



TIBETAN
children's
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

NEED TO STRIVE FOR QUALITY

I believe Tibetan Education in Exile has come a long way - from the first primary schools under thatched roofs to the prestigious Dalai Lama Institute of Higher Studies in Bangalore. I look back in awe at the wisdom and foresight of leaders like His Holiness The Dalai Lama and the late Indian Prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru in conceptualizing a separate group of schools for the Tibetans. Then for over half a century we've invested a great deal of our community's resources in creating scores of Tibetan schools in exile - a true miracle.

Tibetan schools in exile have been so much more than places to teach literacy - they have been sanctuaries of our culture. Having spent the first sixty odd years in simply building the schools and the basic education infrastructure, I feel the time is ripe for us to renew our determination and focus on improving the quality of education in our schools.

I think it is imperative, that we almost have no choice. Unless we dramatically improve the quality of education in our schools, the schools themselves are not going to survive. If we look dispassionately at the challenges of declining enrollments in our schools, we can clearly see that we are in danger of losing our schools to immigration and our own prosperity!

The Tibetan population in exile in India and Nepal is shrinking due to interesting social and economic pushes within the Tibetans in Diaspora. While the

influx of escapees from Tibet has slowed to a trickle, there is a persistent push for Tibetans in the subcontinent to find ways to migrate West.

Many Tibetans in the subcontinent are happily moving ahead economically. Families that can afford it are now seeking admission for their children in quality Indian private schools.

While immigration trends may not be in our control, I think with dramatic improvements in the quality of education, we may be able to buck the trend of successful Tibetan families opting for Indian private schools. Also, we owe it to the students still in our school system. We owe it to ourselves as a community. I may be biased because I'm an educator but at this time this may be the most worthwhile endeavor of the Central Tibetan Administration! In the years ahead, TCEF would like to partner with the CTA and other organizations in striving for quality in our schools.



PROGRAM SERVICE ACHIEVEMENTS 2017

2017 has been another great program year for TCEF. Most of these focused on children's education - trying to improve infrastructure, trying to improve the quality of education in Tibetan schools and trying to help Tibetan teachers with tools to help the teaching learning process.

CHILDREN'S SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

HELPED EDUCATE
100 SCHOOL STUDENTS AND
10 COLLEGE STUDENTS

Thanks to the generosity of TCEF sponsors and the success of our Holiday Season sponsorship campaigns, we were able to maintain and even expand our children's education sponsorship. With your help we were able to sponsor the school education of about one hundred students this year. Transformation through education is a slow process but we can actually see the changes in the lives of the children we support.



ELDERS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

PROVIDED LIVING STIPENDS TO 90 TIBETAN ELDERS

With your support we were again able to strengthen and expand the elders sponsorship program. At least a few elders received increased sponsorship funds and several of them received extra gifts during the Holidays. For the elders on the program, the sponsorship funds not only help them with food, clothing and other basic needs, but sometimes, it helps them realize their personal dreams.

SAMBHOTA SCHOOL RENOVATION AND REMODEL PROJECT

IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR
320 STUDENTS AND STAFF
OF THIS SCHOOL

Special thanks to Ann Down and the Goods Work Institute for funding the Sambhota School Repair and Renovation Project.





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The Sambhota Tibetan school at Miao, Arunachal Pradesh, serves around 300 students. Until recently it was administered by the Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA) - an autonomous body under the Central Indian Government. Following a policy decision to hand Tibetan schools under CTSA to the Tibetan Government in Exile, this school was handed over to Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society (STSS) fairly recently.

An STSS team completed an inspection and evaluative tour of the school. They identified crucial

areas of school infrastructure that need repairs and renovations in order to improve the safety of the facility. The findings of the STSS team is corroborated by the report of former TCEF Project Manager, Valerie Hellermann who led a group there in October 2016 to assessed the needs first hand.

This project helps with repairs and renovations to classrooms, staff quarters, the school kitchen and totally expand and repair the washroom facilities of this school.



SCIENCE LAB PROJECT

IMPROVED SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR 150 STUDENTS

The Tibetan school at Clement Town does not have much to help the students learn Science. TCEF board member Jennifer Prugh visited this school in April 2017 and the school administration brought this to her notice. Their current science room is small, does not have proper shelving, storage or display space and it has very little in the way of science lab equipment. This project will help the school renovate their science room and purchase basic science lab equipment. This project will help the students develop a love for learning Science.



Shelving work in progress

Special thanks to Dori Garfield and circle of friends and family for funding the Science Lab Project

TEACHERS SPONSORSHIP PROJECT

FUNDING FOR ONE TEACHER AT THE CLEMENT TOWN SCHOOL

This program provides the salary of an excellent teacher for the Tibetan school at Clement Town. The school is able to retain the services of a trained Tibetan teacher through this program and this in turn impacts the education of many students in this school.

Special thanks to Jamie Harmon and Kelly Cline for continued support to the Teacher Sponsorship Program

SAMBHOTA PRE PRIMARY TEACHING AIDS PROJECT

IMPROVED LEARNING FACILITIES FOR 100 STUDENTS IN THIS SCHOOL



This project was requested by the Sambhota Tibetan School, Miao as they have very limited resources available to them.

