



Friends of Tibetan Settlements in India (“FOTSI”)
Annual Report and Newsletter for 2005
Projects in Mundgod and Bylakuppe Settlements



Health, Education, Self-sufficiency, Hope...

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Many Tibetans and
and others in India



Index and Financial Data for 2005

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Certificate of Recognition for FOTSI from the Tibetan Government in Exile		Page 4
Sponsorships and Help: Programs below	Total = \$19,202.75	
Office of the Representative, Mundgod	\$ 6,655.00	Page 5
Tibetan Monks (includes higher education)	\$10,372.75	Page 6
Tibetan Nuns	\$ 2,000.00	Page 7
Other aid to 3 Mundgod residents	\$ 175.00	
Education:	Total = \$13,317.00	
Sponsorship of Children at Boarding Schools	\$1,510.00	Page 8
Nursing and Other College Scholarships	\$8,367.00	Pages 9-10
Drepung Gomang School	\$3,440.00	Page 11
Medical Projects:	Total = \$17,550.25	
Community Hospitals	\$6,120.00	Page 12
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Emergency Fund and Special Aid to Families	\$3,945.25	Page 13
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Drepung Gomang Monastery:	Total = \$ 983.50	
General Donations, and Help for Recent Refugees	\$ 983.50	Pages 14-15
Self-Sufficiency Projects: (funds sent 2005, but will appear in 2006 total)		
Cows for Mundgod residents		Page 15

Financial Summary: Cash **outflow** to our Tibetan projects in India was **\$51,053.50** in 2005. Our **expenses** were **\$2263.00** (\$546.01 mail expenses, \$720 accounting firm charge for filing final 501 (c) (3) status (required) and 2005 IRS Report, \$266.97 copies (mostly 2004 newsletter), \$195.48 computer (big problem just before the 2004 newsletter was done), \$261.93 supplies (receipts, paper, envelopes, etc), \$17.49 photos, \$87.84 travel (both in January 2005, from the 2004 India trip), \$10 Colorado State non-profit registration fee, and \$157.93 in commissions and capital loss from donated stock sale (covered by donor). Our **inflow** was **\$61,313.03** in 2005. Much of the difference between the inflow and outflow was sent out in early 2006. As usual **no salaries were paid to anyone**. Counting our early work as CFT/TSI and later work as FOTSI, we have sent \$315,676.93 to Tibetans in India. **We deeply thank the kind donors who helped FOTSI work by donating for expenses!**

April, 2006

Dear Friends of Tibetan Settlements in India,

This year I again felt tremendous gratitude to all of you and joy in what we have accomplished. We sponsored **45 Tibetans and their families, 5 children at boarding schools, 55 monks and nuns, 2 children and 2 teachers at the DG School.** We **helped heal hundreds more through our emergency health funds.** We funded **10 scholarships** -- 6 women at nursing colleges and 4 others. We **sent over \$5500.00 to the Doeguling Resettlement Hospital** for rebuilding **toilets and showers and installation of 3 large solar outdoor lights,** and aided the Hospital in **Bylakuppe.** We provided **cows to 2 families** and gave a lot of **emergency aid,** especially for **serious catastrophes, including home** repair after an unusual monsoon. All of this happened even though my health prevented an India trip, due to **special extra efforts from Tibetans.**

We were grateful for **two major endorsements** this year. First, we received an award for FOTSI **“In Recognition and Appreciation Of Its Benevolent Works And Significant Assistance Rendered in Social Welfare”** from the **Central Tibetan Administration of His Holiness The Dalai Lama”.** We are so happy about this “thank-you” to our donors that we share a plain copy of this award on page 4. A color copy is on our website, www.kunasz.com/FOTSI/FOTSI.html, as is an endorsement from Dr. Huston Smith (see below).

We were most honored to receive a letter of support and donation from **Dr. Huston Smith,** the well-known professor, speaker, and writer on **“The World’s Religions”** and a true supporter of Tibetans. He has taught at universities such as MIT and UC Berkeley, as well as producing popular books, DVD’s, and tapes. Featured on the “Bill Moyers Special: The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith”, he has also invited a succession of Tibetan families to live in his home and has documented Tibet’s tragic story on film.

Dr. Smith and others learned of FOTSI through the **kindness of Brian Cutillo,** a Tibetan language translator and expert on Tibetan religion. FOTSI would not exist without Brian, since he translated when I met my first Tibetan, a great Tibetan Abbot, Khensur Tenpa Tenzin. Brian, a student of Dr. Smith, had an amazing life, including translating when great Tibetan Lamas met great Hopi Elders. Sadly, Brian died in January, 2006. Brian inspired me, and his efforts truly aided FOTSI. My dear mother, **“Vani”**, died in October, 2005. She spent most of her long life helping others. In her memory, family members donated to FOTSI to honor her love of Tibetans and long support of FOTSI’s work. We are very grateful to all donors. We especially thank donors who remembered those so central to our existence.

For years, **Dr. John (“Jan”) Hall** and his wife **Lindy** helped FOTSI by giving, purchasing and selecting **children’s books, especially science books, for the Drepung Gomang School Library in Mundgod.** We never publicly thanked him, but now that he has shared the **2005 Nobel Prize in Physics,** we’ll add our thanks and applause! We share a 70’s photo (see **collage** bottom, middle) taken when Chela worked with him. On the far right is **Brian Cutillo** in Hopi country, New Mexico, and on the far left, bottom, **Vani** smiles.

