

I. INTRODUCTION:

The Tibet Fund is a non-profit organization based in New York City, USA, dedicated to helping Tibetans and supporting and strengthening Tibetan communities in exile through programs in health, education, economic and community development. Since its founding in 1981, with the guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibet Fund has grown into the principle fund raising organization for the Tibetan people, both in exile and inside Tibet.

MISSION:

The Tibet Fund's primary mission is the preservation of the distinct cultural, religious and national identity of the Tibetan people. It advances this mission by advocating international assistance on behalf of the Tibetan people and administers grants for projects that:

- ◆ Support and strengthen Tibetan refugee communities in India, Nepal and Bhutan.
- ◆ Offer scholarships and cultural exchange programs to Tibetan students.
- ◆ Support health, education and small economic development projects inside Tibet.
- ◆ Promote the growth of other organizations designed to address the identified needs of the Tibetan people.

II. ACTIVITIES IN 2004

The Tibet Fund's activities remained focused on the priority areas of:

- ◆ Assistance for new refugees
- ◆ Health projects in Tibetan communities
- ◆ Community and Economic Development
- ◆ Religious and Cultural Affairs
- ◆ Research and Publishing, and Projects inside Tibet through the Khawachen Assistance Program

1. ASSISTANCE FOR NEW REFUGEES

Each year an average of 3,200 new refugees arrive from Tibet. They are met first at a refugee reception center in Kathmandu where they are provided with food, lodging, medical care and a chance to rest and recuperate until arrangements are made to travel to India. From Kathmandu the majority of refugees travel to Dharamsala, India by way of New Delhi. They receive care, temporary housing and rehabilitation services at refugee reception centers in New Delhi and Dharamsala.

Tibet Fund is the primary source of funding for the three reception centers as well as for the Transit School and TCV School at Bir to which newly arrived older youth are assigned for an education. In 2004, The Tibet Fund provided \$690,000 from the U.S.State Department's Humanitarian Assistance (HA) grant to support the three refugee reception centers and the schools for new refugee children.

2. EDUCATION

A. Support for Primary and Secondary Education

The Tibet Fund works closely with the Central Tibetan Administration's (CTA) Department of Education (DOE), the Tibetan Children's Village (TCV) and the Tibetan Homes foundation to help educate Tibetan Children in exile.

The DoE oversees 80 primary and secondary schools in India and Nepal serving more than 24,000 Tibetan students. The TCV cares for disadvantaged children in four main Children's Villages, seven residential schools, six day schools and nine day care centers across India and Nepal and the Tibetan Home's Foundation provides education and other services to roughly 2,000 mostly orphaned children. In 2004, the Tibet Fund provided \$616,000 to the DoE, the TCV and the Tibetan Homes Foundation for their educational programs.

The Tibet Fund has also helped establish and expand the Transit School and TCV School at Bir specifically to educate new refugees from Tibet. The majority of new refugees with limited education and no training in Tibetan language or culture. Accelerated classes at the Bir School enable students to complete two years of instruction in one.

The TCV School at Bir has 800 new refugee children and the Transit School has about 770. Aside from providing education towards durable livelihood skills, these two schools serve as an extension of the reception centers for new refugees. Over 3,000 new refugees and youth graduated from these two schools in the past five years.

The primary source of funding for the above is the HA grant which also covered in-service teacher training program and nutrition projects at the TCV School in Dharamsala and the Homes Foundation in Mussoorie.

B. Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP)

The Tibet Fund established the Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP) in 1988 when the US Congress approved Fulbright support for Tibetan refugee students and professionals. Since that time, the TSP has received 18 annual scholarship grants from the Fulbright Program, totaling to \$8,425,870, enabling us to bring 282 Tibetan refugee professionals to the US to receive higher education.

The annual Fulbright grants of \$500,000 are inadequate to support the students. This year the Tibet Fund disbursed \$642,937.58 and had to raise the balance of \$142,937.58. In addition, we have obtained External Scholarships amounting to \$174,273 from different universities in the US.

