



by Nishka Karki

On the morning of May 17, 2025, you wouldn't have expected the sand volleyball courts at Apex Community Park to be hustling and bustling with activity, but they were. The air was alive with competitive spirit, the thud of volleyballs, and the energy of the Nepali community.

So, what was the occasion? It was the **NCNC Teen Council's Second Annual Sand Volleyball Tournament**, and what an amazing day it turned out to be! We had 10 teams battling it out on the courts, and the tournament delivered competitive matches, fantastic teamwork, and incredible community involvement.

Of course, there could only be one winner. **Team Yoddha** took home the championship title, followed closely by **Team Defenders**, who secured a well-earned second place. In addition to the tournament winners, several young players were also recognized for their skills. **Nishka Karki**, **Eva Sharma**, and **Sujal Maharjan** were given the **Emerging Players Award**. The excitement wasn't just limited to the games either—during the event, **Nishka Karki** also won a raffle prize for the much-anticipated **Nepathya** concert.

What truly made this event memorable, though, was its mission. All proceeds from the tournament were donated to **H3: Health, Healing, Hope**, a nonprofit organization that provides medical and healthcare services to individuals experiencing homelessness. This organization was selected by the NCNC Teen Council after reviewing several nonprofits in the RTP area. The check was handed off to H3 during the **Teen Council Social on June 7, 2025**.

Furthermore, I would also like to thank many people for their immense generosity and support during this event. It would not have been possible without their dedication.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our donors: **Momomandu**, **EVCNC**, **Bikas Sapkota**, **Yuvraj Kadel**, **Samyam Lamichhane**, **Sujan Neupane**, **Uttam Niraula**, **Babu Subedi**, **Tilochan Dawadi**, **Raju Bhandari**, **Rabin Bhattarai**, and **Ashok Khanal**.

The volunteers from Teen Council showed up and delivered outstanding help and participation throughout the day. Also, a big thank you to **Sauryavi Dhakal**, one of the co-leads of Teen Council. She played a significant role in planning the entire event, alongside representatives from **EVCNC**. Additionally, a very special shout-out to **Uttam Niraula**, whose tireless efforts made this tournament possible. He went above and beyond—guiding Teen Council, coordinating with sponsors and vendors, and acting as the key liaison between EVCNC and Teen Council. Another thank you goes to **Manika Chaulagain** and **Dipendra Bist** for their help throughout the day.

Of course, no tournament would be complete without dedicated referees. Thank you to **Nirajan Karki**, **Sailesh Adhikari**, **Dipendra Bist**, **Kamal Kafle**, **Mohan Pahadi**, **Mahesh Bhatt**, **BP Pokhrel**, **Nishka Karki**, and **Shine Lamichhane** for keeping the matches fair, fun, and competitive.

The NCNC Teen Council Second Annual Sand Volleyball Tournament showcased community collaboration, youth leadership, and giving back—all while having fun. Whether you played, cheered, volunteered, or donated, thank you for your support and for helping make this day unforgettable.