

The founding of Tibet Relief Fund

We've been having a bit of a re-organise here in the office and, with kind help from volunteers Carole and Neil, we have unearthed some fascinating documents and photos dating all the way back to Tibet Relief Fund's beginnings in 1959. One such photo was of Francis Napier Beaufort-Palmer, the founder and first chairman of Tibet Relief Fund.

Mr Beaufort-Palmer was a remarkable man with a strong sense of social justice and was particularly motivated by helping people in small countries who suffered at the hand of foreign powers. Following news of the Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet, in April 1959 he wrote a letter to *The Times* suggesting that a society be set up to support Tibet. In July, a further letter was sent to *The Times* informing readers that the newly formed Tibet Society had opened a "Tibet Relief Fund" to bring practical relief to Tibetan refugees; from this Tibet Relief Fund was established. Now, over 50 years later, our work covers a broader brief including projects inside Tibet.

Francis Beaufort-Palmer was Chairman of Tibet Relief Fund for 15 years and remained a trustee until he died ten years later in 1984.

TIBETAN REFUGEES

Sir,—Recent devastating events in Tibet caused over 15,000 Tibetans to cross the perilous Himalayas into India. It may be a long time before these unfortunate people can safely return to their overrun country. Our own consciences should allow us neither to neglect nor forget them.

The Indian Government has manfully coped with the addition to its own problems of the Tibetan refugees, because from 1955 to 1967 there was a special relationship between Tibet and the United Kingdom—a relationship handed on to the new India. On balance we think it wisest to concentrate chiefly on collecting money which can be used for the purchase of necessary anti-fur and other medicines. The Tibet Society has opened a Tibet Relief Fund for which we now appeal in the hope of a generous response. Donations should be sent to the address below or direct to the National Bank Ltd. (Bangladesh Branch), 21, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.

Yours faithfully,
THURTELL HOME NORRIS: F. M. BAILEY;
J. D. BOWEN; A. D. DODGE;
CLEMENT DAVIES; A. D. DODGE;
PARKER; PETER FLEMING; MARCO
MOORE; HUGH E. RICHARDSON;
PALLIS; FRANCIS NAPIER BEAUFORT-PALMER, Chair.
man; J. C. W. NAPIER MUNN, Hon.
Secretary; D. C. NICOLL, Hon.
Treasurer; The Tibet Society,
The Tibet Relief Fund, 28, Eccleston
Square, S.W.1, July 28.

1959 letter to
The Times

Mr Francis Napier Beaufort-Palmer
- founder of Tibet Relief Fund

It's been amazing to look back over early editions of this very newsletter (originally called the *Tibet Society Newsletter*) and see how the core principles of Tibet Relief Fund have stood the test of time. It has also been a joy to see the photos of some of the 1,000's of smiling faces we've supported with your help.

Many of the photos also show the level of destitution faced by early refugees coming from Tibet. This serves both as a good measure of how much progress has been made to improve living conditions and as a reminder that things are still far from perfect.

We thought it would be good to share some of our fascinating history with you as a reminder of how much of a difference your support has made over the years. You can read about the early days of our projects and sponsorships and hopefully you will enjoy seeing a selection from our photo archives too!

Curious to know what the 1960's take on fundraising was? Find out more on our fundraising pages where you'll also find the results of our 2013 raffle and can read about the fantastic accomplishments of our British 10k runners.

If you would like to make a donation, please call us on 020 7272 1414 or visit www.tibetreliefund.co.uk. For more information on any of the subjects covered in this issue, please email us at trf@tibetreliefund.co.uk.

Don't forget to follow us on twitter @tibetreliefund or 'like' us at [facebook.com/tibetreliefund](https://www.facebook.com/tibetreliefund) to keep up to date with all the latest Tibet Relief Fund news.

Philippe Carrick

Philippa Carrick and all at Tibet Relief Fund

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As we made our way through Tibet Relief Fund's archives it was evident that practical projects have been a long-standing and sustainable way to help Tibetans in exile. Here are a couple of examples where our involvement has stood the test of time.

Handicrafts

When the Dalai Lama first arrived in India in 1959 he initially settled in Mussoorie, relocating to Dharamsala the following year. Thousands of Tibetans who had joined him in Mussoorie stayed on. To continue the traditions of their life in Tibet, a handicraft centre was established where women would spin wool and weave; through the generosity of our early supporters, Tibet Relief Fund provided many spinning wheels for the centre.