We still truly need your help. We need sponsors for the elderly, ill monks, and the health and emergency funds, as well money to complete the scholarships. **If each of you shares about FOTSI with a friend, this could help a lot. We still need donations for expenses.** We are deeply grateful for the fun parties that Vikki Hughes held as fund-raisers. Please consider this possibility and contact us. I’m hoping to go to India as my health is improving! To end, I’ll paraphrase Pico Iyer, “The last time I was in Lhasa, high-rise hotels, shopping malls and karaoke parlors blocked the view of the Potala Palace. When the railway linking Golmud, China to Lhasa is completed in 2008, Tibet, as an individual culture and self-contained land, could be gone forever. In addition to helping FOTSI, please help to urge China to change its policies before there is no Tibet to save, or only that small remnant in the settlements... With gratitude, **Chela Kunasz, FOTSI President**



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**The Central Tibetan Administration Of His Holiness
The Dalai Lama**

To

Friends of Tibetan Settlements in India, USA

**In Recognition And Appreciation Of Its Benevolent Works And
Significant Assistance Rendered**

In

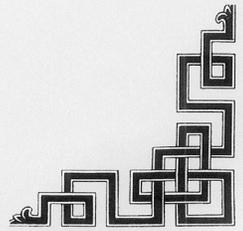
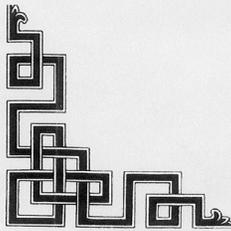
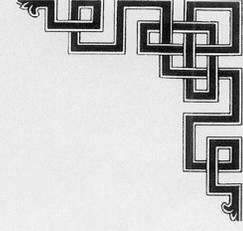
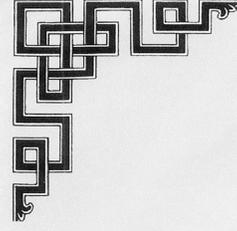
Social welfare

**On This Fifteenth Day Of January Of The
Year Two Thousand and Five.**

The Kashag, The Central Tibetan Administration, On Behalf Of The Tibetan People, Expresses
Its Deepest Gratitude To Its Altruistic Support In testimony Whereof is Set The Seal
And Signature Of The Kalon Tripa.



[Signature]
**Samdhong Rinpoche
The Kalon Tripa**



Sponsorships

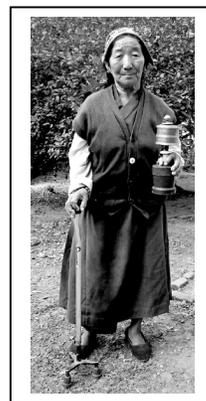
Programs Through the Mundgod Office of the Representative of HH the Dalai Lama

Currently we are sponsoring 45 people, of whom 17 are children, 11 are middle-aged (usually having problems with health), and 17 are elderly. In early 2005 we increased our sponsorship through this program to **\$10/month for each person**. Our sponsorees also get extra help through our Emergency Fund (see details on page 13). This year some of our sponsored children (**K. Samphel, T. Zomkyi**) gained special sponsorship through an outreach program of the Tibetan Children's Village that offers extensive help to especially needy families, and so a few sponsorships were changed. We have needed to **replace two sponsorships** of children, and are grateful to those who took over donations for **Lobsang Choedon** and for **Tenzin Palbar**. As the settlement continued to find greatest need among the elderly (since the Tibetans have always put children first!), we acquired 4 new sponsorships of elderly Tibetans -- **Ms. Tenzin Lhakey** (same name as a teenager we also sponsor), **Ms. Dhondup Lhamo**, **Mr. Tsering Choephel** (our second elderly sponsoree by this name), and **Ms. Tsultrim Sangmo**. We sent **\$5650.00** in sponsorship money, **\$2655.00** in extra help, plus **\$2145.25** to the **Emergency Fund** to help sponsorees this year.

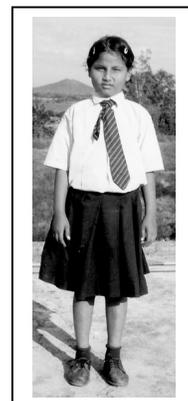
Actually, we are using "general" funds from donors to help poor **Tsultrim Sangmo**, as we have not yet found a permanent sponsor for her. She is now 73 years old and lives in Camp #1. She fled from Tibet in 1959 due to the Chinese occupation. Reaching the Indian border with her husband and infant daughter, she stayed in a refugee tent for 8 months and suffered health problems. The family had great hardship in meeting their basic needs. Next they went to Simla and the adults did road construction there for 2 years. In 1962 they arrived in Mundgod as part of a special refugee rehabilitation plan. They were give a small plot of land and worked as farmers and raised their daughter together, but then her husband died. She lived with her daughter who did not marry. Suddenly in 1994, she began having epileptic seizures and had trouble walking due to degenerating knees. Now, Tsultrim is cared for by her daughter, who does some work but also has health problems. In a letter Tsultrim sent to those helping her, she shared that she "likes to wear colorful shirts and sit outside having fresh air. Her friends visit her and they sit talking, remembering the

old days. " She sent her "heartly thanks" for our assistance. We hope we can find her a permanent sponsor, but welcome those contributions for helping her until we find one. Thanks to all who have helped her!

We were able to sponsor one **new needy child, Dawa Dolma**, now age 11, of Village #4. She is in 3rd grade and has 3 siblings. Her parents were born in the settlement and thus did not get a share of land. They do house-work for others and collect and sell firewood. It is difficult for this family to manage. Dawa helps her mother at home. Her desperate mother, having sought assistance at the Office of the Representative is very grateful for the help from a FOTSI donor.



Tsultrim Sangmo



Dawa Dolma



L. Choedon



T. Palbar



T. Lhakey



D. Lhamo



Tsering C.



T. Zomkyi

We continue aiding many other sponsored people, some of whom are growing up! Below are photos of two young people we've been helping for some time. There are more photos in the collage at the back of the newsletter, including one of Lobsang Dolma, shown with 3 of her children. Her family is very poor; over time we have made a big difference for them.



