



Greenwich entrepreneur raises funds to assist Nepal

Greenwich entrepreneur raises funds to assist Nepal

Alexander Soule

Updated 10:02 pm, Friday, May 8, 2015

1 of 2



Mountkarma founder and Greenwich resident Kevin Lanuk at the studio in Kathmandu where his organization manufactures clothing and accessories made from recycled prayer flags, in partnership with Folk Nepal. Photo: Contributed Photo



There are few companies in Fairfield County to match the profile of Mountkarma, run by a 26-year-old Greenwich resident named [Kevin Lanuk](#) who has built a business importing clothing recycled from old prayer flags.

And few individuals are better situated than Lanuk to help Nepal earthquake survivors, having laid the groundwork for his company in Kathmandu a few years ago and now working to raise relief funding via the Indiegogo crowdfunding website.

Lanuk grew up in Stamford and lives in Greenwich. He got the idea for Mountkarma

You Might Also Like



Grandma's Boyfriend Rapes and Impregnates His 10-Year-Old Step Granddaughter
(Crying.com - Child Abuse Awareness)



Freddie Gray's Arrest Record: See The Truth Behind the Person Baltimore Is Rioting For
(Downtrend)



'Queen of tax fraud' request denied, sentenced again to 21 years
(TBO.com)



ABC's Jonathan Karl Just Mopped The Floor With Jay Carney Over That New Benghazi Email
(Downtrend)



Nicole Brown's Sister Tells Us How OJ's Kids Are, 20 Years Later
(Radar Online)

MORE GALLERIES



New baseball diamonds



ReStore Stratford, CT



Prom Dresses

0 0 0 0

Tweet Share g+1

Larger | Smaller Email This

Printable Version Font

while visiting Nepal in 2012, and now is doing his own small bit to reach out to friends and strangers there in desperate need of assistance.

"I was just sort of overcome with disbelief," Lanuk said. "All these memories flooded my mind -- it was just so terrible."

As of Friday, the Times of India reported a death toll of 8,413 people, with that number expected to climb further as rescuers continue to search wreckage for survivors.

Multinational humanitarian aid organizations have struggled to distribute supplies in Nepal, with Fairfield-based Save the Children having a team on the ground and Stamford-based AmeriCares dispatching a response team stationed in India. On the home front, businesses and individuals have stepped up with aid, including a \$30,000 donation from William Pitt/Julia B. Fee's Sotheby's International Realty to AmeriCares for disaster relief.

In the aftermath of Haiti's earthquake of 2010, Stamford developers Carl Kuehner III and his brother, Paul Kuehner, enlisted the aid of General Electric and others to marshal among the first airlifts of relief supplies to that country, where their family has long maintained a charitable organization.

On a far smaller scale but leveraging his own intimate knowledge of Kathmandu and its people, Lanuk is attempting to raise \$10,000 on Indiegogo to assist victims of the Nepal earthquake.

Lanuk said residents and visitors in Nepal are given frequent warnings about the possibilities of a debilitating earthquake -- to the extent that he would think about the scenario near nightly during the six months he spent in the country in 2012.

Along with the rest of the United States populace, on April 25, Lanuk woke up to the news that there had been a massive earthquake in Nepal, with early reports of hundreds of deaths quickly mounting into the thousands. Lanuk was getting his reports firsthand from people he knew on the ground in Nepal, via Facebook and other social media channels.

Conversing nightly via Skype with his business partner in Kathmandu, Lanuk looked at his account and saw that the last time he was online was just prior to the earthquake, creating anxious hours as he awaited word. The house collapsed for the owner of Folk Nepal, a nongovernment organization with which Mountkarma partners, with the owner surviving. Lanuk said everyone else with his organization checked in safe.

"A huge relief," he said. "Everybody was sleeping in tents and there were tons of aftershocks and everybody was just shocked. A lot of people had moved up into the hills ... before you get to real big Himalayas."

