



FRIENDS OF TIBETAN SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA (FOTSI)

Annual Report and Newsletter for 2017-2018 Projects in Mundgod and Other Tibetan Settlements



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Newsletter

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



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Financial Report for 2017 (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 2018 Report will be in the 2018-2019 FOTSI newsletter. We wait to check that the IRS, the state of Colorado, and our FOTSI records all agree.**

Income

Donations (includes an unrestricted Estate bequest August, 2017*)	\$152,177
Interest/Investment Income or Loss from donated stock	\$ -5
Total Income	\$152,172

Expenses

Program service (see details below)	\$64,158
Program service expenses (mail/wire fees, supplies, copies, travel)	\$ 256
Fundraising (newsletter, mail, copies, printing, supplies)	\$ 375
Administrative (IRS report, state registration, mail, supplies, printing)	\$ 895
Total Expenses	\$65,684

Program Service Details 2017:

Education (part of Program Service) \$28,099

College + Nursing Scholarships, books, boarding school fees (TCV), Dre-Gomang School (teacher salaries, water pump and plumbing, classroom desks, etc.), other student aid

Health/Hygiene/Emergencies (part of Program Service) \$15,264

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, Gaden Jangtse Hospital

Sponsorships/Group Support (part of Program Service) \$20,795

32 sponsorships through Rep. Office; 14 nuns and 25 monks sponsored and 5 aided; nuns’ building, Home for the Elderly roof replacement, aid for laypeople helped by monks/nuns

Our program service expenses of \$1,526 were for 2016 India travel paid in 2017, \$128 for mail to India, and \$2 for supplies. At the end of 2017 we carried forward \$140,046. This unusually large number will be discussed in Chela’s letter (pg. 3). 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 **\$932,466** 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 that many in the USA are distressed, so, to all who remember those in Tibet and those struggling in camps in India, thanks so very much, from our “heartbone” as the Tibetans say!**

***Please see pg. 3, last paragraph for more about this donation.**

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 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 **Mundgod 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 outside non-Tibetan group in the world significantly aiding the suddenly desperate. The good news is the Tibetans inside and outside these camps are helping and working on various projects more and more. Some Tibetans in Mundgod have let us know they no longer need help and are now supporting themselves and, often, others. However, much aid from the Indian government and international groups has ended. We are the still the **only outside group** providing major aid to the Drepung Gomang School.

This year, I was again unable to travel to India to see our sponsorees and projects. I’ve had two surgeries in 2018 and will have a “reverse total right shoulder replacement” on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, 2019. After that I’ll need a few months to recover, so that is why this newsletter is shorter than usual. My doctors assure me I’ll recover and be able to resume visits to Mundgod. As we shall describe in the following pages, there is still need for our work, especially for health and education. **And, I and our Tibetan helpers in the Mundgod settlement, along with our FOTSI Board members and donors, have continued to make a difference supporting our sponsorees and projects. I hope everyone will keep up this work as we move enthusiastically into 2019.**

Since I did not visit Mundgod this year, I was happy to meet monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in the midst of a Sacred Arts fundraising tour. They were not scheduled to perform nearby, but an unexpected invitation from a local Tibetan for a “house blessing,” brought them near my home.



Chela & Drepung Gomang Monks

As you may have noticed in our financial report on pg. 2, we received an unrestricted bequest in 2017 from a donor who passed away. The donor was in support of all of our projects, and although his bequest of \$85,850 was “unrestricted,” giving us welcome freedom, he and I both supported using his funds gradually, so that **even though we have these funds, we are using them slowly each year and to partly cover the loss of both major and smaller donations from contributors who have died, become very ill, or have other difficulties.** We also know that **our USA tax law has changed**, affecting our fundraising. We wish to point out that those who have IRA accounts and are over 70 and 1/2 years of age may directly donate to 501(c)(3) charities like FOTSI from their IRA as part of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). This donation will then **not be added to taxable income**, which it would be if simply put into one’s taxable account. Some donors find it convenient to use Chase Bank QuickPay (no fee here) or PayPal (see Donate button on our website, small fee). We hope our donors will continue to support our sponsored Tibetans and truly needed projects!

