Starting February 14th, Tibetans will bid farewell to the Year of the Earth Ox and usher in the Year of the Iron Tiger. As the saying goes in Tibetan, “Losar lesar!” or “New year means new work!” While Tibetans prepare for Losar celebrations, we will be busy carrying forward the Tibetan Aid Project mission: preserving, rebuilding and perpetuating Tibetan culture in the year ahead.

Thanks to your generosity, Tibetan Aid Project and its sister organizations once again had the opportunity this January to participate in the Annual World Peace Ceremony, ten days of celebration that unite Tibetans in support of world peace. Over 10,000 lamas, nuns, monks and lay practitioners assembled in Bodh Gaya to pray for peace and the well-being of all humanity. Your donations over the years have enabled TAP to distribute over 3 million books, 120,000 prayer wheels and 4.3 million art prints. This year, we distributed 400,000 sacred books, our second highest shipment ever, including 1,000 complete sets of the Narthang Kanjur (the direct teachings of the Buddha), and Tanjur (commentaries by realized masters). This kind of mass distribution is unprecedented. It will help Buddhist communities world-wide keep the lineage of realization alive.

One of our volunteers spoke to a monk participating in the World Peace Ceremony. “I have come here every year,” he said, “to collect the sacred texts and take them back to...
my monastery. Now our students have the materials they need to understand our tradition and serve our community. It’s like a miracle!”

Stories like this one warm our hearts, and we hope they touch you also. Producing and shipping a single book costs just $7.50. For that amount, we can enrich the lives of others and revitalize an ancient and precious culture. We can encourage literacy, help hold communities together, and provide countless people with access to education and spiritual growth. What a rare and beautiful opportunity!

Since 1969 we have worked to preserve Tibetan culture, touching the lives of Tibetans everywhere and ensuring that the wisdom of Tibet remains alive in this troubled world. Recently we celebrated our 40th anniversary by moving into a new, permanent home in downtown Berkeley. Now our full-time volunteers can do even more to share with you the beauty of Tibetan culture and the joy that comes with giving.

Your compassion empowers people world-wide and breathes new life into the threatened cultural traditions of Tibet. A Tibetan woman at the World Peace Ceremony put it simply, with a happy laugh and a broad smile: “Our culture is coming back!” Every one of our supporters plays a role in this renewal. On behalf of the TAP Board and staff, I offer you our sincere thanks and appreciation for your generous and continual support. We invite you to visit us at our new offices, tour our display of photographs, learn more about our current projects, and help us commemorate our forty years of service to the Tibetan community. If you let us know in advance, we invite you to join us for lunch.

From everyone at Tibetan Aid Project, we wish you and your family joy, abundance and good health in the new year. Happy Losar!

Rosalyn White
Executive Director

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