a reality. We are excited to announce that today we are closer to that realization.

GO in collaboration with the Joint Independent Review Committee (JIRC) and the Board of Management (BOM) is committed to begin a new chapter for child sponsorships at Dr. Graham's Homes that seeks sponsors from the India, Nepal and Bhutan. For information, the JIRC is made up of 4 Members from the BOM, 3 Members from DGHUK Committee and 2 Members from GO Management Committee.

We are currently waiting on the BOM to put together the Sponsorship Team at DGH after which we can fully realize the execution of this long-awaited initiative. We are indebted to Dawn Van Steensel and Arijit Malik from GO alongside Esther Pears from the DGHUK and other members of the JIRC that have championed this cause. Below are the objectives of the Child Sponsorship initiative:

- To provide financial assistance to disadvantaged children at DGH.
- To promote the educational and personal development of sponsored children.
- To ensure accountability and transparency in the management of sponsorship funds.
- To foster a connection between sponsors and sponsored children, enhancing mutual understanding and support.
- Create an equitable society for these children in a Christian and holistic environment.



Cottage Repairs:

Between 2019 -2022 GO spent Rupees 27,706,78 (USD 32,721) on the repair of 8 cottages. These repairs were much needed at the time and as good stewards of donated funds much of the early work was done by OGBs and friends and only contracted specialized work like carpentry and plumbing where needed.

After careful consideration GO is indefinitely putting a pause to all future Cottage repairs. This means we will not be undertaking the repair of Heathland Cottage this winter as previously planned.

The current system we have in place for repairs is not proving to be sustainable or cost effective, particularly given our responsibility to use donor funds wisely. The past Girls cottage repairs have served its immediate purpose of providing a healthy environment. However, we do not believe they provide long-term solutions that ensure the safety and durability required for children.

We are currently awaiting a “Development & Maintenance Plan” being established by the BOM, because without annual maintenance of the cottages, our repairs and renovations become a waste of time, effort and donor money. As much as it is for OGBs to give back to the school, it is in equal measure and responsibility of the Administration to maintain these structures post-repair. Our goal is to develop a solution with the BOM and other OGB stakeholders, which will provide long-term value and reduce the need for frequent, short-term repairs.

We understand the importance of these repairs and are committed to finding a more lasting approach that will be both suitable for kids and better use of the resources entrusted to us.

Bike For DGH 2024: While the Bike For DGH 2024 is not a GO event, it has played a crucial role in supporting GO's initiatives. The funds raised from this year's cycling fundraiser, along with the previous one in 2022, have been directed towards GO's largest project, the Betty Sherriff Basketball Arena Remodel (2025). More details on this project will be provided later in the update.

The 2024 edition marked the 8th edition of the BikeForDGH series, originally launched by long-time UKC member Rev. John Webster. This year's ride featured 11 participants from diverse regions, including France, the UK, New Zealand, India, Nepal, and the USA. Together, they cycled 250 miles, from Paro, Bhutan to Kalimpong, India, raising funds for DGH. Along the way, the riders were warmly welcomed by the Bhutan OGBs (Old Girls and Boys), who showed incredible support by cheering and hosting the cyclists. This overwhelming gesture of kindness was deeply appreciated by everyone involved in the event.

For the first time, the logistics for the ride were coordinated by GO members Pauline, Sushil, and Jigme, alongside their dedicated support teams. Their hard work and expertise were instrumental in attracting a larger number of riders from the sub-continent due to the savings had by not contracting the logistics services to a local company as in previous years. At the time of writing, the funds raised have reached approximately USD 25,000, though some riders have yet to report their final totals.



Looking ahead, plans for Bike For DGH 2026 are already underway, and the event could potentially involve cycling routes such as Kathmandu to Kalimpong or Shillong (NE India) to Kalimpong. Interested participants are encouraged to express their interest early by emailing bikefordgh@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more updates and thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this event such a success!

Betty Sherriff Arena Remodel Project:

The Betty Sherriff Basketball Arena has been a cornerstone of the school for over 40 years, serving as a space where students have learned valuable lessons in teamwork, dedication, and resilience. The upcoming remodel aims to transform this iconic space into a semi-covered multi-use arena, providing a year-round venue for various sports, activities, and events. This expansion will ensure that students have a



