

## NEWSLETTER 2013



## Introduction

As we know all too well, the external situation of our project has by no means improved in recent years and represents a constant challenge to all concerned. This year's report is intended to show how despite all of this we have been able to pursue our children's project successfully.

Sadly, the dramatic self-immolations continue on in Tibet, including in the region of our project. In the meantime, the horrifying figure of 121 has been reached, while the hoped-for political easing has not been achieved. The visa restrictions practiced since 2008 in respect of Tibetans living abroad are still being applied. For this reason we the project managers have not been able to enter the country since 2008 and are obliged to organise and make decisions concerning our Children's Villages by telephone. In this situation we are most grateful to our friend Beat Renz of Switzerland for the dignified manner in which he represents us through his visits each year and draws up the annual report. Without his personal commitment and enthusiasm we would have a real problem. We thank him and his wife with all our hearts for their commitment and all they have done to support the Children's Villages. Choepel D. from Switzerland has also represented our concerns on his many visits to the Villages, put much in order and also examined the bookkeeping on site. To him go our special thanks.

It is clear that both we and our Village leaders have a pressing desire and need for personal contact and full discussion of all open questions and existing projects. The language barrier also makes this necessary, as our Village heads do not speak English very well.

Since we could not make the journey ourselves, this summer we invited the head of the Golok Village, Thupten Nyima, together with Yeshe Khando as representative of the Dawu Village, to Germany. As was to be expected, the reunion was an extremely emotional and joyous one. At a meeting of the Association in Lüdenscheid we were greatly interested to see the latest photos from the Villages and to read their very impressive reports. This personal meeting helped to bring us closer together

and clarify very many open questions concerning the future and prospects for the Children's Villages.

On an invitation from the Renz family, we were able to travel to Switzerland together with Thupten Nyima und Yeshe Khando, where we received a hearty welcome and were taken great care of. The program for the next day was visits to interesting sites in Switzerland. Our friends were particularly impressed by the Ballenberg Open Air Museum. Christian Herrmann and his wife Christine Leonhardt organised a meeting with some of the earlier visitors to the Villages and some of the sponsors. We spent two full days in their beautiful house in the Black Forest, where of all the wonderful food we were served the famous Black Forest cherry cake has left a special memory!

To our joy and satisfaction, we learned that above all the second Village in Golok is flourishing and functioning well. The infrastructure is developing very well and the scholastic achievements are dazzling. The children's social behavior and their hygiene serve as models in the region. A great number of documents and diplomas testifying to our children's scholastic achievements now line the classroom walls and are proudly exhibited to all visitors by the Village head Thupten Nyima. All this has been achieved thanks to the enormous personal engagement of our Village head, teachers and house mothers.

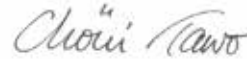
Our middle school was inaugurated in Golok last year and is now fully operational, among other things with the appropriate laboratory equipment sponsored by the TAROM Foundation of Liechtenstein. To have our own school helps us enormously both in terms of organisation and financially, since the state middle schools are not very close to the Villages and the costs of accommodation, food, school fees, travel, etc. are extremely high, as our experience with the first Village taught us. Sadly, we have not been allowed to construct a middle school in Dawu.

As in other years, we once again took in 60 new children into our two Villages in 2013. Not all of

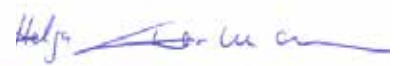
them are orphans, but they belong to the poorest of the poor. With the departure of those who have completed their education and are able to stand on their own feet, the number of children at present in our care is approximately five hundred.

All in all, the huge commitment of our employees on site and the regular support of our sponsors and foster parents in the west give us confidence that these children of Tibet, forgotten by the world at large, are ensured a good future. It is impossible to name them all here, but we wish to express our deepest gratitude to all those who support us with a regular sponsorship or the organization of fund-raising events such as birthdays or jubilees.

**With our very best wishes and heartfelt thanks,**



Chönyi Tawo  
First president



Helga Fuhrmann  
Treasurer



„Tadra Projekt e.V.“ Germany, employees from Tibet and Choephel.



Our Tadra-Team in Switzerland, Tenzin and Beat.

