



FRIENDS OF TIBETAN SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA (FOTSI)

Annual Report and Newsletter for 2016-2017 Projects in Mundgod and Other Tibetan Settlements



Board of Directors

Chela Kunasz,
President
Fox Magdovitz,
Secretary
Ken Bernstein,
Director
Sherry Hart,
Director
Deborah Howard,
Director

Volunteer Staff

Michelle Harris
Many Tibetans

Newsletter

Chela Kunasz
Christy Stebbins
Ken Bernstein



Education, Food, Health, Shelter, Cultural & Life Support in Tibetan Resettlement Camps in India



Friends of Tibetan Settlements in India (FOTSI)
315 Skylark Way Boulder, CO 80303 303-494-4130
chela@jila.colorado.edu <http://www.kunasz.com/TSI/TSI.html>

Financial Report for 2016 (ref. IRS Filing, Anton, Collins, Mitchell LLP)

For more, go to <https://www.sos.state.co.us/ccsa/pages/search/basic.xhtml>, click on “Search” and type FOTSI. **The 2017 Report will be in the 2017-2018 FOTSI newsletter. We wait to check that the IRS, the state of Colorado, and our FOTSI records all agree.**

Income

Donations	\$68,858
Interest/Investment Income or Loss from donated stock	\$ 76
Total Income	\$68,934

Expenses

Program service (see details below)	\$58,480
Program service expenses (mail/wire fees, supplies, copies, travel)	\$ 2,007
Fundraising (newsletter, mail, copies, printing, supplies)	\$ 429
Administrative (IRS report, state registration, mail, supplies, printing)	\$ 898
Total Expenses	\$61,814

Program Service Details 2016:

Education (part of Program Service) \$20,896

College + Nursing Scholarships, books, boarding school fees (TCV), Dre-Gomang School (including washrooms, toilets, and classroom desks), other student aid

Health/Hygiene/Emergencies (part of Program Service) \$15,714

Representative’s Emergency Fund, Monks’ and Nuns’ Medical Funds, medical aid to laypeople by monks’ and nuns’ projects, direct aid, Tibetan student hostel food supplementation

Sponsorships/Group Support (part of Program Service) \$21,870

32 sponsorships through Rep. Office; 14 nuns and 27 monks sponsored and 5 aided; other one-time and group aid for laypeople helped by monks/nuns

Our program service expenses were \$1,769 for India travel, \$177 for mail to India, and \$61 for supplies. At the end of 2016 we carried forward \$53,557, much of which was used and allocated early in 2017. From early work as CFT/TSI, and later as FOTSI through 2006, our program and direct service expenses were more than \$353,618. Since then, adding in only program service, we have sent more than **\$868,308** to India. As usual, **no salaries have been paid to anyone in FOTSI. We deeply thank all who donated for FOTSI’s operating expenses!** We understand health and other needs in the USA remain stressful, so, to all who remember those in Tibet and those struggling in camps in India, thanks again, very much, from our “heartbone” as the Tibetans would say!

Dear Friends of Tibetan Settlements in India,

March 2018

FOTSI works in resettlement areas (“camps”) in India that for decades have received **Tibetan escapees from Tibet with nowhere else to go**. These areas also can serve temporarily as homes for distressed people from culturally related groups under **extreme duress, such as Mongolians and ethnic Tibetans** from Bhutan, Nepal, and the Arunachal Pradesh north Indian state. FOTSI aids the needy in the populous southern camps, especially the **Tibetan settlement**. We began support in 1984 as individuals, continued as part of Colorado Friends of Tibet, and, since 2001, work as an independent non-profit, tax-exempt charity. **Currently, in these camps we are the ONLY organization in the world significantly aiding** the suddenly desperate. We are also the **only outside group** providing major aid to the Drepung Gomang School.



Greg Hunt Representing FOTSI at Mundgod's Home for the Elderly, January 2018

Mundgod



Greg & New Tibetan Representative Jigme Tzultrim

This year, for health reasons, I was unable to travel to India to see our sponsorees and projects. My doctors assure me I'll recover and be able to resume visits to Mundgod. Fortunately, FOTSI's longtime friend, donor, and benefactor to Tibetans, **Greg Hunt**, went to Mundgod this year to visit Tibetans he aids there. He kindly **represented FOTSI** at that time and sent many photos and much information used in this newsletter. Tibetans who facilitate our work in the Mundgod Tibetan camp also sent us many photos and much information. **Please see Greg's report about his visit to Mundgod** (pg. 6).

As in the past, I'll share news showing why we aid Tibetans and wish to help them and their culture survive the genocide that happened and the oppression they still suffer. **Tibet remains closed to all but Beijing-selected reporters.** Foreigners trying to get news out can be jailed and their equipment has been hacked or confiscated. Locals can be arrested and tortured. Yet news trickles out via sources such as private communications, *Tibetan Bulletin* (www.tibet.net), *The New York Times*, BBC, the Voice of America, etc. Their websites and others like those of the International Campaign for Tibet (www.savetibet.org) are valuable for news of Tibet and even risks to the USA (see pg. 5)!

China has been tightening its noose on Tibet and its own citizens as Xi Jinping and the Communist Party wrote yet more new “rules” enforcing “failure to uphold core socialist values,” or “harmony,”



Ven. Choekyi

and other vague transgressions. **Demolition of the Larung Gar** Tibetan Buddhist settlement and brutal displacement of residents continue as well as pressure to suppress the Tibetan language and its peaceful defenders such as **Tashi Wangchuk**, arrested on “separatist” charges and tried in a closed trial in January. UN human rights advocates and others in many countries are concerned for his safety but banned from his trial. Monk **Choekyi** was arrested



Tashi Wangchuk

in 2015. It is said he wore a T-shirt with printed Tibetan celebrating the 80th birthday of the Dalai Lama. Choekyi's health has deteriorated after he was reportedly tortured and forced into hard labor.

The Beijing government is always hypersensitive and extremely controlling about what can be visited and photographed in Tibet as well as what relates to China in every corner of the globe. There was recently a fire at the **Jokhang Temple and Monastery**, a UNESCO World Heritage site very sacred to Tibetans. Chinese authorities reported no casualties and no damage to relics but soon blocked all photos and information about the fire. *The New York Times* reported that the German automaker of the **Mercedes Benz humbly apologized to the Chinese government** for their “error” when Beijing made a furious outcry about the Dalai Lama quote on their website. The quote said, “Look at the situations from all angles, and you will become more open.” The quote was removed.



Jokhang Fire, Lhasa, Tibet

The BBC recently reported that **Marriot International apologized to the Chinese government** saying it did not support separatist governments in China after their website was shut down in China. The site had listed Tibet, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau as separate countries. A Marriott social media account had also “liked” a post by a group supporting a separate Tibet. The website was down for a week, citing “updating.” The BBC also reported that a **soccer tour of Germany by the Chinese U20 team was suspended** because some spectators unfurled Tibetan flags at the match. The German Football Association VP said that they “cannot ban the protests; there is the right to freedom of expression here and certain rules apply.” A report by *The Guardian* said that **Chinese reprisal may have caused the cancellation at London’s Royal Court Theatre of a play about Tibetan exiles.**



Tibetan Protest at German Soccer Game

Good news was announced on 12/27/17 when Tibetan filmmaker and **former political prisoner Dhondup Wangchen was released** and was able to reunite with family in the USA. He had been in jail since 2008 for a film he made interviewing Tibetans in Tibet about the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama. He was released from prison in 2014 but had little freedom of movement. “Filming for Tibet,” a Swiss-based organization campaigned for his release for years, but he only **arrived in the USA after an arduous and risky escape from Tibet** at the end of December. See www.savetibet.org.



