



VAJRA VIDYA FOUNDATION CANADA



Dear Friends of Vajra Vidya Foundation Canada,
We have delayed sending out the spring newsletter to keep you informed as to the earthquake and subsequent news from Tibet. We need to let our supporters know about the increases in the sponsorship fees and to share some news stories, both good and sad, of Rinpoche's projects.

It is time to renew sponsorships for SMD and SMDBS students.

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed!

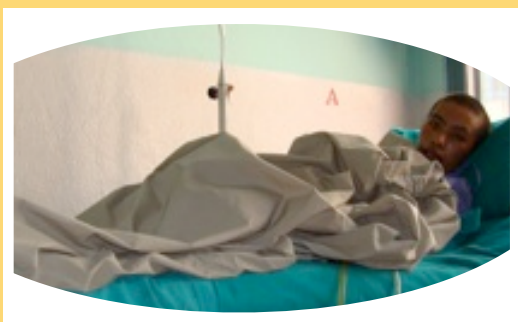
Sponsorship Fees

2010/2011

The new school year in Nepal began April 19th. Shree Mangal Dvip found it necessary to raise boarding student fees by \$10.00 for this year. SMDBS (Branch school) fees have been lowered \$15.00. This reduction in fees is the first in our history!

Revised Sponsorship fees for 2010/2011 school year:

Boarding Student	\$820
Day Student	\$335
School Monk	\$570
Monk	\$240
Shedra monk	\$600
Nun	\$240



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" **Nelson Mandela**

News from Tara Abbey

During Himalayan Childrens Fund president Debra Ann Robinson's visit to Nepal, Ani Thinley Wangmo of Tara Abbey was hospitalized in Kathmandu. Ani Thinley had been cooking for the nuns in three year retreat in Manang when she became ill and was brought to Kathmandu. There, she was looked after by several nuns and visited by Thrangu Rinpoche.

Two operations involving her large and small intestines did not lead to full recovery and recent communications from Tara Abbey have informed us that Thinley Wangmo has died. Her illness and death have impacted the nuns and they are doing pujas on her behalf.

The nuns are asking for help to cover the hospital bills which were nearly \$1,400.00 USD after one week, and now have more than doubled. The funds the nunnery has on hand for medical expenses is minimal and not enough to cover hospital stays and surgeries. Donations can be made to the Vajra Vidya Foundation to cover the current bills and to build a reserve for future emergencies.



From Thrangu Rinpoche April 15, 2010



Jyekundo in Tibet had a monastery for the study of texts and philosophy and a primary school. Also "a retreat center for the practice of the Six Yogas of Naropa was built where monks engaged in practice. Another retreat center for the practice of the deities who purify the lower realms, Sarvavid Vairochana and Protector Akshobhya, had been restored and retreatants were doing the practices of those deities. A Mahakala retreat center was built during the time of Karmapa Thekchok Dorje

(1798-1868) and contained a statue

of Mahakala. Here, daily practices had been held for many generations. In addition, there was a large new temple where daily services were held.

Now there has been the terrible earthquake in Jyekundo, Qinghai, and these structures have all been ruined. Additionally, many monks have passed away in the earthquake. This is a great tragedy and a great obstacle. Please think of this and make good prayers on the behalf of all those who passed away. If you gather merit by helping with the relief and restoration, it will be helpful for the world in general and in particular prevent the Dharma from disappearing. It is important that the lineage of teaching and practice not wane: Without a lineage of teaching and practice, the Dharma would perish.

Read the letter from Rinpoche at <http://rinpoche.com/earthquake/Statement.htm>

Donations for disaster relief for Thrangu Tashi Choling monastery, severely damaged in the earthquake on Wednesday April 14th, 2010 are being requested.

Send cheques to
Vajra Vidya Foundation

PO Box 46898 STN.D.

Vancouver, BC.

Canada V6J 5M4

email: gkbs@shaw.ca

or

You can also make a secure on-line donation on **CanadaHelps**.

Select **FUND/DESIGNATION** General category and note "Rebuild/Relief of Thrangu Monastery in Tibet" in the Message/instructions box.





Miles Campaign a Success!

In October and November 2009, [Schools Without Borders](#) had a campaign with Aeroplan to raise airmiles to help youth travel worldwide. They offered to share some of these miles with SMD School. Warm thanks to all of you who donated. We raised almost **400 000** miles helping 4 SMDers who don't have funding to get to their scholarship placements abroad.

JAIME HACKETT FROM SWB SAYS, "THESE AEROPLAN MILES ARE GOING TO HELP CHANGE LIVES FOREVER."



Tsewang Bhuti is graduating this May from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. Congratulations for all your hard work!!!!

Reasons to move SMD School.

