

PRESS RELEASE

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Manny Kopstein has traveled the world since the late-1960's, first to Europe, next to the Far East and Down Under, trekking in Nepal and driving Turkey, then to Central and South America, and most recently and prolifically, to Cuba. Since 2004 Manny has developed close government connections enabling his high school and college teams to play baseball against Cuban sports federation programs, and all his Cuban travel groups to visit unique locales off the beaten track.

On nearly every trip to developing countries – Nicaragua, Nepal and now Cuba - Manny and his wife Cary, their family and groups of fellow travelers bring along as much as they can carry in charitable donations. Beginning their charitable outreach in the late-1980's on two 10-day friends and family treks through remote mountain villages in Nepal's Kahli Gandaki Gorge, headwaters of the Ganges. Cary and Manny's groups, helped by a grant from the Nepal Consul General in San Francisco, distributed 300 woolen blankets to elders in 7 villages in an effort to help keep babies alive through bouts of winter illness and disease before medical help could be reached. The group also distributed dental supplies and taught villagers dental hygiene.

Since 2004 the Kopsteins and Manny's groups have traveled throughout Cuba eschewing hotels and tourist spots to stay with families in private homes, always bringing donations to lift spirits and help alleviate poverty. In 2014 Manny's groups delivered more than 800# of hard-to-get medicines, school supplies, baseball jerseys and gear, and personal health products throughout the country via the MLK Center next to the Ebenezer Baptist Church in the Havana community of Pogolote, and through the Synagogue pharmacy in Vedado, Havana.

Manny's expertise includes agri-tourism and his groups staying wherever possible for several days on ranches and with rural families to learn the Cuban system of agricultural production and distribution, visiting tobacco, sugar and coffee plantations, and exploring caves and mountains in the outlying provinces. Manny is available for radio/T.V. appearances and to speak about Cuba tourism to community groups.

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