



# Tibetan Aid Project



Annual Report  
2010-2011

# Message From the Executive Director



We would like to thank all of our supporters for helping to make this year such a wonderful, productive one for the Tibetan Aid Project. With the help of generous people like you, TAP has helped support education and literacy in the Tibetan refugee communities throughout Asia. Over the years, we have helped print and give away a total of more than 3 million books. What a number!

And what wonderful effects these books are having -- not only helping Tibetans continue their culture, but also ushering in an unprecedented era of literacy, especially for women. Laypeople and their children are learning to read in unprecedented numbers, and monks and nuns have access to books that have never before been available. These books are forming the

foundation of libraries everywhere in the region, from major institutions to tiny villages in the mountains.

Though this report focuses on TAP's accomplishments of 2010 and 2011, I would like to take this opportunity to mention some exciting programs that are taking place in 2012, as TAP continues to grow and evolve. From May through June 2012, we are thrilled to be having an exhibit of photographer Greg Hale's work in St. Helena, CA. *Meditations on Tibet* will feature stunning photographs depicting the people and landscapes of Tibet, offering a rare opportunity for audiences to become acquainted with this vanishing way of life.

Another program we are excited about is Healing, Mindfulness & Compassion: A Retreat Uniting Eastern & Western Approaches to Healing, first held in 2010 with very successful results. We are continuing with annual retreats that will delve deeper into the subject of combining Tibetan healing techniques with Western practices. We hope that these retreats will bring some of the ancient healing traditions of Tibet to the modern world through the practices of the doctors and other healing professionals who take part in them.



Finally, I would like to express what an honor it is to be the new executive director of Tibetan Aid Project. I will be starting my term in January 2012, having worked with the group of non-profit organizations started by Tarthang Tulku for 42 years and with TAP for 19. Rosalyn White and I have worked together for many of these years and we are happy that she will remain a member of the board of directors as she moves on to leading the Sacred Art Project with one of our affiliated organizations.

TAP has grown so much over the past 40 years, and I am happy to have taken part in its evolution. With the help of our generous supporters, TAP and the precious Tibetan culture have a brighter future to look forward to. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and invite you to join us in continuing to build a better future for Tibetans and for all humanity.

Blessings and best regards,

*Judy Rasmussen*

Judy Rasmussen  
Executive Director



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Wangmo Dixey  
Pema Gellek  
Tsering Gellek  
Jack Petranker  
Rosalyn White

# *Why is the Tibetan Aid Project Needed?*



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, and many of those that were saved deteriorated because of climate changes. 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 affiliated 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.

# *Tibetan Aid Project Programs*

- ✪ **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.
- ✪ **Promoting awareness** of Tibet's heritage in the West through publications, presentations, exhibits, films, and the production and sale of culturally significant items.



## *2010-2011 Accomplishments*

In January 2011, close to **15,000** monks, nuns and laypeople traveled from throughout Asia to attend the annual World Peace Ceremony at Bodh Gaya, India. Participants from over **3,300** monasteries, villages and retreat centers, many thousands of miles away, came to the holy site to receive important books and to make prayers for world peace.

The Tibetan Aid Project has helped support one of the largest book distribution projects in history. Over the span of 22 years, TAP has helped to give away more than **3 million** books, **3 million** sacred art prints and over **140,000** prayer wheels. This year alone, TAP distributed over **185,000** books and more than **16,000** prayer wheels.

### *Looking Forward*

The shipment for 2012 will include:

☞ The collected works of Dudjom Rinpoche, Jigme Lingpa and Patrul Rinpoche, great teachers who represent the high point of philosophical thought in Tibet. These masters lived and taught during the Ri-mey Movement, a nonsectarian movement that embraced teachings from all different Tibetan schools of thought.

☞ A wide range of language studies that include Sanskrit grammar treatises, Tibetan grammar treatises, poetry, bilingual lexicons and dictionaries.