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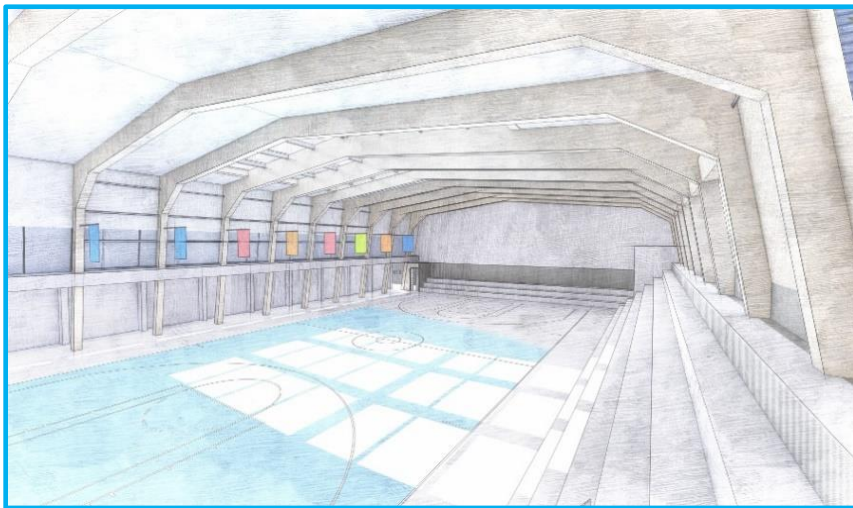


safe, welcoming, and inspiring environment in which they can grow and thrive.

The groundbreaking for this project is scheduled for January/February 2025, with the goal of completing it by Homes' 125th anniversary in September 2025. The proposal for the remodel was presented to the Board of Management (BOM) earlier this summer and received swift approval.

The Architect (Penpa Namgyal OGB 1990 Australia) and Chief Engineer (Munna Saraf OGB 1989 Nepal) working on the project, have generously offered their time and expertise as a gift to the school. The Project Manager is Campbell Younger from California (originally from New Zealand), who was also a participant in the September 2024 BikeForDGH event. A unique connection to the Homes runs in Cam's

family: his great-grandmother was one of the first 12 children admitted to the Homes.

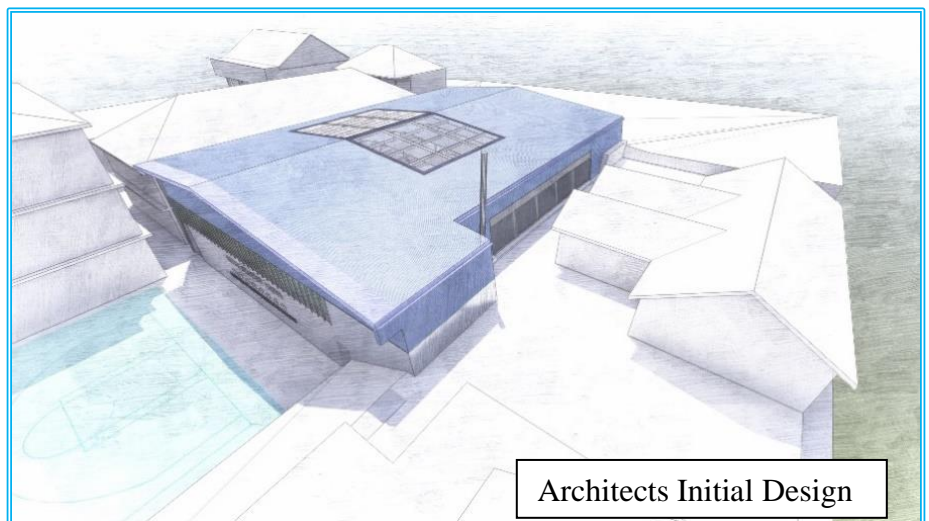


The funds raised from the two cycling fundraisers (BikeForDGH 2022 and 2024) have provided the initial capital to kickstart the remodel. However, there is still much to be done to meet the total cost of the project. We are confident that the generous global community of supporters will help us reach our financial goals.

We appeal to you to contribute to this meaningful project, which will benefit the children of the Homes for decades to come, please consider donating. You can do so by emailing askglobalogb@gmail.com for further details.

Donations can be made into Accounts set up in India; Australia; USA; UK. *Details will be available on the GO Website from early January 2025.*

Thank you, and we look forward to your continued support in making this project a reality in 2025!



Architects Initial Design

Other News

In 2025, the Class of 2000 will be celebrating their 25th Year of Leaving DGH. They are collaborating with GO to replace the roof of the old Technical Block building that now house the Library, School Museum and two Classrooms.

GO is working to obtain the necessary approvals from the BOM. The project will be completed prior to September 2025.



Looking Ahead

The upcoming year marks the 125th anniversary of Dr. Graham's Homes.

If you have never visited or it's been a while since your last visit, I personally encourage you to join us in Kalimpong on 24 September, 2025, to celebrate this remarkable milestone. Let's come together to reflect, rejoice, and reconnect, honouring the legacy of DGH and its lasting impact on generations of children. Looking forward to seeing you in September 2025!

*As we approach the festive season, I extend my warmest wishes to
each one of you for a Merry Christmas and a
Very Happy New Year 2025!*

Cheers.....

Tenzing Norsang

Tenzing Norsang
Global OGB – Chairman
A Through OGB from the Batch of 1995