Tenzin Norzin ('06 – '98) Penpa Dolma ('06 – '98)

Programs for Sponsorship of Tibetan Monks

We sponsor monks at several Tibetan Buddhist Monasteries, but primarily at the Drepung Gomang Monastery in the Mundgod Tibetan Settlement. Monk sponsorship was our first project, begun even before our official beginning as the Tibetan Settlements in India project under the Colorado Friends of Tibet, which preceded our becoming the separate FOTSI organization in 2001. In 2005, we sponsored **39 monks at four monasteries**, and significantly **helped another 14**. We also aided **15 recent arrivals from Tibet** (see page 15). We sent the monks a total of **\$15,526.25** in sponsorship and aid. Of this, **\$4535.00** was explicitly for health programs.

Since mid-2005 we have sought sponsors for several monks who had been ill. We quickly sent funds for these 3 in 2005 and helped them for a year using general funds targeted for these purposes. All three are now doing better. We recently found a sponsor for one of them, **Lobsang Dhamcho**, who is 22, and much healthier since we sent funds to treat his boils and stomach problems. Lobsang was born in Tibet and went to school in Pashod, Kham (Tibet) for 5 years, and became a monk when he was 12. He escaped to India in 2002. We are grateful to his sponsor, who found FOTSI on the Internet. Others we are supporting as we seek sponsors are **Thubten** (who has been quite ill) and **Tenpa Tsering (#2)**, who has hepatitis B. We are still sponsoring **L. Sherap**, who watched when the Chinese soldiers cut off his father's arm and later

struggled as one of the first monks to arrive in Mundgod. He is unusually artistic and has worked to help the monastery in Nepal and India. In spite of an incurable recurring liver cyst, he works to create craft and work options for laypeople and helps other monks.

We sponsor a monk who has recovered from leprosy, and **Gonpo Tashi**, one of Gomang's first monks, who has been through a lot and works at the craft shop. **Lobsang Ngawang #1** runs a monks' health program. Through the Representative's program, we aid **Dawa**, who has grown up and become a monk (**Tenzin Nyinpo**) at Thoeling Monastery (which saves wondrous traditions of ancient Tibet). He's shown in 1998, and now, as a monk who cares for poor children in the monastery.



L.Dhamcho L.Sherap Gonpo T.



Lobsang Ngawang #1



Dawa ('98) Tenzin Nyinpo

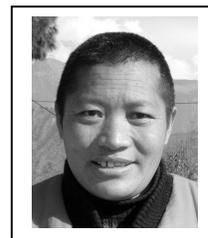
Sponsoring and Aiding Nuns at Jangchub Choeling Nunnery, Mundgod

In 2005 FOTSI donors sponsored 16 nuns and significantly helped 4 others at the Jangchub Choeling Nunnery in Mundgod, as well as funding the nunnery's only health fund (see page). We sent \$4950.00 in 2005, with more funds in early January 2006. There are at least 6500 Tibetan monks in Mundgod, and only between 150 and 200 nuns. The nuns have a particularly hard time in Tibet, and in leaving Tibet. Still, some go back to Tibet when elderly parents are ill or dying.

For years we've aided Tibetan nun, **Tenzin Deetaen**, who sustained several brain lesions from an injury. It is likely that the trauma happened in Tibet, but only later began to plague her more and more. We've written about her in past newsletters. One of FOTSI's friends, Bill, visited her in Dharamsala after she had a checkup at a north Indian hospital, and took the photo below. Tenzin spends a lot of time in Dharamsala, although she is based in Mundgod, because Mundgod's hot weather makes her bad headaches worse. We send funds through her nunnery and sister nuns. **Her main sponsor is unable to continue the sponsorship so we are urgently seeking others to help or sponsor her.** If you know someone who could help her, that would be wonderful!

Last year we printed part of the story of the senior nun and essential early member of the Jangchub Choeling Nunnery, **Thubten Lhatso**. We had permission from **Thubten Chodron**, the author of "**Blossoms of the Dharma**" which contained Thubten's story. That part of her story told of what she experienced in 1959 as the Chinese were fighting the Tibetans and exerting their power over occupied Tibet with great violence. That segment ended with "In 1972 my father passed away... I left all my belongings in Tibet, as if I was planning to return... Thus I became a refugee." Here we continue with a little more from her story. "I stayed one month in Nepal and then went to Bodhgaya, India... Then I went to Drepung Monastery, reconstructed in South India by Tibetans in exile, to see my teacher." She shared that she also went for teachings in Dharamsala and Varanasi, and wrote, "Having been unable to receive many teachings as a young nun and having had to do hard manual labor under the Chinese (government) for many years, I was delighted to finally have the opportunity to learn more about the Dharma I cherished so much." In January, 1987, although Thubten Lhatso did not then intend to join the brand new tiny nunnery in Mundgod, she was invited to attend its opening ceremony. Not only did

she go, but she went early and helped with all the cleaning and decorating of the dusty building before the event. She wrote, "All the nuns in the area – nearly 20 of us – were asked to be present for His Holiness' (the Dalai Lama's) visit, which we were only to happy to do. Some nuns were very old, coming from the old people's home next door to the nunnery. Others were very young, in their young teens." At that time, the Dalai Lama said, "There are many monasteries for the monks in India, but very few nunneries. I would like nunneries to be opened in all the big Tibetan settlements in India. Many Westerners ask me why there are so many monasteries for the monks and hardly any nunneries for the nuns. Now Jangchub Choeling is opening and I am very happy... You must study hard and become expert nuns in the future." So Thubten Lhatso stayed, and despite the lack of electricity, water, good sanitation, etc. began to build the nunnery. The elder nuns stayed in the old people's home, which then had no doors, windows, or proper bedding; young nuns lived in homes, and Thubten Lhatso stayed alone at the nunnery." From that small beginning a marvelous nunnery and community service group was born!



