

Reflecting on NCNC's 2025: A Year of Culture, Community, and Connection



Kalpana Bhandari

“What significant work did the NCNC Board do during your tenureship in the past 1.5 years?”

I was taken aback when I was asked this question. It wasn't the question itself that surprised me—but the person asking it. Karma dai had been in the front row, leading several NCNC activities and volunteering at many others. He was well aware of what we had accomplished. I wanted to blurt out, “You tell me!” Instead, I paused and reflected: *Had we really made a significant difference during our time on the NCNC Board?*

I answered: “The fact that NCNC was invited to Governor Josh Stein’s Executive Mansion during the 2025 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month—marking the first time in our history—perhaps speaks volumes. North Carolina Asian Americans Together (NCAAT) increased our grant from \$10,000 in 2024 to \$40,000 in 2025. NCNC’s recognition now extends beyond the Nepali community; we have earned a seat at the table in both local and international spaces. That, I believe, is the significant work the NCNC Board has accomplished over the past 1.5 years.” I don’t know if Karma dai was satisfied with my answer, but at that moment, I felt proud to be part of a Board that truly made a difference. Since that conversation, more signs of NCNC’s growing impact have emerged. A representative from the Town of Fuquay-Varina reached out, requesting NCNC to host a booth at their International Festival to showcase Nepal’s heritage. The newly appointed Chief of Police from the Town of Morrisville also invited NCNC to explore ways to collaborate and serve the community together. NCNC’s identity is now recognized beyond our “small” Nepali community.

In 2025, we also raised a record-breaking \$16,000 from 140 families during Nepal Day—our largest total to date. Just two months later, we hosted a fundraiser to support Dr. Sanduk Ruit’s Tilganga Intraocular Lens (IOL) Project in Hetauda, collecting \$39,020—the second-highest amount raised during Dr. Ruit’s entire U.S. tour. These achievements are a testament to the growing impact and generosity of our community. The NCNC Board was able to accomplish all this because of the trailblazing leaders who came before us, and because of the unwavering support of our volunteers, donors, and community members who continue to give their time, talent, and resources.

2025 Year In Review

NCNC experienced a vibrant year of growth in 2025—celebrating traditions, expanding educational programs, hosting impactful events, and building deeper collaborations with Nepali and local organizations. Through all of this, we remained rooted in our mission: connecting and empowering the Nepali community in North Carolina.

Celebrating festivals and traditions

NCNC brought the community together through beloved Nepali festivals and traditions.

- Events included Holi at Nepali Pathshala (March), the Teej Celebration and Puja (August), and upcoming events like the Annual Picnic (September) and Subhakamana Saanjh and Deusi-Bhailo (October).
- Nepal Day, our flagship event since 2017, saw over 2,000 attendees in 2025, making it the largest Nepali gathering in North Carolina. The event featured food stalls, vendors, cultural and heritage displays, parades, and live performances. To coincide with Nepali New Year, the third Saturday in April is proclaimed as Nepal Day by the state and county governments in the Triangle area, including the Town of Morrisville, Wake county, NC State, and Town of Apex, and for the first time in 2025 by the town of Cary.
- Our monthly Sunday Satsang, started in 2024, continues to thrive, drawing over 200 attendees. It has become a vital space for Nepali seniors to gather, share cultural knowledge, and pass traditions down to the next generation.

Focusing on education

Education remains a cornerstone of NCNC's mission, leading several initiatives for different age groups - Nepali Pathshala for kids ages 5 to 12, NCNC Teen Council for teenagers, STEM Events for young learners, MyBuddy Program for high school students, scholarships through Sujana Parita Education Foundation for college students, and NCNC Professional Network for working professionals of all ages.