# Transforming grief into zest for life

*by Beat Renz / Switzerland*

al People often ask me what motivates me to go to the Tadra Children's Villages twice or three times a year. The journey there is endless, difficult, full of obstacles: long flights, days spent in an uncomfortable vehicle on mostly bumpy, dusty unpaved roads, and... hardly have I set foot in Tibetan territory that I am besieged by a horde of parasites, bacteria and viruses. It seems to be common knowledge among the beasties community that my body with its generous reserves of fat offers a veritable feast of culinary delights. In all of my journeys to Tibet, I have only on one occasion come out unscathed without some disease.

No less unpleasant are the police patrols. Last spring they were waiting for me and my co-traveler Alain shortly before the first Village, just when my joyous anticipation was at its height. There we were, having traveled for three full days, and were being told the way was blocked and we must return to Europe. No reasons given. My blood pressure still rises noticeably today when I think of that moment and the sadness of that return journey.

Accommodation in Tibet is not what we westerners would call comfortable. The altitude in itself is already a problem. At 4,000 meters one easily gets headaches, sleep disturbances and gastric troubles. All this makes the question I quoted at the beginning understandable and justified.

And yet, however unbelievable it may seem, the Tadra Children's Villages offer something that make all these difficulties seem secondary. Something that makes a journey there a thousand times more appealing than a restful holiday on the most beautiful sandy beach in the world. My motivations stem from the lively, unique Tadra children. I have had so many unforgettable moments with them, and have learnt so much of value about life from them.

Disheartened by the news of my unsuccessful journey in spring, almost all the Tadra supporters deci-

ded not to undertake the journey to Tibet this summer. But my wife Tamara, our friend Dominic who has supported the Villages for so many years, and his sister Binia took their chances, and in July traveled directly to the second, 4000-meter-high Village at Golok. I had decided that it made more sense to go in by the "back door" this time, for the situation in the region of the first Village was still extremely tense in the wake of a number of very serious incidents. I served as scout, traveling there five days in advance, just in time to experience the great Children's Festival.

For the children, this is the most important festival of the year. Excitedly they start their makeup preparations early in the morning. A white complexion is considered a symbol of beauty in Tibet, and so great quantities of white powder are applied to the face. The festival site consisted of four large nomad tents, each with a stage on its open side, covered with boards and a big red carpet. Dancing on this shaky surface demanded considerable skill and surely presented a major challenge for the children.

Shortly before noon, the children stood ready and all excited in their beautiful colorful dance costumes. Gradually the many guests arrived, often bringing generous presents and donations. Then the older children stepped to the microphone to MC the show, a full three hours of singing and dancing at the highest level. In addition to traditional Tibetan dances, we were entranced by Indian and Thai offerings. A truly successful festival, how proud I was of our children!

During this week-long festival the children do not have classes, so that I and the group of friends that arrived later were able to spend a lot of time with them, wonderful days full of playing, dancing and singing.

And then, to my great surprise, we suddenly got permission to visit the first Children's Village!

This being a travel report, by rights I ought to first speak of the long journey to Dawu and the wonderful

welcome we had there; of how they celebrate the festivals, and how much fun the presentations are. But somehow all that does not feel like the essential thing.

How many times have I seen how scarred orphans and street children come to us with all their wounds from inconceivably hard life situations. They all have similar stories to tell, full of grief, pain and helplessness, and there they suddenly find themselves standing fearfully at the gates of the Village. Their facial expressions are dead. Some of them have major symptoms of malnourishment, wounds on their faces or body and dry, straw-like hair. But at that moment, all the Tadra children come running to them: they have all experienced something similar and know only too well how these newcomers feel. They take their hands and lead them gently to their new home, where they wash them, bring them clean clothes and take the most moving care of their new brothers and sisters. Most of these little newcomers arrive when they are between five and seven years old, and from now on they are no longer alone. They even sleep in the same beds as the older children, who look after them with much love. The children talk together a lot, and this allows them to act out what they have experienced and gradually to process it.