Tenzin Deetaen
(photo by Bill)



Thubten Lhatso
Lobsang Dolma

And some other sponsored nuns..



Education

Sponsorship of Children at Boarding Schools

In 2005 FOTSI sponsored 4 children and aided a girl at the **Bylakuppe Tibetan Children's Village (TCV) School**. Our first sponsored student, **Phurbu Dolma**, found it impossible to walk to the local schools in Mundgod due to the effects of childhood polio. She was so special that a Tibetan refugee in Boulder, Colorado, brought her to our attention. After we found her a sponsor, she was enrolled in the TCV School. The School helped us aid Phurbu, and many surgeries were performed on her leg. Finally, she was able to walk, although with difficulty, using a leg brace. Phurbu has been a courageous person and outstanding student, excellent in English. She is following a "commerce" track and is seeking a special way to contribute, perhaps by running a small pharmacy in a settlement, or in another way. She graduates this year and we are hoping she will realize her dreams. Later, another donor volunteered to sponsor and help a young brother and sister (**Karma Tashi and Sonam Dolma**) whose mentally ill mother was not able to care for them in Mundgod. These children have been at the TCV School for years and are also doing well. Last year we began sponsoring two more children -- **Tsering Samdup** (boy, age 10), and **Tsering Choedon** (girl, age 11). Their families were particularly beset, with the father crippled and problems in the boy's home. The girl's mother is not well and the living situation sad. Sponsorship children at TCV and other boarding schools is typically about \$360.00 + transportation and pocket money.

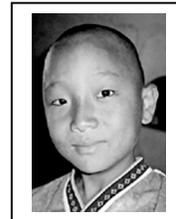
As of November, 2005, the **Bylakuppe TCV School** had 1437 Tibetan children enrolled - 774 boys and 663 girls. This year they had 327 new admissions from Tibet and Tibetan settlements. The children get health screenings and live in home-like situations for the younger children, and youth hostels for the older ones. The school teaches three languages, including English, plus science, social science, math, basic computer skills, sports, and cultural activities. They organize an exchange program with nearby Tibetan and Indian schools. In the All India School level examinations, the result for grade XII was 97%. We received a letter saying, "**the children, house mothers, and co-workers join me to thank you all once again for extending your kind and benevolent help.**"

Beginning in 2004 we planned to find sponsors and openings in boarding schools for both **Tsering Samdup and his older brother, Sonam Dorjee**, whom we had been sponsoring for

some time. We got Tsering Samdup into TCV Bylakuppe, but did not find a place for sixth grader Sonam Dorjee, as schools have few openings in the later grades. At the end of 2005 we heard of a place for Sonam in Bylakuppe, but that fell through. The Mundgod Office kept trying. Another option also failed, but finally, in February, 2006, Sonam was taken to **Paonta School**, far north in Himachal Pradesh state, closer to the Dalai Lama's government in Dharamsala than to Mundgod. **Please help us keep paying Sonam's Paonta tuition!**

The **Paonta Tibetan School** is the largest school under the direct administration of the Department of Education of the Tibetan Government in Exile. Currently there are 530 students and staff members there. It is run in connection with the Government of India. The students have a similar set of classes to those in the TCV Schools. We share Sonam's excitement for his adventure at Paonta. (www.tibet.net/sambhota/eng/cstb)

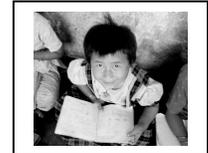
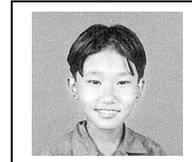
Sonam Dorje



Tsering Samdup



Tsering Choedon Sonam Dolma



TCV Bylakuppe Phurbu Dolma



Nursing and other College Scholarships

This year we began a new College Scholarship Program at the Mundgod Tibetan Settlement. We **offered two specifically nursing scholarships** for second year students. These will continue until the completion of students' basic degree and provide 30,000Rs (close to \$700) per year. We also offered **4 college scholarships for first year students** in any subject, these giving 12,000Rs (about \$280) per year for up to 3 years. Finalists were selected on the basis of previous academic performance and on need. The finalists (about 20) competed by writing essays about their family history, themselves, and their values. Many older Tibetans supported this effort, as it required extensive communication about family history. The papers of the nursing students were ranked by impartial judges in Mundgod selected by FOTSI's President, while the others were ranked by a subcommittee of the FOTSI Board. **In 2005 FOTSI donors sent \$4800 to the Mundgod Representative's Office for this program and another \$1400 in January 2006.** We are trying to pre-pay by at least one year and allow for year-to-year increases and exchange fees. We plan to offer these long-term scholarships every other year and hope donors will continue to support these scholarships.

