



TIBETAN
children's
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL
REPORT
2020

GENEROSITY NOT UNDER LOCKDOWN - THE TIBETAN RESPONSE TO COVID

The past year has been an incredibly difficult year for people all over the world. Covid 19 has caused thousands of deaths, ruined the global economy and derailed countless plans - both big and small. Like everyone else, the Tibetan community was also impacted: many suffered job or income loss, a Tibetan elder home got infected, students at different locations got stranded, and we could go on. Still, everything is relative and when I sit down to compose this, and think about its impact on our community, I almost get this sense that compared to many others, it didn't hit us quite as hard. Aside from the blessings of our spiritual masters, I think the fact that Tibetans have been adapting and adjusting to adversities for over half a century, helped us cope just a little bit better.

More often than not, for Tibetans, it is our spiritual masters who guide us during difficult times. This year too, His Holiness The Dalai Lama and the other great masters guided the community. As early as in March 2020, His Holiness wrote to Prime minister Narendra Modi of India, expressing his support to the PM's CARE fund. In addition to a donation from the Dalai Lama Trust, he also announced that his office staff would contribute one day's salary towards that

fund. For me, this was visible and tangible guidance by personal example, and one that was followed with enthusiasm by all other segments of Tibetans.

The Tibetans started their givings, their participation in this human crisis through their greatest strength - spirituality and prayers. Again, it was lead by the greatest and most revered of our spiritual masters. From his headquarters in Rajpur, India, His Holiness Sakya Trizin Rinpoche lived streamed via Facebook the Parnashavai initiations to mitigate the sufferings of all sentient beings during this Covid 19 crisis. His Holiness the Karmapa also lived streamed several days of precious teachings and initiations to pray for comfort and healing during the pandemic. His Holiness the Dalai Lama also gave a virtual Avalokiteshvara Empowerment and other precious teachings. All these events were followed online by millions of people all over the world.

This cue of doing something, of giving back was quickly picked up by various Tibetan organizations. All over India, the people most affected, the most vulnerable were those from the poorest segments of society - migrant workers being one example. Many of these migrant laborers live from hand to mouth. When the lockdowns took place their lives became immediately vulnerable. In the Tibetan settlement of Clement Town where I come from there are several of these migrant laborers working on construction projects within the settlement. The community leadership garnered volunteers, collected food and other donations and immediately started to help these families.

Much further east in Mt.Abu, Rajasthan, there is a small community of Tibetan sweater sellers. My cousin proudly sent me images of this community giving back, contributing to the chief minister's relief fund. In Vadodara, Gujara there is a bigger community of Tibetan sweater sellers. Another cousin filled me in with news of what they were doing to help. When my niece in Goa learned that I was working on this piece, she proudly volunteered information on how her community of traders there were doing their bit to help. The trend is the same -Tibetans are finding joy in giving back, in doing something for those who are truly vulnerable.

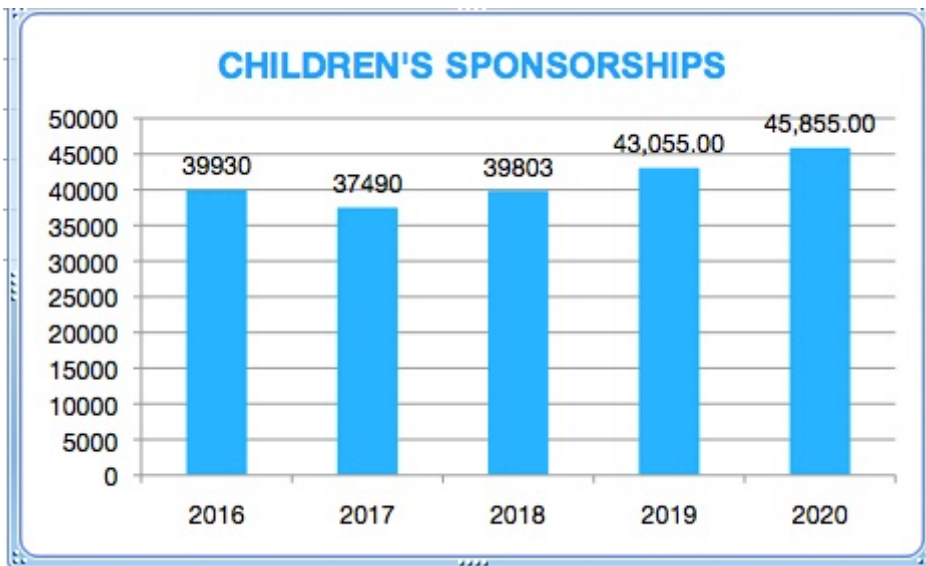
From my perspective, this virus and the situation it created, somehow woke up the latent generosity and even the goodness among our community. During this period people were forced to stay at home and reach to the internet for entertainment and sanity, a host of Tibetan vloggers suddenly mushroomed. Most of the vlogs were focused on helping and giving. It was truly heart-warming. There was a young Tibetan man reaching out to destitute Indians suffering on the peripherals of the Tibetan community at Delhi. He had great camera skills and we could follow him with admiration as he actively reached out, helped and documented that through his vlogs. Another young Tibetan couple helped an Indian pedal rickshaw puller - bought him a brand new rickshaw that had the poor man in tears of gratitude.

