



# VAJRA VIDYA FOUNDATION CANADA



**WELCOME to our Dear Friends and Supporters, Donors and Sponsors!**

Our prayers go to the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami.  
May they be quickly be relieved of suffering.

## A Note From Thrangu Rinpoche March 2011

Many of our friends from Canada have been very generous to the Vajra Vidya Foundation. This has been a great help for all of the different activities it supports, from the Shree Mangal Dvip School to the Thrangu Tara Abbey Nunnery and the Thrangu Tashi Choling Monastery. I would like to thank all of you for your help in the past and encourage you to continue sponsoring our monks, nuns, and schoolchildren in the future. This is something that will benefit both yourself and others greatly.

Vajra Vidya Foundation Canada is proud to support  
**2011 North American Kagyu Monlam**  
at Thrangu Monastery, Richmond, BC  
**June 22-26, 2011**

Kagyu Centres from across Canada will be creating an exciting, inviting event so *"we can spread, at times of great need, the genuine spirit of love and compassion to all the people of the world, like a great ripple, first in Bodhgaya, then in Bihar, and so on."*

*His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa.*

"North American Kagyu Monlam provides people of the world an opportunity to generate loving-kindness and compassion through aspirational prayers."

**Volunteers are needed in all areas to make a successful event as many people are expected to come to Richmond.**

Contact: [kagyumonlam@thrangumonastery.org](mailto:kagyumonlam@thrangumonastery.org)  
for more information and to help out.

The Monlam will be followed by  
**"Nagarjuna's Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way" July 1 to 10 by V.V Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche**

Go to the Thrangu Monastery website or call  
(778) 297-6010

***It is time to renew sponsorships for SMD and SMDBS students. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed!***

## Sponsorship Fees 2010 / 2011

**Shree Mangal Dvip (SMD) Boarding School school year goes from May to May.  
*SMD rates will be rising but old rates will apply until June.*  
Sponsorship fees for 2011/2012 year**

Boarding Student	\$820
Day Student	\$335
School Monk	\$570
Monk	\$240
Shedra monk	\$600
Nun	\$240
School Nun	\$480



Rinpoche with nuns from Tara Abbey in Sitapaila, Nepal.



Khenpo Karma Drodul has been teaching Buddhist philosophy, Tibetan Grammar and composition to the nuns at the Shedra at Thrangu Tara Abbey for the last three years

Tara Abbey near Kathmandu has over 230 girls and women studying Buddhist scriptures and secular studies at SMD Boarding School. Thrangu Rinpoche had long held the intention to establish a centre for women to make available the full range of monastic, liturgical, philosophical and meditation training that is available to monks. The Thrangu Tara Abbey Blog states: At present there are four other Nun teachers who are teaching the nuns at the shedra. All

four of them have done their Shastri degree from the University of Higher Buddhist Studies in Sarnath, Varanasi, U.P. India. They are now teaching at the shedra and studying for their private Acharya examinations at the same university. They are Ani Karma Dolma, Ani Chungta, Ani Tenzin Sangmo and Ani Phuntsok Dolma.

53 nuns are studying in shedra at Tara Abbey. They study late into the night and could use better

lighting. **We are hoping for solar powered headlamps.**



### Environmental Goals at Thrangu Tara Abbey:

Following the First Meeting of Environment Conservation in Varanasi, in accordance with H.H The Karmapa's wishes, we formed the goal to put more effort to improve environment, and this precious human life is not doing mere lip service for the welfare of other beings, but practically benefiting all living things following the immeasurable grace of His Holiness's compassionate mind. The method is through knowing and following Buddhism and science. We pray for the world's improvement. That is our prime goal. We have set up a recycling program and waste segregation for our kitchens. We are also now making our own cloth bags so that our nuns don't use plastic bags when shopping. We are also better managing water and are setting up a water harvesting activity.