Our nursing scholarship winners this year are **Tenzin Choedon, of the Nitte Usha Institute of Nursing in Mangalore**, and **Tashi Dolma, of the KLE Nursing College in Belgaum**. Tenzin has sent us her first year scores, which are very good. Now in her second year, she has been sending email to FOTSI as she can. She writes that she is now studying "medical nursing, surgical nursing, and pediatric nursing", and that medical nursing includes a mountain of topics, including ophthalmology, ear-nose-and-throat, communicable diseases, etc. Her school has a good reputation, so the students get to work in local hospitals. She wrote, "**I am very thankful to you and your organization** for the help that you have rendered to me and other students." In the long and interesting essay she wrote, she shared, "My mother and my grandparents left Tibet when they heard Tibet has been captured by Chinese--that time my mother was only 8 years old. She took one of her younger brothers aged 2 years old on her back during their journey to India...They took the warm clothes because they have heard that the weather is so cold ...When they arrived near Nepal the roads were very bad, that is, giving large rocks of mountain on one side and another side it got narrow cliff... An old woman was on the horse during that journey, but they fell down into the river. Our grandparents tied rope to each other, in case if someone happens to fall, then they can save the one. Then they reached the Nepal border...There the Red Cross Foundation

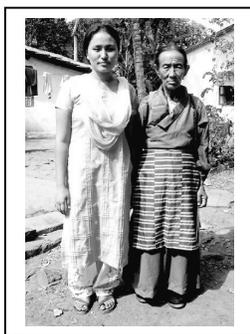
has tents for the people. During their journey they were having problem of starvation. They got nothing to eat, so the Red Cross provided them with food... that was very helpful. My mother still remembers it—and still she is very thankful to them. As Nepal is a hot place and Tibet is a cold place, so they got problems with the weather. Many people got fever there. Nurses were appointed there to take care of people by Red Cross...the smallest child, age 2, died due to high fever. There was no facility to my grandparents to fire or dig the ground for the child, so they put the body to river... They reached Dalhousie in Himachal Pradesh.. My mother was sent to school there, Central School for Tibetans, Dalhousie" (but) there were problems so Tenzin's mother went to work as a coolie making roads. Later, Tenzin's mother met her father, who had escaped to a hot area in Rajasthan and developed tuberculosis. The Red Cross arranged for surgery and he was cured. After their marriage they went to Mundgod. Tenzin's father's family sends letters from Tibet. At age 72, he is yearning to go see them. Tenzin studies nursing because this work helps people and also may help her to repay her parents. She wrote, "I know right now I can't do anything for my parents, but I have a belief some day I will carry them to Tibet, to refresh their old memories." **Tenzin's photos** show her in a Tibetan dress and with her mom.



Scholarships (con'd)

Our other nursing scholarship winner, **Tashi Dolma**, also sent us her excellent first year marks. This year she is studying pediatric and psychiatric nursing, medical and surgical nursing, and some pharmacology. She sent us a lovely letter, writing “**I received your kind money on Dec – 2005. From the core of my heart, I would like to say thank you** so much for your generous support.” In her winning essay, she shared a lot of her family’s life, including her father’s bad experience of taking out a loan for a sweater selling business and then being robbed of it all. She wrote that her early interest in nursing grew strong after **she herself suffered tuberculosis** and benefited from the treatment of Dr. Passang Norbu at the DTR Hospital. Watching the nurses during her treatment, she became more and more impressed.. She also hopes to be able to support her parents in their old age. Like Tenzin Choedon, Tashi wrote a powerful essay showing us the special woman she is. We are so happy to be helping Tashi!

We are also helping **Tsering Yangzom**, working on a B.A in Journalism at Jain College in Bangalore, **Pema Dolma**, a first year nursing student at KLE Nursing College in Belgaum, **Tenzin Tashi**, a student working for a Bachelor of Commerce at Arora College in Hyderabad, and **Pema Gyaltzen**, working towards a B. Comm. At SB College in Aurangabad. Note that we are supporting two other women named “Pema Dolma”! As we will continue to support these students (if all goes well), we’ll be sharing more about all of them in the future.



Tashi Dolma + Mom



Tsering Yangzom(I),family



Tenzin Tashi



Pema Dolma



Pema Gyaltzen

We are also sponsoring other young Tibetans for post high school education. These students are either our sponsorees, their relatives, or those recommended by trusted friends in authority at Mundgod, none of whom are related to the sponsorees. These include **Phurbu Dolma**, a young woman who is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Business at the **University of Mysore**, **Tenzin Kalden**, who is in her third year at **Krupanidhi Nursing School** in Bangalore, **Kunchok Wangmo**, who is graduating in 2006



Phurbu Dolma



Tenzin Kalden

from the Sri **Ramachandra College of Nursing**, and **Pema Dolma**, who is in her second year at **Care School of Nursing** in Hyderabad. We also sent help to a **young monk (Lobsang) graduate of the Drepung Gomang School** do extra study which qualified him to enter the **Dahung University** in Arunachal Pradesh (a branch of Varanasi University), but, for now, he has to return to Drepung Gomang Monastery to help to young relatives who will be escaping from Tibet with elders soon. **We sent these 5 students \$3489.50 in 2005.**



Konchok Wangmo



Pema Dolma

Our nursing graduate **Dawa Dolma** is now working as a nurse in Delhi.

Drepung Gomang School

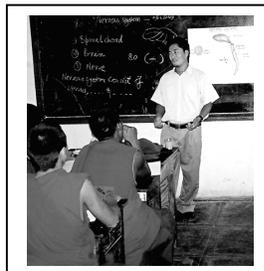
The students at the **Drepung Gomang School** in the fall, winter, and spring are all young novice monks in the Drepung Gomang Monastery. Many are orphaned, or semi-orphaned, and come from very poor backgrounds. Some escaped from Tibet and have had harrowing experiences. One even had a prize-winning film made about his escape. **In the summer, the school is open to all the young people of the Mundgod Tibetan Settlement**, and offers them courses on Tibetan language and culture. These summer courses help fill in for gaps in Tibetan subjects as taught in the Central Tibetan Schools, which are very good, but don't have the time to emphasize Tibetan language and culture as much as families wish. The summer school is fun according to the children I've asked and it gives those caring for the children more free time for themselves. The Drepung Gomang Monastery runs school year round for these two groups of students. The young monks study English, math, science, Tibetan language, Tibetan history, and religious topics suitable for young monks. Sometimes, courses in art have been taught, and also social studies. Often the English classes have served as a vehicle for wide ranging topics, such as world religions, geography, and the United Nations. In 2005 FOTSI sent the school **\$3440.00**.