The handicraft centre in Mussoorie is no longer operating, but there is a thriving centre in nearby Dekyling settlement where traditional Tibetan aprons and carpets are woven. Having helped purchase the land for this settlement in the '70s, Tibet Relief Fund has continued to give practical support for a wide-range of initiatives including provision of a watertight roof for the centre and purchase of an incense grinder.

Tibetan Homes Foundation

Founded in 1962, Tibetan Homes Foundation also in Mussoorie initially provided accommodation for Tibetan children studying at the local school – children who were orphaned or whose parents remained in Tibet or were separated from their children in India and Nepal.

Back in 1965 Tibet Relief Fund provided funds to build two of the first family homes. Over the ensuing years, we have given grants to help build teachers' quarters, for classroom and teaching equipment, bedding and clothing, a generator and today, through our sponsorship programme, we sponsor over 400 children at the homes foundation.

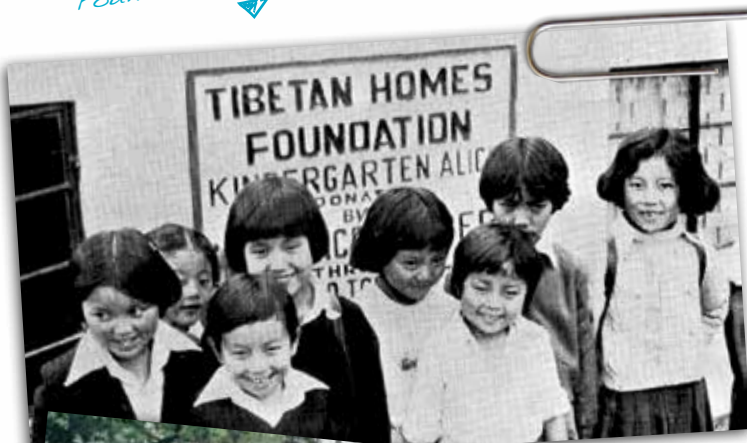
For over 50 years the Foundation has given shelter, education and a home to thousands of Tibetan children who have passed through its doors and today houses over 2,000 children, runs two old peoples' homes as well as a vocational training centre. Tibet Relief Fund couldn't be prouder to still be involved.

Right: Tibetan Homes
Foundation students,
June, 2000



Woman and baby spinning
at Mussoorie Handicraft
Centre, in the early 60s.

Tibetan Homes
Foundation in the 1970s



Sponsorship

From the very beginnings of Tibet Relief Fund it was obvious that sponsorship was an engaging and rewarding programme not just for refugee children but for their sponsors here in the UK.

