



Tibetan Healing Fund

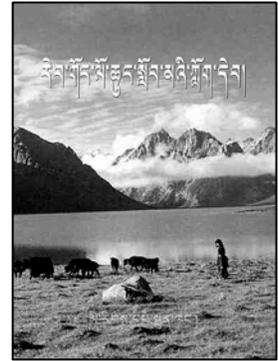
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supporting rural Tibetan women and children

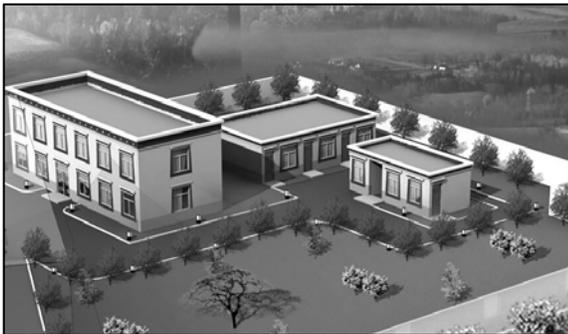
Dear Friends,

Greetings and Tashi Delek from Tibetan Healing Fund! This July, Tibetan Healing Fund celebrated its five year anniversary, and we are pleased to be sharing our news with supporters like yourselves, who have made our accomplishments possible. Thank you for playing such an essential role in our efforts to improve basic education and health services for rural Tibetan women, children and families. Below are this year's highlights:

The very first Tibetan Heritage Primer Books are going to print this year. These are children's supplemental reading texts written in Tibetan. Through our past work with Tibetan teachers' training, translation of school textbooks, and supporting children to attend and complete primary school, we discovered that rural Tibetan children did not have any books except official school textbooks written in Chinese. In-country staff has been working together with local Tibetan teachers and principals in three counties to write textbooks in Tibetan using a story-telling technique to preserve the rich traditions and knowledge of Tibetan culture and help promote basic reading in their own language.



Content of the books is based on both Tibet-wide folklore as well as regionally specific information such as geography, local customs, culture and art, biographies of well-known scholars, life skills, and significant historical events and sites. We hope this information will inspire children to further pursue culturally-rooted knowledge regarding their homeland and people. **The books will be officially published and distributed during 2007 and will be available to 196 Tibetan primary schools, and 26,929 children!**



Land has been broken for the construction of the first Women's Health, Birth Center and Training Facility in Tibet. Land was donated and permits secured in 2005; the design of the facility was approved this year by local and prefecture authorities and building is underway!! The **Tibetan Natural Birth and Health Training Center** will be a large Tibetan style home built around a center courtyard with room for families to stay pre and post delivery, in addition to exam rooms, pharmacy, offices, and a substantial educational facility for the ongoing education of both community midwives and health workers.

With Tibetan Healing Fund's support and the very experienced local Tibetan partner Dr. Tsering Kyi, Obstetrician/Gynecologist, the center will provide an economically accessible facility for women and children's health services and education including pre and postnatal care, delivery, child care and nutrition. **The center will integrate Tibetan medicine, local customs, culture and traditions with Western interventions to provide locally acceptable, culturally suitable and medically sound approaches to healthcare.**



The center will be modeled after free-standing birth centers common throughout the US and will provide a high standard for cleanliness and comfort that is currently unavailable in this region. Fees will be based on a sliding scale, but no woman or family will be turned away due to



lack of resources. The center will not only be a place for safe delivery, but also a training facility for community midwives and a place of support for rural Tibetan women. **This health and educational facility will be the first center of its kind in all of Tibet, operated by and for Tibetan people, in their language!** At a meeting in April with representatives of other non-governmental organizations doing maternal-child health work in Tibet, great support and enthusiasm was expressed for this innovative project.

Also this year, we published a pair of Maternal and Child Health Education Handbooks. In 2004 and 2006 Tibetan Healing Fund hosted landmark gatherings of women's health professionals from across all the Tibetan Regions of P.R. China to discuss the many problems, solutions, and the future of women and children's health in rural Tibet. One of the results was the creation of a series of four complementary textbooks: **Tibetan Maternal and Family Health System theoretical text, Tibetan Midwifery practical text and pictorial texts, and a Community Midwife Training Manual.** Tibetan Healing Fund has collaborated with Qinghai University Tibetan Medical College and Kumbum Tibetan Medical Hospital to make this project possible. And, with your continued support we can complete this series of texts for use in the rural communities of Tibet for training of future clinicians and community health workers. In 2005, 50 Tibetan medical students from Qinghai University Tibetan Medical College traveled to rural Tibetan villages to educate over 3,000 Tibetan women in the Tibetan Autonomous Region, and Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan provinces on basic maternal and child health using some of these resources. During the summer of 2006, these 50 Tibetan medical students revisited the rural villages to refresh the health knowledge of village women and assess the impact of this project.



**Here is how you can help support rural Tibetan women and children in 2007:
Donate to the Tibetan Healing Fund**

On behalf of the Tibetan women and children, we are sincerely grateful to the many people who have supported Tibetan Healing Fund over these past 5 years. Through your generosity, we can continue our work: your gift will help train community midwives and rural school teachers, improve school conditions or sponsor a child, and publish health and education materials. In addition, your support will help us build the first Tibetan Natural Birth and Health Training Center.

Together we can make a difference to create better opportunities for future Tibetan generations by empowering healthier mothers to nurture and raise educated and healthy children!

Thank you again; may there be peace and compassion in your families and the world this upcoming year.

Dr. Kunchok Gyaltsen
Founder and President
UCLA School of Public Health, PhD student

Board Members of Tibetan Healing Fund