



TIBETAN HOMES FOUNDATION, MUSSOORIE

SOS Tibetan Children's Village



Dear Friends,

Warm greetings and good wishes to you and all your loved ones on this festive occasion. I take great pride to let you know that your financial support has given us much reasons to smile and I sincerely thank you for your love and care which is much appreciated. Another year has come to an end and I am happy to share with you some of the highlights of the life of children at the village. I have also felt that in this report along with the general activities, it would be good to let you know on how your unwavering support strongly reflects in many of our alumni who were nurtured here and trying to give back to Alma Mater in their changed capacity.

Relationship working wonders: Hundreds of our alumni who received sponsorship during their child hood are trying to reconnect with Alma Mater in their changed capacity. Because, they still live the beautiful moments they spent here with their sponsors who visit them at family home, making them feel warm at heart. Realizing the joy their sponsors gave them during their school days reflects in them with their willingness to sponsor a child under Alma Mater. Recently, a sponsor comes to meet her child. I felt gratified when she shares with us the relationship she still lives with her sponsored children. She told us that, "I sponsored two children from THF who were now married and blessed with a beautiful family. They visits me with their family at my home which always makes me feel like a proud mother meeting her children. We express our heartfelt thanks to all of you for making it possible to provide the best possible means of education to the children at home. The "Joy of Giving" works wonders with beautiful relationship we experienced developed and developing every day here in our family.

Activity Highlights

School new Academic session commenced from 2nd March with many new faces who joined the family this year.

School Opera group: Shoton is one of the most popular traditional festival in Tibet. The celebration of the festival continues within exile community to preserve our culture and tradition. School Opera group is blessed to be able to participate and receive audience of His Holiness the Dalai

lama at the 20th Shoton Festival celebrated at Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA), Dharamsala on 27th of March. The group comprises of 53 children and staff members. Tibetan Homes Foundation Opera group presented "Khen Lob Choe Sum" on the occasion which is the historic spread of Buddhist Dharma. The performance of our school troupe received huge appreciation from the spectators.

Thundrel – A cultural exchange Program: It is our immense pleasure to include the launch of a cultural exchange program "Thundrel" in coordination with Tibet Fund, US. The program aims to provide a homely cultural and traditional learning environment for our Tibetan children who lives overseas. Learning of Tibetan musics, dances, alphabets, cooking and prayers are a part of the program.

24th Graduation Day: A time of completion, of finishing, of an ending, however, it is also a time for the celebration of achievement and a new beginning for the new graduates. On 2nd April, we celebrated the 24th Graduation day with a pride to thank all our well wishers for their all time support to experience hundreds of graduates every year. A total of "139-students" graduated this year.

53rd THF Founder's Day: Tibetan Homes Foundation turns 53 years of old this year on 23rd of April. Mrs. Anita Nirula, Principal, Central School for Tibetans, Mussoorie is the Chief Guest on the occasion. She shares few motivating lines in her speech to the children especially the one that children responded with an applaud is "Positive attitude drives to right direction" and "Destiny is not a matter of chance but a matter of choice". School Annual "Spring Fete" follows the day where children enjoyed playing different games on the school basket court.

Class – XII Board Examnations results: A pass percentage of 100 was scored in the Humanities and Science and 96.4% in Commerce stream. A major highlight of the results for the School this year has been the score of 80% and above obtained by 34 students. Miss Samdup Dolma topped the School winning the Academic Meritorious award of Rs. 10,000/ with a score of 90.8%. She had a score of 99 in history and had this to say "Punctuality, dedication, discipline and being a good listener and a good questioner are the keys to her score" She



credited her success to the "Blessings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Family of Tibetan Homes Foundation"

Pilgrimage tour for Older persons: Saka Dawa is the most sacred of Buddhist holidays, when we celebrate the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha Shakyamuni. On June 4, Older persons living with us here at the Old Age Home, Mussoorie and Rajpur were taken for a short pilgrimage around the nearby monasteries and an audience with the Rinpoches. Elders enjoyed a lot with the short exposure.

School Band Group : A moment to share and a moment of proud to include here that the school band group is invited to present the band show during the celebration of 80th Birthday of His Holiness at Dharamsala on 21st of June.

SOS Day: On June 23rd the 96th birth anniversary of late Dr. Hermann Gmeiner Founder father of SOS movement was celebrated by all at the village. The formal function began with Mr. Gedun Rinchen, Asst. General Secretary lighting the butter lamp to late Dr. Gmeiner's portrait which was followed with prayers and the offering of Tibetan traditional scarf to the portrait of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and to late Dr. Hermann Gmeiner which was simultaneously followed by SOS mothers, home parents, teachers and all staff members. The Asst. Secretary then made an introductory speech highlighting the life of late Dr. Hermann Gmeiner and the difference this one man had made to the world. The formal function was followed by mini fun games for children and staff. Special food was prepared to mark the day by Mothers at the home for children.

India's Independence day & Inter House Tibetan dance and music competition: On 15th August the 69th Independence day of India was celebrated with much warmth and happiness at our Foundation. The formal program at the auditorium began with the singing of the Indian and Tibetan national anthems. The highlight of the program was the offering of scarves to all Indian staff members of Tibetan Homes Foundation as a mark of appreciation to playing the perfect hosts for Tibetans in exile. The program ended with emotional patriotic songs presented by children. On same day the inter house cultural competition of Tibetan Homes School was held.

Ghyaton Celebration: The 80th birth year of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama is celebrated here for three days from 2nd to 4th October. A warm traditional welcome led by School's junior band group welcomed H.E. Sikyong, Dr. Lobsang Sangay – Chief Guest and Hon. Dr. Ngawang Rabgyal, Secretary, Department of Education as they arrived into the Tsering

Dolma Auditorium of Tibetan Homes Foundation for the opening day of the Gyathon Celebration – marking the 80th birth year of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama at 8:00 am. A total of 10 Tibetan Schools participated in the events including Sports, Cultural, Basketball, Tibetan dance, music and singing and Speech Competition with "His Holiness the Gem" as the topic.

International Elderly Day: On 1st October the School celebrated International Day of the Older Person's for the grans at the THF's Gephelling Old people's residential home. More than 45 senior school students participated expressing their love and appreciation to the older generation by hosting a tea party. It was a proud moment for the students as the funds for the special tea party had been collected through the voluntary donation from senior children of the school. Two days earlier, on Sunday the students visited the homes and ran a Cleaning Drive at the old people home – they washed the entire home, scrubbed floor, cleaned windows and pulled off grasses and weeds that had grown in the campus. Even the roof-top was not spared. With the close bonding in the Tibetan family setup, the older persons are special and that is how they celebrated the day. The formal program ended with an emotional "Thank You" from Grans.

Inter house Athletic Meet: The 25th School Annual Inter house athletic meet of the School was held on 16th October with Mr. Lobsang Rabgyal, Deking Tibetan Welfare Officer, Central Tibetan Administration, Dharamsala as Chief Guest. The meet began with the Chief Guest taking the guard of honor from the members of the five houses followed with the hoisting of the meet flag. The School band led the five contingents with the March Past which was followed with children's mass display of Yogan and Aerobics. The children through the day participated in races, throws and jumps and strived hard to out perform well keeping the spectators glued till the end.

Final Examinations at school and winter vacations: The final examinations of the children at school for the academic year 2015 will be held from 7th to 19th of December. The annual results of the school will be declared on the 22nd of December after which the school will be closed for winter vacations.

In conclusion, I thank you very much once again for your unwavering support

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year 2016"

Warm regards.

Khorelatsang Sonam Topgyal
General Secretary

