

# Mitrataa Foundation

A friendship that will last forever...



[www.mitrataa.org](http://www.mitrataa.org)

# Dreaming of Nepal's future...

## Mitrataa Foundation

The Mitrataa Foundation has been working in Nepal for over 9 years to make meaningful and positive changes to the lives of hundreds of Nepali women and girls, teaching them to dream and empowering them through education and training initiatives. We do this through sharing skills and creating opportunities that encourage the Nepalis to take responsibility for their future. The Foundation's vision is to do itself out of a job in Nepal!

## Who we are

Mitrataa was founded by Australian couple, Bec and Adam Ordish, after they lived and worked in Kathmandu as volunteer teachers. They were so inspired by the generosity and happiness of the Nepalese people that they were determined to give something back to them. Supported by a team of five directors, the Foundation is a registered non-profit organisation based in Sydney, Australia.



Our aim is to empower the future generations of Nepal through education to enable them to assume responsibility for their own development and to provide them with a more stable future.

# Some of the innovative, life-changing Mitrataa Foundation projects...

## Dream Catchers Scholarships

The project that established Mitrataa. A scholarship program providing opportunities for Nepali girls who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend school. There are presently over 150 girls attending school in Nepal through this initiative.

## Dream Centres

These are tutoring centres with a difference – the focus is on teaching “skills for learning, skills for life”. These are skills which are often not learned through the education system in Nepal due to the rote learning model used in schools. One of the most exciting outcomes we plan to come from the Dream Centres is assisting children to identify their passions and their strengths, and to help them harness these skills and abilities for their futures.

## Daisy Chains

We run literacy and numeracy programs for women combined with business mentoring and group savings programs. At the end of the program, the groups of women establish a business together with their savings and a starter loan from Mitrataa. As their business grows and they are able to repay their loans, they repay them to the next group of women who they also mentor. It’s a “pay it forward” model which is sustainable and creates a network of support for the women as they grow.

## Defying Gravity

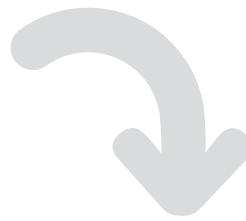
*“I’m defying gravity. I’m sick of accepting limits, ‘cause someone says they’re so.” - Wicked, the Musical.* Our vision with this project is to inspire the entrepreneurial women of Nepal to dream big – to put forward their business ideas and give them the access to markets, skills and capital needed to make it happen. With training and tools at their fingertips these women really will be able to “defy gravity” and follow their dreams.

## Goats’ Coats, securing Nepal’s future

A combined IP, education and industry initiative to develop Nepal’s indigenous pashmina industry. We are assisting the Nepal Pashmina Industry Association (NPIA) to exploit their IP rights through a co-operative trademark scheme that also ensures pashmina product quality. This is supplemented through education and training for women and girls in regions of Nepal where pashmina originates to capitalise on the industry’s potential at all stages of the process.

## And that’s not all...

Mitrataa is also involved with teacher training programs through our Model School in Kathmandu; pen-friend programs with school children in Australia; Nepal’s first Pets-as-Therapy program; and many other exciting and ground-breaking projects.



# Make a difference, get involved!



We can only continue to change the lives of Nepal's women and girls with your help. There are many ways in which you can make a meaningful contribution whether it be a donation of money, your skills or your time.



For more information on ways you can help contact us;

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