

# STICHTING TIBET-FONDS "DOLMA"

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Newsletter May 2018

Dear Readers,

Now that winter has passed and the sun has already shone abundantly, spring is showing us nature in all her splendour. It is high time to keep you up to date on good news with this newsletter.

At the end of January and the beginning of February I spent a good three weeks in the refugee camp in Mundgod. It is important to visit people and projects in order to keep a good eye on the progress of our activities. Last year I was under compulsory house arrest in the monastery because my special residence permit had not been arranged in time, so this year I made an interim visit. I was again joyfully received and people still come up to me with an outstretched hand in thanks for the help. The hand I reach out to them represents all the hands which you have reached out in the form of many donations. I am always very aware of this, so via my hand I now pass on their great gratitude.

I soon visited the Cooperative workshop to see how things were developing there. The bridge of the auto repair workshop had been improved, which makes it easier to work. Two young workers had been employed, one of whom is being trained as a welder, and the other has obtained a driver's license and is distributing filtered water in a small van. They do their work with big smiles on their faces.



*Dangerous working conditions and many accidents*



*Protective equipment for working more safely*

My attention was drawn to the unsafe way of working. This really shocked me. Welding was done with inadequate protection of eyes and hands, various machines were used without any safety measures, and nobody wore protective overalls or gloves. This created a high risk of accidents and needed immediate attention. I asked them to go to the nearest shop to buy safety equipment such as gloves, safety goggles, welding shields and protective aprons. For the modest sum of € 45 they now all walk about proudly in their protective gear, and there will surely be fewer accidents. Isn't that nice?

The floor of the workshop had been like a crumbly cheese, terribly uneven with bits of broken concrete everywhere. This was a great nuisance when trying to weld pieces of window frames, etc. on the floor. From our reserves we gave money for a new and more solid floor. I received the photos not so long ago. It is a big improvement and everybody is happy with it. This was a big success thanks to your earlier donations.

I visited camp 2 where people were hard at work on an unexpected problem: there was no longer any water coming out of the well. It was apparently exhausted and 150 families were suddenly without water. It is impossible to imagine this happening here in the Netherlands, but in India it can just happen like that, and then you HAVE to act. They borrowed money to drill a new borehole and luckily found water. With the connection to the existing water tower the costs amounted to € 1.750. You can imagine that some expectant glances came my way. Borrowing money means paying high interest rates and the debt becomes higher and higher every month. After discussion with the camp leader we agreed that the camp residents would contribute a quarter of the costs and that the Dolma Foundation would pay the remaining € 1.300. We have already transferred this money to them from our reserves, so that at least the high lending costs have been stopped. So we are making an appeal to you for this. Will you help?

An amount of € 6.800 has also been paid out of our reserves to the Central Tibetan School in Kalimpong (near Darjeeling, in the north-eastern part of India).



*Before: on a busy road to the washing point in the village*

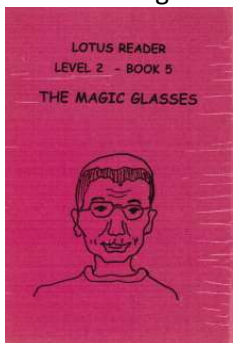


*Then: the school is being connected to the water supply*



*Now: splashing about in a safe place on the school premises*

Till recently, the school was managed by the Indian government and had been totally neglected. Now the Tibetan Administration has been put in charge of managing the school, and this means tackling a lot of neglected maintenance. At this school there was only a water provision to the kitchen and this was delivered in water tanks. Kilometers away there is a little stream where the children were expected to wash themselves. The older girls would go there in the dark so that they had a bit of privacy. This was doubly dangerous for an already vulnerable group in India. Together with a French organisation we provided the money to set up a water line to the school. This has already been done and we received photos of happy children washing themselves at taps. What an improvement! But of course this has made a big hole in our reserves. Will you help us to build up our reserves again?



The English readers, the Lotus Readers are having considerable success. Our experience of distributing them on a small scale to see how they are received has had a positive reaction. The children enjoy learning English through Tibetan stories from their own culture. The English teachers from the two big schools in the settlement are also interested in them. We can also put them in the new library, so that they are accessible to everyone. It feels good to transfer the Tibetan culture to the children at a young age in this creative manner. We need about € 800 for reprints and new readers.

Immediately on my visit to the school we received a request to help with the purchase of computers. Becoming computer literate is no longer just an option in modern society, and this also applies to India. Children who do not acquire these skills will be disadvantaged for the rest of their lives in their earning potential. Sadly this is so in the modern world. We received a request for 6 computers and a computer costs € 350. We are trying to help out bit by bit and hope that you will also see the importance of this.

In our previous newsletter we already informed you of the request for help with public toilet facilities in Camp 3. This is a centrally situated camp with central facilities such as small shops and eating places, the retirement home and communal meeting places, as well as a small hospital and the Settlement Office. There is a constant stream of visitors who do their shopping at the same time. A public toilet facility would be a great improvement. It needed thorough discussions to arrive at a feasible plan. The total costs have been estimated at € 11.600. This is a considerable sum, but it would be a great improvement in hygiene and would facilitate the lives of people who come to the centre for necessary business and do their shopping at the same time. We have agreed with the undertakers of the project that they will try to collect € 5.100 themselves. From the Netherlands we will try to raise the remaining € 6.500. They have already collected € 1.000.

