Every once in a while, we at Outreach International have to take a few steps back from our work to really appreciate its impact. To consider the totality of every successful project, every empowered mindset, every new generation born into a world more capable of ensuring its success is to witness the awesome power of what happens when we care for one another. It starts with you. Your capacity for love and enduring belief in the potential of all persons continues to make possible every single thing we do at Outreach. Your generosity continues to truly, measurably change the world for the better every single day. Your gifts support our mission in every way – far beyond practical and material needs; you inspire all of us with your enthusiasm and partnership, and offer comfort and encouragement to our community partners, who know that you care enough about their wellbeing to help them reach their fullest potential. You matter so much to all of us at Outreach, and by extension, mean so much to the future we all share.

This partnership update represents some of the latest ways you have touched the lives of our community partners, and provides a closer look at why you matter so much. From everyone in the Outreach family, thank you for your trust, partnership, and love. You make so many good things possible.

Tunnel of Grub in Nepal

Ever heard of a “veggie tunnel”? We hadn’t either, until recently. In short, veggie tunnels are tubular greenhouses, constructed from simple supplies. Veggie tunnels are also much, much more for community members in Nepal. They’re the latest means of empowerment for committed, community-led teams!

Budding gardeners in the Outreach-affiliated community of Sikharpa have been busy cultivating a whole new revenue stream for themselves, subsidizing construction costs using funds they accessed through their government’s Agricultural Centre, (which is in itself a milestone for the teams).

Of course, a veggie tunnel without veggies is just a tunnel. With assistance and training from a local cooperative and NGO, 12 members filled their heads with knowledge about quality seedling production of seasonal vegetables, then filled the soil in their tunnels with healthy, happy seedlings.

Each cycle, after a few weeks and a lot of patient, expert care, the new farmers sell their crops at a local market. Since the initial funding for the veggie tunnels came from the government, there’s no debt to repay — each farmer contributes a portion of their profits to a community fund to help cover costs for even more veggie tunnels!

Their work is the essence of empowered, sustainable community-led development. A way to strengthen their bonds as teammates, deepen their experience with accessing resource institutions, manage community funds, increase their respective household incomes, and occasionally, enjoy a delicious outcome of their efforts, right off the vine.