As in the past, I’ll next share news items showing why we continue to aid Tibetans and want to help them and their culture survive the genocide that happened and the oppression they still suffer. Here I

can share only a tiny bit of news relating to Tibet (that is trustworthy). Under Xi Jinping, the situation for both Tibetans and Uyghurs is only getting worse and worse. Some Tibetan families receiving poverty alleviation funds (there are some!) have been ordered to remove all Buddhist altars and images of the Dalai Lama and are being compelled to display images of China's leader Xi Jinping in their homes and to prostrate and worship him and other Chinese leaders. See

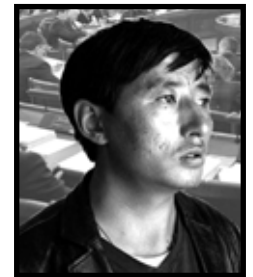
<https://www.savetibet.org/tibetans-ordered-to-prostrate-to-xi-jinping>



Some Tibetans Having to Worship Xi Jinping & Other Chinese Leaders

China has realized how important religion still is to many Tibetans and so China's legislature is taking an ever tighter line on Tibet and is passing laws that attempt to co-opt Tibet's religion and Tibetan lamas. They have created a database of "Living Buddhas" that is designed to give their seal of approval (giving "permits"!) and create control of that part of Tibetans' faith and subvert it. On another front, as Tibetan Buddhism is gaining interest among Chinese citizens, officials are making that dangerous for them. An example is their attack on Chinese celebrities who attended a religious event with the Tibetan Karmapa in India.

Tashi Wangchuk, who was only trying to keep the teaching of the Tibetan language alive by talking about its importance on an NY Times video and making other peaceful pleas in Tibet, was arrested on "separatist" charges 3 years ago. The UN has petitioned for his release as he had not broken any actual Chinese laws nor ever been violent, and they have spoken out about him. He was **finally sentenced after many delays in a closed trial on May 2, 2018** to 5 years in prison. Although he tried to file a petition (guaranteed by Chinese law) to appeal his sentence, this has not been allowed. **Monk Choekyi, who had served 4 years in Mi-nyag Rang Nga-kha Prison for wearing a tee shirt celebrating the Dalai Lama's birthday, has been released.**



Tashi Wangchuk

From International Campaign for Tibet's 10/4/2018 piece, <https://www.savetibet.org/ict-report-uses-satellite-images-to-reveal-prison-state-in-tibets-capital/>, we read about a city block in Tibet, "On one side is a luxury hotel with a pyramid design and the word 'Paradise' on its title. On the other side, there's hell on earth: a prison where Tibetan monks, nuns and laypeople are tortured and sexually abused. It's the perfect illustration of China's double-edged drive to remake Lhasa, Tibet's ancient capital, into a dream tourist destination while using nightmarish police tactics to crush the Tibetan people...Chinese authorities have developed a **terrifying and unprecedented system of total surveillance and oppressive control...**"China has been preventing officials from the UN and foreign governments from accessing Tibet and conditions of political prisoners there. The U.S. Senate and House have passed, and President Trump has signed, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, which aims to change this, but it remains to be seen how well this will work. Also recently signed is a new U.S. law punishing Chinese officials who restrict access to Tibet. We hope the efforts by Palden Gyatso, a longtime prisoner, to publicize the torture many Tibetans endured and the continuing oppression, will bear fruit. He died in Dharamsala, India, 11/30/18.



Five-Star Luxury Hotel in Tibet Next to Huge Prison/Detention Center



Palden Gyatso

government,



A-nya

In addition to the problems caused for Tibetans (and Chinese citizens) by the Beijing government, there are a lot of problems caused by Chinese corruption. Some years ago, a friend who had raised funds to help a Tibetan school in Tibet went there to visit it. He found that corrupt officials had taken over the school building and were renting out “apartments” in it for Chinese in Tibet! Recently, a brave Tibetan, **A-nya, has spoken out on behalf of justice for Tibetan nomads who have suffered** loss and privation due to corrupt local Chinese authorities. In response, A-nya was arrested in Golok, Tibet, for “picking quarrels and provoking trouble.” His detention period beginning in November 2018 was to end in mid-January but has been extended. Now he is held without trial. He had been in ill health and no one had been allowed to visit. Finally,

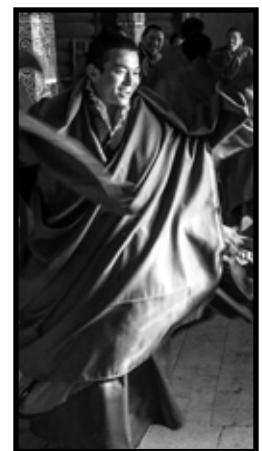


Chinese Police Spying on Peaceful Tibetans

after his lawyer repeatedly petitioned authorities to allow family visits amid concerns about his health, the attorney was allowed to see him, and by then A-nya’s health had improved. Tibetans in three townships gathered 800 names requesting his release. Some echoed his complaints of “rampant corruption and lawless leaders.” The Chinese government continues to pass more laws against complaints, saying they are from “organized crime.” See

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/07/29/china-crackdown-tibetan-social-groups>.

