



NJP Newsletter - December 2023

Photo: Dharamsala Nov 1, 2023

NJP Audience with the Dalai Lama

NJP President Geshe Sonam Thargye and Vice-president Dr Darren Fahroedin travelled to India recently, and particularly to Dharamsala, a small hilltop town in the foothills of the Himalaya, Himachal Pradesh, North India. Dharamsala is the location of the Tibetan government in exile and home to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet.

Geshe Sonam Thargye and Dr Fahroedin, accompanied by a small group of pilgrims, several of whom are NJP sponsors, were fortunate to have a short, but memorable, audience with the Dalai Lama.

His Holiness is well aware of Nying-Jey Projects' work to support Tibetan monks, nuns and children living in exile in India through his visits to Geelong in 2002 and 2007, and from many visits Geshe Sonam has made to India over the years. During this visit Geshe Sonam took the opportunity to apprise His Holiness of NJP's activities and provide him with comprehensive data on the support provided to Tibetans exiles during NJP's 22-year existence.

The Dalai Lama, as always, expressed his sincere gratitude to all our sponsors for their generosity, and to the people who have contributed to managing the organisation. He encouraged us all to continue this important compassionate work.



Current Sponsorship Statistics

4-Dec-2023	Sponsored	Seeking	TOTAL
Students	163	6	169
Nuns	79	4	83
Monks	137	67	204
TOTAL	379	77	456



**The President and Committee
of Nying-Jey Projects
for Tibetan Communities (Australia)**
sincerely wish to extend our sincere thanks
to all **NJP** sponsors
for their generosity in supporting the **NJP**
mission over so many years.
To one and all
a very **Happy Christmas and Holiday Season**



**And very best wishes for a
safe, healthy and prosperous 2024**



Visit to Sambhota Tibetan School Society Headquarters

by Dr Darren Fahroedin

Representing Nying-Jey Projects (NJP), Geshe Sonam and I had the opportunity to connect with the Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society (STSS), our partners in India for our student sponsorship program. The STSS is run under the guidance of the Central Tibetan Administration's Department of Education.



We met at the STSS office in Dharamsala with Tsering Dhondup, Director, and Tenzin Norphel, student sponsorship coordinator.

We also met several of the STSS team including accountant, manager, IT/media officer and internal auditor. It became clear it was a well-structured team with excellent systems of governance.

Both Geshe Sonam and Tsering Dhondup took time to share the history, vision, and workings of each organisation as well as some of the areas where NJP could potentially further assist the schools and the students into the future.

We then visited the adjacent STSS Petoen School (students from Years 4-10) and met with the principal, Lekshey Nima.



This visit was truly heart-warming. It left me pondering what the world might look like if we were all raised with the principles not only written for all to see but embodied by the principal and teachers and reflected in the eyes of the students.

The school's sign reads: *'My hope and wish is that one day, formal education will pay attention to what I call "education of the heart." Just as we take for granted the need to acquire proficiency in the basic academic subjects, I am hopeful that a time will come when we can take it for granted that children will learn, as part of the curriculum, the indispensability of inner values: love, compassion, justice, and forgiveness.'*

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama – Tenzin Gyatso 2011

The NJP President and Vice-president spend time with students at STS Petoen



Geshe Sonam had the opportunity to provide an update on NJP activities to His Holiness the Dalai Lama two days later, which was met with enthusiastic encouragement to continue the excellent work supporting Tibetans in exile in India.

About STS Petoen ~ Mewoen Tsuglag Petoen School

This school was established in 2005 by the Central Tibetan Administration's Department of Education as a model school for the implementation of Basic Education Policy for Tibetans in exile.

The school endeavours to follow and practise the policy not only for teaching and learning purposes but also to give holistic education to the children. To develop a firm foundation of Tibetan language, all the subjects are taught in Tibetan from Pre-primary to class III. Teaching of English as a second language and Hindi as third language starts in class IV and class VI respectively. Active participation of children in classroom proceedings is encouraged to ensure child-centric teaching and-learning. This helps students to express their views without fear, and also fosters the full flowering of inherent qualities of the children.

Teaching of Tibetan culture and tradition helps them to have good grasp of their own culture and identity, which will enable them also to appreciate the culture of other people.