Filming for Tibet Photo of Dhondup Wangchen and family in San Francisco



Chinese Army Photo at Standoff

The **Chinese Government complained when the Dalai Lama visited the north Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh (AP) in April 2017**, although the Indian Government said the visit was purely religious. Two months later not far from AP, **Bhutan complained of border transgression** as the Chinese claim the area and



HH Dalai Lama, AP India 2017

were building a road into an area Bhutan has long considered its own. **India said the road had serious security implications.** The issue escalated into a **standoff between India and China near the northern border of Sikkim** during which China moved “*tens of thousands of tonnes of military hardware into the mountainous Tibet region*,” according to a *PLA Daily* (Chinese People’s Liberation Army) Internet news item since deleted, but discussed variously on other websites.



President Lobsang Sangay & Kids

This winter the **Dalai Lama** inaugurated the Drepung Loseling Meditation and Science Center in the Mundgod Tibetan settlement and gave a long teaching in Bodh Gaya, India. In 2017 he was in Ireland, Italy, Latvia, and the USA. **He said that international travel is very tiring for him now that he is 82, and he appointed two emissaries**, Tibetan Government-in-Exile President **Lobsang Sangay**, and former minister **Samdong Rinpoche**, to represent him at foreign venues. He cancelled all planned personal appearances in the USA and Europe.

Meanwhile many Tibetans are working with the Indian government on changes affecting Tibetans in India such as the **Tibetan Government-in-Exile's completion of the transfer from India to Tibetans of the funding and management of all non-monastic Tibetan schools there. Indian schools in New Delhi have begun to implement a suggested curriculum change that emphasizes training in sensitivity and compassion starting in early grades, a fact I learned from an Indian educator working on that project.**

As the Dalai Lama, is, sadly, opting out of visits to the USA, the Beijing government has, according to **recent testimony of our intelligence services to Congress**, further increased its presence here.



U.S. Intelligence Services Speak to Congress

Those testifying emphatically pointed to **dangers to the U.S. from China** as well as the more publicized intrusions from Russia. In *The Washington Post* article, "Waking up to China's Infiltration of American Colleges," Josh Rogin explains that China's massive foreign influence campaign in the U.S. takes a long view. He reports that, with **more than 100 universities in the U.S. now in direct partnership with the Chinese government** through "**Confucius Institutes**," the U.S. intelligence community is warning of their potential as spying outposts. But, even more important is the threat the institutes pose to the ability of the next generation of American leaders to learn, think and speak about realities in China and the true nature of the Communist regime. "Their goal is to **exploit America's academic freedom to instill in the minds of future leaders a pro-China viewpoint**," said Sen. Marco Rubio (R. Fl.). FBI Director Christopher Wray said the FBI is "watching warily," investigating Confucius Institutes, and calling out the Chinese government for planting spies in American schools. See <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5392211/FBI-Director-Chinese-spies-infiltrating-colleges.html>. We who see what has happened in Tibet can **appreciate efforts to guard our American freedom.**



On a positive note, several businesses and other aid groups have helped and partnered with FOTSI in the past. Now we have an opportunity **to purchase specially designed T-shirts** displaying the words: "We are all connected profoundly and deeply. With open eyes and hearts we all matter and we all can make a difference." The shirts have an attractive mandala-like design. Some are organic cotton. Their sale will help FOTSI as well as other charities doing good work. Please contact me or go online to www.kunasz.com/Tshirt/Tshirt.html to learn more about purchasing a T-shirt.

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH for helping FOTSI help Tibetans! I wish you all a wonderful Earth Dog Tibetan Year 2145!

With heartfelt gratitude, *Chela Kunasz*, President, FOTSI



Chela

Letter from Greg Hunt—In January I visited Mundgod to see my sponsored family. I am happy to say they are doing well. As Chela was unable to travel, I agreed to assist her by gathering information and photos for this newsletter. I want to share my thoughts on the current state of our Tibetan friends in the Mundgod Tibetan settlement and the outstanding charitable work done by FOTSI. My main goals were to meet FOTSI’s sponsorees and the new Mundgod Representative, visit the monks and lay people at the Drepung Gomang Buddhist Cultural Association (DGBCA) and the school they run, go to the Old People’s Home in Camp #3, and take photos. The settlement was less busy than normal as many residents had gone to Bodh Gaya to see His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Thus I was unable to meet many whom FOTSI aids.

At the Drepung Gomang School I met Mr. Kunga Lhundup, a layperson who, as Secretary of the DGBCA, helps run the school. He took me on a tour of the school, where I observed the students in the classrooms. Most of the students I saw are from Mongolia, and they arrived in Mundgod with no knowledge of the Tibetan



Monks, Greg, T. Dadon, Kunga

language. They speak pretty good Tibetan now and are also learning English. Although most are pretty shy, I was able to persuade some to pose for a photo. The school is using new desks provided by FOTSI and everyone is very grateful. Then I was given a delicious lunch at the new canteen with Kunga and Geshe Lobsang and Geshe Khenrap, the Tibetan monks who help Kunga run the school. They were very gracious and personable and I am honored to call them friends. Kunga Lhundup was invaluable, assisting me on several occasions as well as serving as translator. He introduced me to Tashi Lobsang and Jampa Gyatso, the monks who run the Gungru Khangtsen Health Fund sponsored by FOTSI. Many who had been helped had gone to Bodh Gaya. I did meet Palden Gonpo, who has suffered from diabetes and required an operation on his foot. I also met a shy but engaging 14-year-old monk-in-training, Yonten Tenzin who had received treatment for a broken arm and operation in the past from FOTSI.

FOTSI is actively assisting the Old People’s Home in Camp 3; I was given a tour by co-director Tamdin Dolma. The Home has 85 residents and a staff of 8. Some are burdened with age-related problems and illnesses and face daily difficulties, yet they manage to maintain a sense of optimism and faith. The prayer hall building that also hosts renters whose rent helps the Home needs a new roof. FOTSI has sent funds, but work has just begun due to rains and other obstacles. The settlement has a new Representative, Mr. Jigme Tsultrim, whom I found very personable and competent. I think he will do a great job. He hosted a meeting for me and several residents now being helped by FOTSI and I was given a summary of each person’s situation. While a few are doing well, most struggle with the problems of daily life we all face. It is very clear they all share a deep sense of gratitude for all that “Ama Chela” and FOTSI do for them. This was my 7th trip to Mundgod. With each visit I gain a greater appreciation for my good friend Chela’s dedication and unlimited compassion. I cannot overstate the importance of the outstanding work FOTSI performs in Mundgod and I am honored to play a small role in these efforts. On behalf of my sponsored family and all those in the Mundgod settlement, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Chela Kunasz and FOTSI.

-Greg Hunt

True Colleagues -- People at the Heart of FOTSI's Work



Ven. Tenzin Norzom



Migmar Tsering



Geshe Lobsang Ngawang



Dickyi Chodon



Dr. Kyizom



Geshe J. Gyatso



Ven. L. Tashi #2



Passang Dhondup



Tsewang Thinley



Choney Dolma with Chela



Rep. Karma Dhondup



Geshe Lobsang Sangyas



Kunga Lhundup



Lhakpa Choden



Tamdin Dolma

Without the wise advice and hard work of **many** Tibetans our projects would never arise and flourish the way they do. Those most **essential in 2016-17** are shown and described here. **New appointees/colleagues for 2017-18** are mentioned elsewhere.

