**1003 West 4th Street, Morris, MN 56267 (320) 589-3670**

[**www.samshouse.org**](http://www.samshouse.orgT) **| Tax ID: 81-0663500**



**Frequently asked questions about Sam’s House**

**Why does Sam’s House refer to itself as a children’s home and not as an orphanage?**

Because not all our children are technically orphans. Only 40%. The other children placed with us have come from “at-risk” situations wherein they were living with parents who were unable to care for them due to physical or mental disabilities, substance abuse issues, and/or such low levels of poverty there was community concern about the child’s well-being.

**How much of every dollar we raise goes toward children services?**

On average 93-95 cents of every dollar donated goes to children services at Sam’s House. The average rate for non-profits is between 65-75 cents, depending on the size.

**How do children come to Sam’s House?**

Initially, children were admitted through referrals from local government councils in rural areas. Today, all children placed with us come through Nepal’s Social Welfare Council, the administrative body charged with overseeing child-focused charities and non-profits.

Because of concerns about trafficking, we only admit children who are young (because the younger the child, the less likely s/he is a subject of trafficking). We do make exceptions when there are siblings who need shelter.

We only admit children about whom authorities have conducted a thorough investigation into the child’s situation and background and we collect signed documents in support of all testimony given on a child’s behalf.

Also, we prioritize admitting low caste and girl children, since they are more commonly the children needing placement. Roughly 65% of the children at Sam’s House are female.

**What happens to children at Sam’s House when they graduate high school or turn 18?**

We create individual education plans for each child. When they finish high school (10th grade) or Plus 2 (grades 11/12), we then help connect that child with relevant trainings or employment. On a case by case basis, we assess which children can be successful in college and provide that support as well.

Sam’s House continues to be a child’s home even after they graduate. They are welcome back for all holidays and to visit as often as they can. In fact, every Deshain, many former Sam’s House children come to the house to celebrate. But our ultimate goal is independence and reintegration of children, so they can stand on their own and become productive members of society.

**How can I help Sam’s House?**
We are very lucky to be partners with an excellent organization (see below) that operates Sam’s House seamlessly. Our responsibility is to support them through fundraising and awareness. Donations and word-of-mouth promotion are the two most valuable forms of assistance.

**Can I volunteer at Sam’s House?**

Since 2015, the Nepal government has forbidden volunteering at all Nepali orphanages. We still welcome visitors to stop by and meet the children and share some tea anytime.

We do allow for arrangements wherein a person can provide a special or unique service to the house. For example, a few years ago, a computer programmer from an American tech company donated five laptops to the house and gave computer lessons after school for three weeks. In other cases, we have liaised with art teachers, dance teachers, and other professionals.

**Why is it called Sam’s House?**

Sam’s House is named for the grandfather of Jennifer Rothchild, one of the three founders of Sam’s House. Sam Rothchild was raised in an orphanage in New York City in the early 1900s.

**Is Sam’s House a registered non-profit in the United States?**

Yes, we are and we can furnish documentation on that status, if needed. Our tax ID number is 81-0663500 and you can review all our 990s on our website ([www.samshouse.org](http://www.samshouse.org)) or at Charity Navigator.

**Why is Sam’s House called Kopila Children’s Home in Nepal**?

Technically, Sam’s House is a partnership with Kopila’s Children’s Home, a Nepali-registered organization. This partnership is required by the Nepal government of all foreign non-profits. “Kopila” in Nepali means “flowering bud” and this is a term commonly applied to growing children.