

### **Description of project and what still needs to be completed.**

The Rotary Club of Whitefish is providing scholarships and partial living expenses for two students in Nepal. One student, is a 24-year-old woman earning a Master's degree in Environmental Science. Given her sterling qualities and dedication, with our support, she is advancing in her studies and will graduate as expected. The younger student is progressing in elementary school studies and has easily adjusted to attending school away from home and living in the school's hostel.

The world turned upside down with the arrival and rapid spread of Covid-19. In March, schools closed for both students, and related examinations are deferred to dates not set. The chair of the International Committee, at sole personal expense, was scheduled to arrive in Nepal the first few days of April to review the progress and expenses of each student. Covid-19 upended the trip given safety concerns, closing borders and flight cancellations.

A final report will be promptly available once schools re-open and the two students are able to complete their classes and examinations that were interrupted.

Most people in Nepal live in grinding poverty with virtually no chance of improvements in the lives except through education. What many Americans earn in an hour of employment may be the sole monthly income for a family in Nepal! Americans cannot easily understand not only suffocating poverty in a very third world country, but also the extreme lack of economic upward mobility. Please note that these two students come from very low-caste and extremely poor families and lack any social, political or business connections to live a decent life in a desperately poor country absent through a good education.