- **Nepali Pathshala** Morrisville started in 2010 with about 20 students and has grown to over 200 students in recent years. The school teaches Nepali language to children aged 5 and above, offering basic, intermediate, and advanced classes. It runs weekly from January to September and offers optional extracurricular activities like yoga, dance, art, storytelling, and musical instrument learning. To address the needs of the growing Nepali population in the southern part of RTP, a pilot project was initiated in Holly Springs 2024. The Holly Springs school expanded to include multiple classes in 2025, including options for extracurricular activities. In 2025, enhancements were made to the school operation, including an introduction of ID cards for students and teachers, and a digital attendance system.
- **NCNC Teen Council**, a youth-oriented initiative, has doubled its size from 30 to 60 in the past three years. The council allows young leaders to plan and execute monthly workshops and activities, with advisors' guidance. In 2025, the council hosted events like workshops, interactive discussions, and sand volleyball tournaments, raising \$1,700 for H3 Health Healing Hope, an organization that provides medicine and healthcare services for homeless individuals. NCNC Teen Council also partners with Duke Diya to offer a "My Buddy Program" for Nepali teens, providing mentorship opportunities.
- **STEM Events** provide young learners with opportunities to explore robotics, including how to create robots and understand their functionality, learn about drones and its career prospects. In 2025, NCNC in collaboration with Gen Inspired, held one STEM event, "Robotics: Show and Tell" where students did live demos of student-built VEX robots and drones.
- **SPEF Scholarship** was established by Sujana Parita Education Foundation in 2019 to provide scholarships to college students of Nepali origin. The award is managed and coordinated by NCNC in collaboration with the foundation. For the past two years, NCNC has pitched in the scholarship amount. In 2025, we received applications from many highly qualified candidates and awarded a \$1000 cash prize to two students and \$200 cash prize to 6 students.

- **NCNC Professional Network** is a platform for working Nepali professionals to network and seek/offer job and other opportunities. The network has been created with the aim of supporting each other for professional development and providing assistance and counseling to community members in need. More than 150 members are a part of the professional network in the Viber group.

Community events

NCNC held various kinds of community activities and events in 2025.

- Adopt-a-highway, a clean-up campaign that started in 2012 has continued all these years later. NCNC has been cleaning about a 3 mile stretch of McCrimmon Parkway and Louis Stephens Dr in Morrisville each quarter. Adopt-a-trail in Apex was added in 2024 to the clean-up campaigns to engage the growing Nepali population in the south RTP. In 2025, NCNC held seven clean-up campaigns.
- 2025's International Women's Day, titled 'Nepali Women's Summit: Empowering, Inspiring, and Leading the Future' was a full-day conference style event, which evolved from the prior years' two-hour events.
- NCNC continued its tradition of an annual blood drive in 2025.
- Sports remained a key part of community life. NCNC, through its Teen Council, hosted a Sand Volleyball Tournament in May and plans to host another Volleyball Tournament in the fall. We also supported other tournaments, including the Dashain Cup Soccer, Cricket, and Volleyball tournaments, serving as the major sponsor for these sporting events.

Collaboration with Nepali organizations

NCNC has always collaborated with various organizations to bring the programs benefiting Nepali communities in North Carolina.

- In collaboration with Jeevan Vigyan Foundation, NCNC organized an interactive talk with Spiritual Guru LP Bhanu Sharma and Dr Sushrusha Arjyal where the speakers shared their insights on how to achieve the optimum mental well-being through spirituality and modern medicine.
- A musical night with Mohan Bhusal was organized in collaboration with Nepa Rhythms where a number of performers showed their talent. Mohan Bhusal, a legendary singer brought back 90's Nepali Melody and wowed the audience in a sold-out event.
- NCNC relies on community organizations, such as Everest Community Club, Everest Volleyball Club, HOFEX Group to organize various sports activities.
- NCNC continued to organize Prithivi Jayanti and Bhanu Jayanti in 2025 in collaboration with North Carolina Nepali Literary Society.
- NCNC held an interaction session in collaboration with Arambha Nepali Library on Mountains and Environment: Conservation Challenges and the role of media with Mr. Bal Krishna Basnet, Chairperson, Nepal Press Council.
- In collaboration with Pashupati Buddha Mandir of North Carolina (PBMNC), NCNC has been searching for a space to build a community center. In addition, we organized an interactive session on Desire, Anger & Ignorance: Their impact on behavior and psychology by Khenpo Sange Rangjung Rinpoche and Khenpo Pem Tshering Sherpa. Another special discourse with Pundit Deen Bandhu Pokhrel was organized on spiritual reflections on Eastern Philosophy.
- International Women's Day was organized in collaboration with NRNA, Nepali Women's Global Network (NGWN), Arambha Nepali Library, and International Literary Society.
- Since 2019, NCNC has collaborated with Sujana Parita Education Foundation to manage its Scholarship. Since 2024, NCNC has also allocated funding for the scholarship to jointly

award scholarships to two recipients each year. Since 2019, NCNC has collaborated with Sujana Parita Education Foundation to manage its Scholarship. Since 2024, NCNC has also allocated funding for the scholarship to jointly award scholarships to two recipients each year.