Evaluation of TSP:

In July 2004, SRI International conducted an outcome assessment of the TSP under contract with the Office of Policy and Evaluation of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

The assessment report concluded: "This assessment found that the TSP is achieving its overall goal of increasing mutual understanding under the Fulbright-Hays mandate, as well as the specific objectives of achieving cultural learning and generating positive personal and professional outcomes and linkages. According to both qualitative and quantitative information collected through several means from grantees, participation in the TSP has provided a highly beneficial educational and cultural experience that serves both the individuals who participated in the program, and the wider Tibetan Refugee Community.

The program has thus accomplished what it sets out to do; it has provided motivated young leaders with the opportunity to develop professional skills, acquire a new cultural perspective, and bring something back to their community."

We continue to try to improve our services to the students once they arrive in the US and are in the process of addressing recommendations that were raised with regard to the selection process.

C. Tibetan Sponsorship Program:

The Tibetan Sponsorship Program seeks sponsorships from individuals for students, monks and nuns in exile communities. Through the dedicated work of volunteers like Mr. Steve Drago and Ms. Kathy Nolan, in 2004, the Program raised a total of \$252,844.00 including \$184,947.50 for students at the Tibetan Children's Village, the Tibetan Homes Foundation and DOE administered schools and \$67,896.50 for monks and nuns at religious institutions throughout India and Nepal. All donations are sent directly to India with no deductions taken by the Tibet Fund for administrative costs.

D. Transit School Library Project:

The Transit School in Dharamsala was set up to serve new refugee young adults who tend to have limited education and no training in Tibetan language or culture. Students generally undertake an accelerated 5-year program here to learn Tibetan, English and mathematics. The school's library had little furniture and a few books. The Tibet Fund provided \$5,000 from the Flora Family Foundation to purchase new furniture and books for the library.

E. Higher Education Scholarship:

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has highly encouraged Tibetan students to take up higher education leading to doctoral degrees in specialized areas so as to increase the number of Tibetans who are skilled professionals. The Department of Education therefore created a special higher education scholarship fund to encourage Tibetan students to undergo specialized doctoral level studies. With funding from the Flora Family Foundation, the Tibet Fund provided a grant of \$10,000 towards this fund and with additional contributions from the DOE, 12 scholarships are provided each year.

3. HEALTH

A. Department of Health, Dharamsala, India

In 2004 The Tibet Fund provided \$598,000 from the Humanitarian Assistant grant to the Department of Health in (DOH) Dharamsala to support health services for Tibetans in exile. Services included:

- ◆ TB control/Leprosy/Disabled Services
- ◆ Maternal and Child Health/ Immunization
- ◆ Water/Sanitation, including safe drinking water projects and the construction of toilets and septic tanks in numerous settlements
- ◆ Hospitalization
- ◆ Prosthetics
- ◆ Health Training
- ◆ Reproductive Health
- ◆ Essential Drugs; and
- ◆ Provision of vehicles, including ambulances for delivery of health services.

B. Drinking Water Project for Srongsen Bhrikuti School:

The Tibet Fund provided \$2,550 for a drinking water project for the Srongtsen Bhrikuti High School, Kathmandu. The funding was used in the construction of two large underground water tanks that cost a total of \$3,924. The school principal raised the remaining \$1,374.

C. Drinking Water Project for Old People's Home:

The Tibet Fund has also donated a total of \$5,299.28 to Tibetan Women's Welfare Group of Kathmandu for safe a drinking water at Old People's Home at Swayembhu, Kathmandu. The Project was completed in January, 2005.

4. COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. Renovation of Guest House at Miao Settlement:

Miao Choepheling Tibetan Settlement with a total population of 2,350 is situated in the remote North-East region of India. The CTA Department of Home asked our help to refurnish and add an extension to the current one -room guesthouse. Since there is no other accommodation facility in the area for the outside visitors. The Tibet Funded provided \$2,500.00 towards this project

B. Tsering Elders Home, Kathmandu, Nepal:

The Tsering Elders Home in Kathmandu was built to provide a home for 50 of the increasing number of Tibetan elders who have no family to care for them. His Holiness the Dalai Lama provided the seed money to purchase the land for the home and the Tibet Fund raised the funds for construction of the buildings. The Tibet Fund's President, Mr. Rinchen Dharlo attended the inauguration of the Home in November 2003. In 2004, the Tibet Fund provided \$21,500 to the Tsering Elder Home and also helped identify sponsors for 38 of the approximately 50 residents of the Home.