Ven. Tenzin Norzom - important Tibetan nun who facilitates FOTSI's aid to nuns and some lay people in Mundgod
Karma Dhondup - Representative of HH the Dalai Lama in Mundgod, top official; heads Office of Rep (ORM); See the new Representative, **Jigme Tsultrim**, pg. 3.
Migmar Tsering - Secretary of Drepung Gomang Monastery; works expertly, tirelessly, and kindly with all
Geshe Lobsang Sangyas - runs our general monks' health fund; helps Chela a lot when she is in India, and works at Drepung Gomang Monastery

Geshe Lobsang Ngawang - head of Dre-Gomang Buddhist Cultural Assn. (DGBCA) administration
Kunga Lhundup - Secretary of DGBCA; helps Chela in India & year long, a lot
Dickyi Chodon - FOTSI's social worker for the ORM; is a huge help throughout each year
Lhakpa Choden - Rector, CST Hostel, manages food aid to students with our Tibetan Education & Welfare donation
Dr. Kyizom - doctor at Tibetan Medical Clinic; helps in many ways; has been very helpful during Chela's visits
Tamdin Dolma - Home for the Elderly (OPH) co-director

IMPORTANT COLLEAGUES ALONG THE BOTTOM ROW

Geshe Jampa Gyatso & Ven. Lobsang Tashi #2- Gungru Khangtsen Health leader and translator, respectively.
Office of the Representative, Mundgod, staff: accountant **Passang Dhondup** and cashier **Tsewang Thinley**
Choney Dolma, co-director with Tamdin Dolma at the OPH

TCEWF- Tibetan Children's Education and Welfare Fund --

Mundgod Settlement's Central School for Tibetans (CST) Hostel Food Supplementation Donations by FOTSI



Since 2010, FOTSI has provided supplementary food for students living in the hostel connected with the Central School for Tibetans (CST) in Mundgod. The CST Hostel houses about 150 students with special needs or from Tibetan settlements where there is NO high school or an insufficient one. The CST Rector said that their food budget was so inadequate due to unexpected food shortages and price increases that students' studies, general health, and even TB susceptibility was adversely affected. In 2013 we began sending funds to the Hostel through a new channel for us, the TCEWF, run by the Tibetan Government-in-Exile. We sent \$700 that year, and in 2014 we sent \$2,400. Our funds bought extra eggs, milk and vitamin supplements targeted to the weakest students and enabled the Hostel to buy more food in general. This was especially useful when the earthquakes hit Nepal, as much aid for Tibetan students in Nepal was diverted from India to Nepal by the Tibetan Government-in-Exile. At the end of 2016 I visited the Hostel and CST. Due to the continuing need for food, and the fact that support from the Indian Government and previous aid from foreign groups like SOIR-IM (Swedish Organization for Individual Relief) is ending, we increased our donation for this program to \$3,000 in 2017, and will increase it again in 2018 to \$4,000 per year. The TCEWF also hoped we could cover medical expenses of the CST in Mundgod or even those at all seven major Tibetan schools in India, as SOIR-IM will be ceasing that coverage as well. After we consulted with the Rector, Dr. Lhakpa Choden, at CST Mundgod, and the Project Officer with whom we work at TCEWF (Dharamsala), it was decided by all concerned that for now it is most important we stick with our \$4,000/year supplementary diet aid as the Tibetans seek other coverage for medical needs.

We received many letters and hand-drawn cards from the students, thanking us for help with food and supplements. These were especially heartfelt from the neediest students. Tenzin Woesser ("Sunshine")



wrote, *"I would like to extend my heartiest thanks for providing me milk and food for all these years.... Because of your efforts we were able to eat & drink healthy which brought about a lot of improvements in my physical strength...my academic performance has also improved a lot. I'll never forget the kindness you've showered upon us..."*



Students eating at the CST Hostel

Tibetan Children's Villages (TCV) -- FOTSI Supports Three New Students, Two Graduate

The **Tibetan Children's Villages (TCV) in India**, comprising several boarding and day schools, constitute a great educational community for poor Tibetan children-in-exile as well as those who have escaped from Tibet. See the Internet for excellent photos and information about this wonderful organization, begun initially in Dharamsala in 1960 by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his elder sister, Mrs. Tsering Dolma Takla, and later helped by many. In 2017 we concluded sponsorship of longtime students, Karma Tashi and Kalsang Gyatso (see below). In 2016, we donated \$710 for the benefit of those TCV students. **In 2017 we sent \$1,155 for them and our new students, as well as \$75 in additional help** for one of the longtime students. We picked up the sponsorship of three Tibetan students who, with two years each of high school left to complete, needed sponsors.

These newly sponsored students are **Tenzin Choten, Tsering Yangzom, and Tsering Dechen Lama—a boy and two girls**. **In 2018, we have already sent the remainder of this year's support for these three students —\$1440—as well as \$125 of additional donations**. We have used some special open-ended funds to do this, as well as a one-time donation by one of our donors for the sponsorships. If any of you wish to help with the final partial year sponsorships for these students in 2019, let us know!



Tenzin Choten

Tenzin Choten, 17, is a junior in a science stream, hoping to become a psychologist or a doctor. He is now studying physics, chemistry, biology, and computer science. His favorite subject is biology, and his favorite hobbies (when he has time) are table tennis and playing video games. He especially likes nature, trees, birds, insects—everything about the environment is interesting to him. One of our donors has kindly participated in his sponsorship and has written to him. His father died a few years ago and his mother was a retired teacher. Welfare officials in Dharamsala where he lived recommended that the family and boy were deserving but with little means. The school reports Tenzin has a serious look but is kind at heart.

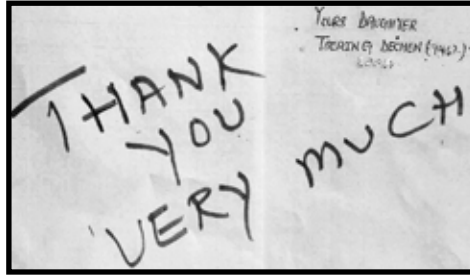
Tsering Yangzom, 18, is from a poor Tibetan refugee family that lives in Nepal, but her family contacted the Welfare Office in Dharamsala for help, and they recommended that Tsering be admitted to TCV in Bylakuppe, a Tibetan settlement, in 2017. She is also in a science stream and studying physics, chemistry, biology and math. Her favorite subject is biology. She finds science very hard but rewarding. She wants to be a gynecologist. She loves basketball and soccer, English stories, and Tibetan momos (stuffed dumplings). She wrote a heartfelt thank-you letter to FOTSI, saying that she wants to work in some kind of medical field if possible. She came in third out of 34 students in her most recent final exams.



Tsering Yangzom

TCV Students -- New & Old (cont.)

Tsering Dechen Lama, 20, was born to Tibetan refugee parents in Nepal. Due to their hard work but needy state, she was admitted to the TCV School in Bylakuppe in 2017. She is studying in a commerce stream and her best subject is accounting. She loves to play badminton, read English stories, and enjoys Tibetan thukpa (noodles). She wants to go into business administration. She loves her new school and wrote, *"Thank you so much for supporting me. ... Thank you from the deep of my heart."*



Tsering Dechen Lama



Karma Tashi (at left) TCV Graduation

Karma Tashi, 19, graduated from TCV Suja School in north India and joined the Indian Army, along with some of his Tibetan friends. He was very excited about this. Since he graduated from high school, he will be treated relatively well; if he is as lucky as others we have known, he will be able to stay with other Tibetan recruits and have some choices as to his training. These Tibetan soldiers are often sent to guard India's northern borders, those with China or Pakistan. The Indian

military understands that guarding the border with China is very meaningful to many Tibetans as they may understand the danger from China better than young Indian recruits. Guarding the border with Pakistan is dangerous and important to India.



Kalsang Gyatso

Kalsang Gyatso graduated from the TCV Gopalpur School in 2017. We have helped him through the monk who helped him escape a kind of slavery when he wasn't allowed to go to school, sending \$805 for his school fees and other simple needs. He is effectively orphaned and without Tibetan documents. We have received appreciative letters from him in 2018 and earlier, with his deep gratitude for our help with his education and through some life-threatening medical issues. He is now attending the Central University of Tibetan Studies (CUTS) in Varanasi. We are continuing to help him. For more information about CUTS, see the bottom paragraph on page 15.