And so it sometimes needs very little time before new life has been injected into these children's hearts. Their faces light up and their wounds heal. They open



Sangyi Drolma, some TADRA-Children's and me



Childrens dance at the great Children's Festival in Golok

up like beautiful flowers. When I visit them just a few months later, I often can hardly recognize them. These children, originally so shy, are now radiating joy, are open and happy. That is wonderful to see, and is proof of how valuable to these children our project is.

Everyone in the Tadra villages feels part of one big family. All of a sudden, the new arrivals find themselves with lots of brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers. Even we visitors from Europe are part of this family. Over all these years I have taken these children so much to my heart that I am honored when they call me father. And indeed I do have paternal feelings towards them. All the children have the greatest respect for Choeni and Palden Tawo and Yeshe Gonpo, the founders of the Tadra Children's Villages. Even though the Tawos have not been allowed into Tibet for more than six years now, they are still loved as parents.

Marked by their hard past, the Tadra children are much more mature, helpful and grateful than any other children I know. Their relations with one another are loving and understanding and never cease to impress me. In our own world children often crave for attention, whining, screaming or provoking. Such behavior is extremely rare among the five hundred Tadra children. You feel the great respect that have for one another. None of them take the spotlight and all of them are happy when their little comrades have something. Every visitor notices this harmony and care they show for one another.

Interesting too is their relationship to material things. It comes as a surprise that they attach no importance to possessions and have little desire for them. These children have almost nothing, and the little they have they share or give away. I am always very moved when they put little things into our hands – jewelry, toys and other things



they love – when we are leaving. Somehow they stand above the so common characteristics of our lives such as greediness, envy and jealousy. They are simply happy with no material possessions, just appreciating the essential things of life.

I have often wondered how it comes that just these Tadra children radiate so much joy, and I once discussed it with a child psychologist. For him an essential reason was the exchanges between the children. They have all had similar experiences, and the understanding they receive from one another is the best psychotherapy, he told me. But this is also true of other orphan villages and yet the children do not radiate such a zest for life, or at least not in the same way. In my opinion a major factor is the loving house mothers, village leaders and staff. For me, that is what makes the main difference. And for that I am deeply grateful to all these people.

Also it is very clear to me that without our dear sponsors, foster parents and friends of the Tadra project, the Children's villages would not exist. Here

I should like to express my heartfelt thanks, also in the name of the now five hundred Tadra children. Thanks to this support we have been able to make a radical change for the better in these children's lives and offer them a future. What more valuable can one offer a child?



Thupten Nyima, Chef of the Children's Village in Golok is like a father for the childrens.

## Metok Lhaze (16) – a very special girl

bye Beat Renz / Switzerland

**Metok Lhaze arrived at the Golok Tadra Children's Village with her little sister Norbu Dolma in 2009. I noticed her very soon, because of the way she took such amazing care of her five-years-younger sister. They were then and still now are always together and even share the same bed. The deep bond between these two girls is impressive and beautiful to see.**

Metok Lhaze is a rather shy, very loving and helpful girl, who never draws attention to herself. She never has bad things to say about others and never complains. She seems extraordinarily mature for her age. She takes care of her little sister like a loving mother. Her smile, like her whole being, is magical.

In May of this year I asked Metok Lhaze if she could tell me something of her life, and she accepted to do so without hesitation. The Tadra children's stories are usually unbelievably hard, and such conversations are therefore not always easy. But they are important for the processing of their experience. I have been told that the children often get relief by talking about their early lives with one another, and then many tears are shed by these otherwise so happy children. And my conversation with Metok Lhaze was no different.

Metok Lhaze has three sisters and one brother. They grew up in a poor nomad family in Martod. They had 40 yaks and wandered abroad with the herd. When she was seven, their father abandoned the family and they never heard any more from him. Four

years later their mother contracted tuberculosis and died shortly after. Nomads live in very remote areas, far from the nearest hospital, so that they often die among their families from diseases that could readily be treated if medical assistance were available. And the children experience all this at very close quarters, helpless. The three children still living at



How the two girls looked in 2009, here with their sister's mother in law.

home were now on their own. A monastery took the brother in, and Metok Lhaze and her little sister found refuge with their older sister, who was married and lived with her husband and her mother-in-law in a very simple house some 200 miles away.