Quoting from the New York Times, “China is a country that exudes confidence in its rising place on the world stage -- and yet its officials belie that confidence with their hypersensitivity to what a foreign correspondent might encounter traveling untethered, and thus uncensored.” The Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR), the main body of Tibet, is off-limits to journalists without special permission, but foreign reporters can freely travel to China’s other mostly Tibetan regions, like those in the Sichuan province. That is where a pair of reporters, including S. L. Myers of the New York Times and a French colleague, had travelled, making their way through the mountains of the Tibetan plateau to write about local holiday traditions. They wanted to see the monks at Dzongsar Monastery dressed in crimson robes, wielding blue plastic swords, rehearsing a dance for the next day’s celebration of Tibetan New Year. But when they finally arrived at Dzongsar, a uniformed policeman appeared in the temple, and so began nearly 17 hours in police custody for the two men. They ended up writing about this event instead of the dance. And they corroborated that, yes, journalists in China are harrassed, detained, and even assaulted, according to the latest survey by the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China, not recognized by the government. Over half the foreign correspondents encountered obstacles even outside the TAR. To see more details of Mr. Myers’ good story, search for **A Dance for Tibetan New Year Then 17 Hours in Custody**.



Dancing Monk

The Chinese have deployed yet another new weapon designed to operate at the border between Tibet and India, as border militarization continues. In the Mundgod settlement, an organized gang of Indian robbers attacked and robbed a Tibetan monk in Camp 1. Fortunately, this is not a common occurrence! That should reassure a FOTSI donor friend who is working on her Protected Area Permit so she may some day go with me to Mundgod. **AGAIN, THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH for helping FOTSI! I wish you all a wonderful Tibetan Earth Pig Year 2146!**



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

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

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 2017-18** are shown and described here.

- Geshema Tenzin Norzom** - important Tibetan nun who facilitates FOTSI's aid to nuns and some lay people
- Jigmei Tzultrim**- Representative of HH the Dalai Lama in Mundgod, top official; heads Office of Rep (ORM); In 2019, the new Representative is **Lhakpa Tsering**
- 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, and works at Drepung Gomang Monastery in various capacities
- Geshe Lobsang Ngawang** - head of Dre-Gomang Buddhist Cultural Assn. (DGBCA) administration
- Kunga Lhundub** - Secretary of DGBCA; helps Chela in India & year long, a lot
- Dickyi Chodon** - FOTSI's social worker for the ORM; is a big help throughout each year
- Lhakpa Choden** - Rector, CST Hostel, our food aid to sent through Tibetan Children's Education & Welfare
- 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. Tashi Lobsang** (no photo) - Gungru Khangtsen Health leaders
- Office of the Representative, Mundgod, staff:** accountant **Passang Dhondup** and cashier **Tsewang Thinley**; 2019 cashier is **Ms. Tsewang Dolkar**, and Secretary is **Chisa Tselha** (no photos yet)
- Choney Dolma**, co-director with Tamdin Dolma at the OPH



Rep. Jigmei Tzultrim



Geshe Lobsang Sangyas



Kunga Lhundub



Lhakpa Choden



Tamdin Dolma



Passang Dhondup



Tsewang Thinley



Choney Dolma with Chela

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

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



CST Hostel Students Holding Thank You Signs

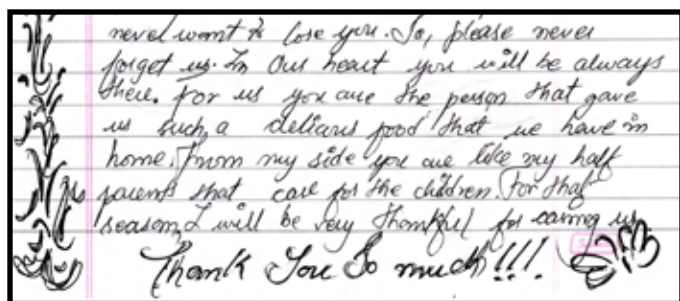


Students Enjoying Dinner, Boys Hostel Thanking FOTSI



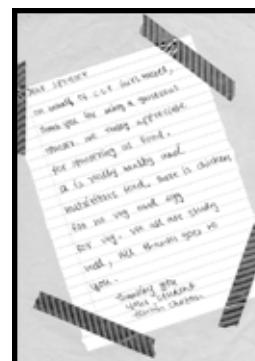
Since 2010, FOTSI has provided supplementary food for students living in the hostel connected with the Central School for Tibetans (CST) in Mundgod. The CST Hostel houses about 150 students with special needs or from Tibetan settlements where there is NO high school or an insufficient one. The CST Rector 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 were adversely affected. **By 2017** we had increased our yearly donation to the TCEWF food program for the CST Hostel to **\$3000**. Due to the continuing need for food, and the fact that support from the Indian government and foreign groups like SOIR-IM (Swedish Organization for Individual Relief) ended, **we increased our donation for this program in 2018 to \$4,000. Sustaining that in the face of other needs is not feasible in 2019, but we plan to send the TCEWF at least \$3000 in 2019 for this food aid.**