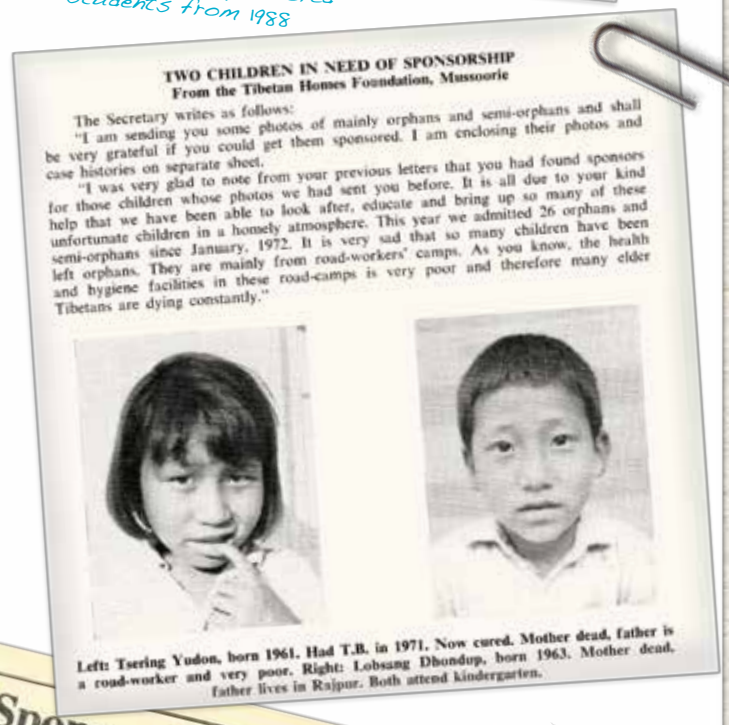
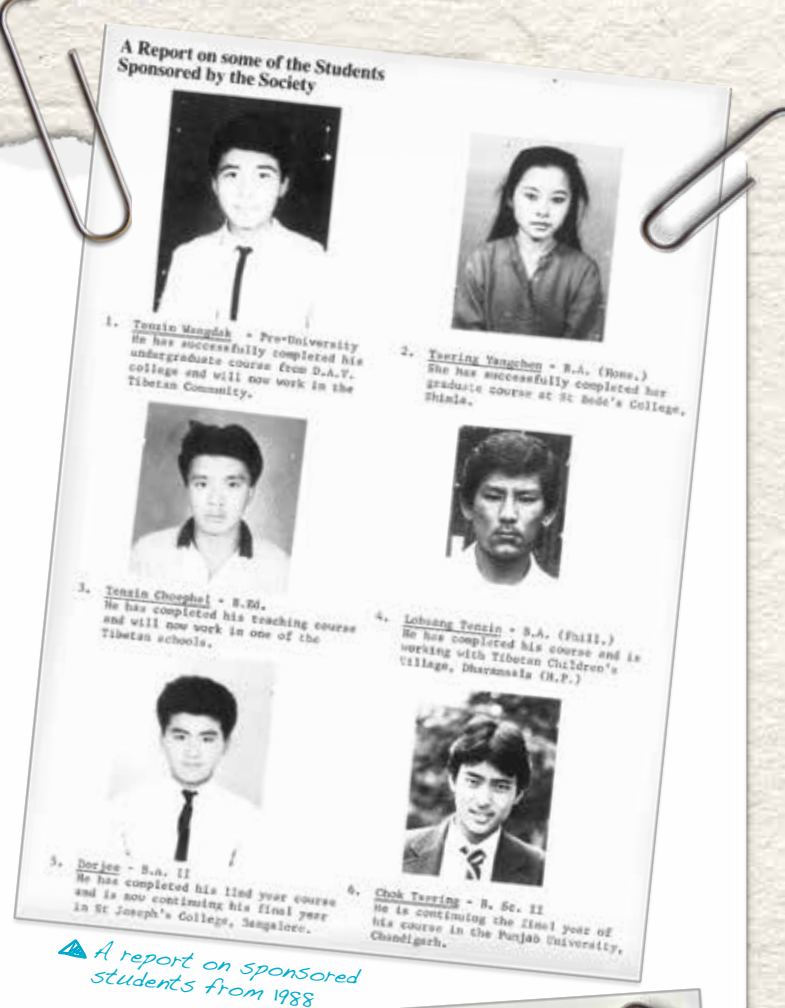
“Perhaps the most interesting and personal way of helping is through our sponsorship scheme. Sponsors will be sent a photograph of the child, and they will receive letters from him or her. It is a great excitement and joy for a child to feel that he has friends in a far-away country.”

Excerpt from a newsletter of 1967

Since this article was printed, sponsorship has remained at the core of our work - so much so that the above message could easily have been written today.

Back in the early days of the programme a lot of children who needed sponsoring were orphans from road-workers' camps. Conditions were harsh and medical facilities were virtually non-existent. Looking back through old newsletters it tugs at the heart-strings to read about so many children left without mothers and fathers such as Tsering Yudon and Lobsang Dhonsup.

Thanks to improvements in living conditions and medical care, today there are far fewer orphaned children. However, for many Tibetan families in exile it still remains a huge struggle to make ends meet. The cost of living is rising and availability of jobs is scarce, with most being low paid. Many parents, even if they both work, simply cannot afford to cover any schooling costs. In order to continue the vital task of educating young Tibetans schools desperately need sponsors for their children. Since the programme's inception, Tibet Relief Fund has facilitated over 12,000 sponsorships and, with your help, we look forward to continuing to give young Tibetans the chance of an education for a better future.





**Photo
Archives**



Page 5 - left to right: • Bruce Lee and Boney M look on as two monks perform a private puja • Newly arrived refugees, 1969 • Chaundra school • Spinning at Tibetan self-help centre, Darjeeling • English classes in Sonamling nursery, Ladakh • Dekyling school • 1994 school plaque • Karma, who has cerebral palsy, does everything with his feet – including washing his socks, Ngoenga school, 2006 • Chophelling Tibetan Old People's Home • A litter of Tibetan spaniel puppies.



2013 Raffle



As you may know, our 2013 raffle was drawn on 6th July at the Dalai Lama's Birthday celebrations hosted by the Tibetan Community in Britain.