Metok Lhaze (16) takes loving care of her young sister Norbu Dolma (11)



Metok Lhaze does not like to remember that period of her life. She told me that being an orphan she was made fun of and ostracized at school. And as I later learnt from a teacher, she was also mistreated by her sister's family. When her oldest sister heard about that, she wrote a letter to the head of the Children's Village, who found his way to the two little girls and brought them back to Golok in 2009.

In Golok, they were welcomed by the whole Village with open arms. All the children there had had similar experiences, Metok Lhaze told me, and this brought them all close together. She and her sister have many friends in the Village, feel that they live in a big family, and are very happy.

At school, she particularly liked drawing, singing and Tibetan. Maths was not her favourite subject. When I asked her what she would like to become, she answered, "A good doctor". I asked her why and

she said, "If I am a good doctor, I can heal lots of people and then there will be less orphans who suffer."

Enormous tears rolled down Metok Lhaze's cheeks. I took her in my arms and held her close. "If that is your heart's desire, and you work hard at it, I will do everything in my power to help you." I whispered in her ear. Such an impressive girl!



Metok Lhaze helping to plant trees

## Important

From February 1, 2014, new banking rules will be in force in the European Union and Switzerland! After this date, all banks of these countries and some others will handle money transfers and direct debits by way of a new procedure known as SEPA. This implies the following changes for transfers to the TADRA Association or the DEMIGH Foundation:

All transfers should now be made using the IBAN- and SWIFT-BIC references instead of the account number and the bank sort code.

**TADRA : IBAN DE94 4585 0005 0000 1212 02**  
**SWIFT-BIC: WELADED1LSD**

**DEMIGH Foundation: IBAN CH44 0483 5005 0453 2000 0**  
**SWIFT-BIC: CRESCHZZ80A**

Direct debit orders or debit authorizations: The existing debit authorizations continue to be valid under the SEPA-arrangement.

Donors and foster parents do not need to make a new order. The conversion of references will be taken care of with a computerized book-keeping program at the TADRA Association and DEMIGH Foundation.



# How the caterpillar fungus makes life difficult for the Tadra Project

by Beat Renz / Switzerland

The second Tadra Children's Village is very close to Golok, the major trading centre for the Tibetan caterpillar fungus. The fungus is thought to have almost magic healing powers, some of which have been confirmed scientifically. No wonder then that the demand for it has increased tremendously all over Asia. At this time the going price for a kilogram is about 40,000 euros, about the same price as for gold!

The Tibetan caterpillar fungus is a strange combination of a caterpillar and a mushroom. At the larval stage the fungus infests the head of the caterpillar and grows stalk-like along the ground. Between May and June these tiny stalks protrude one or two centimeters out of the ground throughout the area. Almost all Tibetan women of the region around Golok then go off in search of this precious fungus. On their knees they comb the meadows alongside the mountains and bring back an average of twenty or thirty fungi. Two such larvae infected by the caterpillar brings in as much money as the daily wage of a construction worker! Thus many Tibetan women can earn a whole year's income in just a month or so. For this reason land around Golok is much sought after, causing prices to soar in this otherwise remote region. Within just three years prices virtually all the prices have doubled.

Rising costs of course make life very difficult for the Tadra project. For years the Village leader has had trouble recruiting female staff, for the monthly wage we are able to offer them can be obtained in a couple of days harvesting caterpillar fungi. Furthermore, Golok's altitude of some thirteen thousand feet means that the region is extremely cold in winter. Temperatures fall to as low as minus 30C (about -22F), not a very attractive prospect at that time of year.

Thupten Nyima, the Village head, does what he can to offer interesting conditions of employment: board and lodging, plus excursions to neighbouring towns or tourist attractions during the summer. But

it is becoming ever more difficult to recruit staff. Fortunately, the Village has a few kind-hearted house mothers and other employees who are not solely concerned with money, but who have a sense of vocation in the service of the children.

Given that the wages of the almost fifty Village employees in Tibet make up something like a quarter of the costs overall, it is easy to understand why we cannot greatly increase them from one day to the next.

So if one day you should catch me spraying caterpillar poison out of a small airplane in the region of Golok, you will know that I do it for the good of the children...



