



# NJP NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2018



On behalf of NJP President Geshe Sonam Thargye and the Nying-Jey Projects Committee, warmest greetings to all our sponsors. Thank you so much for your continuing support of the sponsorships and programs we manage on your behalf to help create better education opportunities for young Tibetans, and support Tibetan monks and nuns.

Geshe Sonam travelled to Tibet in July accompanied by a family from Melbourne. His account of his visit and photos taken by Rong Liu follow. Travelling in far away places is very exciting but can provide some challenges, as the tourists discovered.

Geshe Sonam continues to make every effort to get to Tibet every year to monitor the management of the sponsorship program there, and also to offer encouragement to the community.



### Visit to Ganzi July 2018 - Geshe Sonam Thargye

*I arrived in Chengdu at the beginning of July and travelled up to Ganzi with the Liu family, friends of mine from Melbourne. We arrived in Ganzi on the evening of July 5.*

*Normally I go to visit the monastery and other places when I am in Ganzi, but on this trip it was not possible. In previous years, I have given out sponsorship money in Ganzi, but this time I went to my sister's house in Shinay village. Members of the Ganzi committee, including the convener, Namgyal, accompanied me.*



Geshe Sonam's nieces – Pema Yangtso and Sangye Lhamo



*From 9am on July 7 and 8, people came to the house in Shinay village, and Namgyal checked off their names in a photo book prepared in Australia by NJP committee. We gave the students their money, then they left straight away. It wasn't possible to get the students to stay and write letters, or to organise to take lots of student photos. Later I looked through the record book, there weren't many without a check mark. Almost all of the students came, which is fantastic as it isn't always easy for students or their families to travel.*



**Geshe Sonam and members of the Ganzi committee receive the visitors and distribute sponsorship funds.**

*Sixty-five university students received scholarship money that I have mostly raised from generous donors in China. Most of these older students came to the village, but some were too distant to come. I didn't go to the nunneries which I would have liked to, as travel in Tibet is very difficult at the moment. Instead the administrator nuns came to Shinay and collected the sponsorship money for their nuns.*

*All the money was given out, but I unfortunately have no letters from students. New photos of only a handful of students were taken.*



*My family in Ganzi are all okay, but as travel was difficult, I only stayed in Ganzi for 4 days.*

*Next year I will go to Ganzi in August. It would be good if someone from the NJP committee can come too, and maybe we can organise a tour group, and hopefully enjoy a longer stay.*



**Rong Liu and her daughter get to know nuns Pema and Sangye Lhamo**



**Ganzi town streetscape**



**Large chorten (stupa) above the town**



## Ani Tsering Yangtso (Ani Tseoo)

Nying-Jey Projects is very sad to pass on to the NJP community the news that Ani Tsering Yangtso, the sister of Geshe Sonam Thargye, passed away towards the end of May after a short illness.

Known to everyone as Ani Tseoo, many of our sponsors will have met Ani-la behind the handcrafts stall of the Sacred Footsteps Mandala Tours. She travelled with the monks on several tours throughout Victoria and New South Wales.

Ani Tsering, who arrived in Australia from Tibet with her sister Khandro in 2007, is remembered for her firm adherence to her Buddhist principles, her good humour and generosity in helping others, her considerable contribution to the mandala tours in support of programs to help Tibetans in need in India and Tibet, but most of all for her great smile.



### CAN YOU HELP?

These students have never had a sponsor. They are all nearing the end of their schooling and would most certainly appreciate a boost to see them through the final years of their education.



S095 - Tenzin Phuntsok  
Born in 2000



S157 – Tenzin  
Born in 1996



S260 - Dorje Dhondup  
Born in 1998



S298 - Kalsang Yangden  
Born in 2000

If you have any capacity to help these or any of the unsponsored older students on our list – on a short term basis – please contact Nying-Jey Projects at [njprojects@gmail.com](mailto:njprojects@gmail.com) or through the website [www.njp.org.au](http://www.njp.org.au) Supporting one of these young men will help them finish school with one less worry. As they only have 1 or 2 years left, they will not require a long term commitment from you – but one that will make a difference.

### **NJP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018**

The Annual General Meeting of Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc. was held at Paraparap Victoria on October 9, 2018.

The meeting heard annual reports from the President, Geshe Sonam Thargye, and treasurer Mr Peter Jost. The election of office bearers and general committee for the year ending June 2019 was also conducted. All members of last year's committee re-nominated and were elected unopposed.

The committee for 2018-19 is

**President:** Geshe Sonam Thargye

**Treasurer:** Mr Peter Jost

**Vice-president:** Dr Darren Fahroedin

**Secretary:** Ms Kristin Aitken

**General committee:** Ms Cheryl Hopwood, Mr Mesake Talaboko, Ms Helen McKenzie

## SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION/UPDATE

### Letters and photos

Restrictions on gatherings during Geshe Sonam's visit this year is a marked contrast to 2017 when he gathered all the students at the family house in Shinay village.

Unfortunately, the situation in 2018 has meant that there are no letters or new photographs to share with sponsors this year. We very much hope that the situation will be different in 2019 when Geshe Sonam hopes to be able to visit again.



*Geshe Sonam and students - July 2017*

### SPONSORSHIP DATA – an ever-changing landscape

Nying-Jey Projects sponsorship listing is a document comprising just over 900 beneficiaries – those sponsored and those seeking sponsors - and almost 500 sponsors in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA.

Over time, NJP has supported many more students, nuns and monks who are no longer included in our registrations.. The organisation constantly endeavours to monitor the sponsorships to ensure that individuals meet the requirements for support, and to keep our sponsor list up to date.

The NJP clientele is diverse and dynamic, people whose circumstances change in many and varied ways. Due to factors such as location, culture, and politics, it often takes a long time before NJP is made aware of these changing circumstances on the other side of the world. Our representatives only manage to visit the localities once a year, so information can take some time to filter through.

As one can see from Geshe Sonam's report from his visit to Tibet in August, the opportunity to connect with and monitor our students and nuns can experience severe restrictions and hindrances.

#### Sponsorship data comparisons July 2017-July 2018

	July 2014				July 2018		
	SPONS.	SEEKING	TOTAL		SPONS.	SEEKING	TOTAL
<b>Students</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>430</b>		<b>342</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>419</b>
<b>Nuns</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>189</b>		<b>136</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>Monks</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>338</b>		<b>151</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>308</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>957</b>		<b>629</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>915</b>

#### Why the differences?

The number of nuns has remained consistent across time, while the number of monks and students on our books has decreased.

Student numbers change for several reasons.

- Students leave Tibet heading to India
- Student is no longer attending school
- Families are able to support their child's education without assistance
- Students finish school and go to university or find work.
- The Ganzi committee loses contact with a student

When it is realised that an individual no longer needs financial assistance, NJP offers that placing or sponsorship to another individual who does. The economic situation for Tibetans in Ganzi

has improved so much in recent years, that we now receive fewer new requests for help.

The decrease in the numbers of monks has occurred for many reasons such as: - improved support capacity within the monastery, emigration to a western country, finding financial support elsewhere or monks giving up the monastic life,

We still receive occasional requests for new monks and students to be added to our sponsorship list though, and sadly, we have many people in our files for whom we have never been able to find a sponsor.

#### Sponsorship data as of September 2018

	Sponsored	Seeking	TOTAL
<b>Students</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>419</b>
<b>Nuns</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>Monks</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>308</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>915</b>