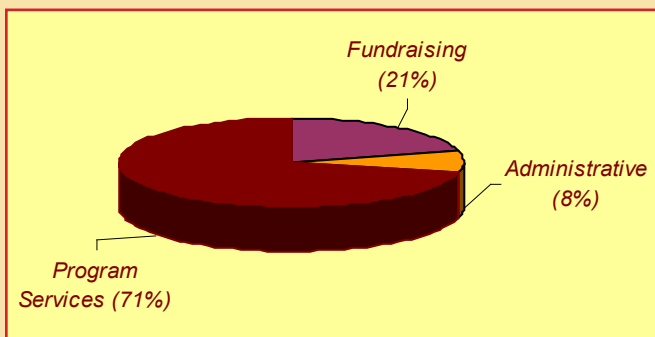
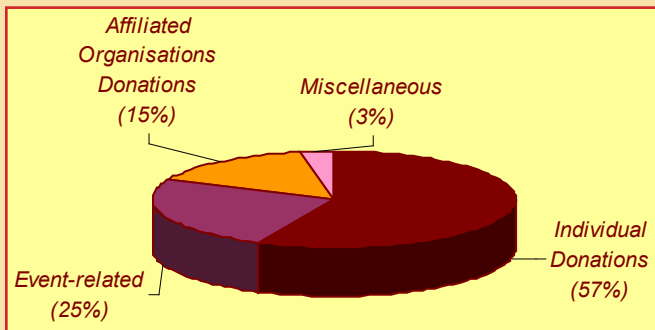
# Financial Information

## Funding Sources

- For the year 2010, individual donations accounted for 57% of income, while affiliated organizations' donations accounted for 15% of income.
- Event-related income such as ticket and auction item sales generated 25% of income, not including pledges to the Fund-A-Library campaign.

## Treasures of Wisdom Campaign

- By the end of 2010, our Treasures of Wisdom Campaign met the goal of raising \$1.08 million.



## Program Activities

- The Tibetan Aid Project spent \$407,874.43 on program services in 2010. Of this amount, 75% was devoted to the production, shipment, and distribution of Tibetan texts, art, and prayer wheels.
- TAP also contributed 25% of this amount as Earthquake Relief Funds.
- TAP and its affiliates are 100% volunteer organizations, which means staff wages are not part of program service expenditures.

## Program/Supporting Services Breakdown

- Program services accounted for 71% of total expenses.
- Supporting services, such as fundraising and administrative expenses, accounted for 29% of total.

## Balance Sheet

- Change in net assets: (\$132,310)
- Net assets at beginning of year: \$250,153
- Net assets at end of year: \$117,838

# *History of the Tibetan Aid Project*

*Through its 42 years of operation, the Tibetan Aid Project has evolved to fulfill the needs of the Tibetan refugee communities in Asia.*

**1969** – Leading Tibetan master and teacher Tarthang Tulku arrives in Berkeley, California and founds the Tibetan Aid Project to help refugees in need of food, clothing and medicine. TAP's primary project, the Pen Friend Program, makes it possible for Americans to send funds directly to thousands of Tibetans.

**1972** – As major humanitarian goals are met, TAP focuses on supporting the preservation of Tibet's great wisdom traditions through the sponsorship of ceremonies and the reconstruction of monasteries. TAP begins to fund the shipment of thankas, books and prayer flags to Tibetans both inside and outside of Tibet.

**1980** – TAP transforms the Pen Friend Program into a monk/nun sponsorship program. All funds donated to this program are now forwarded to monasteries to distribute for the benefit of all their members to ensure the spirit of equality.



**1989** – TAP begins to offer financial support for book shipments to the World Peace Ceremony, where texts and art are distributed to Tibetans from throughout Asia. The World Peace Ceremony becomes an annual event, with attendance steadily increasing every year into the thousands. Donation of texts at this ceremony becomes the major focus of TAP.

**2005** – The total number of books distributed to Tibetans through the World Peace Ceremony tops 1 million.

**2011** – The total number of books distributed to Tibetans through the World Peace Ceremony tops 3 million.