In a letter we received in 2017 from the TCV Bylakuppe School to acknowledge a sponsorship payment, they wrote, "We have striven to give our best for children in our care to ensure healthy physical, intellectual and emotional growth to help our children become a better person, and it's all because of support from friends like you.... Tibetans are reduced to a minority in their own homeland. Now Tibet is facing complete extinction through Chinese systematic annihilation of its language and culture. If children are the future of a country, then the work of TCV becomes all the more important, especially when we are at such a critical point in our history. We are grateful to all our friends for standing by the Tibetan struggle for existence and justice, and keeping our hope alive."

FOTSI is the Only Donor for the DG School -- Recent History for a School Meeting Needs for Many -- Photo Gallery



*Happy Summer Student
New Desk in Background
2017*



Drepung Gomang School, Lama Camp #2, Mundgod Settlement



*Chela at DG School in
Late 2016, Having Fun
and Getting Smothered
With Thanks & Smiles*



New Western Toilet



*DG Student Using One of
Many Washing Stations*



DG School Student Test



*New Desks in Science Class (with
better-paid teacher!)*



Mongolian Boy



English Class



Part of Canteen and Some of the Shop Shelves



*DG Summer School Kids
on Bus to Classes*



*DG School Teachers Cheme Dorjee, Tenzin, DGBCA Secretary Kunga Lhundup, Tenzin Dadon,
(College Student from Camp #6 helping our friend Greg Hunt at Table End), DGBCA Official
Geshe Khenrap Chaeden, DG School Principal, DGBCA In-charge Geshe Lobsang Ngawang,
Teachers Gen Tashi and Tenzin Kunga, All Welcoming our FOTSI "Rep" Greg, and Thanking Us*



*Water Purifier Manager
Gen Lobsang Tashi*

FOTSI is the Only Donor for the DG School (cont.)

The Drepung Gomang (DG) School teaches English, Tibetan, math, science, social studies, and Buddhist courses to young monks arriving from poor, ethnically Tibetan areas and the few who can still escape Tibet. It is also a summer school for all children of the Mundgod settlement who want to study Tibetan language/culture, so endangered now. This school has also been the site of periodic science exhibitions for the local Tibetans and Indian school children.

Six years ago, there were 120 students at the DG School. As the number of children now managing to escape Tibet has dwindled to near zero, the number of children from poor ethnically Tibetan families in or near northern India, like Nepal, Ladakh, Bhutan, and the Arunachal Pradesh state of India, has increased so that the number of Tibetan-speaking students at the school has risen to 200. But, **in the last two years, the number of Mongolian students speaking only Mongolian, has risen from near zero to 200, so that the school population is now around 400!** This influx is due in large part to a kindly Mongolian lama who saw poverty growing in hard-hit areas of his country (due to climate change and political problems) and got permission from the Drepung Monastery and the Indian Government to bring poor Mongolian boys with little chance for education or much of a life to the Drepung Monastery and the DG School. This made sense because a hundred years ago, Lhasa's Drepung Monastery was 50% Mongolian, and it was a seat of education for Mongolians, now nonexistent due to the Chinese occupation of Tibet. Like Tibetans, many Mongolians are eager to save their endangered culture. The chaos from hundreds of new students arriving at the school not knowing the language of the area is diminishing, but still daunting. To help this school, its visitors (for exhibitions and special programs), summer students, 400 regular students, teachers, administrators, and infrastructure, we have sent general funds for **regular operations (2016-2018 to date)** of \$6,583, and supported **special projects sometimes spanning several years.**

2014-2016	Replacement/enlargement of washrooms/showers/toilets/water supply	\$6,815
2015-2016	Furniture (mostly desks) purchase	\$2,765
2017-2018*	Teacher pay and new hires with increase to living wage	\$7,083
2017-2018*	Funds toward self-sustaining project—canteen/store	\$3,050
2018*	Upgrade Office (furniture, supplies, computer, most needed)	\$1,000
2018*	Funds for iron paint to protect roof (monsoon rains) & over-roof	\$2,200

For just the years **2016 to 2018* (to date)**, we have sent the school a total of **\$25,076**. The Drepung Gomang Monastery has provided food and shelter for all students (except the summer school students) and has helped with the above school needs plus providing a source of distilled water. They have run a small store with all profits going to the DG School. As I made a strong point that we won't always be there for them and can't predict what we'll send each year, they have created a canteen and another store to increase support for the school. The big need now is an over-roof for the school to make its top floors livable in the summer and protect the building from the monsoonal rains. **Please contribute towards the school and roof project we are all working together to realize!** See more about this roof project and another one at the Old People's Home on pgs. 17-18.

Student Scholarships

FOTSI College and Nursing School Scholars 2016-2018

Name	Major, Current Status	College
Ms. Tenzin Noryang	Basic Nursing, 2nd year	KLE Hospital, Belgaum
Ms. Tenzin Tseyang	Basic Nursing, 1st year	St. John's Nursing School, Bangalore
Ms. Kalsang Wangmo	Bachelor of Physiotherapy, 1st year	Garden City University, Bangalore
Ms. Tenzin Norzin	Masters of Science in Nursing, 1st year	KLE Hospital, Belgaum
Mr. Tenzin Youtso	B.A., 1st year	Mahajana College, Mysore
Ms. Tenzin Yingsel	B.A., 1st year, history/econ./sociology	Jyoti Nivas College, Bangalore
Ms. Tenzin Kunsal	M. Comm., 1st year	St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bangalore
Mr. Kalsang Gyatso	B.A., Tib. Culture, Lang.	Cent. Univ. Tib. Studies (CUTS), Varanasi
Ven. L. Norbu Samphel	Shastri Degree (B.A), Buddhism, Languages	CUTS, Varanasi
Mr. Sonam Dorjee	B.Ed., Teacher Training; post-Bachelor of Physics	Application in process

Many of our former students are now working or helping family full time. These include Tenzin Lhamo (hotel receptionist, Bangalore), Tashi Lhamo (manager, Call Center, Bangalore), Tenzin Lhakey (nurse), Tenzin Khando (taking a gap year before further studies to help her struggling family with farming in Mundgod), and Tenzin Dolma (helping her mother, dealing with health issues, working and studying). **See more about our current, former, and prospective students on the next pages.**



Tenzin Noryang



Tenzin Tseyang



Kalsang Wangmo's Father



Tenzin Norzin



Tenzin Youtso



Tenzin Yingsel



Tenzin Kunsal



Kalsang Gyatso



Ven. L. Norbu Samphel



Sonam Dorjee

Student Scholarships (cont.)

In 2016 we sent \$14,195 for student scholarships at nursing schools, universities, and colleges. Of this \$10,215 went through the Office of the Representative of HH the Dalai Lama in Mundgod (ORM), \$2,880 went to students through the Drepung Gomang Buddhist Cultural Assn., and \$1,100 went directly to students we've supported through the ORM. **We sent \$12,993.50 in 2017.**

Tenzin Tseyang from Camp #9 in the Mundgod settlement, now in her first year of a three-year basic nursing degree program at St. John's Medical College in Bangalore, is following her longtime dream. She hopes to finish her education and interships and then return to work as a nurse in the Mundgod settlement. She has a heartwarming smile and is a bit shy. She wrote to her sponsor and those helping with her scholarship, ***"I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind and careful consideration towards my present as well as my future's perfection... I wish to be a helpful and meaningful nurse in my life..."***



Tenzin Tseyang & Grandfather Thank FOTSI for Her Nursing Scholarship



Nurse Tenzin Norzin Shows Her Diploma & Award

Tenzin Norzin graduated from her Basic Nursing program 3rd in her class and had a wonderful graduation ceremony. She assisted Chela and a Dre-Gomang monk with a write-up in Tibetan on preventative health practices that was later posted in a public area. In 2017 she completed the post-graduation nursing work requirements to begin a Masters' Nursing program at KLES Hospital and Nursing School. There have been some health problems in her family, with a sister and her father being ill. She wrote that ***"I am so thankful to you. It helps me a lot."***



Indian Military & Policemen Congratulate Tenzin Norzin at Graduation

Kalsang Wangmo, a poor semi-orphan from Camp 4, graduated from the Central School for Tibetans in Mundgod in mid-2017 and is now in her first year of study for a Bachelor of Physiotherapy degree at Garden City University in Bangalore, India. Her father met Greg Hunt (representing FOTSI in Mundgod in early 2018) to express his gratitude for the help with this scholarship.