While on this theme of generosity, I would be totally amiss if I did not acknowledge with gratitude the immense generosity of the TCEF community for their continued support in a really difficult year. ALL our work is possible only with your help. KADRIN CHEY as we say it in Tibetan.

PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

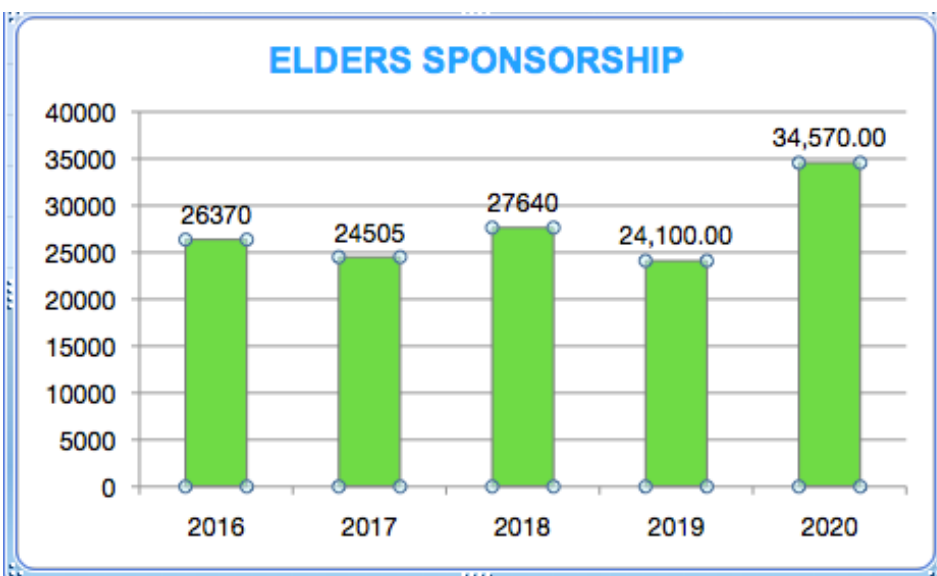
EDUCATION

Although 2020 was an extremely difficult year, thanks to the amazing generosity and support of TCEF sponsors, we were able to expand and increase our support for both the children and elders' sponsorship programs.



This chart shows the dollar amounts spent on the children's education sponsorships over the last 5 years. In 2020 we spent close to \$46,000 - the most in TCEF history! With your help this year we provided educational sponsorships to over 100 school students.

SERVICES



The increase in the Elders Sponsorship program is even more. Over the past five years, we've averaged around \$25,000 in funds for this program. This year, we were able to expand this program, and increase funding by nearly \$10,000. With your support we were able to help close to 100 Tibetan elders in exile.

CULTURE

With the limitations posed by Covid on travel and people to people contact, TCEF found new ways to connect with people and raise awareness of Tibet, Tibetan issues and Tibetan culture.

For our 25th Anniversary Event, we organized a successful Virtual Tibetan Culture Night event.



We started a new video series titled VOICES FOR TIBET. These are a series of interviews capturing the support of people for all things Tibetan - the culture, education of children in exile and the cause of Tibet. These videos are posted on our new Youtube Channel, and on our website. We hope the videos will inspire other people to support Tibet and Tibetan causes, and even provide hope to Tibetans themselves.

