

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To all Nying-Jey Projects Supporters



I want to say thank you so much for your continuing support of the programs to help create better education for young Tibetans, and support Tibetan nuns and monks. And thank you especially to all our new sponsors who came on board during 2011 and are maintaining their sponsorships.

Most of the funds raised are being directed to Tibet,

contributing to education programs for primary, secondary and tertiary students, and helping to improve the living conditions for the nuns at seven different nunneries. We have some students in India and many monks also benefitting from your support. In 2011, we sent approximately AUD\$175,000 to beneficiaries in Tibet and India. When exchanged for local currency this is a huge amount of money supporting over 1000 people directly and many, many more indirectly. This is making a huge difference in their lives.

NJP provided scholarships last year enabling 87 high school graduates to go to university. Thirty-seven scholarship recipients have now completed their studies

and have already found good jobs. Soon, many of the 87 scholarship holders will complete their studies and will move on to become teachers, doctors, government workers or take up other professions. We are planning to expand the number of scholarship to 100 students in 2012. This is a wonderful result that comes directly from you – our sponsors.

Next year, a new Sacred Footsteps Tour by a group of monks from India is being organised. The mandala tour will, as usual, carry promotion of the Nying-Jey Projects program with it, and help us to sponsor more people in need. In July, a new Top of the World Tour to Tibet will head off to East Tibet. The group will be visiting our students and the nunneries in and around Ganzi. We will also visit some of the local villages seeking information about their poorest children, so that we can include them in our sponsorship program and give them the chance of an education.

From the bottom of my heart, I ask you to keep up your support of our program, and also promote it amongst your family and friends. It is making a huge difference in the lives of so many people.

With thanks, Geshe Sonam Thargye

NYING-JEY PROJECTS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Nying-Jey Projects is ten years old this year.

Much hard work, enthusiasm and dedication by Geshe Sonam Thargye, the original committee and subsequent committees, have ensured that we are still here and celebrating 10 years of success.

We would like to thank all those that have served on the committee in the last decade, all the people who have taken up sponsorships since 2001 and to our ever growing list of supporters. Without your generosity and kindness we, would not been able to achieve the following current figures. *(right)*

And to celebrate the tenth anniversary, Nying-Jey Projects is organising a special dinner at the

CURRENT STATISTICS	
	SPONSORED
STUDENTS	312
NUNS	188
MONKS	209
TOTAL	709
[April, 2012]	

Wild Yak Restaurant
350 High Street Northcote
Saturday 8 September, 2012
6.00pm

We hope the event will bring together current and former committee members, sponsors and supporters. Further details available very soon.

A WORD FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Nying-Jey Projects sponsors, and I hope this newsletter finds you happy and well.



This year marks a very special year for Nying-Jey Projects, being our 10th year of providing support to Tibetan students, monks and nuns within Tibet and in India, primarily through your generous sponsorships and donations to the medical emergency fund.

There will be more news as the year progresses as we reflect and celebrate on what has been achieved over the 10 years and how we continue to build upon the wonderful foundations we have established.

The ripple effect that begins with supporting a school child has already led to a number of our university scholarship students completing their studies and stepping out into the workforce.

An inspiring and spontaneous initiative by Drolma, a university student from the Ganzi region in January/February illustrates what can happen and develop a life of its own.

She had an idea and her idea soon caught on. Along with 16 fellow college and university students, they gathered to provide a holiday study program for nearly 300 young students. Students, just like they once were. They had a sense of wanting

to give back to their community, as they had gained so much from the opportunities they had been given.

They were given the support of the local community, the village leaders, parents of the students and a donation from Geshe Sonam Thargye to provide items like stationery and food for the students who had in many cases travelled long distances to attend.

You will see excerpts and photos from the letters we received from some of those students who taught. What inspires us most is the benefit that is evident to both the 'teachers' and students and the impact throughout the community.