We again 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. See bits from those 2018 letters and photos of the grateful students on this page. Rejoice in this great FOTSI effort! To quote from one student Sonam Choedon's letter, he said, "Thank you very much for helping me and my friends go get milk to drink, meats & eggs to eat. Because of this big help me and all of my mates are able to get balance diet every day. It really helps us to get healthier than ever. We feel very lucky that we got such great and sympathetic sponsors like you all. I am also feeling lucky that I got to write a letter to you all..."



A Few Scans and Pieces of the Many Thank You Letters FOTSI Received in 2018

Yours lovingly,
Sonam Choedon."



Boys Enjoying Dinner

Tibetan Children's Villages (TCV) -- FOTSI Helps 3 Students Graduate in 2019, Takes Over 6 Older Students Needing Sponsors as of November 2018

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. Karma joined the Indian Army and Kalsang Gyatso is now in his second year attending the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies in Varanasi. (See pg. 14.) **In 2017 we sent \$1,155 for them and our three newly sponsored students, as well as \$75 in additional help for one student.** In 2018, we continued help for the new students who will graduate from high school in April 2018, and began sponsorship of six students who had lost their sponsors. **We sent TCV \$2,045 in 2018, and will be sending more in 2019. If any of you wish to help with our TCV sponsorships please let us know!**

In last year's newsletter we introduced our three TCV students graduating in 2019 -- **Tenzin Choten, Tsering Yangzom, and Tsering Dechen Lama.** Tenzin Choten is in a science stream and benefitted from a FOTSI sponsor who wrote to him and helped with his sponsorship. Tsering Yangzom, dreaming of a medical career, is also continuing her science stream studies and, along with Tsering Dechen Lama and Tenzin, is studying hard for college entrance exams. All three have written appreciative letters of gratitude to FOTSI.



Tenzin Choten



Tsering Yangzom



*Tsering Dechen
Lama*



Tsering Youtso

Two of our newly sponsored TCV students are **Sonam Dolkar** and her elder sister **Tsering Youtso.** They were born in Khaze, eastern Tibet, to farmer parents. They escaped Tibet in 2009 with their mother and had a very difficult time crossing the Himalayas. With help from a relative who was already in India, the two girls got admission into TCV in 2009. However, in 2018 Sonam and her sister no longer had a sponsor, so FOTSI took over their sponsorship. And, as a birthday present to Shanti (a longtime donor), her friends



Sonam Dolkar

added added enough funds to what she could manage to sponsor Sonam for a year! (A wonderful gift idea!) Sonam's favorite subject is math, but she loves reading fiction and drawing. She is in the top ten in her 8th grade class, is a class monitor, and enjoys playing soccer. She wants to become a dentist. Sonam's sister, **Tsering Youtso**, is in class 9 and is similar to her sister except that her favorite sport is basketball, and she aims to become headmistress of a school! Tsering likes writing articles and wants to write poetry. She studies Tibetan, English, math, computers, social studies, and physical education and is also in "the top ten."

TCV Students -- Now 9 sponsored by FOTSI (cont.)

Our third new sponsored female student is **Kunsang Dechen**. She is now 18 years old and is in her last year of high school. She was born in the Mundgod Tibetan Settlement. Her parents are farmers and her father sometimes supplements the family income by driving a taxi owned by others. She has 3 brothers and 6 sisters. The family has often suffered when the monsoon rains fail the family's corn crop. They had other problems, and after their situation was investigated, Kunsang and her younger sister were admitted to TCV Bylakuppe in 2010. She is now in 12th grade. She is an average student working hard towards becoming a nurse. She is good with people, skillfully managing the junior students during prayer periods. She is active in school activities, including cultural contests, soccer, table tennis, and an "Entrepreneur Club." She has a lot of friends and loves visiting new places. Her favorite subject is English, and she also studies Tibetan, business, accounting, and economics. Who knows, she may change her mind and start a business!



Kunsang Dechen

We also sponsor **Jinpa Tashi**, who was born in Phulum, Tibet, where his parents were farmers and wood gatherers. His parents sent him to India in 2009 so he could get a good modern education and study Tibetan language and culture, difficult to do now in Tibet. He crossed the mountains with a family friend and bore many hardships on the way to the Nepalese border. From Nepal he reached Dharamsala and was admitted to the Bylakuppe TCV School in 2009. He is now 19 and in 10th grade. He is an average student and studies Tibetan, English, math, science, and social studies. He plays soccer and table tennis. His favorite subjects are Tibetan and math. He loves Tibetan momos and participates in cultural competitions. He wants to be a pilot; this might be possible if he joins the Indian military.