Nying-Jey Projects Annual General Meeting

The NJP AGM was held at 625 Nortons Rd Parapara on Tues 28 November. Reports were presented by the President and Treasurer, and an election was held to select the NJP committee for 2023-24.

The President's annual report to the meeting

NJP currently sponsors 137 monks at Sera Jey and Drepung monasteries, 79 nuns at Jangchub Choeling nunnery and 163 children in 21 schools in India in conjunction with the Department of Education of the Tibetan Government in Exile.

For Nying-Jey Projects, the 2022-23 was a much more settled year than the one before. The difficulties of restarting sponsorships for children and nuns behind us, the sponsorship program ran smoothly without too many problems.

Another issue that became easier was sending sponsorship payments to India. India government regulations for transferring money became very tight in 2022, but we have been able to work around these issues and get the payments to our beneficiaries without obstacles.

I want to say on behalf of Tibetan people a huge thank you to all sponsors for continuing to help our monks, nuns and children in exile in India. This support is so important. And a huge thank you to our dedicated committee, who volunteer their time and skills to keep the sponsorship program running.

Recently I was able to meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India where I presented a report on NJP, and gave him a statement showing that over 5 million Australian dollars had been provided to Tibetans in Tibet and India by our programs since NJP started in 2002. His Holiness expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Tibetan people and said he would dedicate prayers for the sponsors who gave so generously and for all those people who had worked for NJP.

In the coming year, the major focus will continue to be providing more support for monks to improve the conditions for them living and studying in the monasteries.

Thank you everyone for a very successful year. Robert Tan - President

Election of committee

All committee members were elected unopposed to continue working for NJP in their same roles.

Elected to NJP Committee 2023-24

President - Robert Tan [Geshe Sonam Thargye]

Treasurer - Peter Jost

Vice-president - Dr Darren Fahroedin

Secretary - Kristin Aitken

General Committee – Cheryl Hopwood (Sponsor Liaison), Helen McKenzie (minute secretary)

Jangchub Choeling Nunnery *an educational institution for women who pursue the study of Buddhist Scripture.*

Sponsors of Nuns at Jangchub Choeling Nunnery recently received news of their sponsored nuns and many received new photos and messages from their nun. NJP hopes this brought joy to all our nun sponsors.

These four JCN nuns are very hopeful of finding sponsors through NJP.



JCN085 LOBSANG CHOEDON aged 53 from Kham in Tibet entered JCN in 2002. She has completed 18 years of her Buddhist studies and is now busily engaged in preparing for her Geluk examinations. Your generosity in sponsoring Lobsang Choedon through her spiritual journey would be greatly appreciated.



JCN086 PALDEN SANGMO is 32 and comes from Ladakh. She arrived at JCN in 2003 to take up studies of Buddhist Philosophy. Her family are farmers working land in the Himalaya region in north India. She would be most grateful for the support of a kind sponsor to help her on her spiritual journey.

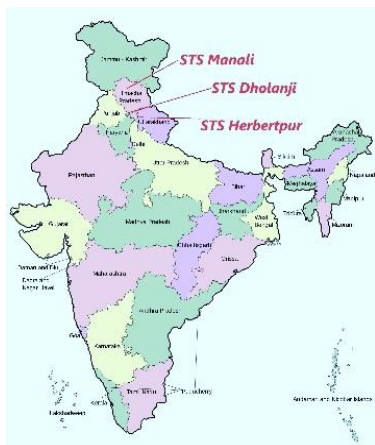
JCN055 TENZIN PALDON, 33, is from Northern India (Himachal Pradesh). She entered Jangchub Choeling Nunnery in 2011. She has completed three years of logic studies in logic and is currently studying in 6th year of prajna paramita.



JCN056 LOBSANG DOLMA, 25, is from Zangkar in Ladakh. She joined Jangchub Choeling Nunnery in 2011. She has completed three years of studies in logic and is currently in year six of the prajna paramita.



Sambhota Tibetan Schools Update



Students from three new schools - STS Dholanji, STS Manali and STS Herbertpur - have been included in the NJP sponsorship program, taking to 21 the number of different schools across India with NJP sponsorships.

STS Dholanji

STS Dholanji began as a single teacher primary school with 20 students in 1967, set up to educate the children of Tibetan refugees of Phuntsokling settlement in a remote region of Himachal Pradesh. The school population is now over 330 students from year 1 to 12.