Tenzin Noryang is now in her 2nd year of her Basic Nursing program at KLES Hospital & Nursing School in Belgaum. In her warm Christmas letter to FOTSI she shared that she was ***"very thankful and grateful"*** for our support and that **out of 103 students in her nursing program she was #1 in her first year overall!** We are so proud of her and all the donors who have made this possible.



Tenzin Noryang

Tenzin Yingsel from a Camp 9 family with a small plot of land is entering new territory as she is going for a B.A. at Jyoti Nivas College in Bangalore. She wrote a heartfelt thank you and spoke of the big effort her family had made for this dream of hers.

Student Scholarships (cont.)

Tenzin Youtso from Camp 9, recommended by a well-regarded monk who helps the poor and elderly in Mundgod, is from a poor family with only a little land. There are seven people in his family, including his two grandmothers (ages 86 and 72), two parents, and two siblings. He had been granted a small college scholarship but hadn't received it when it was time to pay fees. The family had made what efforts it could, having taken out a burdensome loan (U.S. families and students also know a lot about this!). So, due to the recommendation, school records, corroboration from the Office of the Representative, and a good letter from Tenzin, we sent some funds for him. Tenzin wrote that his aim is to serve or pay back "our Tibetan settlement." He wrote that he would study hard, and this was supported by a report from his high school



Tenzin Youtso



T. Youtso's Younger Grandmother

that gave him A's in "moral values, perseverance, concentration, and relationships." As to the latter, this was described as "friendliness, usefulness, and caring." The monk wrote that the family was hardworking and sincere. He said that the family also sells sweaters since their farming is not enough to support them. They travel for four days from home to get to a city where they can sell sweaters. They have to leave the grandmothers home and they worry about them. The younger grandmother came to the Office of the Representative to thank Greg Hunt in January 2018. We helped Tenzin in 2017 and will continue in 2018.

Tenzin Kunsal comes from a poor family in Mundgod that works on beneficial programs for Tibetan youth in the settlement (unpaid) and makes their living by selling sweaters. She is in her first year of a Masters' degree in International Business at St. John's College of Commerce in Bangalore. In her interesting thank-you letter to FOTSI in 2017 she wrote that "her great grandfather, S. Tsering, fled Tibet during the Red Chinese invasion in 1959.... (Before that) he lived in a village near Mt. Kailash." She also wrote eloquently of her gratitude to FOTSI for our help with her studies. She hopes to be able to help her parents and repay their kindness to her and their efforts for many.



Tenzin Kunsal

Ven. Lobsang Norbu Samphel, a young monk continuing his studies at the **Central**



Ven. L. Norbu Samphel

University for Tibetan Studies (CUTS) in Varanasi (I had mistakenly written "Delhi" last year) is doing very well. Now, this university is also known as the **Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS)**. His goal is to be a translator from Tibetan to English, especially for Buddhist monks and teachers. In 2017 he continued studying Sanskrit, English and Tibetan languages and poetry, Buddhist philosophy (Middle Way philosophy, logic, and Lam Rim), political science, and various modern topics. In the fall of 2017 he attended an in-depth workshop on "Buddhism and Tibetan Literature." After obtaining the Shastri degree and then the Acharya degree at CUTS, he plans to return to Drepung Gomang Monastery to complete his Geshe degree. In early 2018, shortly after he had returned from attending teachings by HH the Dalai

Lama in Bodh Gaya, he received the sad news that his father suddenly died. When schedules allow, he meets and has dinner with our new student at CUTS, Kalsang Gyatso, about whom we write below. Ven. L. Norbu writes lovely letters of gratitude to all who have ever helped him.

Student Scholarships (cont.)

Kalsang Gyatso graduated from TCV Gopalpur in mid-2017 and now attends the Central University for Tibetan Studies (CUTS) in Varanasi. This university can train people for scholarly careers translating Tibetan, English, and Indian languages, as well as for work in cultural fields, emphasizing Buddhist and Tibetan culture. This work can be academic in nature or include careers in museums or tourism. Tibetan monks rescued Kalsang, who had been subjected to a kind of slavery (no school allowed) after his mother died and his father vanished. The monks helped him survive and get into school, starting him in third grade though he was too old even for that grade. Shortly thereafter he was accidentally hit in the head with a stone, almost died from a hematoma, and was left mostly deaf on one side. Nonetheless he has worked very hard, done well academically, and excelled in sports. Due to his slightly large ears and his darker skin color (he is half-Tibetan and half-Nepali), he was nicknamed “Little Obama” by the monks. He wrote, “I know it won’t be possible for me to pay my school fees without your unconditional support and loving care towards me. Therefore with this great chance, from the very core of my heart I would like to extend my sincere thanks to each of you for your great support.” Recently he wrote of loving his new school and its library and receiving good grades in his first semester at CUTS.



*Chela, Tulku T. Shakya, K. Gyatso,
& Geshe J. Choeden in 2014*

Former student **Sonam Dorjee** worked as a technical employee for a medical consulting company for a while, making 10,000 Rs./month (about \$170, considered a good starting salary), which seemed like a lot until he had to pay rent common in big Indian cities like Chennai. Unfortunately he got quite ill and had to quit because his illness lasted longer than the company’s sick leave allowed. When he recovered, he sold sweaters with relatives to help their business and earn some money. He has always thought about becoming a teacher and has now applied for a B.Ed. teacher-training program.

Former student **Tenzin Phuntsok**, helpful as usual, gave our friend Greg a ride to the Home for the Elderly and Infirm in Camp #3 and shared his recent news. Tenzin completed a Master’s degree in economics “With Distinction” last year, applied for a job in the Mundgod settlement but did not get it, and then worked for a travel company. Recently he has been helping his family and, in particular, a younger brother who is at home while his parents are away earning money. Soon he plans to seek employment in “Business Processing Outsourcing.”



Tenzin Phuntsok

Last year we wrote of our encouragement to “TC” who had been so devastated by a death in the family and her own TB that she had dropped out of school and did not go out, just helping her grandmother at home. Support from FOTSI and others apparently helped. As a result she made an effort, managed to get asylum in Europe, and has joined a relative there where she is trying a new beginning and a new life.

Tenzin Palbar graduated from the Central School for Tibetans in Mundgod in mid-2017 and in his Christmas letter he wrote, “*Thank you once again for the love and support.*” He had originally planned to go for a B. Comm. degree, but, with good financial and other support offered by the Indian Army, he opted for that career right now, as did our TCV student Karma Tashi (see pg. 10).

Recent Infrastructure Aid -- at the Office of the Representative of HH the Dalai Lama, Mundgod (ORM), the Home for the Elderly (OPH), and the Drepung Gomang School



P. Dhondup

In February of 2017 we received an urgent request from the accountant, Passang Dhondup, at the Office of the Representative of HH the Dalai Lama in Mundgod. He emailed FOTSI, asking that the Office be allowed to use 16,850 Indian rupees (about \$265) from FOTSI's Emergency Fund to purchase a new battery and UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) for the accountant's office computer. This was failing and resulted in repeated work/data loss during Mundgod's frequent power outages. It was obvious **how important it was to quickly purchase this equipment, as no funds could be dispersed** to our Emergency Fund recipients, sponsored Tibetans, or students when their computer records could not be reliably updated. The Office's budget for office needs had run out for the fiscal year (ending March 31, 2017) and **aid dispersal was coming to a grinding halt** just when funds had to be given out before the end of the accounting period. Due to several requirements, including approval by the Mundgod Legislative Assembly allowing FOTSI Emergency Fund money to be used for this purchase, the actual purchase was delayed until March. The accountant and Chela were joyful as **the new UPS and batteries cured all the problems**. (Now, as Chela is struggling in 2018 with her updated FOTSI accounting software, very different from what she has used for ten years, she recalls the UPS issue with great sympathy.)