Collaboration with other entities

NCNC regularly collaborates with local entities and towns across RTP for various events and functions.

- North Carolina Asian Americans Together (NCAAT) awarded NCNC a \$40,000 grant from This is a Tier 1 NCAAT Civic Engagement Grant. In 2024, NCNC had received a Tier 2 NCAAT Civic Engagement Grant for \$10,000. NCNC has collaborated with NCAAT to host various civic engagement activities like voter registrations, meet and greet with town officials, etc. In addition, NCNC representatives participated in NCAAT's events, such as 25th Youth Leadership Institute, and Asian Americans Advocacy Day.
- The Town Council of Holly Springs awarded NCNC \$1,000 as part of the Civic Nonprofit Grant allocations to support Nepali Pathshala Holly Springs.
- In 2025, NCNC participated for the first time in the Earth Fest organized by the Town of Apex.
- NCNC accepted special invitations, such as
 - the AAPI heritage month celebration reception at the invitation of NC Governor Josh Stein at his Executive Mansion,
 - meet and greet with US Army Civil Affairs 97th Battalion based in Fort Liberty,
 - Chief of Police Justin Rosser in the Town of Morrisville.
- NCNC continued to work with the Town of Morrisville, Town of Apex, Wake County, NC State, and in 2025 Town of Cary to have the third Saturday of April proclaimed as Nepal Day.
- Discussions are ongoing to represent NCNC at the Town of Fuquay Varina's International Festival in September.
- NCNC has a long standing collaboration with the Hindu Society of North Carolina (HSNC). We have hosted numerous events in the HSNC premises, including Teej, Subhakamana Saanjh, Satsang, Nepali Pathshala, Blood Drive, Special Arati slot during Ganesh Festival, etc. In 2025, this collaboration with HSNC enabled us to donate 100% of the donation to Dr. Sanduk Ruit's fundraising efforts.
- For the past two years, NCNC has been collaborating with Gen Inspired to bring STEM events, where students can learn about the program and watch student-built robots and drones in action.
- NCNC liaises with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the Adopt-a-highway program in Morrisville and with the Town of Apex for the Adopt-a-trail program in Apex.
- NCNC collaborates with the Blood Connection to bring an annual blood drive to the Nepali community.
- NCNC Teen Council also partners with Duke Diya to offer a My Buddy Program for Nepali teens, providing mentorship opportunities.

Administrative Tasks

Since beginning its term in 2024, the Board implemented several operational improvements:

- Monthly update emails summarizing activities and donations
- Streamlined membership database - publishing members' list in NCNC's website, sending out membership renewal reminders and creating membership update tools
- Website updates and maintenance

- Transitioned from Mailchimp to Zeffy, saving \$40/month
- Expanded social media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube), with Facebook monetization earning ~\$30/month in recent months.
- Featured volunteer interviews (Nepali Pathshala teachers, event-specific volunteers etc.) on social media.
- Featured donor recognitions on social media, monthly updates, and the NCNC website
- Conducted membership drives, growing to nearly 1,300 active members

Final Thoughts

As we close the chapter on NCNC Board 2024-2025, it is clear that NCNC has not only grown in numbers but in purpose, reach, and recognition. This past year was a powerful testament to what a committed community can achieve when united by shared culture, compassion, and a common vision. From civic engagement to cultural celebrations, from empowering the next generation to supporting global causes, NCNC has continued to evolve as a strong pillar for Nepali identity and representation in North Carolina.

We are deeply grateful to the trailblazers, countless volunteers, donors, and partners who have made this progress possible. As we pass the torch to the NCNC Board 2026-2027, we do so with pride—and with confidence that the journey of culture, community, and connection will only grow stronger in the years to come.



