



## BlinkNow / Maggie Doyne Fact Sheet

- 1. How old was Maggie when she took her gap year?** Maggie was 18 years old when she took her gap year. She had just graduated from West Morris Mendham High School in New Jersey, USA.
- 2. How old was Maggie when she moved to Nepal?** Maggie was 19 when she moved to Nepal. She used her life savings (\$5,000) to buy a piece of land with the goal of building a children's home.
- 3. What year the Kopila Valley Children's Home started?** Construction for the Kopila Valley Children's Home started in 2007. The Kopila Valley Children's Home opened in 2008.
- 4. What year was the Kopila Valley School started?** In 2009, Maggie was awarded a \$100,000 grant from Do Something to build the Kopila Valley School. The Kopila Valley School opened in 2010.
- 5. How many kids live in the home? How many of them are staff children?** Currently 50 children live in the home. Maggie cannot adopt the children, but she does have legal custody of them. 10 are staff children. We are very intentional about not referring to the home as an orphanage; it's a children's home. Not every child here is an orphan, but they're all from impoverished and disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 6. What does "Kopila" mean?** Kopila means flower bud in Nepali.
- 7. How many students are enrolled in the Kopila Valley School?** There are currently 350 students enrolled in the Kopila Valley School.
- 8. What is our mission?** The BlinkNow Foundation's mission is to provide an education and a loving, caring home for orphaned, impoverished and at-risk children. We also provide community outreach to reduce poverty, empower women, improve health, and encourage sustainability and social justice. The Foundation fulfills its mission by providing financial support and management oversight to the Children's Home and Kopila Valley School in Surkhet, Nepal.

## **The BlinkNow Story:**

After Maggie Doyne's senior year of high school, she decided to take a gap year as her friends were heading off to college. The 18-year-old girl set off to see the world. Four countries and 20,000 miles later, she found herself trekking through the Himalayas and walking on dirt roads through poverty-stricken villages in Nepal.

Maggie met a six-year-old girl named Hima who was breaking stones in a dry riverbed and selling them to earn a few dollars to feed her family. Maggie was shocked by what she saw and sprung into action. She enrolled Hima in school and paid for her tuition, uniform, and books. Maggie started to help a few more children, and one by one witnessed their young lives being transformed.

Over the next two years, Maggie made her dream of building a safe, clean, stable home for these suffering children a reality. She purchased land in Surkhet, Nepal with her entire life savings of \$5,000. The local Nepalese community, led by BlinkNow Co-Founder Top Bahadur Malla, helped pour the home's foundation. Maggie had many supporters from her hometown of Mendham, New Jersey, and in 2008, Kopila Valley Children's Home opened. Kopila is now home to 50 children.

In 2010, the Kopila Valley School was built out of locally harvested bamboo and is currently bustling with 350 children from the Surkhet and surrounding areas. Many of these children are the first in their families to attend school! The students are also provided health care and a daily nutritious meal -- for some, this is their only meal of the day. Currently, construction is under way for a new, environmentally-friendly school campus!

In addition to the home and school, we have a Health Clinic and a Women's Center for the Kopila Valley community. Our Health Clinic provides preventive and primary care, as well as basic health education, to the students and staff of Kopila Valley. The Women's Center provides life-changing job training and education to the women of the Surkhet area. We have a retail shop in town that is staffed by graduates of our training program and stocked with beautiful handmade products. We've also expanded to include a counseling center and a microloan program, all part of our mission to bring women together and empower them to lead better lives.

## Maggie Doyne Quotes:

- Success is "Hearing my children scream, 'Mom!'"
- "We believe that in the blink of an eye, we can all make a difference."
- "Change is more than a hill, it's a Himalayan mountain. It's slow, it takes time, it takes putting one foot in front of the other. Sometimes you fall. Sometimes you don't feel like you're even moving at all. Sometimes you think you're at the top but you're not. Sometimes you get lost. And sometimes you just want to give up. But at some point you stop, look back and see where you came from."
- "Love yourself and feel your power ~ we all capable of so much more than we ever imagine."
- "This work resonates with my heart, and there's nothing I'd rather be doing. I was so young, and with youth comes a sense of invincibility. I saw something I didn't like, and I wanted to change it and in my young mind, I thought, 'If I want it done, then I should do it. And if I don't like the model, then I should change it. And if this isn't the kind of world I want to live in, then I should make this a world I'm more proud of.' I didn't have a big, grand vision. I started with just one child and went from there."
- "That's my message for young people, especially for young women: do what you love and what makes you feel good."
- "Follow your heart. Do what you love. For any problem, education is usually the answer."
- "This work has made me hopeful that change is possible and 100% achievable in my lifetime. I see this every day in front of my eyes. I am convinced that we can end world poverty for good and we can do that by educating and caring for our world's children."

## Awards:

- **CNN Heroes:** In 2015, Maggie was named a CNN Hero of the Year. CNN Heroes celebrates individuals who are making extraordinary contributions to help improve the lives of others.
- **Unsung Heroes of Compassion:** In 2014, Maggie was recognized by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as one of 50 extraordinary individuals from around the globe who work to alleviate the suffering of others without expectation of reward.
- **Forbes Excellence in Education Award:** Maggie was awarded the Forbes Excellence in Education Award in 2013 in recognition of her achievements in educating youth in Nepal. There was no financial remuneration for this award.
- **MedAssets Norman Borlaug Humanitarian Award:** The \$100,000 award in 2010 was used to purchase land for the new high school
- **Do Something Award:** Maggie was awarded a \$100,000 Do Something award in 2009 in recognition of her extraordinary achievement as a 21 year old in providing a home to 24 orphans and assisting in placing 60 children in schools Nepal. She used these funds to build the Kopila Valley Primary School.
- **CosmoGirl Born To Lead Award:** Maggie received \$20,000 for this award in 2008, and used these funds to expand the Kopila home, adding a second and third floor to the existing structure to enable Kopila to take in more children.

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