Precious Battery



New UPS

When Chela visited the Mundgod Settlement at the end of 2016 the directors and others at the **OPH** showed her **serious problems with the roof on an important building** that housed an assembly/prayer hall on its ground floor and a number of rental apartments above that helped fund the OPH. The leaking from this old roof was quite obvious. Renters said they would move out if repairs were not done. Originally Chela said FOTSI could send \$1,000 towards the projected \$6,000 cost of the roof repair, but eventually we raised \$3,000 for that work and sent it to the OPH through the ORM in June 2017. Another donor had promised the other half, but took longer to provide its part, and weather and other issues slowed the project's launch. The plan was to repair the top cement roof and to install an over-roof which would keep the top floors cooler and the monsoon rains out. We've also sent some additional funds to the Home, and for this and the roof project funds we received a wonderful card and photo from the elders of the OPH, a black-and-white version of which is shown on the bottom of this newsletter's front page. The card sent warm Christmas and New Year's greetings and said, "With our folded hands we want to say thank you so much for your generous support and continuous help toward our home. We are blessed to have you in our life and we always pray for your healthy and happy life ahead." Here, and on the next page, we share photos of the roof work now in progress and some of the residents and staff our friend Greg met when he visited to check on the project.



Over-roof Under Construction, OPH



OPH Resident

Recent Infrastructure Aid -- at the Home for the Elderly (OPH), and the Drepung Gomang School (cont.)

Here are more photos taken at the Home for the Elderly, Camp #3, Mundgod.



Greg Hunt with OPH Residents



OPH Resident Tsering Choephel

A Small Piece of the Decaying Roof, Workers Doing Repairs and Beginning the Over-Roof Supports



FOTSI Social Worker Dickyi, OPH Directors Tamdin Dolma & Choney Dolma as Greg Gets an OPH Tour

As we summarized on pg. 12, we've helped **Drepung Gomang School** in many ways, including donating funds to help build a store and cafe/canteen near the School that will earn money to support it going forward. **In 2017 we sent \$2,150 to the School for this worthy effort. The School also has a plan to protect its upper floors from the extreme summer heat and future disintegration (like that at the OPH) of its roof's cement during the monsoon.** At the advice of local Indian construction experts, they will first coat their existing cement roof with something referred to as "iron paint," and then go forward with an over-roof for the school, quite a major and expensive project. **This year FOTSI contributed \$1,640 toward the School's roof project.** Here are a few more canteen photos and a photo showing a finished over-roof.



CANTEEN PHOTOS ABOVE AND LEFT, OVER-ROOF EXAMPLE TO THE RIGHT



Health Aid for Monks

Tibetan monks and nuns have borne the brunt of punishment in the “Land of Snows” due to their connection with Buddhism and HH the Dalai Lama, unfortunately seen as a threat to the Beijing government. We wish to help them survive refugee life in India, which has a different climate and its own problems, such as having the most antibiotic resistant TB in the world. **In 2016 and 2017 we sent a total of \$4,175 and \$3,120, respectively, to aid monks from Drepung Gomang Monastery in paying medical bills.** We are open to help others and have aided such in the past, but have not had requests recently. Partly this may be due to the health aid available from basic hospitals at Drepung Loseling and Gaden Shartse and Jangtse monasteries in the settlement. Drepung Gomang also runs a clinic and provides some aid to its monks and others, but surgeries, scans and other needs are still not adequately met, so we help. We also **sent \$200 in 2017 to Ganden Jangtse Hospital.**

In 2017 we helped **Geshe Tsultrim Gyatso** who needed intestinal surgery. He is now recovering after a difficult time leading up to the operation. **Geshe Lobsang Ngawang** contracted a bad case of dengue fever, was in danger, and needed a blood transfusion and days of treatment, but recovered at a hospital in Hubli not far from the Tibetan settlement. He has recovered and is again working hard as the head of the Drepung Gomang Buddhist Cultural Association which helps the DG Monastery, the community and FOTSI’s work. **Geshe Ngawang Rabjam** needed eye surgery, and **Geshe Palden Gonpo** has severe diabetes and had foot surgery. We’ve helped other



Geshes T. Gyatso & L. Ngawang



Geshes N. Rabjam & P. Gonpo



Vens. J Dorjee & T. Tsering

monks with diabetes and monks such as **Vens. J. Dorjee and T. Tsering** suffering from hepatitis B, and others with intestinal difficulties, eye problems, and skin rashes. **Ven. Tashi Lobsang**, one of the monks now in charge of our Gungru Khangtsen Health Fund (GKH), will soon have leg surgery with aid from FOTSI.

Ven. Tashi Lobsang, one of the monks now in charge of our Gungru Khangtsen Health Fund (GKH), will soon have leg surgery with aid from FOTSI.



Ven. T. Lobsang, Greg, Ven. J. Gyatso

When **Greg Hunt** visited Mundgod on behalf of FOTSI this year, **Vens. Tashi Lobsang and Jampa Gyatso** of GKH kindly received him. He met with monks we’ve helped and got updated news of how our funds were used. By email we again heard thanks for the health advice Chela gave monks who attended her health talk in late 2016, which has now been translated into Tibetan. It has been posted in several locations as a reminder to monks about good health practices. Over 2017 we received letters about the dispersal of our funds and also how previously aided monks were doing. **Ven. Lobsang Khechok** of Dati Khangtsen has been a helpful friend to **Ven. Norbu Samten**



Chela & Ven. N. Samten

whom we aided with funds for a brain scan and medical consult about his epilepsy. Ven. Lobsang wrote that Ven. Samten was flourishing this year partly due to our earlier aid and encouragement. **Ven. Yonten Tenzin** (14) sent Chela a wonderfully kind “get well” card he made himself hoping she would recover from her knee surgery as well as he’d recovered after the arm surgery he had with FOTSI’s help.



Ven. Yonten Tenzin

Sponsorship & Aid for Monks

In 2016-2017 most FOTSI-sponsored monks were at Drepung Gomang Monastery, but some were in Drepung Loseling and Gaden Shartse in Mundgod. In 2016 (2017) FOTSI sent **\$8,015 (\$7,075) for our 27 sponsored and five aided monks, and \$50 (\$6) for animals** aided by the monks. See pg. 19 for amounts for medical aid. We also sent **\$2,800 (\$1,875) to Drepung Gomang Monastery**. This was helpful for those who are not sponsored.



Geshe L. Dhondup

This year we were happy to hear that two of our sponsored monks celebrated their attainment of the Geshe degree. Both of these young monks have studied hard and have also done much to help others. **Geshe Lobsang Dhondup** (Hardong Khangtsen) from the Litang area of Tibet spent years teaching English at the Drepung School and later worked on the Dre-Gomang Monastery's Tibetan Dictionary project. Four years ago he was quite ill and went to Delek Hospital in Dharamsala to get advice from our previously sponsored nursing scholarship holder **Dawa**, who helped him solve his medical issues. We are glad he is very well now and could complete his degree. He hopes to get the opportunity in the future to become a Tibetan-English translator. Sadly, Geshe Lobsang's father died just after the Geshe Tongo celebration.



Ven. L. Dhondup, Dawa 2013

Ven. Tenzin Khendak is also a **new Geshe**—one who completed the arduous path to that degree with six extra years of study culminating with the “Gelukpa Examinations.” More than half of those few who bravely pursue this uncommon study fail in the first year. In addition to completing this intense program, Tenzin has always assisted Chela in helping people and animals when she is in Mundgod, and he aids others all year long too. For example, he delivers funds to our sponsored Drepung Loseling monk, **Ven. Yeshi Ngodup (90)**, who is recovering from TB.