Many books of old and valuable texts were lost in Tibet. At the Drepung Loseling Monastery these texts are being reconstituted piece by piece and reprinted, so that they will be available to future generations. This is an enormous task which the monks are tackling enthusiastically. They have drawn up a list of 26 such books. The cost of the reconstituting and printing 1000 copies of each book is € 2.300. We think it important that old texts be preserved and would like to aim at funding the costs of one of such books. Will you help? This can be partly done with the revenue of our internet book sales. Our website lists all the books for sale, including interesting books on Buddhism! Have a look at <http://hetgoededoel.boekwinkeltje.nl>.



*Loose sheets are turned into a well-printed book*

I again met with people who are having a hard time. Their determination and fighting spirit is enormous, but how nice it would be if they could have it a little easier for a few years with your help.



Tenzin Chime is married to Tsering Dhonden, who works as a taxi driver. He has taken on a big loan to buy a small bus with a two-stroke engine. They have three young children and live in a tiny house with two rooms. There is a kitchen and a bedroom with a medium sized bed and just enough room for a passage along the bed. It seems that they all sleep on this one bed. He can barely earn enough to buy food, and nothing else. A sponsorship of € 30 per month would help them



Yanchen Lhamo, 51 years old, is a widow with a married daughter who lives overseas and a son in Bangalore. She is solely responsible for three old and sick relatives, her father of 86, her mother of 90, and an uncle of 81. Sponsorship would be a real help. She has enough for food, but medical expenses run very high. She is already in debt to an amount of € 2.500. A sponsorship of € 30 per month would be nice.

Not long ago we were asked whether we were still planning to make greeting cards, suitable for Christmas, New Year and other occasions. We would like to offer these again this year, at a price of € 1 per card and envelope. Postal delivery costs would depend on the quantities ordered. We were thinking of 10 different images. If you are interested, please let us know before 1 September, preferably by internet, so that we can send you the order form with the proposed images. You may also phone us if you prefer. We would aim at producing the cards in October, so that you can receive them in good time.



We have one last 'Tibetoontje' for sale, a wind chime. Years ago a donor made many of these by hand. They produce a beautiful sound. Most of them have been sold for E50, and this last one is for sale for € 25, excluding postage costs. It would make a lovely gift. Please contact us if you are interested.



We regularly send money to 'our' monastery school in Tibet. This mainly serves to pay the salaries of the teachers and food for the children. This recent photo shows that the money arrives at its destination. This is a cheerful and colourful scene that we do not want to deprive you of!

And so I close this annual report with all its good news. The financial statement shows that in spite of a somewhat reduced income, we have still been able to achieve much. I was wowed off by happy and grateful Tibetans and their example of courage and hope motivates me to carry on drawing attention to their still difficult situation. I hope to be able to tell you in the autumn what you have donated and how the money has been spent. But before that time, we hope for a wonderful summer.

On behalf of the management, I wish you all a happy and heart-warming summer.

Tashi Delek

*Fraus de Reeper*

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DOLMA FOUNDATION		overview 2017	
Contributions		2017	2016
donations and sponsor contributions	€ 28.510,50		
from donation agreements	€ 16.712,00		
legacies	€ 0,00		
<b>Individual donations</b>	+ -----	<b>€ 45.222,50</b>	<b>€ 49.378,26</b>
sale of books (net revenue)	€ 1.574,38		
Markt van Hoop	€ 200,00		
Broeders Joannes de Deo	€ 500,00		
Putoshan	€ 360,00		
Het Consultancyhuis	€ 11.800,00		
Mani Bhadra B.V.	€ 200,00		
Rebuild your Life	€ 150,00		
Reis-Idee	€ 278,04		
<b>Donations from legal entities</b>	+ -----	<b>€ 15.062,42</b>	<b>€ 16.394,59</b>
<b>Interest</b>		<b>€ 174,19</b>	<b>€ 236,90</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		+ ----- <b>€ 60.459,11</b>	<b>€ 66.009,75</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<i>sponsorship</i>	€ 28.275,13		
bank costs sponsorship	€ 532,70		
	+ -----	<b>€ 29.007,83</b>	<b>€ 29.932,00</b>
<i>projects</i>			
medical help*	€ 927,00		
scholarships	€ 4.558,00		
winter school	€ 1.500,00		
Ladakhi Nuns Association dr. Palmo	€ 500,00		
school near monastery in Tibet	€ 2.000,00		
renovation community hall Mundgod	€ 2.142,00		
nursery and pre-primary school camp 6	€ 180,00		
renovation school roof Camp 5	€ 2.568,00		
renovation roof old people home	€ 958,00		
improvement water pipes Camp 8	€ 2.753,00		
Agricultural Coop training programme	€ 1.895,00		
Agricultural Coop car repair workshop	€ 1.205,00		
Readers for English lessons	€ 530,00		
CST Mundgod 2 computers for teachers	€ 720,00		
Sarah School extension library	€ 2.200,00		
Sarah School study fund	€ 150,00		
Instit.Budd. Dialectics furnishings	€ 850,00		
CST Kalimpong water supply	€ 6.730,00		
bank costs projects	€ 249,50		
travel expenses project visits 2017	€ 266,95		
	+ -----	<b>€ 32.882,45</b>	<b>€ 31.748,56</b>
<i>general</i>			
travel costs management	€ 285,76		
secretarial costs	€ 20,00		
stamps	€ 294,00		
printing	€ 354,34		
telephone/internet/software	€ 294,00		
general bank costs	€ 296,90		
	+ -----	<b>€ 1.545,00</b>	<b>€ 1.296,59</b>
<b>Total expenditures</b>		+ ----- <b>€ 63.235,28</b>	<b>€ 62.997,15</b>
<b>Balance end 2017**</b>		<b>€ 33.965,14</b>	<b>€ 36.741,31</b>
*This project will continue into 2018	**For the balance see our website		