Tibetan caterpillar fungus, *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*  
Photo: Wikimedia

# Everyday Life in the Golok Children's Village (alt. 4000 m /13000 ft)



Getting up in the morning is not so easy for the Tadra children either... Kuntso (10)



Washing, brushing teeth and combing your hair. The full programme every day. Tongnyi Wangmo (17 ans)



The Tadra children are content with the smallest presents. They particularly appreciate bonnets, socks and gloves kitted with love and that keep them warm.



Wangmo is since 1 year in our village



Basketball tops the list of sports activities. Some of these kids are real naturals.



These children don't need computer games to have fun. A favorite game is making snowmen.



The children are very aware of how fortunate they are to be able to go to school, and are diligent students.



When there is a job to do, everybody pitches in spontaneously. Here they plant the first trees in Golok.



The older children take responsibility and the younger ones obey without fuss  
Norgyal Kyd (17)



Each of the children has a job to do and carries it out without being told and without complaint.



These three monks teach Tibetan as volunteers in the Children's Village, but only two of them are active all year round...



The harmony among the children of the Village is quite palpable.



Spending time with the Tadra Village children is such a joy!



The youngest Tadra children have good reason to smile. In the Village they are lovingly taken care of and cosseted. Pema Lhamo (8)



It's easy to spot when a Tadra child is ill. They are the one's that are not smiling. Gangkar Dolma (13)



How proud the young dressmaking apprentices are to present the dance costumes they have made.



Ti-Momo, steamed barley rolls and tea, compose the Tadra kids' daily breakfast.

## *My journey to the TADRA Villages*

*by Binia Zuber/ Switzerland*

In the spring of 2013 my brother came to me and asked, “Will you come and visit two children’s villages with me in Tibet?” What did I know about Tibet? A tense political situation, roof of the world, refugees ... Why should I make such a journey into the unknown? No reason at all, not a single one! And yet the idea continued to go around in my head.

My personal conviction is that everything that happens in our lives has a reason. Nothing happens without a reason, whether or not we are aware of it. And that is why, on July 23, 2013, I started my journey into the unknown.

In the course of that journey I came to understand what it means to be born and live in Tibet. Most of the country lies at an altitude of more than 4,000 meters above sea level, not much less than that of the Mont Blanc in France with its 4,800 meters.

Because of its mountainous climate, Tibet experiences very wide variations in temperature, which in Golok can go down to minus 30 degrees centigrade (-22 degrees Fahrenheit) in winter. Tibet has a surface area of 2.5 million sq. km, 60 times larger than Switzerland, for example. 80% of Tibetans are still nomads, often spending days far from any form of civilisation. Many nomads have no access to medical care, either because none is available, or is at best several days’ journey away. What happens to children when their parents die? They just have to fight for survival. Tadra has an interest in these children. Tadra wants to offer these children a future in their own land. Many of these children did not know where their next meal was coming from. Many of them are now going to school for the first time in their lives, many had never had a bed or lived in a house with heating. All things we just take for granted.

As a social education and school social worker the question arises for me, “Why are these children so happy to go to school?” In the Tadra villages none of the children play truant as they do in our country. The children are happy to learn, do their homework without anyone breathing down their necks.

What is different in Tibet compared with here? For these children, schooling means that they can learn a trade, and having a trade means having earning power. Earning money means being able to eat, and eating means life. By giving the children schooling and training, Tadra makes life possible for them in their own country.

The children in the Tadra villages are happy children, who laugh, sing, dance and play a lot. They are never bored, although they have almost no toys and many of them have a traumatic past – how is this possible? As I see it, living in a protected, loving environment with other children who have had the same or similar experiences permits them to be “therapists” for one another, in that they talk about it, cry together and console one another mutually,



*Binia Zuber in Golok*

according to the motto, “children help children!”

In addition they are happy because their basic needs are met and they don’t have to ask themselves day by day, hour by hour or minute by minute what they

are going to play with next. They have their hands, their legs and their voices, and with these they experiment, practice and go deeper. When we danced and sang with the children, we watched and heard magnificent performances. Whole afternoons or evenings were filled with dance and song.