Such was the success of this initiative, the 'teachers' plan to repeat it again next year. The vision of Geshe Sonam Thargye and the expressed wishes of His Holiness of the Dalai Lama to support the education of Tibetans in Tibet are coming to fruition.

We are all a part of that and collectively we continue to achieve a brighter future for these young people and make our world a better place.

Thank you for your great support. Spread the word. A small sponsorship goes a long way - sometimes in wonderfully unexpected ways.

Vice President -Dr Darren Fahroedin

VOLUNTARY TEACHING PROGRAM in GANZI by NJP UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Over the mid-year break (our summer time), 17 university students who are supported by Nying-Jey Projects scholarships came together to give extra tuition to younger students in Ganzi. This idea was entirely their own and shows that Nying-Jey Projects help is steadily bringing about changes in the local attitude towards education and towards shaping their own future.

These university students returned home from all over China and spent 2 weeks of their own time to help others in their home town, and we are very proud of them. Here are several reports they prepared themselves on their 'holidays'. They wrote these reports themselves and express themselves in their own way.

(Financial assistance was provided by Geshe Sonam who sent funds across to help buy stationery and other supplies.)

A Letter to Nying-Jey Projects

from Lhopa

Tashi delek. Best greetings from all the Tibetan students

We are very grateful for your good heart and warm help. Thank you very much. We put your money in the prizes for students, and here left 1700.

The details Drolma Dekyi is going to tell you.

In summary, let me show my thanks again

Lhopa



DROLMA'S REPORT – VOLUNTEER TEACHING PROGRAM

This is our first time to organize a vacation voluntary teaching as college students. Although we don't have any experience before, we got many helps from others. The first was NJP; because of his help, we just had courage to do it, so thanks a lot. By the way, during the teaching time we also got many helps from the leaders of the villages nearby, and the support of students' families, and we all very much appreciate it. The village leaders and students' families supported and helped, it is thanks for their encouragement.

In this voluntary teaching time, there were 17 college students to be teachers and there were nearly 300 students, which included the senior school students, junior school students and preschool students. Altogether there were 7 classes. We prepared 6 lessons for each class every day. We taught Tibetan, English, Mathematics, History and Geography for the senior school and junior school students; because we think they will face the college entrance exam soon, so it will be more help to give the classes connected to the exam.

And for the primary and preschool students, because of their age, we only taught them Tibetan, Chinese and English. Our class lasted 16 days which was started from January 20th, 2012 to February 4th, 2012. Minus the day we give off and the last day when we gave rewards. So we had teaching classes for 14 days totally. Plus we want to say thanks to NJP again. Because of his financial support we were able to buy the stationery and books for all the students, and hope it's would help the students study harder.



Our classes were beginning from 9am to 5pm every day, and around 12am. We would give the students about 1hour to have their lunches. Most of the students were eating their lunches at the school; they brought their lunches from home when they came to the school in the morning. Because these students lived little far from school, so there isn't sufficient time for them to go back and have lunches. So we decided to make tea for them every morning. And the teacher who didn't have class was in charge of this. We also invited some Geshe to give some lessons to the teachers about Buddhism knowledge during the teaching free time. The most gratifying is that the 'teachers' tried their best to teach the students in case to make each student like to study and every student learning seriously during the period.

Finally from deep in my heart, I want to represent all of the students and families to say thanks for your help. And all the students and the families are very appreciated for your help and asked me to pass on their feeling of gratefulness to you. It not only because of the money that you supplied, but also the chance you offered us to practice our dream and we would never have such encouragement without you. Besides we all feel the concern that you show paying for the education in our hometown, which is immeasurable in price. As a result, as well as the students, we as teachers also have learned many things, which we couldn't learn in the high school or even in the college. We think there is no doubt it is good for us to do something for our own hometown or birthplace, even though it's too small to mention.