As well as a broad curriculum in maths, science, humanities and the arts, the students participate enthusiastically in various co-curricular activities such as interhouse competitions in cultural dance, poetry recitation, quiz, debate, creative writing, painting, games and sports.





STS Manali

STS Manali is located on the bank of River Beas at Rangri, 4 km away from Manali town in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. It is a primary school of 61 children with 7 teaching and 6 non-teaching staff.

From humble beginnings in a tent set up by Tibetan road-construction workers as a nursery school with 20 children and a teacher, STS Manali now has a modern complex with classrooms, library, sports room, dance and music room, activity room, a projector room, three Montessori classrooms, and a hall.



STS Herbertpur

STS Herbertpur began as a primary school in 1970 in the town of Chakrata, a small hilly town in Dehradun district in the state of Uttarakhand. The school was founded primarily to provide quality education to the children of Tibetan army personnel serving in the special frontier force (SFF) of the Indian army.

It was later upgraded to junior secondary level and then to senior secondary school and relocated to Herbertpur town in 1980.

The school has classes from standard I to XII. The children in classes I-5 receive instruction in Tibetan and from 6-12 in English.



Sera Jey Monastery ~ Next Generation - Novice Monks Program
Can you help find sponsors for these young novice monks at Sera Jey Monastery?

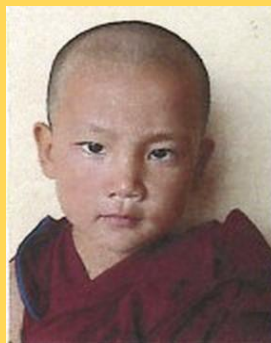
Recently **Sera Jey Monastery School** experienced an influx of youngsters joining the monastery. The boys, all aged between 5 and 10 years of age, came from the Himalaya regions of India or Nepal. Sera Jey school has asked for help to support these little monks through the NJP sponsorship program.



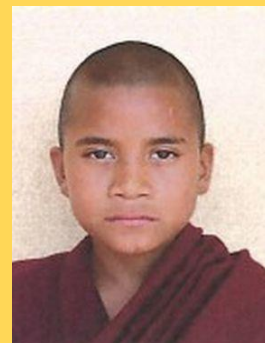
Phuntsok Namgyal
M529



Jangchu Tsering
M530



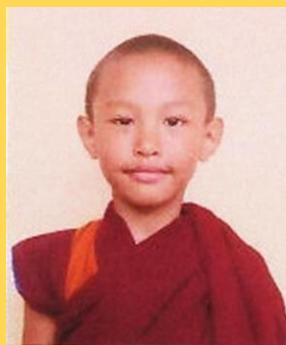
Jambey Tashi
M531



Amrit Syangtan
M532

For aspiring young monks and their families - in Tibetan culture - the tradition is to enter the monastery at about 7 years of age. During their early years, they are usually placed in the care of a senior monk or a relative who is also a monk eg uncle, older brother, cousin.

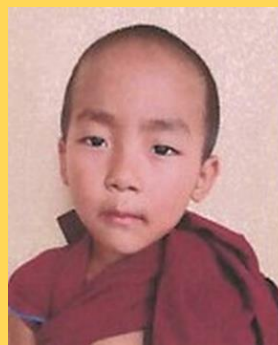
The novice monks live-in at the Sera Jey School and spend the next 12 or so years receiving an education - secular as well as religious - and being immersed in aspects of their Tibetan culture. In their late teens they will have the opportunity to take full ordination thus remaining in the monastic community to continue their Buddhist studies, or to leave the monastery to seek their fortunes in the secular world.



Rinchen Dawa
M533



Panma Dorje
M534



Chetan Bhutia
M535



Tsering Wangdak
M536

For sponsorship of these junior monks, contact NJP sponsor liaison Cheryl Hopwood at njprojects@gmail.com. The NJP website will soon feature more photos of youngsters at Sera Monastery looking for sponsorship in this Novice Monks Program.



Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc. 625 Nortons Rd Paraprap VIC 3240.
Website: www.njp.org.au; Email: njprojects@gmail.com

Nying-Jey Projects is a not-for-profit, non-political organisation managed by an elected committee of dedicated volunteers. The organisation pays no wages, rents, or commissions, enabling it to maximise the impact of your sponsorships.