We have sent donations for sitting mats, computers, medical and dental checkups, very ill students, teachers, books, eyeglasses, ear surgeries, the summer program, and, most recently, **science class experiments and equipment**. We have sponsored a number of students at the School and many have graduated. Some have decided not to continue at the monastery and have gone on to pursue their various paths. The School was there to help them when there was no other help. Currently we are sponsoring **two teachers and two students, Lobsang Khechok and Lobsang Choejor**. We have found a new sponsor for Lobsang Khechok as his previous sponsor was unable to continue the sponsorship. Lobsang is the young boy from the Kingdom of Mon, a land now split right through by the Sino-Indian border. Lobsang has Hepatitis B, but is under good treatment, and still living with a group of 8 other students from Mon or nearby areas. We are very grateful for his new donor, who kindly took on Lobsang's sponsorship in addition to her currently sponsored girl under the Representative's program. Many of our sponsorees are now in the Drepung Gomang Monastic University, including **Thubten Tsering, Lobsang Dhondup Hardong, Tenzin Yungdung, Tenzin Khendar, and Tenzin Changshai**. Others are on work assignments for the monastery, such as **Tashi Dorje**, now

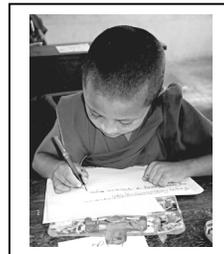
working for a project sponsored by Robert Thurman in New York.



Drepung Gomang Summer School



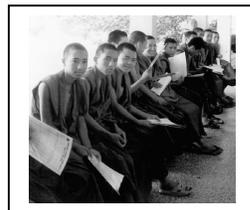
Science Class



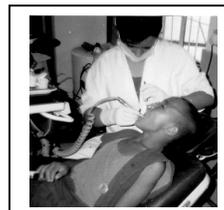
Taking a Test



Chela Tests Students' English



Medical Checkups



Dentistry Needs



Tenzin Khendar



L. Khechok



T.K. at School

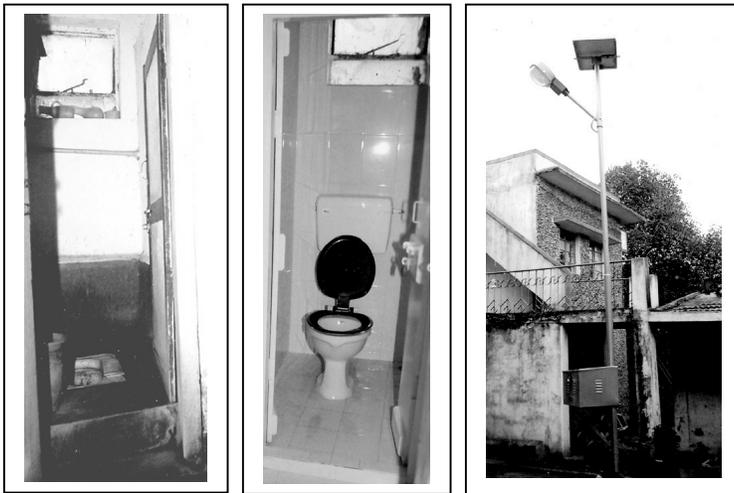


L. Dhondup H.

Medical Projects:

Community Hospitals

The **Doeguling Tibetan Resettlement Hospital (DTR)** serves the roughly 13,500 Tibetan refugees who live in the Doeguling settlement near the Indian town of Mundgod. This year, we received an urgent request to fund a **rebuild of the toilet and shower facilities**. The existing toilets were so bad that patients were sneaking out at night to use the surrounding grasses instead – anything to avoid the results of the dysfunctional plumbing in the bathrooms! We also learned of the concern of some of the female staff about the lack of lighting around the hospital at night. Sometimes bad characters from outside the Tibetan camp were lurking around and essential staff were so worried that they were thinking of quitting. **FOTSI sent Tibetan Hospitals \$5,820 in 2005 - \$5,520 for the DTR sites toilets, showers, and outdoor solar lighting, and \$300 for the Tso-Jhe Khangsar Hospital in Bylakuppe.** The latter helped fund the Tashilunpo clinic, with emphasis on help for the elderly. Below are “before and after” photos of one of the repaired toilets and a picture of one of the solar lamps.



Medical Help for Tibetan Nuns

We have been sending funds for the health needs of the nuns of **Jangchub Choeling Nunnery** in Mundgod for many years. We are the only aid organization specifically aiding these nuns with health needs at this location. In 2005 we sent **\$900.00** to the **Nuns' Health Fund** and an additional **\$2770** to help specific nuns (not counting our regular sponsorship program under which we sent **\$1280**). Another \$900 was sent in late 2005, but wasn't realized until early 2006. We sent \$2050 to nun **Tenzin Norzom**, who is, in our opinion, “The Mother Theresa” for the other nuns and many others in the Mundgod settlement. For example she was the one who helped the

young boy who had his eye destroyed by a yak in Tibet and made it over the Himalayas to Mundgod and who helped us help him. She herself has suffered since she was about 16 with gradually worsening hearing, but has done monumental work in spite of the handicap. We felt it was finally time to help her in a big way. So we have sent her \$2050 towards the more than \$4000 that she needs to get a cochlear implant. This is a surgical procedure which implants a tiny microphone, speech processor, transmitter and receiver-stimulator and electrodes near the organic ear. See the Internet, “cochlear implants” for more info. We plan to continue aiding Tenzin Norzom in getting this implant. She will have to work hard to learn how to interpret the sound signals from this implant, but she is yearning to try. Hopefully, this implant will help in her efforts to aid everyone else.

