



# Newsletter **JUNE 2017**

## NJP IS NOW ON



In 2016, Geshe Sonam Thargye along with a group of NJP sponsors, visited the Ganzi (Garze) in Sichuan Province, home to over 500 sponsored students and nuns.

Excerpts from a DVD made during the visit have been posted on Youtube. The short clips show the Ganzi valley, the countryside and the town, a traditional Tibetan festival and dance, the annual student gathering/payment of sponsorship monies, and visits to the nunneries.

A great way to see what our sponsorship area actually looks like, and to hear Geshe Sonam speaking about Nying-Jey Projects.

Just open the link below

<http://www.njp.org.au/videos-2016>

But be prepared – it will likely awaken your travel bug. You'll want see the glorious countryside and smiling faces for yourself.



## TASHI DALEK

Welcome to the NJP June Newsletter, our opportunity to bring you up to date with a bit of NJP news. We do hope all our sponsors and supporters are keeping warm at this chilly time of the year.

Over the last 6 months the number of sponsored people on our programs has decreased slightly. For some of our beneficiaries, their situation has improved and they no longer need financial support; others have found support from other avenues; some of our India people have left to go to other countries.

Thank you so much to all those sponsors who have chosen to transfer from people on our lists who have left us, to one or more of the many still seeking our help.

### People currently sponsored through NJP

Students – 354 with 103 seeking sponsorship

Nuns – 141 with 46 seeking sponsorship

Monks – 155 with 170 seeking sponsorship

On behalf of the 650 people sponsored through NJP, a warm and heart felt thank you to all our sponsors from the NJP Committee. We can assure everyone that their sponsorship is still making a real difference.

Most readers will be aware that NJP sponsors school students, university students and Buddhist nuns in East Tibet as well as Tibetan monks and some school students in India.

NJP also runs a small fund for helping with medical emergencies. This has been of enormous help to people experiencing acute medical problems. In many developing countries, a family may keep its head above water financially for many years, but then the cost of necessary medical treatment changes that dramatically.

A sponsorship of \$20 AUD per month provides real benefit without disadvantaging other community members.

Tertiary students need \$40 per month to live away from home and study at their institution, but you need to be able to commit to the duration of their course – typically 3 years.

## Another trip to Ganzi for our Vice President



Having served on the NJP committee for 10 years, it has always been a great privilege to see what's happening on the ground in Ganzi and observe firsthand the benefits of NJP sponsorship to the students, their families and the nuns.

It's been 4 years since I last visited, so it is with great anticipation that I will be returning with my family in July.

Reconnecting with Namgyal and his family, the NJP Ganzi committee and of course the sponsored students and nuns will all be part of what I hope will be another grand adventure.

My main reason initially for heading to that part of the world was for Tibet, Tibetan Buddhism and of course my connection with Geshe Sonam Thargye.

Having visited on four occasions now, I have developed a fascination for China too, along the way. My experiences travelling to China have always been positive and it reinforces to me that people are people wherever you go. We have the same basic human nature, more similar than different, with the same capacity for kindness and compassion.

I look forward to sharing some of those adventures later in the year and providing an update, and reflecting on the changes observed over 10 years.

Thank you to both long term sponsors and those who have joined more recently. A little support goes a long way in changing the life of another and it is always most gratefully received by your sponsored student, monk or nun.

Darren Fahroedin Vice President

### CONTACTING YOUR SPONSORED PERSON

NJP encourages sponsors to get to know their nun, student, or monk, and learn about their situation and their daily lives. We suggest that the sponsor writes first to break the ice and introduce themselves.

Write as soon as possible after confirmation of the sponsorship. Tell your beneficiary about yourself – about your family, where you live, your occupation, and what is happening in your life.

The student, monk or nun will be very interested to know who you are. Not too much information at once though. Single page letters are recommended. Photos are always welcome.

For more information on writing to Tibet or India, follow this link to the NJP website.

<http://www.njp.org.au/sponsor/contact-sponsored-person/>

### A CAUTIONARY TALE

Many of our sponsors send gifts of books, clothes etc to those they sponsor in Tibet. Mostly things go through the system very well using the NJP labelling process. Not always though!

Thanks to Robyn Duncan, a long-time sponsor, for sending this info through. Just goes to show how things can go wrong in unpredictable ways.