Jinpa Tashi

Another student is **Gonpo Wangdak**, in 12th grade in a commerce stream that he likes. His parents accompanied him to Lhasa in 2010 and found other Tibetans aiming for India with guides who charged high fees to get them to Nepal. With difficulty, they paid that fee for their son. Journeying through the mountains in the winter was very hard, as was walking in pitch dark at night near places where they could be caught. He was grateful to reach Nepal and then Dharamsala, as so many Tibetans dreamed of doing. He got into TCV Bylakuppe in 2010. He loves Tibetan dancing/singing and participates in cultural events. He is captain of his "Boys Hostel" and enjoys swimming, soccer, basketball, track, bike riding and video games. He wants to be a businessman.



Gonpo Wangdak

Our final newly sponsored student, **Lobsang Ngodup**, is a special case. He is 25 years old and enrolled in the Tibetan Medical Astro Institute of the Dharamsala Medical Center. He is in the second year of a six-year course to become a doctor of traditional Tibetan medicine, including studying the fascinating information that tradition holds of the herbs of the Himalaya. He was born in Kham Khaze, eastern Tibet, and most of his family is still there. His family also paid a huge fee to a guide to get him to India so that he could study Tibetan language and other aspects of Tibetan culture. When he graduated from TCV Bylakuppe, he was judged the "best boy" of the class of 2016. FOTSI is helping by sending the **regular TCV yearly sponsorship of \$480/year** for him.



Lobsang Ngodup

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



Summer Student Works



Drepung Gomang School, Lama Camp 2, Mundgod Settlement



Exam Time



Student Wins Prize



A Top Student



Students with New Desks and Better Paid Teacher



Summer Student Award



Water Pipes Replaced



Teacher Gen Tashi



More Desks Bought by FOTSI



Teacher Chemet Dorje



Happy Students, Winter & Summer



Excellent Mongolian Student



Teacher Sonam Dorjee



Summer Students Learn About Monks' Debates & "Lama Dancing"



Summer Student with Dad



Teacher Tenzin Kunga

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. Here is an updated report.

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 over 200. **In the last 3 years, the number of Mongolian students speaking primarily Mongolian, has risen over 250, and the school population is now around 500!** 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 continuing and daunting. To help this school, its visitors (for exhibitions and special programs), summer students, 500 regular students, teachers, administrators, and infrastructure, we have sent general funds for **regular operations (2017-2018 to date)** of \$6,583, and supported **special projects sometimes spanning several years. Special projects have previously included school furniture, mostly desks, and major bathroom and washroom upgrades. Recent activities include:**

2017-2018	Replacement of several water pumps and much pipe	\$1,450
2017-2018	Support for building canteen next to school to support school	\$3,050
2017-2018	Teacher pay and new hires with increase to living wage	\$10,318
2017-2018	New textbooks, especially English and math	\$2,700
2018	Upgrade Office (furniture, supplies, computer, most needed)	\$1,000
2018	Funds for iron paint to protect roof (monsoon rains) & over-roof	\$5,600

In 2017 we sent the School \$11,795, and in 2018 we sent \$18,110. 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. Temporary roof protection/repair has been done, but the cost of an over-roof for the school to make its top floors livable in the summer and protect the building from the monsoonal rains is too much for just FOTSI, so the monks are now also seeking a grant for that from the Indian government. **Helping this school is now helping 500 children and helping provide a livelihood for the teachers.** Thank you so much to all the donors! See photos on page 10.

Student Scholarships

FOTSI College and Nursing School Scholars 2017-2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Major, Current Status</u>	<u>College</u>
Ms. Tenzin Norzin	Masters of Science in Nursing, 2nd year	KLE Hospital, Belgaum
Ms. Tenzin Noryang	Basic Nursing, 3rd year	KLE Hospital, Belgaum
Ms. Tenzin Tseyang	Basic Nursing, 2nd year	St. John's Nursing School, Bangalore
Ms. Kalsang Wangmo	Bachelor of Physiotherapy, 2nd year	Garden City University, Bangalore
Ven. L. Norbu Samphel	Shastri Degree, now 7th year, Buddhism, Lang.	(CIHTS), Varanasi
Mr. Kalsang Gyatso	B.A., 2nd year, Tib. Culture, Lang.	(CIHTS), Varanasi
Ms. Tenzin Kunsal	M. Comm., 2nd year	St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bangalore
Ms. Tenzin Yingsel	B.A., 2nd year, History, Soc., Econ.	Jyoti Nivas College, Bangalore
Mr. Tenzin Youtso	B.A., 2nd year History, Soc., Econ.	Mahajana College, Mysore

Many of our former students are now working or helping family full time. These include Tenzin Lhamo (helping family business), Tenzin Lhakey (nurse), Sonam Dorjee, now teaching at the Drepung Gomang School. **See more about our sponsored students on the following pages.**



Tenzin Norzin



Tenzin Noryang



Tenzin Tseyang



Kalsang Wangmo



Ven. L. Norbu Samphel



Kalsang Gyatso



Tenzin Kunsal



Tenzin Yingsel



Tenzin Youtso

Student Scholarships (cont.)