Ven. T. Khendak aided Ven. Y. Ngodup



Geshe N. Sopa

Other sponsored monks include **Geshe Jampa Choeden** (second in the all-India Gelukpa Geshe Exams a few years ago) and **Tulku Tenpa Shakya**, shown with student Kalsang Gyatso, whom they rescued and helped (pg. 16), and **Geshe Ngawang Sopa**, also a Gelukpa Exam hero, who has aided needy children in Mundgod and Tibet. Some formerly sponsored monks, such as **Geshes Ngawang Tsondu and Nyima Norbu**, are now teachers. We still sponsor teacher **Geshe Jamphel Lodro**. He earlier taught in dangerous areas under dispute between Indians and Islamic militants.

He has had serious medical issues including a huge bladder stone and a neurological disease that left him with a semi-frozen face, robbing him of his beautiful smile. Sponsored Dati Khangtsen monk **Ven. Lobsang Khechok** has helped Chela as a translator and assists injured or ailing monks. Among our sponsored monks are two great ones who passed away in 2017. See pg. 25 to read about **Geshe Thupten Dhargyes** (Lukhil Khangtsen, Dre-Loseling) and **Geshe Thubten Tashi** (Dre-Gomang).



Geshe J. Lodro & Ven. L. Khechok

Office of the Representative of HH the Dalai Lama, Mundgod (ORM) -- Emergency Fund

In 2016-2017 FOTSI aided elderly people, patients, and caregivers in many ways. **In 2016 we sent \$2,535 to our Emergency Fund and \$250 in general funds to the Home for the Elderly (OPH). In 2017 we sent \$3,867 to the Emergency Fund and \$3,250 to the OPH (including \$3,000 for their roof project, pgs. 17-18).** For years, this fund has been used to help the truly destitute people in the Mundgod settlement as well as to provide emergency aid for our sponsorees. We help those with multiple drug resistant TB, serious mental illness, and other medical issues affecting the wider community as well as individuals. We also help provide mobility needs and surgeries for the most needy. **The ORM has told us that FOTSI is currently the only organization providing significant funds for these cases. We need your help to meet this critical need while we also encourage ORM's seeking other sources for such aid.**



Jinpa

This year FOTSI's Emergency Fund continued to help **Jinpa**, who lives alone, has one leg, was recently a TB patient, and is very poor. We helped supply his basic necessities as well as funding the purchase of a stretcher, which can be used as a bed or when transportation is needed. We helped **Kunsang**, her husband **Tashi** (see pg. 25), and their **daughter Karma Dolma**. Kunsang has high blood pressure and other ailments common in old age. Her husband, in his eighties, had been struggling and died very recently. She asked us to say prayers for him when she met with Greg. Karma Dolma was treated for kidney stones. She suffered a very traumatic incident as a young person and still suffers from that.



Chela & Kunsang 2 Years Ago While Tashi Brings Chela a Chair

We aided **Tsering Wangchuk**, who lives alone and has serious mental illness but does not harm others. Much of the time he wanders and sleeps in the cremation grounds. We helped **Pema Sangmo** with livelihood needs as she is elderly, poor, and her only son is mentally handicapped. We were poised to help Dolma Yangkyi, who was nearly blind due to cataracts and diabetes and had high blood pressure, but were informed that Dolma's bills were covered by the Tibetan Government-in-Exile and another source.



T. Wangchuk



Karma Dolma

We're glad this happened as we have tried to communicate that we cannot be the only source for Mundgod's desperate, including AIDs families like those we helped last year. As far as I know, however, FOTSI is still the largest sponsoring organization and provides more than any other outside organization for emergency aid. As reported last year, we helped **Chime Sangmo**, who had one of the most extreme cases of antibiotic-resistant TB seen in India. She is recovering, but still under treatment. We remain ready to help again if needed.

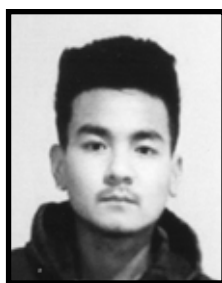


Chime Sangmo, Mom, T. Lhakey

Office of the Representative of HH the Dalai Lama, Mundgod (ORM) -- Sponsorships

FOTSI sponsored 32 people through the ORM in 2016 and 2017, sending them a minimum of \$120/year and, when possible and if they have special problems, more. This sponsorship gives these individuals and their families priority for aid in emergency situations and for our scholarships. In 2016 we sent \$6,025 for sponsorships and extra help. In 2017 we sent \$6,026 for the same.

We no longer directly sponsor very young children individually. Our policy in the past was to sponsor needy young children up through college or other training that would give them a livelihood, thereby enabling them to help extended families sustainably. Now, as our original sponsorees are meeting this goal, we are **helping whole families** through older family members and **groups of children and young people**, such as the **200 newly arrived Mongolian children at the Dre-Gomang School, the Dre-Gomang summer students, and many students benefiting from our supplementary diet aid at the Central School for Tibetans Hostel.** We continue to help sponsored young adults who aid younger children or siblings who are ill. **Sponsorship helps a whole family. In some cases, such as those working to keep the true Tibetan Opera and Dance tradition alive, larger groups have shared one family member's financial aid.** Tibetans love children and so it is rarer to find truly needy children than needy elders. Some elders also help animals. Monks watch for children at risk and we've helped through them as well. Below are photos of a few of our sponsored people, including **Tenzin Tsetan**, now in training at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA), 94-year old **Phurbu** who shares aid with great-granddaughter **Tenzin Dasel**, **Tenzin Phuntsok** (pg. 16) who is caring for his younger brother, **Tenzin Khando** who is helping younger siblings, **Gen Tashi** who teaches children all day for a low wage, **Tashi Lhamo** who helped a sister get a kidney transplant and whose family is part of the opera/dance group sharing funds, **Tenzin Lhakey** who helps ill sister **Chime Sangmo and her young son** (pg. 21), kind-hearted mute sponsoree **Topgyal** who cares for children at a community nursery, and elders **Lobsang Palden**, **Sonam Tsering** (helps animals), **Dawa Bhuti**, and **Dhondup Lhamo**. We also sponsor four at the Elderly Home and aided **Aku Pema** there (see pg. 25).



Tenzin Tsetan



Phurbu



Tenzin Dasel



Tenzin Khando



Gen Tashi



Tashi Lhamo



Topgyal



Kids Topgyal Looks After



Lobsang Palden



Sonam Tsering



Dawa Bhuti



Dhondup Lhamo

Health Aid for Nuns -- Jangchub Choeling Nunnery

In 2016 (2017) we sent this group of about 200 nuns \$2,545 (\$3,935) for their medical/dental needs and \$150 (\$200) for their medical aid to the lay community. Our donations were used, as usual, for surgeries, doctor's appointments, dentistry, eye glasses, and treatment of many medical issues, including heart disease, TB, skin problems, female problems, and hepatitis B. The funds were also used for lab tests and scans. **Approximately a third to slightly more than half of our donations typically goes to the General Nuns' Medical Fund under the Jangchub Choeling Education and Welfare Society** run by the nunnery and supported by others. The rest of our funds are separately dispensed and managed by **Ven. Tenzin Norzom**, who **makes sure that needs such as dentistry, scans and tests not otherwise covered are met.** Large medical charges for life-threatening situations can be addressed sometimes together with other donor organizations. Below are photos of some we aided in 2016-17. Many others were helped as well.