VOICES FOR TIBET INTERVIEWS

In our newsletters we began a new feature series called Sharing Tibetan Culture. These are a collection of essays of various facets of Tibet and Tibetan culture. Like the videos, the overarching aim of the blogs is to raise awareness of Tibet and Tibetan culture, and to inspire others to help.

BLOGS ON TIBET AND TIBETAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020

VJ Supera, President, Roy Andes, Secretary/Treasurer, Roberta Anderson, Crystal Water, Dave Andersen, Jene Wieland, Winter Safronoff, Carina Wilmot, Jennifer Prugh, Jane Amdahl, Alan Davis, Tseten Dorjee, Nyima Dolma, Lodoe Gyaltsen

STAFF

Karma Tensum - Executive Director



We celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a successful Virtual Tibetan Culture Night Fundraiser.

We loved that the online format allowed us to feature great Tibetan artists living in diverse locations, and the TCEF community outside of Helena, Montana could also take part in our annual fundraising event.

Overall, we feel it was a great celebration - we were able to share many different Tibetan cultural items, and thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and supporters, it was a great fundraiser too.

ZOOM RECORDING OF VIRTUAL
TIBETAN CULTURE NIGHT
FUNDRAISER

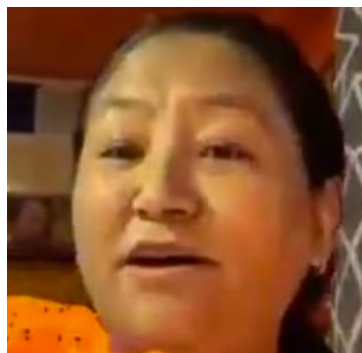
NEW TIBETAN BOARD MEMBERS

The TCEF board had long wanted more Tibetan participation in TCEF. Towards this end, we welcome Lodoe, Nyima and Tseten to the board. They will add fresh Tibetan perspectives and bring in new enthusiasm and energy.



Lodoe Gyaltsen's school and college education was sponsored through TCEF. He is working as a Registered Nurse.

Lodoe is someone who has gone through our sponsorship program and experienced first hand the impact of our programs. He is friendly, intelligent and articulate. My best hope is that he can offer insight into how we can further improve our sponsorship and other programs in India.



Nyima Dolma graduated school from the Tibetan Nehru Memorial Foundation School at Clement Town and completed her college graduation from Delhi University. She is on the Managing Committee for Kyitsel-ling, Clement Town. She is a Tibetan activist, was involved for many years in leadership roles for the Tibetan Women's Association. Again, she has an interest in helping and nonprofit work and has served as the local coordinator for Vimala Association - an Italy based nonprofit helping Tibetans.



Tseten Dorjee is a Tibetan Thangka artist. He has toured Montana and other parts of the country with TCEF. Last year he was also a part of the Footsteps of the Buddha Tour.

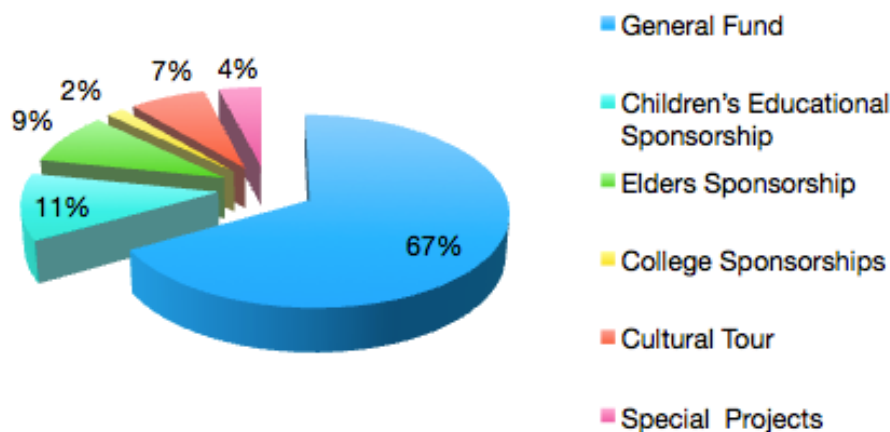
He has a genuine love for nonprofit work and has the potential to contribute greatly. TCEF always has visions of trying to help people in the Himalayan belt of Sikkim and Ladakh, and Tseten can be a huge help as a local resource.