C. Housing Project in Dalhousie

This project proposes to construct housing for 52 Tibetan refugee families in Dalhousie, India. These Tibetans are mainly painters, weavers and petty business holders who live in rented houses and face problems in paying the increasing rent and arbitrary eviction.

The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has provided a lease of 17 hectares of land, renewal after every ten years, to the Central Tibetan Relief Committee, Dharamsala for the construction of housing for these families. The total cost of constructing 52 units is \$334,393.24 at a cost of \$6,431 per/unit.

Thus far we have received three grants of \$32,378 and in the process of raising additional funds for this project.

D. Renovation and Furnishing of Gangkyi Staff Mess:

The Finance Department of CTA approached The Tibet Fund to help with renovation of and new furnishings for the Gangkyi Staff Mess so as to facilitate community meetings. With our grant of \$4,500 renovations were completed and new dinning tables, chairs, kitchen pots and crockery were purchased for the facility.

4. RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

A. Jamyang Choling Nunnery at Lower Dharamsala.

The Jamyang Choling Nunnery was founded in 1988 with the vision of educating Himalayan Buddhist women who would otherwise have no opportunity to receive formal schooling or spiritual education. Currently there are 70 nuns including Tibetan refugees and women from Bhutan, Nepal, Sikkim, Ladakh, Zanskar, Lahaul, Spiti, Kinnaur, Garhwal, and Bomdila.

At the request of the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, The Tibet Fund made a grant of \$44,622.00 towards the construction of a library and six classrooms for this nunnery.

In 2004 we provided an additional grant of \$22,000 from the Flora Family Foundation towards the purchase of a 24 room, four storied building. Six of the rooms accommodate senior nuns who are attending classes at the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics and 12 rooms are rented to get some income for the institute. There is also an office, storeroom, and a prayer hall. The remaining rooms accommodate a cook and volunteer English teacher.

B. Ani Pachen Library and classrooms for Kyidong Thukje Choling Nunnery

Ani Pachen was a Tibetan nun, legendary for her leadership in resistance to the Chinese occupation of Tibet and for her subsequent 21 years in prison. In 2000, she came to the United States for the publication of her life's story, *A Sorrow Mountain: The Journey of a Tibetan Warrior Nun*.

Since Ani Pachen's death two years ago, a small group of people came up with the idea of building an Ani Pachen library and education center at the Kyirong Thukje Choling Nunnery in Kathmandu, Nepal. They asked the Tibet Fund to receive the proceeds of the book, "A Sorrow Mountain" for the library project. In addition to the book royalties we raised additional funds and by the end of 2004, we transferred a total of \$10,603.97 to the nunnery.

C. Film Archival Project:

The Tibet Fund received a grant of \$10,000 from the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation to plan an archive of Tibetan and Buddhist-related films to be accessible to researchers, educators, filmmakers and audiences.

During a joint meeting with His Holiness's Special Envoy Lodi Gyari, Mr. Gregory Kruglak, Chairman of The Conservancy for Tibetan Art & Culture (CTAC) and Mr. Guatana Kazuo Maida of Buddhist Film Society, Inc. (BFS) in New York, it was decided that BFS will take primary responsibility for the implementation of the film archive project. An agreement to this effect was signed between The Tibet Fund, CTAC and BFS. The funds have already been transferred to the BFS.

D. Photographing Artwork at Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum, Mongolia

The Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum in Ulanbatar, Mongolia (also known as The Mongolian National Museum) is perhaps the world's greatest repository of Tibeto-Mongolian Art. Its collection has nearly 10,000 Buddhist items, including tangkas, statues, monastic dance masks, ritual instruments, and more.

At the request of Professor Glenn Mullin and The Tibet Fund, Mr. Don Rubin offered to fund the photographing of a selection of this extraordinary Mongolian collection. The concept is to photograph no less than 500 and no more than 1,000 selected pieces of their best works. These images are to be posted on the HAP website. Mr. Rubin made a generous grant of \$7,400 for this project.

E. Tibetan Youth Congress:

The Tibet Fund donated \$4,000 to the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) towards the cost of an advertisement in the International Herald Tribune during the TYC's hunger strike in New York.