NCNC Account Status from January 01 to August 29, 2025

| S.N | A/C name | Opening Balance | Current Bank Balance | Change in A/C Value |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Main A/C 1886 | \$31,261.82 | \$8,260.40 | -\$23,001.42 |
| 2 | School A/C 4072 | \$184,194.44 | \$232,947.03 | \$48,752.59 |
| 3 | Community A/C 4080 | \$38,822.42 | \$41,621.37 | \$2,798.95 |
| Total | | \$254,278.68 | \$282,828.80 | \$28,550.12 |

Income and Expense Breakdown: January 01 to August 29 2025

| Income | Amount | Expenses | Amount |
|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| Benevity Donations (via Paypal) | \$10,500.35 | Nepali School Various Expenses | \$1,812.16 |
| Donations (via Zeffy/Zelle) | \$4,742.51 | Nepali School Book Purchase | \$1,900.00 |
| International Women's Day Collection | \$810.00 | General Liability Insurance | \$251.920 |
| NCAAT Grant: 1st Pay | \$25,000.00 | HSNC Rent for Nepali Pathasala | \$13,520.00 |
| NCNC Membership | \$7,780.00 | Holy Spring School Rent | \$2,335.00 |
| Nepal Day Income | \$19,043.00 | HSNC Rental for Teej and other expense | \$1,950.00 |
| Sangalo Dues Collection | \$3,850.00 | Holi Expense | \$234.30 |
| School Fee/Support | \$18,525.00 | Bhanu Jayanti Expense | \$535.84 |
| Town of Holly Spring Grant | \$1,000.00 | Dr. Ruit Expense/Collected Fund Release | \$40,586.02 |
| Teej Collection | \$900.00 | NCNC Picnic Venue Reservation | \$620.00 |
| Dr. Ruit Fundraising | \$39,020.00 | NCNC Support/Sponsorship to Community events | \$1,500.00 |
| Teen Volleyball Collection | \$1,700.00 | NCNC Support to H3 (Teens Volleyball Fund Raising) | \$1,700.00 |
| Interest (CD & MM) | \$5,185.01 | Nepal Day Expense | \$10,472.67 |
| Mohan Bhusal's Concert | \$3,725.00 | NCNC Contribution to SPEF Scholarship | \$1,600.00 |
| NCNC Picnic Collection (ongoing) | \$1,050.00 | Nepali School Supplies | \$87.61 |
| Shubkamana Saanjh Collection (ongoing) | \$1,425.00 | HSNC Rental for Subhakamana Saanjh | \$1,800.00 |
| | | Volunteer Appreciation Event Expense | \$1,342.13 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$144,255.87 | Mohan Bhusal's Concert Expense | \$3,820.51 |
| | | International Women's Day Expense | \$1,453.52 |
| | | Business Expense (Public Storage and Software Subscriptions) | \$610.92 |
| | | NCAAT Bootcamp Allowance | \$750.00 |
| | | Transfer to School Money Market A/C | \$45,000.00 |
| | | Transfer to Community Money Market A/C | \$1,972.10 |
| | | Fees & Charges | \$140.77 |
| | | TOTAL EXPENSES | \$135,995.47 |
| | | Main A/C Balance | \$8,260.40 |



34 donors donated during Annual Blood Drive



Adopt-a-highway clean up campaign



Adopt-a-highway clean up campaign



Asian American Advocacy Day in Raleigh



Canvassing event with NCAAT



Deusi-bhailo 2024



During Adopt-a-trail clean up campaign in Apex



During Prithvi Jayanti celebration



During Teej Puja at HSNC Temple



Holi at Nepali Pathshala



Interactive Session with Dr. Sanduk Ruit



Interactive session with Khenpo Sange Rangjung Rinpoche & Khenpo Pem Tshering Sherpa



Interactive Session with Pundit Deen Bandhu Pokhrel



Ishwor Devkota, founder of NCNC presenting NCNC's honorary membership to Dr. Sanduk Ruit



Literature portion during International Women's Day



Meet and greet with US Army Civil Affairs 97th Battalion based in Fort Liberty



Musical evening with Mohan Bhusal and Nepa Rhythms



MyBuddy Meetup with Duke Diya



Governor Josh Stein invited NCNC to the AAPI Heritage Month reception.



NCAAT's 2025 Youth Leadership Institute



NCNC officials with officials from the Town of Morrisville on Nepal Day 2025



NCNC raised nearly \$40k for Dr. Sanduk Ruit's fundraising efforts



NCNC Subhakamana Saanjh 2024



NCNC Teej 2025



NCNC Teen Council Event on Personal Finance with Bikas Sapkota



NCNC Teen Council Event



NCNC Teen Council participated in Apex's Earthfest



Nepal Day 2025, the largest gathering of Nepalis in North Carolina



Receiving Nepal Day proclamation from the Town of Apex



Receiving Nepal Day proclamation from the Town of Morrisville