In August 2017 **Ven. Tenzin Norzom** twisted her left foot resulting in a fracture of a tarsal bone and a lot of pain and swelling that was a big ordeal and continues to slow her down. She waited until her exams (for an almost accomplished Geshema degree) were completed and then stayed first at a Hubli hospital and then in the DTR hospital in the Mundgod settlement all September. She was in a cast through October, but even after that her foot was still swollen and painful in November, and it was hard to walk. She went to rest at her family's home in the Bylakuppe settlement for two months. Most of the toilets in the nunnery are Indian style, requiring stooping and good balance, and have no handrails. She couldn't sit on the floor or twist her foot to sit as the nuns usually do. As she dealt with her injury, she was not able to send her usual emails to FOTSI with information and photos. Nonetheless, she slowly walked to the bank with her cane, collected the funds we sent, and distributed our aid and sponsorship money to the nuns, especially useful before they went to hear HH the Dalai Lama in Bylakuppe and Bodh Gaya in December. Ven. Tenzin Norzom is now back at the nunnery and has sent the photos here of a few of the nuns we have aided.



Ven. Tenzin Norzom in Hospital, Sept. 5



*Ven. Tenzin Dolkar
Holding Rupees to Pay
Her Medical Bill*



*Ven. L. Dolma Negi
Thanks FOTSI for
Medical Aid Funds*

One is **Ven. Tenzin Dolkar**, who had a serious case of malaria and was treated in a hospital in Hubli, about two hours from Mundgod. Another is **Ven. Lobsang Dolma Negi**, who had problems with her eyes as well as major sinus problems. Both have now recovered. FOTSI



Vens. S. Tsekyi & T. Lhamo

helped **Ven. Sonam Tsekyi** get blood transfusions as part of a treatment for weakness (anemia?) and **Ven. Tsering Lhamo** get help for hepatitis B. Ven. Tenzin Norzom, these four, and

many other nuns continue to express gratitude for our aid.

Sponsorship for Nuns -- Jangchub Choeling Nunnery (JCN)

In 2016-2017 FOTSI sponsored **14 nuns of JCN**, sending them **\$3,045 in 2016** and **\$2,520 in 2017** as sponsorship and extra aid. The nuns use this money for medicine, clothing, toiletries, books, food, and local travel. We sent an additional \$260 in each year to help the group as a whole with building costs and study needs. **In 2016 (2017) we sent the nuns a total of \$7,580 (\$6,915) for all purposes.**

The nuns love their studies and are excited that **7 from their nunnery will complete exams for the Geshema degree in 2017** and celebrate those achievements in 2018. Among the 7 are 3 sponsored by FOTSI — **Vens. Tenzin Norzom, Tenzin Namdol, and Tenzin Dolkar**. Two of our sponsored nuns do not live all year at JCN due to medical problems exacerbated by the heat in south India. They do come to JCN when weather permits and are considered residents and permanent members. One is **Ven. Tenzin Deetaen** (official Indian misspelling of her actual name of Tenzin Dechen), who had a traumatic event in Tibet she can't remember, causing brain lesions that can't be healed and cause painful headaches in hot weather. Her helper and roommate when they are in Dharamsala is **Ven. Ngawang Jampa**.



Vens. T. Norzom, T. Namdol, and T. Dolkar



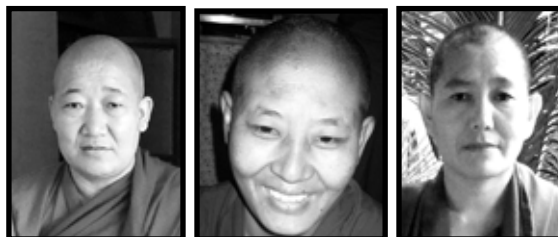
Vens. T. Deetaen & N. Jampa

When **Ven. Gyaltzen Choedron** first arrived at JCN after escaping Tibet, she was scared about tumors she had and she needed encouragement and support, which she got from Chela, her sister nuns, the good Indian doctors who cured her, and later, a sponsor. **Ven. Kalsang Choedon** is a big help to Ven. Tenzin Norzom and Chela. We began sponsoring **Ven. Dolma**

Choetso in 2006, after we had tried to help save her young monk brother's life, which he lost to brain TB. **Ven. Sonam Tsekyi** and **Ven. Lobsang Choeden#1** both left Tibet more than 12 years ago **after harrassment and fear of arrest or injury by the Chinese government**. Both are glad for JCN's new buildings completed in 2010. Earlier, many nuns had to stay in old moldy rooms abandoned by the Home



Vens. G. Choedron & K. Choedon



Vens. D. Choetso, S. Tsekyi, & L. Choeden#1

for the Elderly as unfit habitation. Below are sponsored nun **Ven. Lobsang Choeden#2** shown visiting Sarnath, where the Buddha first taught, and **Ven. Lobsang Dolma Gapa** with sponsorship funds she received in December. Here also are sponsored **Ven. Trinley Tsomo**, who is getting healthier each year, and **Ven. Lobsang Dolma Jupa** shown with Chela in 2016.



Ven. L. Choeden #2 in Sarnath



Ven. L. D. Gapa with Funds



Ven. Trinley Tsomo



Ven. L.D. Jupa & Chela

Those FOTSI and the World Lost in 2017



Geshe T. Dhargyes

We lost some very special sponsored/aided friends in 2017. They changed lives and contributed much to our world going forward. Among them, the most tragic loss was **Geshe Thupten Dhargyes**, of Lukhil Khangtsen, Drepung Loseling Monastery, as he was relatively young and in his prime. We had sponsored him for many years. When I first met him, his hope was to survive digestive illnesses, and later, TB and other threats to his frail body. As his health improved, he wanted to bring health, harmony, and economic opportunity to the needy of Ladakh. To that end he studied Buddhism well and lived its compassionate principles while also improving his English and acquiring computer skills. He helped me with FOTSI's work, carrying heavy bags of food to Mundgod's needy, acting as a translator, and always sharing warmth as nourishing as food. He learned about nonprofit organizations from me and others. At the end of a long day working with me, walking in the dust and heat, he made me laugh and relax more than anyone else ever has, and the stress of the day vanished. Even in ill health he spent long periods in Ladakh revitalizing Buddhist teachings and sharing them in such a way that dysfunctional families and businesses were transformed. Many he aided in Ladakh each contributed a little to fund a great celebration in 2010 when Thupten Dhargyes received his Geshe degree, a special occasion at which I met many Ladakhis who had seen the difference he made. He created a nonprofit in Ladakh (India), the **Trans-Himalayan Targyas Social Service Organization (THTSSO)**, with website, www.targyassocialservices.org, with Ladakhi monk trustees from Drepung Loseling Monastery and donors from Germany and elsewhere. THTSSO began to offer the English classes, health camps, and computer training that local people wanted while encouraging visitors to contribute when in Ladakh. **Unfortunately, not long after THTSSO was formally launched, Geshe Thupten Dhargyes died in an auto accident (12/31/17) while searching for visiting donors delayed on a road in Ladakh.** The trustees and donors continue his work.



*Geshe T. Dhargyes
Carrying Food*



Geshe T. Tashi

We also lost a gentle, venerated teacher of many, **Geshe Thubten Tashi**, nearly 90, who helped abandoned animals, poor Asian families, and Westerners with their own needs. He was a profound practitioner who spent 9 years on retreat exploring the depths of the Tibetan sacred traditions. Words are not adequate to describe who he really was. **Aku Pema** (or "Amdo Pema"), blinded by a road explosion where he worked not long after reaching India in 1959, learned Hindi and was an early translator for the Dalai Lama.



Aku Pema

He functioned amazingly well in spite of his handicap and helped many others, as well as inspiring all with his fabulous stories. See pgs. 4-5 in our 2003-2004 FOTSI Newsletter at www.kunasz.com/TSI/Newslet/news2003.pdf for more about him.

Tashi, Kunsang's husband, was one of several brave Tibetans I've personally met who pulled off daring escapes from Tibet more than once. He was 80 when he managed the last one. He was a vital and inspiring person to meet. He, like others who had these harrowing stories, was determined to rejoin his family in India and to share what was going on in Tibet before he died.



Tashi