There are many reasons for moving SMD School to the countryside:

- **Earthquake risk** - according to various studies, Kathmandu is listed in danger of a catastrophic earthquake within 40 years. The disaster in China brings it closer to home. We must move soon!
- **Overcrowding** - with more than 620 kids in the main school nowadays, we are extremely crowded, and have had to rent four flats outside the school compound to accommodate the overflow of students
- **Long wait-list** - there are hundreds of children on the waiting list that will never get an education unless we admit them
- **Water shortages in Kathmandu Valley** - we drilled a new well three years ago (cost \$20,000 USD) and didn't hit water until we'd reached 165 m. This summer, the well ran dry.
- **Pollution and lack of safety** - which is particularly an issue in Boudha.

Rinpoche's vision is a school that is 'green', that runs on biofuel and solar power and where we can grow fruit and vegetables. We will continue to recycle rainwater (80% of the rainfall comes in three months) and will also continue to compost and recycle.

Rinpoche's idea is to build a school out in the country, earthquake-safe, and purpose-built, in a place where the children will have enough room to play and where we will have enough room to offer Grades 11 & 12, and more room for new admissions.

Thanks to all of the generous participants at the Building Fund Fall Fundraiser in Toronto

last November.

Brittany Trumper and **Tanya Kololian** organized a marvelous event with silent auction, traditional style Nepali food, and fun for all. Dolma Tsering, Tashi Dolma (on scholarship at Bishop Strachan School), Nangsal (Appleby), Dawa Tashi (Humber College) and Susie & Vahan Kololian who hosted the event. The total raised was more than **\$20,000!!**

Way to GO!!

"Kudos to: Michael Matthews, Principal, his staff, and the Board at ICS Zurich, for their unwavering belief in SMD. Over the years, ICSZ has sent a dozen of their crackerjack teachers to SMD, to help our teachers upgrade and modernize instruction. ICSZ offers 2 scholarships + full support, including home stays every year. The ICSZ community also sponsors 40 boarders. With all this support, the 4 SMDers studying at ICSZ are flourishing!" Shirley Blair, Director of SMD School



NAMO BUDDHA MEDICAL CLINIC



Beds recently purchased.



Uma, Clinical Medical Assistant



Dental Clinic

Dr. John Barnhill states, "The nidus of positivity that informs our decisions and invigorates all our work is the inspirations and wise advice of Rinpoche. I feel extremely fortunate to be able to work under such enlightened guidance and he has been strongly supportive of all our medical and health endeavours. We have been blessed by his great aspiration in many ways. One is the generous offerings that flow from those who recognize his vision and widely beneficial activities."

THANKS TO: Lama Yonten, the fine leader of the clinic. **Wanchuk Raptan**, a full time student in Health fields and In Charge of SMD School Clinic! **Uma Adhikari**, a local Community Medical Assistant and a skilled clinician bridging gender and culture gaps. **Dr. Lodro** from who generously offered Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture services for **5 months**. **Carrie Quilley, Jorgen Studsgaard, Meagan Cooper, Michael Vanderlee, Shari Sunshine, Miki Giffune, Dr. John, Dr. Dawn, Dr. Ben, Dr Patricia, Dr Cameron Bopp, and Dr's Christa and Michael Mindrum** for the generous clinical care and teaching support. **Roxanne Felix** and **Barb Sinclair** coordinating medical efforts. All generous supporters. in particular the **Gander Newfoundland Rotary Club** and **The Swedish-Tibetan Society for Education and Culture**, sincere warm gratitude from our patients and staff!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS *some of them

In addition to running a clinic three times per week, there were dental clinics and a Japanese-Nepal collaboration eye camp which performed many essential vision operations and supplied local folks and monks with corrective eye wear. Connections have been established with the local health care post in nearby Shampathi. *thranguhk.org/project_clinic1 or rinpoche.com/clinic

*Look for more NB news in the next issue!!!

Make a secure donation through
**Canada
Helps**



Contact us by regular mail

**PO Box 46898 STN.D.
Vancouver, BC. Canada
V6J 5M4**

by email:
gkbs@shaw.ca

Vajra Vidya Foundation

Vajra Vidya Foundation is a Canadian registered charity which functions as the fundraising organization for Nammo Buddha Foundation, a registered Canadian charitable organization founded by Thrangu Rinpoche to undertake charitable projects such as providing food, clothing and simple medical care and education to the poor children of the Himalayan region and support of the abbey, monasteries, schools, free clinics, retreat centres and monastic colleges in Nepal, India and Tibet.

Public Foundation #888437621 RR 0001

VVF is totally operated by volunteers and has no paid staff.
98% of all funds received go directly to the projects overseas and to the children
YOU support.

vajravidyacanada.org