In 2017 we sent \$14,219 for student scholarships at nursing schools, universities, and colleges. Of this \$10,539 went through the Office of the Representative of HH the Dalai Lama in Mundgod (ORM), \$2,990 went to students through the Drepung Gomang Buddhist Cultural Assn., and \$690 went directly to students we've supported through the ORM. We sent \$14,795 in 2018.

Kalsang Wangmo, a poor semi-orphan from Camp 4, is now in her second year studying for a Bachelor of Physiotherapy degree at Garden City University in Bangalore, India. She wrote us a lovely thank you letter and shared that she had spent part of her December holiday volunteering as a math/science tutor for students in grades 6 through 9 who lived in a hostel where she had once been. She also had a chance to go hiking, which was a welcome respite from all the studying and teaching.



Kalsang Wangmo



Tenzin Noryang 1st Again out of 103 Nursing Students

Tenzin Noryang is now in her third year of Basic Nursing at KLE Hospital & Nursing School in Belgaum. In an appreciative email she sent to Chela in September 2018, she shared that **she was ranked #1 among all 103 second-year nursing students** at her college! She said that she will work hard this year and shared a nice photo showing her receiving her



Tenzin Noryang

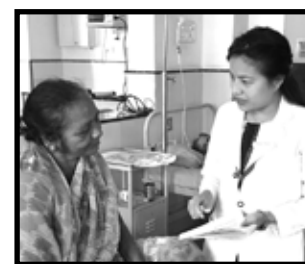
prize for getting first place. **She also received 1st rank last year**, so we are again proud of her and all the donors who have made this possible.

Tenzin Tseyang of Camp 9 is in her second year of a three-year basic nursing degree program at St. John's Medical College in Bangalore. I met her when she was very young, and she said she wanted to be a nurse. After her training is completed, she wants to return to work as a nurse in Mundgod. She wrote to her sponsor and those helping with her scholarship, **"I am very thankful to you for your kind sponsorship."** She is making her longtime dream happen!



Little Tenzin Tseyang Then, and Now Working on Her Dream to be a Nurse

Tenzin Norzin is in her second year of her Masters in Nursing study. She has written that she is working hard in both medical and surgical nursing. She also worked in the ICU burn unit, helping patients in an extremely critical state. She feels bad that patients suffer so much, but she has gained strength in being able to face terrible situations so she can help at such times. **She was first in her class in her first year of her Masters program.** She has written often of her gratitude to her sponsor and FOTSI donors who have helped with her nursing scholarship funding.



Tenzin Norzin with a Patient

Tenzin Yingsel from a Camp 9 family with a small plot of land entered new territory when she left for Jyoti Nivas College in Bangalore as the first in her family to go to college. She wrote a heartfelt thank you and shared her fear as she left her comfort zone. She is managing well and has happily made it to her second year!



Tenzin Yingsel

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. He wrote that his family gets bank loans to sell sweaters to supplement their inadequate farming income. They travel for four days from home to get to a city where they can sell sweaters. This year was a hard one for Tenzin Youtso because he suffered from kidney stones in the midst of trying to study, pass exams, and sometimes help his family. Sometimes he goes home when he can to help his grandmothers when his parents are selling sweaters. He wrote that he has real interest in his studies of history, sociology, and economics.

History is his favorite subject and he hopes to pursue a Masters degree in that in the future. He sends email often expressing his gratitude for FOTSI's help. For example, in November 2018 he wrote, "It really helps me in every situation." Those "situations" would include his college fees and treatment for recently occurring kidney stones!



Tenzin Youtso & Grandmother

Tenzin Kunsal comes from a poor family in Mundgod that works on programs for Tibetan youth in the settlement (unpaid) and makes their living by selling sweaters. She is in her second year of a Masters' degree in International Business at St. John's College of Commerce in Bangalore. She hopes to be able to help her parents and repay their kindness to her and their efforts for many. And she also thanks FOTSI!