For Lanuk, the call to action came almost immediately, with his friends in Nepal alerting him that people were in desperate need of tents, rice, salt, cooking oil and medicine. He plans to use 100 percent of the proceeds from the Indiegogo campaign to purchase supplies and ensure they are delivered in advance of monsoon season, when rains pour daily for about two months, complicating relief efforts.

Indiegogo has Nepal relief efforts front and center on its website; the Mountkarma Aid Project can be located by searching Indiegogo using the term Mountkarma or visiting the company's website at www.mountkarma.com.

"I had this really close friend of mine who said, 'you can't sit idly by -- you need to step up and you need to do something,'" Lanuk said. "I wanted to do it myself, with people I knew and trusted."

Alex.Soule@scni.com; 203-964-2236; www.twitter.com/casoulman

Printable Version Email This Share 0 Tweet 0 g+1 0 0

You Might Also Like

Black bears run after tourists at Yellow Stone National Park
ITN



More videos:



LATEST NEWS



Safe baby sleep habits focus of proposed law

LATEST SPORTS



Doug Bonjour: A week of FCIAC football that was bizarre and exhausting

LATEST ENTERTAINMENT



Stamford couple feature on PBS

ballroom series

LATEST NEWS

Newtown sergeant, dispatcher arrested on federal charges

Newtown woman continues to fight endangerment charges

Legislators won't require body cameras on police

K-9 Officer Zeus to be honored with last ride through Ridgefield

Four new Bronx stations in Metro-North plans



6 worst home fixes for the money Bankrate



What are the Disadvantages of a Reverse Mortgage? Reverse Mortgage Guides



15 Most Beautiful Daughters Of Pro Athletes -- I Just Fell In Love... TheWebtrovert



Adult Film Stars Reveal What They Really Look Like Answers.com

From Around the Web

- These Celebrities Are Not Aging Like Fine Wine (Buzzlie)
Body found in Lake Ontario identified as Max Maisel, son of ESPN writer (USA TODAY)
17 Hilarious Prom Photos That Will Make You Glad You're Done With High School (Minq)
French firm proposes 'submarine river' to beat California drought (USA TODAY)
Family Members Say Goodbye to Bobbi Kristina as They Prepare for the Worst (Essence)
This Photographer Had No Idea What Was About To Happen (ViewMixed)
21 Of The Dumbest Trucks on Earth (Mentertained)

We Recommend

- North Korea says it tests submarine ballistic missile
The Village Farm: a bright spot on the Gaylordsville map
The cost of buying behind Belle Haven's gates
Danbury manufacturer to close up shop
'Throwback' diner opens in New Milford
'Property Brothers' take on Danbury
Mexican-style chain opens in Danbury

Recommended by

(0) Comments

powered by:



Write your comment here

Record video Upload video Upload image

Submit

Follow

Show: 10 | 20 | 50

Newest



AdChoices

NEWS-TIMES

- Home
News
Sports
Business
Entertainment
Obituaries
Opinion
Living
Blogs
Traffic
Weather

SERVICES

- Find&Save Local Shopping
Customer Care
Contact Us
Advertise With Us
Terms of Service
Privacy Policy
Your California Privacy Rights

MARKETPLACE

- Classifieds
Find Danbury jobs
Jobs
Homes

OTHER EDITIONS

- Home delivery
e-Edition
Mobile
iPhone
Android
RSS
Facebook
Twitter

LOCAL SERVICES

- Air Conditioning Contractors in Danbury
Car Dealerships in Danbury
Cleaning Services in Danbury
Family Doctors in Danbury
Furniture Stores in Danbury
Injury Attorneys in Danbury
New Car Dealers in Danbury
Real Estate Agents in Danbury
Real Estate Attorneys in Danbury
Restaurants in Danbury

OUR PARTNERS

- Connecticut Post
Darien News
Fairfield Citizen
Greenwich Time
New Canaan News
New Milford Spectrum
Stamford Advocate
The News-Times
Westport News
Ad Choices

Rentals
Cars

© Hearst Media Services Connecticut, LLC
HEARST *newspapers*