Besides, we are very lucky to have the local elementary school be borrowed for our teaching. And this is the first time for all the students of our township to gather in one school and have the class together, including the undergraduate students of our town. Every kid is so lovely that we like all of them and their laughter is still wandering in my mind. It's just like a sweet dream that we live together and study together. It does also remind us of our early memory, which is in common with theirs.

Although 15 days is not long, during these time we did what we wanted to do, and did what we needed to do as our duty. We were born here and grew up here, and this is the place where we belong. The future is unpredictable, but I can guarantee no matter what kind of job I will do, or who will become, where would I go, this will be the place I love most and am concerned about, and whenever, whatever, however I will come back for it whenever it needs me; whenever the people living here need me.

We made a plan to give these teachings every year, and will try our best to do it. And we know that our ability is too small, but we think if we can get the encouragement and passion from the students and families and others, it will be easier for us to make it. Especially the students themselves, because if no one wants to learn who do we need to teach.

Thanks again sincerely. Drolma



Small Story in Fifteen Days by Deyang

At first, I want to say thanks for our destiny and the causes. Because of many people's work hard, we got this chance to do some meaningful things for our homeland and fellows.



We spent 15 days for the remedial work. In this period, I am not only responsible for teaching English to the fifth and sixth-grade students, but also taught Tibetan to middle school students and the students of high school. When I was free in the break time, I play game with the children of kindergarten.

I liked to share my experiences and ideas with them. Coz I think there is some excellent news or stories that can help them, and the second reason is they are very pure and lovely .I want to let they know cause and effect, magnanimity, and gratefulness. I told different things for different grades.

Because almost all the students come from more distant locations, in order to cherish time and reduce the fatigue of students, we decided to dine at school. In addition to teach, we need to make tea for them.

Geshe Loga Sonam and some of the volunteer teachers



In the period, Geshe Loga Sonam came here and helped us to deal with some problems. In addition, he bought lunch for us one day. Our thanks for him.

Volunteers Quotations *(translated from Tibetan.)*

Bumo Deyang:

Through this event, I understand the hardships of teachers. When I was younger, I am not a good student, and I often talked back to teachers. Now I very much regret and I decide to study hard and when I got a job, I also take some time for teaching free fee

Dradun:

I was a very naughty child, and I am very happy to found there are many students like me. They often do something to make teachers angry in the class. Maybe most of them don't agree with my idea. We should know they are very young, it is a good time to play games. It helps children develop thinking and discover new things. We should not stop them to do what they want to do.

Drolma Dekyi:

In the period, I got much time to understand our fellows. I found the shadow of myself from them. I thought why I often played truant. Yeah, they are past. But I wish cherish this good time to study and learn some new things. It is the best one to help the whole people.



A Little Thought about Being a Teacher during the Holiday

My name is Ethan, I am 24 years old, at the age that others are earning money to help loosen the burden of the families, but I am still a student. This is my second year as a graduate student. I got a good chance to go to the school since I was 5. And I am very appreciating that I wasn't the one of many boys who need to do the housework instead of study at my hometown in their young ages. So I always felt lucky about it.

When my home mate asked me to be an English teacher for 15 days during the holiday, my first reaction is puzzled; because I have no experience of being a teacher, so I don't know if I can do it. But after she explained that she plans to give extra class to the students who live around her home during the holiday and the teachers would all be college students, I change my attitude then. Some years ago I have got a chance to study English in a sponsored program and my teacher are all foreigners, so I think I am able to teach English, and meanwhile I think when one got the chance to gain the knowledge when others haven't, he or she should share it with other, otherwise it will only benefit oneself.

Nowadays even though people's life is getting better and better in my hometown, but the education not paced same level. If you see that the high school students carry English books which are for primary school students in other place you would feel how worse the English level is in my hometown. The other reason I accepted the offer is that once when I was a high school boy I didn't have the chance for extra class during the holiday time like these days. So I decided to give a try.

