



HIMALAYA HILFE e.V.

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Dear Sponsors and Friends,

2014 was overshadowed by the unexpected sudden passing of Shamar Rinpoche, the founder of Himalaya Hilfe. However, this showed that Shamar Rinpoche had started to organise everything so well more than two years ago that it continues smoothly, even without him.

For example, in India and Nepal he put people we know well in positions of responsibility. Due to the fact that we have worked with them for years and successfully managed difficult situations together, our mutual trust has grown so strong that everything worked again perfectly. Even within our own culture, working together is not always easy, and that is even more difficult due to the cultural differences of the East and West. Everywhere we felt the strong wish to continue the successful work of Himalaya Hilfe in the spirit of Shamar Rinpoche.

And this success is not only the work in Asia: without your support, Himalaya Hilfe would also not be possible. Many thanks to you all for your willingness to donate and to become a sponsor, to design postcards and ads and to repair the computer for free and much more. Of course, also many thanks for the general-purpose donations by which the incurred costs are covered. These donations enabled us also in 2014 to pass on 100% of the sponsorship and specific-purpose donations.

In total you donated EUR 217.136,17 and CHF 26.243,55 for sponsorships and projects, and you are helping regularly with currently 868 personal or project sponsorships. Also, you have accomplished a lot with the one-time donations for specific purposes.

In our last annual newsletter we reported on the 'shoe donations' for the students of the **monastic school in Takdah/Darjeeling**. In December, the shoes were purchased and everybody could travel happily with their new shoes to Bodhgaya to participate in the annual wishing-prayers festival. The school principals spent the remaining money on 103 pairs of socks and a number of blankets. Now, another major project is pending, as the school urgently needs further dormitories and a new assembly hall that provides enough space for all of the students.

We continued on to **Kalimpong/Darjeeling, to the Diwakar Buddhist Academy** (the Shedra/Buddhist University). 68 of the approximately 120 students of the institute already have a sponsor. Every year there are new students from the school in Takdah, because when the students there have completed and passed the four-year programme, their education continues in Kalimpong. At the Shedra, we also met **children and the elderly from the surrounding area**.

Our last stop in the Eastern Himalayas was **Zimchung/Rumtek in Sikkim**, where all the children and elderly from all of Sikkim always come to give us the letters for you, to show us their report cards and then receive the sponsorship donations from us. Like in Kalimpong and everywhere else, the letters are collected and then sent to you. Tsultrim Tengyal, who is in charge of the monks of the Dharma Chakra Center, has taken over this task for Sikkim. He always prepares everything perfectly for the monks and this makes the work for us very easy. Even when we had to reschedule in autumn because the monks were called to the village to hold the ceremonies for a person who had recently died, everything went smoothly.

There are many new monks, most of them still little boys; they are very well taken care of.



It's all going equally great at Nedo Rinpoche's **Kayathang Monastic School** next door. New rooms are still being built so that more children can be accepted, and there are also plans for a guest house. Currently, 30 boys study there, and we've already found sponsorships for 12 of them.

30 nuns live in the **Chokar Dechen Ling Nunnery**, all of whom have a sponsor. The daily routine takes place without any issues. Many of the nuns were also invited to participate in the ceremonies for the deceased man; therefore, we postponed the photo shot we had planned for you to the spring of 2015. We were able to meet the old abbess Ani Mingyur again, which is always a special pleasure.

In the Western Himalayas in **Leh/Ladakh**, it was already very cold in mid-October, but as always, it is very touching how the responsible people from the **Karma Duggyud Choeling Monastery**, where we work, take care of us. The 'office' is equipped with a heater, and we were given extra blankets for the night. Together with the monks and students at the monastery, the English teacher had ensured that their letters were well written. As you can see in the picture, **the people from the surrounding area** were waiting for us in the monastery. Hopefully, the building of the new monastery providing more space will be finished in the summer of 2015.

At the **Rigjung School in Ladakh** the annual final examinations were taking place. Right after, we took pictures of all students who have sponsors. Because of that, the school buses driving the day students home were made to wait. Approximately 40 children, who either lost their parents or whose home is too far away for a daily commute, stay at the school's hostel.

In **Nepal**, the children with their parents and the elderly came to us again in **Shar Minub**. This usually happens over several days: each group receives the information and an invitation for a particular day and time. People even came from Pokhara, the second biggest city of Nepal (an approximately eight-hour bus ride).

We also met again with Lama Tenzin from the **Buddha Dharma Center** and a nun from the **Bigu Monastery** to whom we gave your donations and in turn received the letters for you.

In the **Maha Karma Vihar Rai Monastery** near the Swayambu Stupa, many of the monks were busy with the preparations for the wishing-prayers festival in Bodhgaya. Abbot Lama Jimpa told us that one of the alumni of the Shedra in Kalimpong is now teaching English at the monastery. It was Shamar Rinpoche's wish that the monks study English, especially the young ones so that they can complete their education in Takdah and then later in Kalimpong.

The meeting with the **monks in Shar Minub** who do the 10-year retreat was very nice – as you can see, they had lots of fun with Ulli and Willi, the architect of the new institute.

Warmest greetings to all of you from all sponsored children, monks, nuns and the elderly; they appreciate your help very much and are always happy when we have some letters from you for them. You are welcome to continue mailing those letters to us. In order to be able to take them with us and distribute them during the spring or autumn tour, we must receive **your letters by the 10th of January or 20th of September**.

If you would like to accompany us on the tours, please get in touch with us. Please also let us know if you haven't received any letters from your sponsored children. Finally, we would like to request that you inform us in a timely manner of any address or other changes, as well as if you don't want to receive any more donation receipts and/or annual newsletters. Many thanks.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year and all the best for 2015. We look forward to seeing many of you again in summer at one of the Himalaya Hilfe booths and being able to continue helping people in a meaningful way together with you.

Your Himalaya Hilfe Team