Message from the Executive Director

It is with immense satisfaction and gratitude that I report on our achievements this year. As of January 2010, the Tibetan Aid Project has helped send a grand total of almost 3 million sacred texts for distribution at the World Peace Ceremony in Bodh Gaya.

I am greatly heartened by the progress we have made in our efforts to preserve and rebuild the Tibetan heritage. Our offerings have inspired the building of libraries, helped raise the level of education nuns can achieve, and increased literacy among laypeople, especially women. Because of our efforts and the magnanimity of our donors, a brighter future is possible for Tibetan refugees.

Of course, life is still difficult for most people in the refugee communities. Obtaining shelter, food, and clothing takes most of their resources. Restoring the texts and sacred objects necessary to carry on their traditions is beyond the financial abilities and capacities of most communities. That is why we help. There is still so much we can do to help preserve their unique and profound heritage.

We can be grateful that we have come so far. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful supporters. It is only through your help and generosity that we are able to accomplish so much, and it is only with your continued support that we can strive for an even better future.

Blessings and thanks,

Rosalyn White

Board Members

Tarthang Tulku
Wangmo Dixey
Pema Gellek
Tsering Gellek
Jack Petranker
Rosalyn White
• Funding the production of sacred texts, art, and prayer wheels for donation to institutions and individuals in the Himalayan region.

• Shipping and distributing sacred texts, art, and prayer wheels for donation to Tibetans throughout the region.

• Sponsoring ceremonies important to sustaining the lineages of all Tibetan Buddhist schools.

• Providing financial support for monastic centers, lamas, monks, nuns, and laypeople in the refugee communities.

• Promoting awareness of Tibet’s heritage in the West through publications, presentations, exhibits, films, and the production and sale of culturally significant items.

The Tibetan Aid Project rebuilds, preserves, strengthens, and perpetuates Tibet’s cultural and spiritual heritage for the benefit of the Tibetan people and all humanity.
When tens of thousands of Tibetans were forced to flee their country in 1959, they lost more than a physical home: they lost a major part of their heritage. Many sacred texts and manuscripts were destroyed during the invasion; many of those that were saved deteriorated because they could not be properly cared for. This loss has been a devastating blow for a culture so deeply rooted in spiritual teachings. Bereft of the precious writings and art that formed the foundation of their culture, the refugees faced a future in which their way of life might vanish forever.

Although they have made great strides in recent years, Tibetan refugees still need outside help to cope with the enormous challenge of continuing their cultural heritage.

Fortunately, the Tibetan Aid Project and our sister organizations remain committed to restoring and rebuilding Tibetan culture. Through the production and distribution of sacred texts, art, and prayer wheels, the Tibetan Aid Project plays an essential role in the restoration of a beautiful and irreplaceable heritage, a resource of infinite value for all humanity.
OFFERINGS AT THE 21st WORLD PEACE CEREMONY

Thousands of Tibetan refugees gathered at Bodh Gaya, India on January 2010 for the annual World Peace Ceremony, where they received copies of sacred texts they might never have been able to acquire without the help of the Tibetan Aid Project.

This year 400,000 books were distributed, including 1,000 complete sets of the Narthang Kangyur (direct teachings of the Buddha) and Tangyur (commentaries by the great Buddhist masters of India). Before this remarkable distribution, these texts were extremely difficult and expensive to obtain. Now, the wisdom that they contain can reach countless Dharma practitioners and help Tibetan culture flourish.

Over the span of 21 years, the Tibetan Aid Project has helped send nearly 3 million books, 4.3 million art prints, and 120,000 prayer wheels to Tibetan refugees. Monks, nuns, and laypeople alike are reaping the benefits of these gifts.
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to sending and distributing books in India, the Tibetan Aid Project also works to educate the Western world about Tibetan culture and spread awareness of the need for world peace. Toward this end, the Tibetan Aid Project sponsored a number of educational activities throughout the year.

Among these was a photograph exhibit in San Francisco. From March to May, the Tibetan Aid Project co-sponsored *Meditations on Tibet*, featuring the work of New York photographer Greg Hale. These beautiful photographs depicting the people and landscapes of Tibet offered a rare opportunity for audiences to become acquainted with the vanishing Tibetan way of life.

Another exciting event was held in October, when the Tibetan Aid Project joined Berkeley Ironworks and filmmaker Lance Trumbull to host a screening of *Everest: A Climb for Peace*. The film’s message of overcoming cultural differences to achieve great goals resonates with the Tibetan Aid Project’s mission.

SUPPORT FOR MONKS & NUNS

The Tibetan Aid Project also provides direct financial support for monasteries, monks, and nuns, who for thousands of years have been the foundation of the Tibetan civilization. Their efforts to rebuild are essential to keeping the unique and valuable spiritual tradition of Tibet alive.

In 2009 the Tibetan Aid Project spent $8,467 supporting the monastic institutions and individual monks and nuns.
2009 Financial Summary

Functional Expenses ($540,482)

- Program services were $405,840 and accounted for 75% of total expenses.
- Total fundraising expenses were $78,906 and accounted for 15% of total expenses.
- Total administrative expenses were $55,736 and accounted for 10% of total expenses.

Funding Sources

- Total revenues and support were $408,167.
- Contributions from individuals accounted for 78% of income.
- Event-related income such as ticket and auction item sales generated 22% of income, not including pledges to the Fund-A-Library campaign.

Balance Sheet

- Change in net assets: $132,315
- Net assets at beginning of year: $250,153
- Net Assets at end of year: $117,838

Tibetan Aid Project and its affiliates are 100% volunteer organizations, which means staff wages are not part of program service expenditures.
Opened in the fall of 2009, Mangalam Centers is an institution created to foster the study and translation of Tibetan Buddhist texts. Besides the Tibetan Aid Project, the following organizations also operate at Mangalam Centers:

**Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages**, est. 2007, develops skills and strategies for finding the best translation equivalents of Buddhist texts in contemporary English and other Western languages.

**Nyingma Trust**, est. 2008, gathers savings to ensure that the community of devoted Dharma practitioners can continue their study and practice of the teachings of the Nyingma tradition. Also creates prayer flags to continue the ancient tradition of hanging “wind horses” to promote peace, strength, wisdom, and compassion.

**Light of Buddha Dharma Foundation International**, est. 2002, supports pilgrimages and religious ceremonies, and sponsors educational programs and events at holy sites.

**Dharma Publishing Bookstore**, est. 1971, sells Dharma books, Jataka tales, prayer flags, prayer wheels, singing bowls, and sacred art.

**Guna Foundation**, est. 2009, preserves historical and ongoing archival footage, and produces film documentaries, videos, photographic essays, and books.

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