There are near 200 students in the school, they are all coming from the villages near by the school. And I was in charge for two classes of English lessons, senior school students and junior school students.

For the senior high school students:

When I step in the classroom for my first class I select a reading paragraph to test their English levels, and in case to prepare my lessons. After my first class I decide to teach them some easy grammar and vocabulary, I thought it would be useful to them as they need to face the university entrance exam. And I also tried to let them write a short essay after every class. Because I think the academic environment in my hometown blocks the way of studying English, nobody is used to write things, speak things in English as they are learning it. Also I want them feel the way of study English.

But things are not that easy, after three or four days I found it doesn't work for them. So I change my plan. Firstly they think grammars are boring. Second, no one wants to recite the words I asked to after the class. Third, when they write essay as homework they really did it like homework for me, some are only write two or three sentences, not many students really did it seriously. Mostly I can't understand what they are writing about; it makes me have to check it with them one by one. As I did it time was insufficient. So I change my plan, this time I tried teach them conversation, through the conversation I select the grammar and vocabulary in it, and learning the grammar and vocabulary during the time we were learning the conversation. I think it would get less boring than before. After some days I see it work little. But effect is not obvious. Honestly when I decided to give some teaching I really looking forwards to see some effects from them after 15 days, but I was wrong it's hard for a student to learn some things in a 15 days, especially for the other language.

For the class of Junior school students.

For this class mainly I planned them some things from the book "elementary ABC" this book is for beginning level. The words and grammars in the book are easier, and I didn't have them write any essay in English, but some phrases from the book. The reason is I think they have more time than the senior students. To get more familiar with more new words would be very helpful when they get to the high school, and I tried my best to change the way many teacher does, which is using the whole time to explain, I think that would make the students gets boring and lose the interesting about studying. I tried to let's them speak more and teach them English songs, play games, I hope I can make them like to study English as they are study the songs and say something in English, but time still was the biggest problem. As the 42 students say a sentence one by one there only have few minutes left.

During the teaching days I felt very depressing and glad at the same time. To be depressing is because of the academic environment, students only can get the information from teacher as they study, and to be glad is because I saw the awareness of the importance about studies. Parents are paying more attention to the education than housework; students are eagle for the knowledge, and more opportunity for studying.

Anyway wither the students did learn something from me, I tried my best. And I like all the students in my class if there is a chance for teaching them I will still coming for teaching you, but I hope the teaching time would be longer and students will be fewer in one classroom.

About the Teachers (volunteers)

All teachers are graduated from Gardze (Ganzi) Tibetan middle school. Now almost all of them are also students at university. There are 17 teachers .please see the details in the below.

About the Students

GRADE & CLASS	NUMBER
Kindergarten	51
Grade 1 & 2	57
Grade 3 & 4	42
Grade 5 & 6	27
Middle school	37
High school	23

There are 237 students. Most students come from nearby villages and family conditions are relatively poor The past two years, there are more and more students go to school to study education, and their parents realized only the education can change our position and life.

Now, consider the following a few photos, please.

We took them at the end of day, so there are some students who were absent.



a. The students of kindergarten



b. The students of grade 1 & 2



c. Grade 3 & 4



d. The students of grade 5 & 6

I want to say the 5&6 students are hard working. Each teacher is particularly appreciated, but I found a fact that most students are good at other subjects than Tibetan, especially this class. I think each of us should pay attention to this phenomena, and try our best to avoid the recurrence of these phenomena – build on a good basis of the Tibetan culture in order to learn various disciplines of knowledge.



e. The middle school students.



f. The high school

There are some high school students who are going to take the college entrance examination. Here, I wish them everything to go smoothly. They should take exams of the subject areas are Tibetan, Chinese, English, Math, Geography, History and Politics. Chinese education system is different from overseas. They need to participate in the competition of university entrance exam. Whether it is physical in nature or psychological, they are facing a serious test. So I hope they can all find their own road.