The winning ticket belonged to Stephen Scadden from Devon, who won a fantastic top prize of £1,000. Our congratulations to Mr Scadden and to all our prize winners.

We raised an astonishing £14,000 and would not have been able to do this without all those who bought raffle tickets this year and, of course, the fantastic prizes so kindly donated by both individuals and organisations.

We'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who has made the raffle the success it has been. This £14,000 will be used where it is needed most; supporting urgent projects that bring sustainable and practical help to Tibetans in India, Tibet and Nepal.

We are now looking forward to next year's raffle and we hope that together we can make it another great success!

Special thanks to: The Natural Bed Company, Garuda Trading, Quiet Earth, Ethical Wares, Kailash Momo, Speakabo, Stokes Sauces

Early support

Looking back on the early editions of the Tibet Relief Fund newsletter it's remarkable how many fundraising articles have been so similar and relevant to the fundraising efforts going on now, such as the two fantastic examples show below.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Supporters of the Tibet Relief Fund were invited to participate in a WALKOVER on the 4th May, organised by International Voluntary Service, a fellow member of the Circle group of charities. Between 700 and 800 walkers volunteered to try and cross eighteen Thames bridges, a total distance of 23 miles. Starting at Kew Bridge in glorious sunshine with a refreshing breeze, seventeen of our members - including Miss Rosemary Squires, Miss Anita Morris, Miss June Donaldson, Mr. P.E. Turner and Mr. Kunjo Tashi - completed the course, crossing Tower Bridge to the finishing post in pouring rain. However, they were revived with hot soup and sandwiches at Toynbee Hall. Much to her surprise, her only training having been 'nipping out to the local shops', the Secretary managed to walk 15 miles without acquiring a single blister. Sponsorship money is still coming in, and it is estimated that the Tibet Relief Fund will benefit by well over £100.

Sponsored walk and run

In May 1968, the newsletter promoted a sponsored walk to its members and supporters. Crossing 18 Thames bridges over 23 miles, this was not a far cry from the sponsored events our supporters take part in today.

This year, on 14th July, four fantastic supporters completed the British 10k Run, passing numerous London landmarks to raise funds for Tibet Relief Fund in a very similar effort to that of our supporters in 1968.

A huge thank you to walkers and runners past and present. All such efforts are always greatly appreciated.

Parachute jump

In 1968, Miss Macnab and Miss Baxter from Scotland raised £5,750 for Tibet Relief Fund by undertaking a sponsored parachute jump.

We were thrilled when we found out this month that 51 year-old Mark McCardle and his son Isaac McCardle will also be jumping from a plane in a sponsored parachute jump.

Visit www.justgiving.com/para-jump-for-tibet-relief-fund to read Mark and Isaac's story and find out what inspired Mark, who suffers from degenerative arthritis and can barely walk, to carry out this fantastic challenge in order to raise money for Tibet Relief Fund.

SPONSORED PARACHUTE DROP

After their return from India last year, Misses Macnab and Baxter from Scotland raised £5,750 for better teachers' quarters in the Tibetan Home Foundation through a sponsored parachute drop along with two young men, Richard Fyffe and Nicholas Ayles in Scotland. We now heard from them that Miss Macnab is to get married with Mr Fyffe and Miss Baxter to Mr Ayles. Of course, we send them our warm congratulations on their marriage and our best wishes for happiness ever after.



Fundraising ideas from the 1960s

With so many fantastic and inspirational fundraising stories from the archives – we thought we'd share some of the best to give our supporters today some unique inspiration!

▶ In 1965 the owner of the Artists Own Gallery in London held an exhibition entitled The Tibetan Tradition, with all profits from the event benefiting Tibet Relief Fund. The event worked not only to bring in money for the relief of Tibetan refugees, but to help arouse interest in Tibetan art and culture.

FUND-RAISING

The Soiree held at the Upper Grosvenor Galleries on the 29th June was a great success. These beautiful rooms, so kindly lent for the occasion by the Duke & Duchess of St. Albans, with the exhibition of Annigoni paintings and drawings as a background, made a perfect setting for our wine and cheese party. Business round the Tombola drum was brisk, thanks to the generosity of those who contributed to the magnificent collection of prizes, which included a Jeroboam of champagne and a signed print donated by Signor Annigoni. We are also most grateful to the members who worked unflaggingly behind the scenes or helping at the various stalls, and to our young people who rallied round and served refreshments or sold raffle tickets. Altogether an enjoyable evening and a profitable one, £300 being paid into the Tibet Relief Fund as a consequence.