6. THE BLUE BOOK PROJECT

The Tibetan Solidarity Alliance Blue Book project was initiated in 1997 to solicit annual contribution from individuals who each receive a Blue Book. Patterned after the Tibetan Freedom Movement Green Book which facilitates annual giving by Tibetans to support the work of the Central Tibetan Administration

(CTA), annual contributions of Blue Book Project participants are recorded in their books and funds raised are sent directly to the CTA to use at their discretion for their most important projects.

The Blue Book Project raised a total of \$30,094.83 in 2004 and we transferred the entire amount to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Charitable Trust in India.

Since its inception the Blue Book Project has raised a total of \$246,286.28, all of which has been transferred to India.

7. PROJECTS INSIDE TIBET

The Tibet Fund provides assistance in Tibet through Khawachen Assistance Program (KAP) for projects in education, health, economic, English language, computer skills, training and support for orphans. Below some of the selected KAP's Projects in 2004:

A. Scholarship Program in the USA

Through the grant from the U.S. State Department's Office of Citizen Exchanges, since 1988 KAP has brought 57 students and professionals from Tibet for training in the US. In the 2004 funding cycle we brought two groups of students - 8 in December 2003 and 9 in August 2004. The December group has returned home and the August group is in the process of arranging their return. 10 students are about to come to the USA.

B. Beijing English Language Program

KAP initiated this program in 1999 and since then has provided funding for 20 students each year to study English at the Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. A Total 122 students have received their English language training in this program. In September 2004, an additional 23 students began their English language studies.

C. Dhartsedo English Language, Computer Skills and Tourism Program

In September 2004, 40 students began to study English language, computer skills and tourism management in this program. Using the Beijing program as a model, KAP initiated this program in 2001 and a total of 145 students have completed their training in the past four years. KAP added 10 students to study tourism management for a period of three years in 2003. They are about to complete their second year.

D. Chengdu English Language Class

In 2003 KAP helped the Tibetan Development Found organize a new English language class at the South West Minorities College in Chengdu. To date 43 students have complete their training in this program. In October 2004, an additional 23 students began their English Language studies.

E. Orphanages

1. Chushul Home

In 1999 KAP financed the building of the Chushul Orphanage Home outside Lhasa to provide a home for orphans. Since its founding, KAP has provided \$480 per student each year towards maintaining the orphanage and support of the children. In 2004 there were 20 orphans and KAP provided over \$18,000 for renovations for renovations

2. Poor Snow Land School in Golok:

In year 2004, KAP continues to sponsors 15 children at a cost of \$480 per child per year at Poor Snowland School. This orphanage was founded by a Tibetan who returned to his hometown in Golok (Amdo) after studying English for a few years in India. Golok is in a remote area officially recognized as being one of the poorest areas in Tibet. There are over 92 orphans in the school.

3. New Orphanage

In February 2004, KAP gave a grant of \$14,000 to establish a new orphanage in Waka township, in Derong County, Kandze prefecture. The Waka Children Home was officially opened with 25 children from five surrounding counties on September 20, 2004. This children's home is receiving much support from the local primary school where the Orphans go to school. This home is much cheaper than our Chushul Orphanage.

F. Health

In 2004, KAP provided a grant of \$10,000 to establish a new health clinic in Pelpung, Tibet and another grant of \$5,000 to an existing clinic in Narong, Tibet. In the year 2004, KAP spent \$280,905.29 for the training program in the USA and gave grants \$127,750 to various projects in Tibet and China, a total of \$408,655.29

IV. CITATION

For the third consecutive Year. The Tibet Fund has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent and unbiased evaluator of charities. In their letter dated December 6, 2004 Charity Navigator wrote "Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization excels, as compared to other charities in America, in successfully managing the finances of your organization in an efficient and effective manner. This consistency in your rating is an exceptional feat, especially given the economic challenges many charities have had to face in the last year."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Tibte Fund would like to thank the American people and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration and the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs for the Humanitarian Assistance grants which enable us to help Tibetan refugees improve their lives.

We also thank the foundations and individuas supporters who have generously support our work in the Tibetan exile communities and in Tibet.

The Tibet Fund's projects are wide ranging, with the ultimate goal of helping Tibetans become self-sufficient- this includes Tibetans living as refugees and those inside Tibet. Please make a donation to help us continue with this important work.

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The Tibet Fund is a non profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Accordingly, all contributions are Tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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