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Spring 2010 Issue

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JUNE 2010

Books & Beds at 14,000 feet

It was a beautiful evening on May 22, 2010 at Lake Forest Civic Club, which overlooks Lake Washington. Emcee Greg McGuire worked the crowd while Rendezvous serenaded guests. There was a slide show, delicious wine, Tibetan dumplings (momos) from Everest Kitchen and appetizers. Our first wine & silent auction raised approximately

\$5,000 USD. About fifty guests with 14 volunteers came together to support education and shelter for the orphan girls. The guests have the chance to learn about the children, the school VDF is sponsoring in Eastern Tibet, as well as Tibetan culture (and yaks!).



With your generosity, VDF continues to push for **equal opportunity** for educating girls at rural nomad villages. We believe all children should be given equal opportunity to learn and to reach their full potentials.

Thank You So Much for making VDF's first wine & silent auction a success. We could not have done it without the generosity of all donors, sponsors and volunteers.



2009/2010

A big **THANK YOU** to all the donors. A special thanks goes to an anonymous individual who has stepped up and matched dollar to dollar of donation received between Dec 1st, 2009 and Jan 31st, 2010. Because of your generos-

ity, VDF has raised approximately \$9,000 USD. A portion of it went to paying the 50% down payment in Jan this year for the girl school construction so woods can be ordered immediately. Woods will need few

Holiday Drive Result

months to dry and cure before it can be used for construction in early summer as soon as the frozen ground warmed up. You may follow the school construction updates by signing up to our emailing list at www.vdfus.org

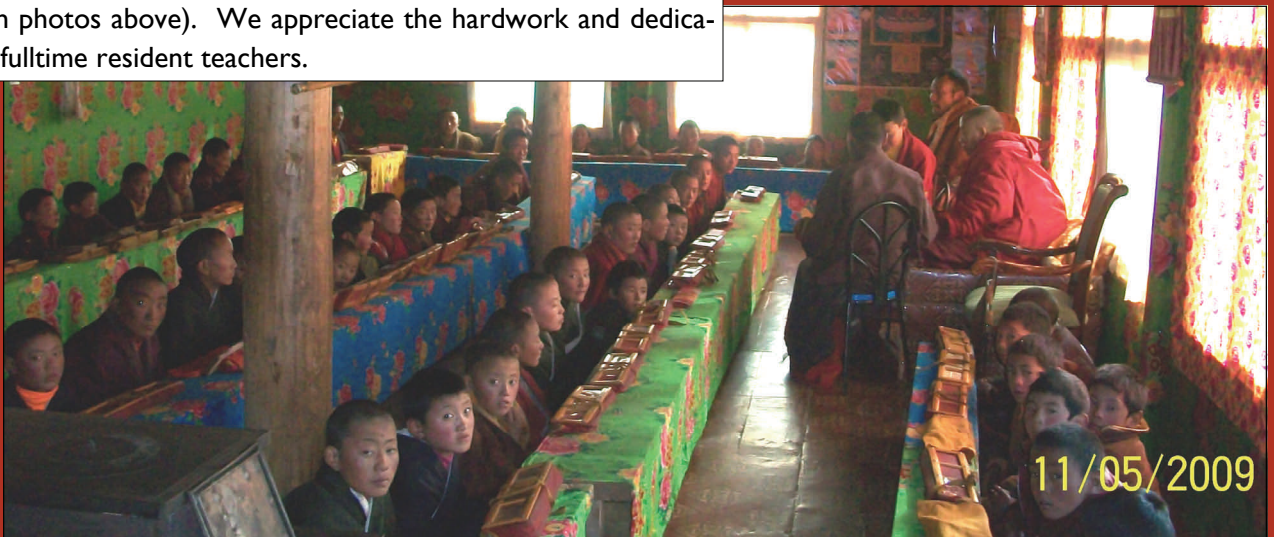


Pictures taken in Nov 2009 when delivery truck drove to school delivering dried food, clothing, shoes and socks. Pictures taken in Eastern Tibet, Kham.



Children Education Evaluation — Reading test in Nov 2009.

It has been one full year from school enrollment. The boys have finished all 30 Tibetan alphabets and 4 vowels. Sonam Rinpoche ensures a quality education to the kids. He stays abreast on their learning progress. Each kid took a reading test in Nov 2009 (as shown on photos above). We appreciate the hardwork and dedication of 2 fulltime resident teachers.



Bottom and middle right: Kids in multi-age classroom as all kids are learning the basic Tibetan language for the first time in their life.

New shoes & socks



It was like Christmas for all the 63 boys in the “Nga Gyur Shed Dup Choe Ling School” at Eastern Tibet when they

each received their first new pair of shoes, chuba (winter coat) and 2 pairs of socks in November 2009. Your generosity and compassion helped keep them warm for the entire year at high plateau of 14,000 feet. The shoes and sock drive were held in July (Bellevue Festival of Arts) and August 2009 (Tibet Fest).

Looking back 18 months ago (Fall 2008) funds were limited yet the buildings were able to be completed. VDF provided beddings and blankets



impossible to reach the village during the cold and long winter months. It's due to the dangerous driving on icy mountain road.



Top: Boys posing with their new coats, shoes and socks. Bottom: Chuba looks similar to “Harry Potter” outfit at a first glance

for all the children. We are thankful and continued to make progress in addition to providing warm clothing, shoes and socks to them finally.

Again in Nov 2009 we supplied a batch of dried food such as flour, rice dried noodle. They were sent at the same time as the shoes and socks to save on transportation cost. The dried food sent should last for 5 to 6 months as it will be almost



2009 Activities Led by Sonam Rinpoche in Seattle



Top row: Avalokitesvara Puja, Oct 3, 2009 at East West Book Shop, Seattle, WA

Bottom row: Black Zambala (the God of Wealth) Puja, Dec 5, 2009 at Sakya Monastery, Seattle WA.

Bottom Right: Fresh milk was used to shower the Black Zambala Tibetan Buddha.



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Vajrayana Dharma Foundation (VDF) Education - Roots to a Brighter Future

Mission: To provide a home and education opportunity for needy Tibetan children and seniors in Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (Eastern Tibet), China.

The project was initiated by **Sonam Rinpoche**, a native Tibetan, who was recognized as the reincarnation of Ahzom Losel Rinpoche by **H.H. 14th Dalai Lama** and H.H. Dordrubchan Rinpoche.

Rinpoche has earned the title “Khenpo”, which is equivalent to a Ph. D, after 18 years of Buddhism philosophy studies in Tibet and India.

To read more on Sonam Rinpoche, the school progress or how you can help, please go to our web site.

For questions, please email info@vdfus.org