▲ An extract from our September 1966 newsletter

▶ In 1966, as a change from a coffee morning, Mrs Betty Graham-Higgs held a coffee evening. The host of this ladies-only event wanted mothers free of their children and for her working friends to be able to attend too. The event was said to be so charming and natural that guests were greatly touched and moved towards the plight of Tibetans. The evening sought to recruit new members for Tibet Society and sell raffle tickets for the Relief Fund.

In June of the same year, Miss Veronica Northcote gave a wine and sherry party at her father's flat in Woodbridge. An assortment of Tibetan photographs were shown and were said to, "show what marvellous achievements Tibetans have made whilst pointing to and raising funds for their still desperate plight."

We'd be thrilled if you were able to hold a retro fundraising event of your own! To find out more, please contact georgina@tibetrelieffund.co.uk



Dominic Kennedy

6th February 1955 – 16th June 2013

We recently learned that Tibet Relief Fund supporter, Dominic Kennedy had very sadly passed away.

Dominic worked as a lecturer for the Open University, teaching, and writing and marking exam papers in Classical Studies and World Religions.

He had a strong emotional engagement with the Tibetan cause and attended many demonstrations. He became interested in Buddhism in his early twenties, developing an interest particularly in Guru Rinpoche and in Manjugosha.

Dominic is greatly missed by his wife and two sons and all who knew him. Following his death, his family have asked for donations to be made to Tibet Relief Fund in his honour and we are humbled to have received £700 from the friends and family of Dominic Kennedy.

Sponsorship case studies

After looking through some of the old case studies like those featured on page 3 (not to mention many more!), we wanted to bring back the tradition of telling you a bit about some of the many people who are in need of sponsorship today.



Ngawang Choephel

Ngawang and his four siblings are orphans. They are cared for by their eldest brother who works as a servant to support the family. Ngawang, now aged 14, was fortunate to be admitted to the Namgyal Monastery where he is being educated for free; but he still needs help from a sponsor to pay for the cost of his food and shelter.

If you would like to sponsor Ngawang and Kalsang, or others who need your help, please contact the office or email tsering@tibetrelieffund.co.uk



Kalsang Tsering

At 53, Kalsang may seem a little young to be living in an old people's home but the story behind his ending up there is particularly touching.

Kalsang was born with both mental and physical difficulties and could not attend regular schooling. As he grew older he was admitted to a vocational training course where he was taught tailoring.

Over the years he learnt to do a little stitching but was not well enough to live without help.

He met Lhakpa Dolma, who was also physically challenged, but despite this they lived together happily until Kalsang's health deteriorated and he became half paralysed. It then became impossible for Kalsang and Lhakpa to live by themselves so they were admitted to the old people's home in Mussoorie. They can now live together and get the care they need.

Unfortunately there are many others in the home, so it is essential for Kalsang to receive sponsorship to cover the cost of his food, clothing and medicines. Most importantly, sponsorship will also give him the knowledge that someone cares about him and his situation in the evening of his life.

Sponsorship success stories



Tenzin Tsewang was raised by his grandparents in Doeguling Tibetan Settlement, south India.

His grandparents were poor farmers and could not afford to pay for Tenzin to follow his dream to study dentistry. His case was presented to us and we found a sponsor who covered the duration of his studies. We are delighted to report Tenzin is now successfully working as a dentist in the very settlement he grew up in and is now able to look after his grandparents.

▼ *Tenzin with a patient*

These days our sponsorship programme includes not only children but the elderly, university students and Buddhist monks and nuns in India and Nepal.

All of us at Tibet Relief Fund are immensely proud of this programme that has thrived over so many years.



Tenzin Norsang (right) with Tibetan Prime Minister in Exile, Sikyong Lobsang Sangay.

Tenzin Norsang was born into a Tibetan refugee family and attended the Tibetan Children's Village school in India.

His desire to address the lack of medical care in Tibetan settlements led him to train as a doctor. With the generous support of a his sponsor, Peter Jarman, Tenzin was able to successfully complete his studies at the Government Medical College in Tanda, northern India. As a qualified doctor, he now practises medicine at the Doeguling Tibetan Hospital in Mungod Settlement – fulfilling his long-held ambition all thanks to the continued support of his sponsor in the UK.

We believe that sticking to the basic principles that shine through from early issues of our newsletter, is what has made our programme so successful – and hopefully shall continue to do so! We'd like to thank all our sponsors, past and present, for their on-going support and generosity.