The Tadra-children moved me. They took me into

## *Tibet, a nightmare for the statistician*

*by Beat Renz / Switzerland*

**I still carry around with me many typical Central European characteristics such as a sense of order and a desire for a certain precision. Granted, these qualities may not always be obvious to those who are close to me, but I have them. This becomes particularly clear to me every time I travel to Tibet, where some of the “special” characteristics of the country have often brought me to the brink of despair.**

Once a year I update the directory of the Tadra children, a job that entails going from house to house around the Children’s Village. These fun-loving kids sit in front of me all excited and patiently answer my questions. But it is not so easy to compile such an official Tadra list, and there are one or two special features that need to be understood.

I soon learnt that it is useless to ask questions about the names and dates of birth of people in Tibet. Tibetans only have a first name and most nomad children at best know only the year of their birth, but rarely the exact date. When I inquired about the number of siblings, however, I expected a clear answer. Unfortunately, I came to realize that in the case of many children precisely this number changes from year to year. How can this be, given that most Tadra children are orphans? Only last year I found out the real reason for these changes. It is very important to phrase the question correctly. If you ask about siblings in Tibet, you get only the number of older siblings. To find out how many brothers and sisters there are overall, you have to ask in a very specific and detailed manner. The correct way to ask needs to be split

their lives and offered me their hearts. They give you everything they have. They give themselves. Anyone who is fortunate enough to come into contact with these children will know that it is not they who are taking, but that we are getting from them. In the time I was there I learnt much from these children, to trust people, to trust the future, and to have trust in myself.

up into several questions: “How many older brothers, how many younger brothers, how many older sisters, how many younger sisters do you have?”

But even then there is no guarantee of accuracy. For many children also count other children who are close to them as members of their family. And since all the Tadra kids think of one another as brothers and sisters, some of them even replied with the whole number of orphans living in the Village!

Another important point is how to interpret the number of fingers they hold up. Tibetans count up to ten on one hand, something that is bound to lead to misinterpretation. To indicate 6, for example, they hold up the thumb and little finger, while 8 is signaled with the thumb and forefinger. Originally



Although Tenzin Frapolli speaks Tibetan perfectly, she needs a translator who can translate her questions to the new arrivals into their nomadic language.

I simply counted the fingers, and wrote that number down, but in so doing I of course greatly reduced the size of these poor children's families!

Another very confusing characteristic of some of these children is that if they don't understand something, they simply answer "Yes". This may sound very nice, but it certainly does not help to make accurate statistics!

Translation also produces quite a chaotic situation. Since everything is phonetic, that is to say translation is done by ear, different translators will use different transcriptions of what they hear. So please don't be surprised if you find the names of people or places

Even the name of our project has given rise to translation problems. The name TADRA is composed of the first letters of two places. "TA" stands for Tawo und "DRA" für Drango, the two main towns of the regions from which most of the children came in our early days. The name Tawo was transcribed from the Tibetan language, while the Chinese call the town Dafou. And when the first maps were drawn up, suddenly its name was Dawu. So strictly speaking, our project should be called DADRA.

While I continue to compile the children's directory as regularly and as accurately as I can, I have come to accept that this or that figure probably does not reflect the whole truth. But when all is said and done, what does it matter, the important thing is that the children should be well and happy.

It is always a huge pleasure for me to have a short conversation with each of the children. Every encounter with a Tadra kid, however short, is a beautiful and truly enriching experience.



Each year I update the official Tadra children's list.

written in different ways in our travel reports, prospectuses or internet pages. Recently, for example, I found as many as three variants for the name of a girl on our website: Konchon, Konchok and Gonchog.



Lhamo and Tashi Dolma, Children's Village Dawu

## **The charitable foundation of the Pictet & Cie Bank donates CHF 20.000 to the Tadra project**

Shortly before this magazine went to press great news reached us! The Geneva-domiciled Pictet and Cie Bank will donate CHF 20.000 to the Tadra project. We can use the money for what is mostly needed. We like to say thank you very much!