Tenzin Kunsal



*Ven. L. Norbu
Samphel*

Ven. Lobsang Norbu Samphel is a young monk continuing studies at the **Central Institute for Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS)** in Varanasi. He is pursuing advanced degrees ("Shastri" and then "Acharya") and aims to be a translator from Tibetan to English, especially for Buddhist monks and teachers. In 2018 he continued studying Sanskrit, English and Tibetan languages, and Buddhist philosophy and psychology (Abhidharma and managing harmful emotions). On January 8, 2019 he attended, as a student delegate from his institute, an international conference in Odisha state (India). The topic of this conference was "**The 21st Century Women's Issues Shaping the World.**" It is great to learn of young Buddhist monks learning about women's issues and problems of our modern world. After completing his studies at CIHTS, he plans to return to Drepung Gomang Monastery to complete his Geshe degree. Ven. L. Norbu Samphel writes lovely letters of gratitude to all who have ever helped him.

Kalsang Gyatso is in his second year at CIHTS in Varanasi. This university can train people for scholarly careers translating Tibetan, English, and Indian languages, and work in cultural fields involving Buddhist and Tibetan culture, such as careers in museums or tourism. Tibetan monks rescued Kalsang, who had been a kind of slave at a restaurant, and helped him get through high school, after he had not be allowed to go to school until he was 13. After being accidentally hit by a child's stone, he almost died. Due to that he developed epilepsy, which was under control until 2018. Our sponsored Dati Khangtsen monk, Ven. Lobsang Khechok, helped him find a great doctor who came up with improved medication, and FOTSI helped him get that. We recently learned that Kalsang had helped about 20 poor kids from Nepal get help from lamas at Dre-Gomang Monastery. He is fine!



Kalsang Gyatso

Sponsorship & Health Aid for Monks

In 2017 FOTSI sent \$7,075 for our 25 sponsored and five aided monks, \$3,120 for Drepung Gomang Monastery monks' medical needs, and \$6 for animals aided by the monks. In 2018 we sent \$6,420 for our sponsored and aided monks and \$3,000 for health aid for monks including one very ill new Geshe Lharampa from Drepung Loseling. We sent \$1,875 in 2017 and \$1440 in 2018 to Drepung Gomang Monastery, as requested by some donors, aiding all the monks there.

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 help some of them survive refugee life in India, which has a different climate and its own problems, such as harboring the most antibiotic resistant TB in the world. Now health aid is more and more available from basic hospitals at Drepung Loseling and Gaden Shartse and Jangtse monasteries in the settlement. Drepung Gomang also runs a clinic for all, but surgeries, scans and other needs are still not adequately met, so we help fill the gaps.



Monk Gets X-Ray

Sponsored monks include both especially needy monks and those who help all the others. Sometimes the former turn into the latter! **Geshe Lobsang Ngawang #1**, was very ill a year ago from dengue fever, but, with help from FOTSI, recovered well and is in charge of the Drepung Gomang Buddhist Cultural Assn. (DGBCA) and Drepung School and participated in a fundraising trip to Russia.



Tenpa Tsering



Geshe L. Ngawang #1

Ven. Tenpa Tsering has been slowly recovering from Hepatitis B, but was well enough in 2018 to also go to Russia to help the monastery and those without sponsors. We sponsor **Ven. Lobsang Khechok** of Dati Khangtsen who is so helpful to others who are ill. Last year he helped epilepsy patient Ven. Norbu Samten. This year he aided our sponsored lay student, **Kalsang Gyatso**, whose epilepsy got so out of control that he was about to drop out



L. Khechok & Chela 2003



Karma Tsultrim

of college (pg. 14). **Ven. Karma Tsultrim**, Gaden Shartse Monastery, has completed his third-year Geshe Lharampa exam in 6th place out of more than one hundred. **Geshe Ngawang Sopa** has asked us to help others as he no longer needs sponsorship.



L. Khechok Later!

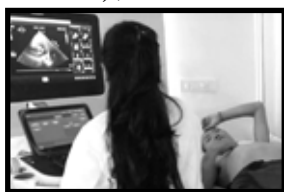


Monk Kalsang Gyatso

Monk patients FOTSI helped in 2018 include **Geshe Rangrig Dorje** of Drepung Loseling (aplastic anemia), and Drepung Gomang monks **Geshe Jampa Gyatso** (celiac disease), **Ven. Kalsang Gyatso** (digestive illness), a number of monks with Hepatitis B, some with diabetes, and others with headaches, knee problems, eye issues, etc. They write often to thank us and send detailed lists of those getting help.



