

Giving other people's money away isn't easy.

people and places, the not-for-profit international volunteer recruitment organization, committed at its inception to be accountable.

From the beginning, the organisation's volunteers have known how, and more importantly where, their money would be spent.

Over 20% of **people and places** returning volunteers want to continue to support their projects when they return home. The challenge was how to manage this travel philanthropy – efficiently, effectively and openly.

people and places became the founding partner of Travel Pledge www.travelpledge.org.

“Many people ask why we don't simply adopt charitable status ourselves,” says Sallie Grayson, **people and places** programme director. “We believe that the independence of Travel Pledge proves a reassuring level of independence and transparency to donors. The discipline of submitting targeted causes and the robust due diligence undertaken by Travel Pledge concentrates the mind on the efficacy of each donation – and more important, it ensures that local people are equal stakeholders in this process”, says Grayson, adding, “... and to be quite honest, as a tiny organization, we were becoming overwhelmed by the reporting systems needed to ensure we were communicating properly with donors and monitoring efficacy – and the burden was equally overwhelming for our local partners. The Travel Pledge model has solved most of this for all of us.”

In the first 8 months of 2009, volunteers have donated over £15,000 to local communities, and at least another £10,000 is expected before the end of the year. The money raised has provided sanitation for vulnerable children and adults in South Africa; paid for the education of orphans in Kathmandu; funded feeding programmes, education and medical equipment; a school in Nepal now has clean drinking water for its 2,000 pupils.

Future targeted causes include training programmes for local bike mechanics and pre-school teachers, funding education for orphans (as well as providing them with trips and outings which are just plain fun!), horticultural training ... and as each target is met a new cause will be introduced, enabling local people and volunteers to work together in creating better places for people to live and better places for people to visit.

“Many of the targeted causes have been identified by volunteers working together with local people – expert education volunteers are helping local schools interpret their needs, healthcare experts work with local community support programmes – and Travel Pledge then screens them and focuses donations on these needs, thus assisting meaningful travel philanthropy.”

For more information <http://www.travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk/About.aspx?category=26>

<http://travelpledge.org/>

or contact sallie@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk

Travel Pledge is a UK Registered charity (No.1122270) Sallie Grayson serves as a trustee and works closely with Nick Chaffe Director of Travel Pledge

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