## **Finally we have running water in Golok!**

Two new water pipelines have been laid and connected to the groundwater bore in Golok. This is like a present for everybody in the village. Before the children could only use running water two times a day for about thirty minutes. During the eight cold months of winter the water pipelines were often frozen and the children had to carry the water to the houses from far away. Now there is running water in the orphanage every day.

## **Tarom foundation will donate all facilities needed for the new laboratories**

The first students in Golok are already visiting themiddle school. From class 7 onwards, subjects like biology, chemistry and physics are taught. Until now we didn't have the necessary laboratories. Luckily, the Tarom Foundation from Liechtenstein is willing to pay for all the rooms and facilities needed to construct the new laboratories now. We are very grateful and like to say thank you to the Tarom foundation, which already paid for the construction of the middle school some years ago.





**More sincere thanks: The Youth Center from Lissy Bach**

The youth centre for our adolescents in Golok was begun in 2012. It has now been completed and is in operation. The house has a boys' and a girls' section, plus residential areas for teachers. We express our gratitude once again to Lissy Bach for financing this wonderful youth centre.



„Andi & Beat House“ & „Tinley House“

„Sun and Moon House“ & „Jaden & Devyn House“

**House 9/10** (“Sun and Moon House“ and “Jaden & Devyn House“) is also now completely finished and accommodates new children. Because of the ice-cold, almost unbearable wind from the south in winter, we constructed House 9/10 immediately next to House 7/8 to serve as a windbreak. For this development we express our most heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, Dr Frank and his wife Dr Siegrid Leppin, and to Mr and Mrs C. Fisch-Büchi for their financial help!

**The students of the International Peace School in Cologne run for Tadra project**

Every summer our school is organizing a charity run. This year our class decided to run for the children in Tibet. We decided to do so because our class teacher Mrs Bangart had told us about her visit to Tadra school. She had shown us many pictures and we were deeply moved. Therefore we tried to collect a lot of money for Tadra school. Most of the students ran more than ten rounds within 30 minutes. Afterwards we were exhausted but at the same time very happy that we joined the run and helped the children. We are already looking forward to the next charity run. [www.gsoneworld.de](http://www.gsoneworld.de)





# The Tadra education fund “help to help themselves”

by Beat Renz/ Switzerland

At the moment 500 children are living in our two orphanages and they are always getting more. School education still isn't a matter of course in Tibet. The uncountable certificates on the walls of Tadra school prove it: Tadra students belong to the best in the Counties and even in the provinces. This is not a coincidence. School is the most important thing for the orphans who don't have anything else. They know that a good school education is there only chance – and they seize it. The students always give their best and they are very diligent. Tadra school supports the students until they can live on their own. It is very important to us to give them the best education they can get for their future life. After the students graduate from school or university most of them like to support Tadra school. Either they work for our project or they support us in another way. All Tadra children feel like a big family. For them it is a matter of course to help each other. Many students are able to go to universities – but this is the point where it gets difficult for our association. Studying at university is very expensive. We have to pay the university fees as well as board and lodging for the students. Depending on the courses we have to pay between 1500 and 2000 € a year for every student. 2012 Migros from Switzerland laid the foundation for the education fund of Tadra project.

This fund shall allow the best students to complete a course of studies. Furthermore, a lot of Tadra-sponsors have been supporting our students during the last years. As a sponsor you are able to establish contact to the student you support. Additionally you get information on the status of the student's studies. With an earmarked donation to our education fund or as a sponsor of a student you support our most diligent students. Thereby you offer them a great chance for their future! Thank you very much for your valuable support!

**All our project members work on a voluntary basis. We can guarantee that all your donations will inure to the benefit of the children in the orphanages!**

## The students of the International Peace School in Cologne run for Tadra project

Every summer our school is organizing a charity run. This year our class decided to run for the children in Tibet. We decided to do so because our class teacher Mrs Bangart had told us about her visit to Tadra school. She had shown us many pictures and we were deeply moved. Therefore we tried to collect a lot of money for Tadra school. Most of the students ran more than ten rounds within 30 minutes. Afterwards we were exhausted but at the same time very happy that we joined the run and helped the children. We are already looking forward to the next charity run.