JANICE LOWEN ESTATE GIFT

TCEF started in a really small way. It was a worthy and compassionate cause and something that the founders created from the goodness of their heart - but for the most part it was a hobby. Over the years, many amazing and generous board members and sponsors had supported it. Yet, its growth and survival for 25 years has always seemed tenuous and miraculous. The miracles continued this year - none more so than a generous estate donation of \$200,000 from the late Janice Lowen - a TCEF sponsor. Janice Lowen's gift, with significant contributions from the late Mary Jane Davidson, and the continued support of Karen Davidson, ensures that the TCEF General Fund is stronger than we've ever been. TCEF's chances of survival beyond the lifetime of its founding members got a huge boost.

TCEF FINANCIALS 2020

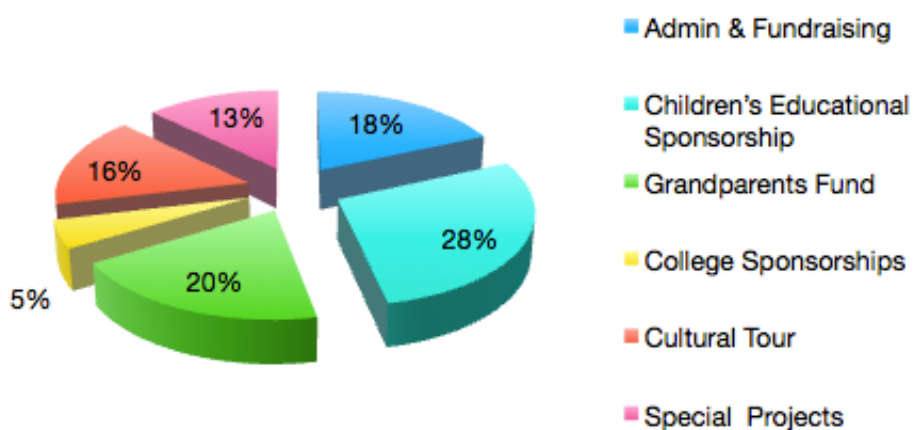
INCOME



INCOME

- Janice Lowen's estate gift has made a huge difference to TCEF General Fund.
- Even in this difficult year, most TCEF sponsors continued their support, and our income for the sponsorship programs was at par with previous years.
- In place of the annual Bollywood Night fundraiser, we had a successful Virtual Tibetan Culture Night Fundraiser.
- Although the tour was disrupted, we did do a Footsteps of the Buddha Tour in 2020, and had income and expenses for that cultural tour

EXPENSES



EXPENSES

- Thanks to the loyalty and support of our sponsors, we were able continue support to the children and elders.
- We expanded and increased the Elders Sponsorship program this year. We spent close to \$35,000 on this program - a historic high
- No new projects were started this year. Expenses on special projects include funding for the internet and computer project and final

LOOKING AHEAD

INTERNET AND COMPUTER PROJECT

The pandemic highlighted the immense value of the internet and online teaching across the globe. TCEF believes that an investment on internet and computer resources is the best thing we can do to help Tibetan education in exile. The full implementation of the project at TNMF School, Clement Town got disrupted by Covid. Our first priority is to successfully implement it in this pilot school, and then reach out to other schools that need help.

TIBETAN CULTURE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

In the light of logistic issues posed by the virus, we are reimagining this project. Instead of TCEF staff and board members traveling to Tibetan communities in exile, we are now thinking of partnering with videographers and Tibetan communities here in the country. Over the past several years, the Tibetan communities in some cities here in the country have grown dramatically. The Tibetan community at New York is many times bigger than the one at Clement Town. We continue to think that transmitting the culture to the children is important, and we hope to pursue this project with renewed energy and purpose.

BLOGS, VIDEOS AND PODCASTS ON TIBET

TCEF will continue all efforts to educate and raise awareness of Tibet, Tibetan culture, and the needs of Tibetan children and elders through blogs, videos and podcasts. In 2020 we published several articles on Tibet, and also started interviewing Tibet supporters for our Voices of Tibet interviews. Looking forward, we will continue those efforts and also add a podcast on all things Tibetan.