Through our **Nuns' Medical Fund** we have helped nuns with **kidney problems (2), broken legs (3), a hiatus hernia, brain injuries, tumors, TB, hepatitis B, etc.** We pay for **eyeglasses and help many nuns with dental needs, including root canals, fillings, and dentures.** We aided the earliest full-time resident of the nunnery, Thubten Lhatso, with medical problems in 2005. We share part two of her story (continued from our previous newsletter) on page 7. Each year the nuns send us many originals of bills documenting use of our funds for their health needs. Below we show Tenzin Norzom on the left, with three of the other nuns we have assisted (kidneys, broken leg, teeth). Others are shown, along with a group photo, in

our collage on the back of the newsletter. Because the nuns' hearts break for others, they sometimes share a small part of their fund to aid extremely needy laypeople and monks.



Tenzin Norzom and sister nuns aided by our funds (T.Norzom, T. Norzin, Y. Sangmo, L.Choedon#3)

Emergency Fund and Special Aid to Families

Our **Emergency Fund** helps our sponsorees deal with special needs in a flexible and rapid way. This year we helped mothers regain their health, elders get eyeglasses, lamps, and medicines, family members travel to take children to special schools, young people to get focused treatment for parasites.

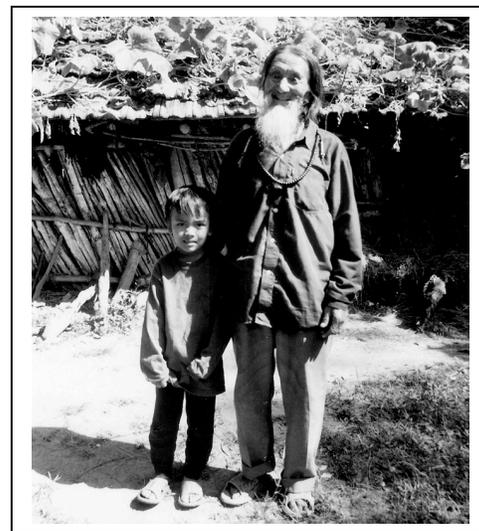
We have also undertaken some **special projects** for several families. One **poor and desperate family** -- **Tsering Lhamo**, her mentally ill son **Tsering Dorjee**, and her blind, 82-year old mother -- particularly evoked our sympathy. Although we were not sponsoring this family, we had helped them in the past. Tsering Lhamo's son had started disappearing and getting lost at night. There was nowhere to take care of him nearby except some primitive (a la centuries ago in Europe) stone "mental hospitals" for the poor. Tsering had to go out in the rain to search for him and a diabetic sore became infected. Although she tried to get it treated, it did not respond and rapidly became worse, threatening her leg, which one hospital wanted to amputate. Finally, doctors attempted multiple cleansing, draining, and skin grafts while they also treated her diabetes. Later they found that the son had internal infections. The Tibetans got that treated and also sent him to a better mental hospital, a branch of Manipal Hospital, which gave him medicine that helped him not to wander off. Huge bills were mounting. Meanwhile Tsering Lhamo's mother was alone at home, blind, and bedridden. We heard of this family's crisis by email and FOTSI quickly gathered funds from 14 donors, including some who sent funds in memory of Chela's mother, who died in October. The \$1800 we sent was used to pay the bills, pay people to help out, etc. Unfortunately, Tsering's mother died in December. Tsering Lhamo herself is still recovering in the DTR Hospital in Mundgod, and her son is being cared for by others. He has recovered from his infections

and is doing better on his medicine. All of us who have had to try to care for family members when everything seems to go wrong at once could sympathize, but hardly imagine what this all must have been like for Tsering, whom we show below with her son.



T. Lhamo + son

We also began a plan to **rebuild elderly Tsering Choephel's home after the extremely unusual monsoon** that Mundgod suffered. The rain seriously damaged many homes. In 2005 we began with Tsering's home, since **he cares for his grandchildren and other children there** and it was quite a problem. Tsering's sponsor sent extra funds and as of March, 2006, the repair was completed! Below is a photo of Tsering and grandson, Tenzin. The children now have a healthy home!



Tsering Choephel + grandson

Medical Help for Tibetan Monks

FOTSI helps refugee monks with medical aid through its **Emergency Medical Fund** open to all monks at the **Drepung Gomang Monastery**, through the **Gungru Khantsen Health and Hygiene Fund**, and through **individual help to other monks** about whom we learn. Sometimes we also aid monks through the **Drepung Gomang Buddhist Cultural Association (DGBCA)**, which runs a School for **younger monks** and helps with health needs. This year, we provided funds for monks with **TB (including antibiotic resistant strains and bone TB)**, **neurological problems** (epilepsy, brain cysts, chronic inflammatory demyelinating neuropathy), **intestinal diseases** (ulcers caused by *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria, hemorrhoids, appendicitis, stones in bile ducts, etc.), **skin diseases** (boils, rashes, infections), hepatitis B, and other problems. In 2005 FOTSI sent **\$4535 for “monk health”** aid.

Several of those aided were carryovers from last year, including **Tashi, Kelsang Yeshi, and C.G.**, who were included in last year’s newsletter. **Tashi and Kelsang Yeshi** have recovered well from their frightening multi-year illnesses of epilepsy and bone TB, respectively. **C.G.** had several recurrences of his neuropathy, times when he could hardly walk as before. We continued to help him since doctors were optimistic the episodes would cease. He decided to go back to Tibet, even though we expressed our concern about this plan. He has a lot of family in Tibet who can look after him and he felt that nothing could dissuade him from returning to his home. We hope he will flourish with his family around him and in a different climate. It could happen.

