



# HIMALAYA HILFE e.V.

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Dear Sponsors and Friends,

Thank you. We are very happy that due to your generosity last year, Himalaya Hilfe was again able to help many people. You are supporting the people in India and Nepal by 904 regular personal or project sponsorships and in 2016 you donated 252.984,45 EUR in total.

One-time donations and regular donations for a specific purpose and for particular projects or for the emergency aid for children/the elderly have also accomplished a great deal. We use the money for emergency aid primarily for bridging the gap of abandoned sponsorships until we have found new sponsors, e.g. to make sure that parents are able to pay school fees for their children. Many thanks for your general-purpose donations, which we use for covering the incurring costs – they enable us to distribute the sponsorship funds and the appropriated donations at 100%.

During the last few years, the construction of the new dormitories and the assembly hall of the **Diwakar Buddhist Monastery School Takdah/Darjeeling** turned out to be a continuous project in terms of the appropriated donations. The new building has finally been finished, and the boys can enjoy the new dormitories and warm showers that are provided by a solar-power installation on the rooftop. New classrooms, an office and accommodation for the teachers are still under construction. Out of the 82 boys who live and learn in Takdah 40 are now being sponsored. The education in Takdah takes five years.

After the five-year education, they can continue with their studies at the **Diwakar Buddhist Academy** (Shedra /Monastic University) in **Kalimpong/Darjeeling**. Graduation from the Shedra takes another 10 years. Many of the graduates teach at the Shedra or are sent to other institutes, e.g. to Takdah. One group is in charge of the organization; they cooperate with us and make sure the letters for you are written when we come to pick them up. They also inform the **school kids and the elderly from Darjeeling** about our visit, who then visit the Shedra to leave the letters, school report cards and pick up their donations. It works very well that way, and you can see the current Shedra administrators together with us in the picture. Out of the approximately 140 students, already 88 are sponsored.

From Kalimpong, we travelled to **Zimchung (Rumtek/Sikkim)** where continued our work with the **monks of the Dharma Chakra Centre**. Tsultrim Tengyal had everything prepared very well as usual. The letters for you were addressed perfectly and sorted in alphabetical order. The elderly monks now live in the new rooms that had just been finished. Last year, 10 children were newly accepted, therefore, there are now 82 people living in Zimchung. For 20 of the young and elderly monks we still need sponsors. In autumn, they were busy in the garden with rehearsing special lama dances that were performed in December for the first time in 23 years at the Kagyü Mönlam (aspiration prayer festival) in Bodhgaya. For the occasion, masks were crafted and costumes sewn – one monk even used the sewing machine as you can see in the picture.

The monastic students of **Nedo Rinpoche's Kayathang Monastic School** were rehearsing for the occasion as well. Nedo Rinpoche himself is a master of the lama dances and gave them instructions. At the Kayathang School, the English teacher takes care of the organizational tasks and gave us the mail for you. We are still looking for donors for 9 of the 22 monastic students.



Then we travelled to the nuns of the **Chokar Dechen Ling Nunnery**. This time, we could only greet the elderly abbess Ani Mingyur-la while she lay in bed in her room. She is frequently ill, but was rather happy. The nuns had been granted money for a greenhouse by the state of Sikkim, which is now almost finished, so they will have their own fresh produce in the near future.

And we would like to present a new project to you – **the Mindu Tempen Monastery in Rey/Sikkim**. It was founded in 1897 by the king of Sikkim at the time. Since 1994, Rey Lama, who received his training under the guidance of Shamar Rinpoche and the 17<sup>th</sup> Karmapa Thaye Dorje, is the abbot. We met in Rey, had an in-depth talk and received the documents of the 48 monks for whom we now also are looking for sponsors.

During our visit in Sikkim, for several days, **school kids and the elderly from all over Sikkim** came to see us. There are different groups and people in charge of organizing when they can see us in order to make things go smoothly and keep waiting times for everybody to a minimum. Sometimes the journey takes them more than six hours. With your donations in Sikkim and Darjeeling, you are already helping 216 children to get a good school education and 33 elderly people to live a better life.

In **Ladakh**, again the English teacher Karma Jigme had set up the preparation of the letters from the young and adult monks of the **Karma Dupgyud Choeling Monastery** very well. Those, who had received new mail from their sponsors quickly wrote a reply. Karma Jigme also helps your **sponsored children and many elderly people from Ladakh** with collecting documents and writing letters to you. Most of the elderly cannot write and confirm the receipt of the donation money by their fingerprint. We organized a photo session for all of those who have a sponsor. Once a year, at every location, we try to take pictures of your sponsored children so that you have a current photo of them.

The **Nunnery Karma Chagchen Jampa Ling** is growing and hosts currently 10 nuns. Except for a few minor details, the dining room, the kitchen and the rooms are almost finished. Abbot Lama Tsueltrim Topden has planned additional rooms since even more nuns would like to join the nunnery. In the spring, they invited us to breakfast – as well as Kerstin and Ingo, our fellow travellers – so we were able to take a look at everything.

We also visited the **Rigjung Public School** together with Kerstin and Ingo, where they met their sponsored children. Also here, we managed to take pictures of almost all students who have sponsors. The majority of the students are day students, only about 50 children are boarding students living at the school's hostel.

Lastly, we went to **Nepal**. Unfortunately, there isn't any news yet regarding the building permit for the construction of the **Raj Maha Vihar Monastery** at the top of Swayambhu. It seems that it might take a while. The monks of the monastery continue to live at the **Shar Minub Centre**. Construction was continuing there, and a new group of very young monastic students had just arrived. These are mainly children of the earthquake regions and remote villages. At the moment, Khenpo Gyaltzen Sangpo of the Shedra Kalimpong and some of the graduates of the Shedra are taking care of the boys.

Also in Nepal, the **school children and the elderly** came to us in groups. Here as well, the people in charge of the individual groups helped the elderly write letters and assisted us with the translation. As Diwali, one of the most important festivities in Nepal, takes place in autumn, the children were on holiday. For that reason, we managed to meet many of your sponsored children. Two girls were wearing costumes of the Magar people for a special dance and were looking forward to the celebration – the picture speaks volumes!

Finally, also many, many thanks to all who volunteered free of charge with the design of an ad, repairing the computer, editing and translating the annual letter and many other tasks! Also, many thanks for the special collections of donations at birthdays or weddings and that you display the Himalaya Hilfe flyers at your shops and offices.

Please let us know well in advance, preferably via e-mail, if there are any changes in your address or other relevant data. We are happy to take **letters to your sponsored children** with us to Asia; please send them **to our mailing address by the 15<sup>th</sup> of September**.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at one of our booths this summer and wish you all a healthy, happy and successful New Year!

*Your Himalaya Hilfe Team*