HEALTH AND HUMANITARIAN FUND

The aim of this project was to immediately help people Tibetan elders, and others, that we meet during our travels. If our international travel programs can resume, we can again pursue this project. With new Tibetan board members joining the team, we can now reach out and help truly deserving people even when travel to Tibetan communities in exile is not possible. The pandemic has galvanized many Tibetans and Tibetan organizations into social service and helping. This provides new opportunities for TCEF to partner with some exceptional persons/organizations to offer health and humanitarian services.

SIKKIM AND LADAKH

TCEF has long felt that the Tibetan and Himalayan children in areas like Sikkim and Ladakh are especially deserving of our love and support. In the years ahead, we will continue to explore ways to help needy children and elders in these areas.

KYITSEL-LING

Although TCEF partners with several Tibetan organizations to serve our mission and achieve our goals, there is a special connection with Kyitsel-ling. Since we helped to found it, there is almost a sense of direct responsibility for its growth, and even survival. Aside from the children's sponsorship program, TCEF will explore options for longterm support systems for Kyitsel-ling.

In Appreciation

Our work is possible only with your support. For TCEF, this is not a cliché, just a simple truth. Huge gratitude to everyone who supported our work in 2020

Donors above \$5000

Janice Lowen
Karen Davidson
Jennifer Prugh
Ann Down
Jane Easton
Herbert Hevener

Donors above \$1000

Jamie Harmon &
Kelly Cline
Otten Foundation
Carol Ammons
Crystal Water
Dr. Thomas Frentz
Gail Mahnke
Dorothy Cline
Dori Garfield
Mary Mosham
Frances Kinkade
Carina Wilmot & Don Harris
Scott Belair
Adrain & Constance Heidenreich
Jane Amdahl
Patricia Mertens
Gary Sanders
Deirdre Breen & Tom Kelly
Dave Andersen
Tshering Doma Shakya
Sue & Oscar Davis
Lynne Burkhardt
Vicki Chapman & Dugan Coburn
Janet & Ross Kimmerle
Thomas Ziegler
Joan Marks
Melanie Trost
Tessa Wilcox
Robin Fox
Marc & Amity Cooper
Alan Davis & Karen Cooper
Kimberley Agee

Donors over \$1000 contd.

Laughing Water
Susan Fox
Jennifer Pryor & Bill Crenshaw
Whitney Spagnola
Jim Patton

New Sponsorships in 2020

Crystal Water & John Feron
Whitney Spagnola
Marc & Amity Cooper
Ann Wilsnak & Dave Orndoff
Susan Fox
Joan Marks
Thomas Ziegler
Kathryn Martin
Kimberley Agee
Jim Patton
William Bowen
Joanne Varni
Shrada Gavali Cripe
Gary Dorcheus
Dan Fritz & Cheryl Hart
Pam & Gordon Sheppard
Dori Garfield
Trinity Dixon
Jane Wieland
Jamie Harmon & Kelly Cline
Brenda Blessings & Michael Love
Sangay Tso Topgyal
Dorothy Cline
VJ Supera
Catherine Bayer
Alan Davis & Karen Cooper
Kaley McCumber
Aimee Ryan and Family
Sabine Prather
Dave Andersen
Peabody Bradford
Laughing Water
Steven Wallingford

New Sponsorships 2020 Contd.

Stan & Treva Voreyer
David Englund
Will Kerslade
Sally Weaver
Cora Wen

25th Anniversary Virtual Tibetan Culture Night Event

Performing Artists:

Tsering Lodoe, Techung, Tsering Wangmo, Tseten Dorjee
Auctioneer: Jim Davies
Anchor: Crystal Water

Event Sponsors:

Feathered Pipe Foundation,
Helena
Real Food Market & Deli, Helena,
Drake Law Firm, Helena
LLCTLC, Helena, MT
Search Widen, Polson, MT
Windhorse Warrior Book
Shanti Boutique, Helena, MT

Auction Item Donors

Feathered Pipe Ranch
Tseten Dorjee
Nyima Dolma
Ga Lakhang Rinpoche
Ishinder Kaur
David Curtis, TLI
Jeff VanTine
Prashant Kakad

2020