## SMD Teachers Project

In January and February, 2011, an amazing group from London, Ontario, put on a **fundraiser** for SMD to educate teachers to return to their remote villages. Eileen Parker and Mary Lou Greenwood brought Shirley Blair, SMD Director, from Nepal to speak to two groups, The Church of St Jude and the London Hunt and Country Club, joined by two former students, Dawa Tashi and Tashi Dolma, now studying in Canada. **More than \$22, 000 was raised which will help 4 students to study and then teach for two years!!** Warm thanks to all of you who donated and to the dedicated people who created this amazing event.

**YOU CAN CREATE AN EVENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY TOO!!  
PICK A PROJECT, ORGANIZE A FUNDRAISER, AND HELP RINPOCHE HELP KIDS!!**

*For some ideas, go to our  
Wish List Page  
[vajravidyacanada.org/wish-list.php](http://vajravidyacanada.org/wish-list.php)*

### Update on Nubri School

At the beginning of August, two SMD students, Tashi Chodon B322, and Pasang Lhamo B309, trekked back to their village (Lhi) in Nubri. They have gone there to teach Nubri kids in their own language. They report that the children don't have notebooks, pencils, erasers and sharpeners. And ... there isn't any furniture in the classrooms and the students need to sit on the wooden floor which will be very cold during winter time.

READ MORE: GO TO  
[READING ANGELS REPORT](#)

## STUDENTS ABROAD

There are more than 30 students from SMD studying abroad. They are in IB programs, private high schools, United World Colleges and universities.

### Universities

Westminster College  
St. Lawrence University:  
College of Idaho  
Trent University  
Skidmore College  
Simon Fraser  
Salve Regina University

Fulton, Missouri, US  
Canton, NY, US  
Caldwell, ID, US  
Peterborough, ON, CAN  
Saratoga, NY, US  
Burnaby, BC, CAN  
Newport, RI

### High Schools

Atlanta International School, Atlanta, GA  
St. John's Kilmarnock School, Waterloo Ontario  
United World College of The Adriatic: Italy  
Red Cross Nordic United World College: Norway  
St. Julian's School: Portugal  
Appleby College: Oakville, ON, Canada  
Bishop Strachan School: Toronto ON Canada  
International Community School of Zurich: Switzerland  
Le Rosey School: Switzerland

**Each school community has come forward in unprecedented ways to provide support.**



SWISS  
STUDENTS

SMD IS PROUD TO HAVE 6 STUDENTS STUDYING IN SWITZERLAND.

SOME ARE AT SMD'S PARTNER SCHOOL, **ICS ZURICH** (INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL) AND OTHERS ARE AT **LE ROSEY SCHOOL** IN ROLLE. BOTH ARE **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE** PROGRAMMES, VERY DEMANDING FOR A NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKER SO EXTREMELY CHALLENGING FOR SMD'ERS. YET, THEY CAN HOLD THEIR OWN!! THEY ARE SO COMMITTED.

## EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

The danger of a Kathmandu disaster is real and frightening. World scientific studies predict a devastating earthquake to hit the city and relief efforts would be greatly hampered by poor infrastructure and building practices. We are accepting donations for the **SMD BUILDING FUND** to make sure the children have safe structures to protect them in a disaster.



# PHOTOS FROM NEPAL



NAMO BUDDHA MEDICAL CLINIC : solar powered, free, 7 days/week



DOLMA SHERPA - BEFORE

DOLMA SHERPA - AFTER



NUBRI HINANG MONASTERY -7 days walk from the road, 4000 m high - provides education for monks and a health clinic.

PING PONG AT SMD (note makeshift table)



**YOUR SUPPORT CREATES CHANGE!**

Make a secure donation through

**Canada Helps**



Contact us by regular mail

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

by email:

[info@vajravidyacanada.org](mailto:info@vajravidyacanada.org)

## Vajra Vidya Foundation

Vajra Vidya Foundation is a Canadian registered charity which functions as the fundraising organization for Namu Buddha Foundation, a registered Canadian charitable organization founded by Thrangun 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.  
97% of all funds received go directly to the projects overseas and to the children YOU support.

[vajravidyacanada.org](http://vajravidyacanada.org)