The Sambhota Administration asked pre-primary teachers to provide a list of teaching aids they wanted. From that list they selected the items which could be bought from the TCEF funding send.

According to Mr.Namgyal Yemphel, Director at Sambhota the teachers were very happy and "it brought a broad smile on the children's face."



THE WHITE BOARDS PROJECT

IMPROVED LEARNING FOR 200 STUDENTS AT TNMF SCHOOL, CLEMENT TOWN

As the name suggests, this project helped to replace the old chalk boards in about twenty classrooms in this school with new white boards. The advantages of white boards with an array of colorful dry erase pens is clear and we think that this can be a big first step in changing at least a few of the Tibetan classrooms in exile.

Special thanks to Jennifer Prugh, Daniel Ramirez and Adobe Inc. for funding the White Boards Project

TCEF NEWS 2017



BOLLYWOOD 2017

By popular demand the TCEF Bollywood event was shifted back to the Helena Civic Center and people loved the event there.



Bollywood volunteers



Bollywood Bazaar



Prayer flags and Khataks

TIBETAN LOSAR EVENT 2017



Karma with Yeshe Khando at Losar Event

Losar is the Tibetan New Year. Visiting Tibetan singer and entertainer Yeshe Khando together with Norbu Lhamo, made this a fun and unique event for the audience at Helena.



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NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Emma Wieland

Jane Amdahl has been a TCEF sponsors and supporter for over ten years. She traveled to India, Nepal, and Tibet in 2004 and fell in love with Tibetan culture. Upon returning home, she contacted TCEF and began sponsoring a Tibetan refugee student in Kyitsel-Ling. Not long after that she began sponsoring a Tibetan refugee elder as well. Although she volunteers with a number of nonprofit organizations in the Helena area, she believes that her work with TCEF is among the most important

and fulfilling.

Jane is a retired attorney and lives with her husband and four dogs in Clancy, Montana.

Emma Wieland, daughter of long time TCEF board member Jane Wieland joined us this year. Emma brings youth, fresh perspectives and new ideas. In the spring of 2009, Emma joined the TCEF trip to India to see Kyitsel-ling and many other wonderful projects sponsored by TCEF at the time. Emma's family has sponsored a Kyitsel-ling student, Yeshi, from the time she was a little

girl, and this was the best part of her trip to India: meeting a sister. Emma committed her time to helping TCEF in a variety of roles, from singing and dancing with children, to cleaning dishes, carrying bags, serving food, collecting money, you name it, she's happy to help. Emma graduated from Carroll College in Helena in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and hopes to continue her education in the near future, mainly to pursue her love of learning. Emma loves "forest bathing", hiking, music, traveling, reading, laughing with friends and building fires.



Jane Amdahl



Jennifer Prugh & sponsors at KYITSEL-LING

VISIT TO PROGRAM SITES - CONNECTING SPONSORS AND SPONSORED CHILDREN

TCEF Board member and sponsor Jennifer Prugh led a group, including several sponsors to Kyitsel-ling, Clement Town. From all accounts it was wonderful for sponsors to personally meet their sponsored children, to shake their hands, visit with them and to see the smiles on their faces.

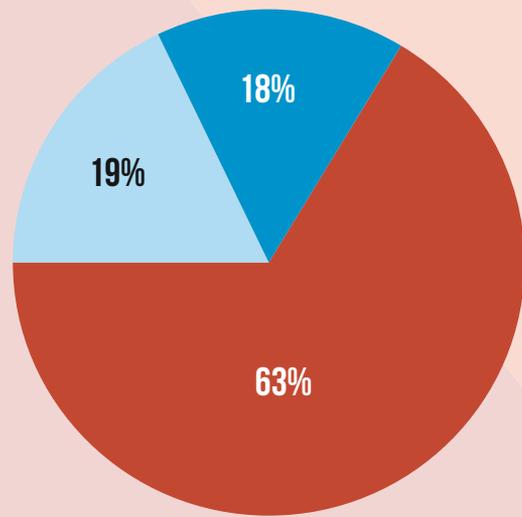
The visits to program sites is all about making new connections and making existing ones real and concrete. With all the competing charities we have right here at home, I always feel an extra sense of gratitude that TCEF sponsors will open their hearts to children and

elders half way around the globe. It is an exercise in both compassion and trust. When special people like Jennifer Prugh take half a dozen sponsors to actually meet their sponsored children, it makes the whole sponsorship experience so real.