## Pictures of Tibet to help the Tadra project

by Helga Fuhrmann

Our member Dr. Klaus Vedder has been travelling to Tibet and the Himalaya ten times within the last 15 years. During his journeys he has explored all Tibetan regions – from Lhadak in the west to Dartsedo in the east and from Siling in the north to Yunnan in the south. As an enthusiastic photographer he took many great pictures on his journeys. Working as an orthopaedic specialist at a hospital in Bonn he already printed the most beautiful pictures large sized and displayed them on the corridor-walls of the hospital at the time we founded our project.

Due to the good reception of the pictures and the information about Tadra project given on a big board on the exhibitions, as well as the donations to the Tadra project that followed, he decided to show his

pictures in other locations as well – until now mostly in Bonn. For every picture Dr Vedder sells he receives between 150 and 200 € for the Tadra project. 130 pictures of Tibet thus have found their way to living rooms, restaurants, cafes and health institutions. When Dr Vedder is taking his photographs, the people in Tibet often ask him for his reasons. When he tells them that he likes to support Tadra project with his work, most people happily agree to be photographed.

Alone 36 pictures have already been sold at the exhibition in the rooms of the medical practice for physiotherapy and osteopathy of Jutta Martin in Bonn. If you are interested in visiting the exhibition, our project members will be happy to give you the contact information.

### The Fritz Leonhardt Secondary School

Many many thanks to all concerned for the fantastic donation collected by the Fritz Leonhardt Secondary School, and above all to the pupils. A large reproduction of this photo has been hanged up in the entrance hall of the school to remind them of how valuable their collections are.



Special thanks to

**Mr. Brian Levin**

from Michel Levin Communication  
who annually volunteers to do the english translation.

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**OUR MOST HEARTY THANKS** to everyone who supports the Tadra project in whatever form!

You can help the Tadra project by purchasing a calendar, etc.



### A Tibetan story-teller

An experienced story-teller and speaker, Tenzin with her knowledge and talent is at your disposal for a successful event (in English, German, Swiss German, French or Tibetan). Tenzin

tells spiritual stories for children, adolescents and adults from "The Prince and the Spirit" that have been transmitted to her by her parents, and also sings songs from Tibet. 100% of her fees go straight to the DEMIGH-Foundation (Swiss Tadra Project)

### CD Trinkhor Vol. IV "Songs of Tibet"

recorded in 2009 at the Hansa Studio in Bonn

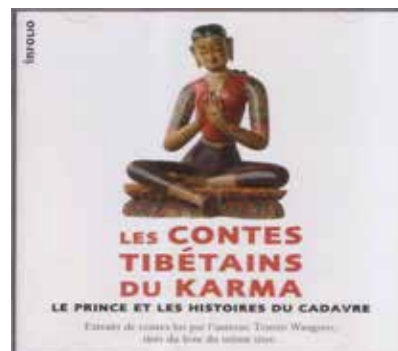
This album contains



10 brand new songs, a blend of Tibetan melodies and western pop music.

Trinkhor Vols. I & II, produced in the nineties, had a huge success, in financial terms too.

All profits go to the Tadra Project!



CD „Les contes tibétains du karma. Le prince et les histoires du cadavre.“ Extraits de contes lus par l’auteure Tenzin Wangmo, tirés du livre du même titre. Le soir à la veillée, au Tibet naguère comme en Europe jadis, on se racontait des histoires. En voici quelques-unes, riches d’enseignements. Dans ces Mille et une Nuits du pays des neiges, on croisera un prince, un cadavre extrêmement loquace, des situations difficiles ou comiques, des hommes et des esprits, des désirs, de la souffrance, du bonheur, de l’ignorance et de la sagesse. Toute une humanité, dans laquelle petits et grands se reconnaîtront.

„Dans cette belle version des Histoires du prince et du cadavre, Tenzin Wangmo a su recueillir de manière vivante et attachante la tradition orale qu’elle entendit de ses parents. Elle contribue ainsi à la préservation du précieux héritage culturel du Tibet, un héritage tant menacé de nos jours par la sinisation imposée au Pays des Neiges.“ Matthieu Ricard - Moine bouddhiste tibétain, interprète français du Dalaï Lama, auteur, photographe et docteur en génétique cellulaire

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## Projet TADRA

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