

Buhler students raise funds for Nepal

By The Associated Press

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BUHLER, Kan. — Buhler High School seniors have been raising money to help students at a school in Nepal that has no electricity and where paper is in such short supply that the teacher washes and dries it for students to reuse.

After learning about the difficulties at the school in Bageshwori, Nepal, senior Ben Honeycutt approached his class officers, who were looking for an idea for their class legacy project.

Class president Sarah Goertzen said other class members have responded well to the challenge of raising up to \$5,000 for the Nepalese school. So far, they've raised about \$2,300. Stutzman Refuse Disposal offered to match donations, and students are planning upcoming fundraisers in Buhler, a town of about 1,400 in south-central Kansas.

"We're blessed with a huge library and many books -- they don't have anything," Goertzen told The Hutchinson News.

Along with raising \$2,000 to fund two scholarships, the class officers agreed to raise money to build a library, stock it with books and other materials and provide two laptops with two years' worth of Internet connection. They're calling their work The Open World Project.

Bishop Elementary School in Topeka has collected more than 1,500 books to stock the new library.

Honeycutt has been keeping in contact with a teacher at the Nepal school, Govinda Panthy, with the online communications service Skype. Panthy has to walk an hour to an Internet cafe to send messages to the Buhler students, which is also a big reason the seniors are working to fund an Internet connection to the school.

Honeycutt has also made a big push with online fundraising thorough the project's website and social media presence.

“We’re on it every day trying to generate interest and tell as many people as we can,” Honeycutt said.