*I sent a parcel to Phuntsok Wangyal (Tibet student) in January. It was returned to me yesterday (mid-June).*

*When I looked at it, there was a sticker from China saying the address was insufficient.*

*The Geelong West Post Office had put the customs declaration form on top of the address to Namgyal. They also put the postage sticker over Phuntsok's name and student number. In future, I will ask them not to do this.*

*I am just letting you know so other sponsors or people sending parcels to Tibet are aware of this.'*

[Lucky they didn't put a sticker over the return address too.]

## NJP Special Project - Tashi Lhunpo Monastery India



Exterior of the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery Temple

Tashi Lhunpo Monastery is one of the four great monasteries of Central Tibet. It is the traditional seat of the Panchen Lama, and through the last four hundred years was supervised and looked after by the Dalai Lamas and the Panchen Lamas.

Of the four monasteries, all now re-established in exile in India, Tashi Lhunpo is the smallest and poorest. While other monasteries-in-exile have expanded and developed under the guidance of senior lamas, Tashi Lhunpo has remained at a disadvantage, because most of their senior lamas never made it out of Tibet.

Tashi Lhunpo monastery is located very close to Sera monastery in South India and today houses about 350 monks. Though it has been difficult, in recent years the monastery has matured into a reputable teaching institution, performing a vital role in the preservation of Tibetan Buddhism. One important aspect of the monastery is the parental-like responsibility of looking after the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of all the monks throughout their lives.

In 2016, the Monastery made a direct appeal to Geshe Sonam Thargye and NJP to help find sponsors for ten monks as a means of bringing some much-needed funds into the monastery. NJP has taken on this project and the monastery has sent photos of ten of their younger monks. NJP has already found sponsors for some of them, and is appealing to existing sponsors, or their family members, to consider supporting NJP in this project by taking on the sponsorship of one of Tashi Lhunpo's young monks.

The young monks below are looking for sponsors. Sponsorship applications can be made through the NJP website.



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Please let us know if your email address, phone number or home address change.

Email: [njprojects@gmail.com](mailto:njprojects@gmail.com) or use the [Contact Us](#) page on our web site.

It is all too easy for one address or number to change, then another and suddenly we can no longer contact you.

If you ever decide that you need to cease sponsorship please let us know as soon as you know. This enables us to start the process of finding a new sponsor for the person as quickly as possible.

It also removes the overhead of unpaid invoices and contacting you to see if you would like to keep sponsoring.



Have your  
circumstances  
changed?



## **Making Payments to NJP**

NJP endeavours to make payments to NJP as convenient as possible for our sponsors. Please read on so you'll be aware of what payment options are available. You may want to change to make things easier!

We find the most convenient way for both sponsors and NJP is for the sponsor to set up automatic monthly payments from your bank account. This is free to set up for both sponsor and NJP. That way regular payments can be guaranteed for the student, nun or monk, and the sponsor can just set and forget.

PLEASE NOTE: NJP does not have the authority to 'take' money from your account  
YOU have to give the money to us.

### **Bank Transfer**

This is best for contributions made within Australia. Please make your donation by bank transfer to:

Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc.  
Bendigo Bank  
BSB: 633-000  
Account: 116467879

### **Cheque or Money Order**

This is also good for contributions made within Australia. Please post (mail) your donation to:

Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc.  
625 Nortons Rd  
Paraparap, VIC 3240  
AUSTRALIA

### **PayPal**

PayPal is excellent for international sponsorship and one-off donations. NJP now has PayPal but we ask you to use it sparingly as the cost is significant - in the order of 2.5%. This could put pressure on our 5% ceiling for running costs of the organisation.

#### **Purpose**

Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc.  
Reference: 1774

[+ Add special instructions to recipient](#)

When making a PayPal contribution, after entering your PayPal details you can specify the purpose of the donation (in "Add special instructions to recipient") – this can be easy to miss and we can't change it on the web page, but it is there - please take the time to tell us who you are!



You can keep up with what's happening throughout the year on our Facebook page.

If you sponsor a monk at Sera Jey Monastery in India, you might like to follow their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/serajeymonastery>

or you can check them out on YouTube.

**FEEL LIKE CONTRIBUTING TO OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER?**

**Email your experience to [njprojects@gmail.com](mailto:njprojects@gmail.com)**

**We'd love to share your sponsorship story**



#### **CONTACT US**

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