Among those who received significant help this year were **Ngawang Shuchu (TB)**, **Ngawang Jorchok (TB)**, and **Passang (3rd line antibiotic resistant TB)**. We helped pay for **Jangchub Gyatso’s** major intestinal surgery. We aided **Lobsang Tashi who had an appendectomy**, and **Tenpa Tsering #2 who had hepatitis B**. We also helped a senior monk who had diabetes, anemia, etc. We helped **Lobsang Dhamcho who had stomach and skin problems**, and **Thubten** who was taken to Manupal and other hospitals with a **mysterious illness**. **Namgyal Dorje, Phuntsok Lungtok, Tenpa Tsering #1**, were helped as well as **Tsultrim Dhargyal (who suffered from TB)**. Many others were also assisted.

Much to our joy, and with gratitude to all the donors who helped, **ALL** of the above **have improved and most have recovered**. Ngawang Jorchok, Thubten, Ngawang Shuchu, and Passang are still under treatment but are doing much better.



Tashi, Kelsang Yeshi, C. G.



Lobsang Tashi Jangchub Gyatso



Namgyal Dorje Thubten

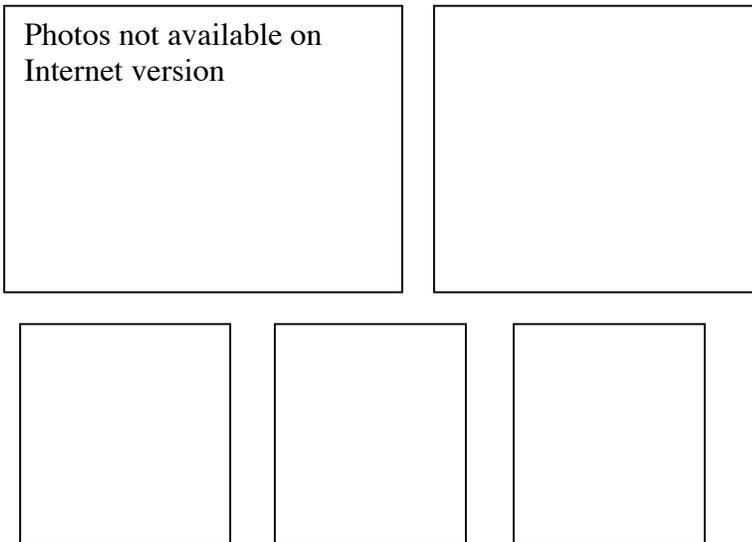
Thubten arrived from Tibet 3 years ago with a bacterial ulcer and jaundice. He is very poor and his health stayed poor. A special effort was made on his behalf this year. The others we helped were also in great need. We received letters saying “I would like to thank you so much (Jangchub), “I never forget your kindness” (Thubten), and similar grateful words from the others.

Drepung Gomang Monastery

Some donors send funds to the **Drepung Gomang Monastery** or to other monasteries. Often when these gifts are sent, prayers for those who are ill or have passed away are requested. The prayers are in the nature of well-wishing and also **help the monastery pay for food and medicine**. **In 2005 we sent \$830.**

Recent Arrivals from Tibet

In 2005, 15 of the monks who escaped from Tibet arrived at the one of Drepung Gomang Monastery's "khangtsens". These monks included some children as well as older men. They were exhausted and needed many things when they arrived. The monastery and fellow monks helped. One monk who has himself benefited from FOTSI's help, wrote that many could also use a bit more help, in the nature of blankets, a change of clothes, and a small table or two for their rooms. FOTSI sent **\$153.50** for these needed items and it apparently went a long way. Below are a few photos of the new arrivals receiving needed items. These monks **also received help through our "monks' health funds"** described above.



Self-Sufficiency Project: Cows!

For a long time we have been contributing funds for Tibetans in Mundgod to buy **cows**. As several other aid groups have also begun "cow help", we've scaled back the numbers we buy, but, as so many Tibetans are so completely connected to farm animals (especially large ones), we still continue this project. In the past we've also purchased sewing machines and vending stalls. **This year we sent funds for two families to get cows with calves.** The funds (\$500) were raised in 2005 but not sent until January 2006. Last year we also sent funds for two cows. This includes money for "cow insurance", vet fees, and special feed for the health of the animals. Cow donors receive details about the cows purchased. Our two cow recipients this year were **Granpa Karma Tsedup, with his two daughters and 6 grandchildren.** We also bought a cow for widow **Kyizom** who thanked FOTSI for the "special loving cow, which is now

a part of the family." Below we share a little about **Karma Tsedup** and his family. At the end are photos of him with his cow and calf, and one of Karma himself. We include color versions of Kyizom's cow in the collage.

Gran Karma is now 68. His wife died 10 years ago. He worked hard as a farmer to support his family and now helps his 6 grandchildren too. The cow and its new calf were purchased from a local Indian. They get 4 liters of milk per day beyond what the calf needs, consume 2 liters a day and sell 2 liters a day for 20 rupees each liter. He uses this money to help pay for water and electricity. He puts all the cow dung in a pit that he uses to fertilize crops his crops. This helps the soil and reduces need for chemical fertilizers. He sometimes misses his home in Tibet a lot. He remembers that his simple farming family lived in a remote location 2 full days journey from the Indian border. He thinks farming in Tibet was much easier than in Mundgod. Where he lived in Tibet, there was never drought, nor destructive rainfall, nor decreasing fertility. In India, family members work their land, but the weather is very hot—unbearable-- and one turns totally sun-burned, gets skin problems and other diseases. We he first farmed in Mundgod, he got 55 bags of rice paddy from his 3+ acres; now he is lucky to get 20. He is very happy that his cow Taring and calf Passang will help to restore his land and sends his gratitude.