Geshe R. Dorje



Geshe J. Gyatso Med. Test

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

In 2017-2018 FOTSI aided elderly people, patients, and caregivers in many ways. In 2017 we sent \$3,867 to our Emergency Fund and \$3,250 to the Home for the Elderly (OPH), which paid half the cost of a major roof repair project and \$250 for general needs. We sent \$6,026 as regular sponsorship and extra help for our 32 sponsored people. In 2018 we sent \$3,888 to the Emergency Fund and \$265 to the OPH for their general needs, and \$5,621 as regular sponsorship and extra help for our 31 sponsored people and one aided person. For years, this fund has helped the truly destitute people in the Mundgod settlement as well as sponsorees in unusual duress. We help those with multiple drug resistant TB, 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 have encouraged ORM's excellent, on-going efforts in developing local sources for self-support. One Tibetan Exile government agency involved in this is the Social and Resource Development Fund (SARD); its new website is www.sardfund.org. This site also has a startling article about how much TB was recently found in Tibetan school children (See our pg. 7). In many ways, Tibetans are helping other Tibetans more and more. We are filling in gaps as requested and celebrate the tremendous efforts of many Tibetans to help their brethren.

In 2018 people receiving aid from FOTSI's Emergency Fund again included **Jinpa**, who is poor, lives alone, has one leg, and has struggled with TB. Also included were mentally ill **T. Wangchuk** of Camp 1, who got support for his livelihood and medication, and needy patient **Kyizom** (no photo, not the same person as our advisor, Dr. Tenzin Kyizom). Our sponsored **Dawa Bhuti** received aid for medical treatment from our Fund. We provided aid for sponsored **Phurbu** and his relatives who are caring for him. He is in his nineties, now blind and helpless. In the first part of 2018, we agreed to some additional help requested by the ORM from our Emergency Fund for sponsored **Kunsang** and daughter **Karma Dolma**.



T. Wangchuk



Jinpa



Dawa Bhuti



Phurbu Getting Care

sponsored **Phurbu** and his relatives who are caring for him. He is in his nineties, now blind and helpless. In the first part of 2018, we agreed to some additional help requested by the ORM from our Emergency Fund for sponsored **Kunsang** and daughter **Karma Dolma**.



Kunsang & Karma Dolma in Better Times



Tsokyi



Kunsang Wangmo

Among Tibetans we sponsor are **Tsokyi** and **Kunsang Wangmo** who live in the Home for the Elderly (OPH) in Camp 3, 87 year-old **Tenzin**



Tenzin Lhakey



Sonam Tsering



Yeshe Ngodup

Lhakey, who lives with relatives in Camp 4, **Sonam Tsering** (who is bent over almost double when he stands), and monk **Ven. Yeshe Ngodup**, who is cared for by monks of Drepung Loseling.

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

Others sponsored in 2018 included **young Tenzin Lhakey**, who is working hard as a nurse to continue to help her sister Chime Sangmo recover from almost lethal TB, **Tenzin Khando**, who let us know she got asylum in Switzerland and is now there in a refugee camp studying German. Tenzin was helping her grandmother with health issues, but as the grandmother improved but may need more assistance in the future, Tenzin now hopes to help her family with a better income in her new country. **Tenzin Tsetan** let us know he is still studying at the **Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA)** and will likely be able to be part of their group, which travels widely and provides a successful career as well as keeping Tibetan music, song, dance, and opera alive.



Tenzin Khando Tenzin Lhakey



Tenzin Tsetan



TIPA in Performance

Nuns' Sponsorship, Health Aid - Jangchub Choeling Nunnery

In 2018 FOTSI sponsored **14 nuns of JCN**, sending them **\$2,715**. We sent **\$2,520** in 2017. The nuns use this money for medicine, clothing, toiletries, books, food, and local travel. We sent an additional \$270 in 2018 to help the group with building costs and study needs and \$260 for that in 2017. We also sent them **\$3,915 for medical needs for themselves, and \$200 to aid laypeople** who asked them for help in 2018, and **\$3,935 and \$200 for the same purposes in 2017**.



T. Deetaen, N. Jampa

Two of our sponsored nuns continue to spend time in Dharamsala, away from their official nunnery due to medical problems exacerbated by the heat in south India. They are **Ven. Tenzin Deetaen and Ven. Ngawang Jampa**. Both needed some extra help with medical expenses this year, and so we sent funds directly to their accounts when needed. They wrote,

“You have no idea how much your aid helped us and changed our lives. We are very grateful to you forever.” Rejoice FOTSI donors!!



T. Norzom, L. Choeden #2

We continued sponsorship of 12 other nuns, shown in last year's newsletter. Our donations to the nuns' medical fund are used 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 remaining funds are separately dispensed and managed by **Ven. (Geshema) 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 sometimes be addressed by other donor organizations. Due to Geshema Tenzin Norzom's final exams, some email disruptions, as well as my not going to India this year, I don't have as many photos and stories to share as usual, but our funds have continued our help in 2018 as noted above.