TCEF FINANCES 2017

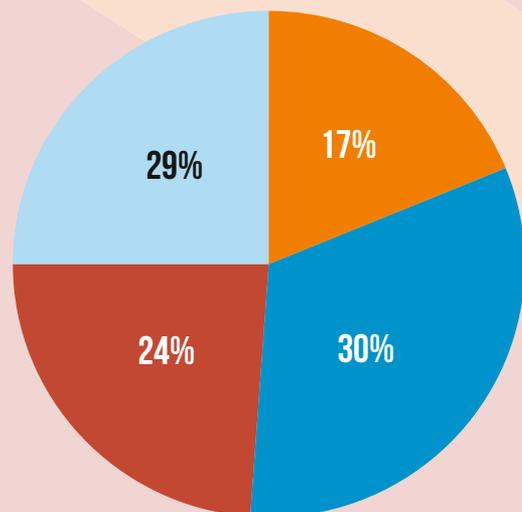
WHERE WE RECEIVED OUR FUNDS

- Individual Contributions
- Foundations & Corporations
- Events & Fundraisers



WHERE WE SPENT OUR FUNDS IN 2017

- Admin & Fundraisng
- Children's Education Sponsorships
- Grandparents' Sponsorships
- Education & Service Projects





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HOW YOU CAN HELP TCEF IN 2018

HOST A TCEF EVENT

This summer we are looking for event hosts in different parts of the country, particularly in Montana and the neighboring states of Idaho, Washington, Wyoming, Oregon and California. We have two different kinds of events to offer:

1

A four day sand mandala event with Lama Paljor. This will involve three days of sand mandala construction, including all associated prayers and ceremonies and one TCEF sponsorship drive/ fundraiser evening.



2

Single evening TCEF sponsorship drive/fundraiser evening with updated power point presentation by Karma Tensum, fresh from extended visits to TCEF program sites in India.



A single TCEF event, no matter however small has the potential to benefit many Tibetans. If ever you wanted to do something for Tibet - to help preserve the culture, to help educate the children or care for elders, please consider hosting an event this summer. We really need to travel and to get the word out about our work and the needs of the Tibetans. If you are reading this and see any possibility to help, please reach out to me. I promise to follow all leads knowing that not all of them may convert into real events. During my travels karmatcef@gmail.com works the best for me.

TCEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

India Supera	President
Roy Andes	Secretary/Treasurer
VJ Supera	Member
Crystal Water	Member
Roberta Anderson	Member
Jane Wieland	Member
Winter Safronoff	Member
Melanie Trost	Member
Carina Wilmot	Member
Jennifer Prugh	Member
Sara Buckerfield	Member
Jane Amdahl	Member
Emma Wieland	Member

Staff

Karma Tensum	Executive Director
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HUGE GRATITUDE TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED TCEF IN 2017. OUR WORK IS POSSIBLE ONLY WITH YOUR SUPPORT.

DONORS ABOVE \$1000 IN 2017

Carla Ada
Eva Alexander
Jane Amdahl
Carol Ammons
Scott Belair
Rich & Jackie Boberg
Karen Davidson
Mary Jane Davidson
Ann Down & GWI
Dori Garfield
Thomas Frenz
Daniel Fritz & Cheryl Hart
Jamie Harmon & Kelly Cline
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Herbert Hevener
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Janice Lowen
Wendy Maguire
Gail Mahnke
Leslie Manes
Joan Marks
Mary Mosham
Maxwell Milton
Oscar & Sue Mullins Davis
Jennifer Prugh
Daniel Ramirez
Gary Sanders
Tshering Doma Shakya
Whitney Spagnola
Bill Staac
Shaun & Joannie Taylor
Margery Tonna
Melanie Trost
Crystal Water & John Feron
Michael Willing
Tessa Wilcox

NEW SPONSORSHIPS IN 2017

Does not include new sponsors who joined during the 2017 Holiday Season campaign whose sponsorships commence in Jan 2018.

Linda Barrow & Kip King
Rebekah Rayebi
Dean & Rebecca Lerner
Bill Staac
Ramon Veloz
Joyce Higashi
Charlotte Boscamp
Mary Boscamp
Dr. Thomas Frenz
Frank Balistreri
Sara Tellman Veloz
Audrey Siow
Kay Izlar
Jennifer Huston
Tony & Renee
Marjean Heisler
Shelly Dorai - raj
Mark Ibsen
Melanie Wendt
Thomas Mitchell
Max Milton & Joan Bird
Francine Southam
Margaret Benes & Treva Voreyer
Lynde Alvarez
Elizabeth Nelson
Kim Lennan
Dori Garfield
Tshering Doma Shakya
Gail Mahnke
Elaine Yarbrough
Frances Barnes
Kristin Whiteaker
Carla Ada
Jennifer Prugh
Mary Mosham

BOLLYWOOD FUNDRAISER 2017

Performing Artists
Prashant Kakad and Bollywood Dreams LLC
Sponsors and Key Supporters of Bollywood Fundraiser:
Quality Inn, Helena, MT
Asia Garden Restaurant,
Feathered Pipe Foundation
Real Food Market & Deli
Shanti Boutique
Search Widens, Polson, MT
Mike Rudolph & Winter Song
Gendun Sangmo
Micah Eller
Lewis & Clark Brewery
Andrew Gilbert & Tenzin Chodon
Janet Brent
Eric Meyers
Christine Ecket
Jane Amdahl
Nancy Rudolf
Park Avenue Bakery
Vanilla Bean Bakery & Deli
Vanns Thriftway
Bennys Bistro
Elizabeth, Kavida and volunteers from Carroll College

TIBETAN LOSAR EVENT 2017

Performing Artists
Yeshi Khando
Norbu Lhamo

