

TIBET RELIEF FUND

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These children are set to face the harsh winter months with no hot water.

We need your help today.

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Dear Friend,

Thank you for your fantastic response following our most recent appeal; your generosity will help to provide immunisation, screening and education programmes against Hepatitis B for Tibetans in exile.

As you may know, since our foundation in 1959 Tibet Relief Fund has maintained many longstanding partnerships within the Tibetan exiled community in India. One of these is with Tibetan Homes Foundation in Mussoorie, which we have supported since it was established back in 1962.

Tibetan Homes Foundation is one of the major child care and education establishments in the Tibetan community in India. It provides a home and schooling to children who have undertaken the dangerous journey from Tibet – many arriving in India alone, impoverished, traumatised and often severely injured. Most recently the Homes Foundation has also been able to take in children from destitute Tibetan families whose loved ones live in different Tibetan settlements or in remote areas of Ladakh in north west India, where education is either unavailable or simply unaffordable.

Whilst the home is well established to provide housing and education for the children under its care, there remain a number of areas of pressing need. **One of these is something many of us take for granted: the regular supply of hot water. At present, there are no hot water systems in the family homes.**

From November to February, children living at the Homes Foundation campus in Mussoorie face bitter winters with heavy snowfalls and temperatures that frequently fall below zero. To live without access to hot water makes life even more forbidding. And moreover the health implications are serious; many of the children already suffer from recurring stomach problems amongst other ailments.

With winter fast approaching, we are urgently asking for your help to ensure this year is different. Until now, the children have been using firewood to warm water – this is extremely costly and inefficient. With the steep rise in the cost of living throughout India it also means hot water is becoming a luxury, even during the harsh winter months.

Whilst the need for hot water has been pressing for many years; the Foundation has been powerless due to a lack of funds and the astronomical cost of fitting and maintaining a traditional hot water system. However, due to a newly introduced Indian Government subsidy to support alternative power, with your help we have the opportunity to help fund the installation of solar panel heaters at Tibetan Home's Mussoorie campus.

Although solar panels provide a more realistic option to bring hot water to the campus, the cost is still beyond what the Homes Foundation can afford. That's why we're asking you to donate towards the cost of these solar panels that would bring a direct supply of hot water into the 'family' homes.



Tenzin Palkey (*left*), aged seven, was given a place to live at Tibetan Homes Foundation earlier this year. She joined over 2,000 children who currently live under the care of Tibetan Homes Foundation and is just one of the children who would benefit from the introduction of hot water this winter.

Tenzin comes from a poor Tibetan refugee family living in India, she has two brothers and a sister and the Foundation has fortunately been able to take on the care of her sister too. Tenzin's mother and father live in the Tibetan settlement of Orissa where education is unaffordable and the standard of living is low. Orissa is over 1,000 miles from the Foundation;

this separation is an unfortunate reality that Tibetan families in exile endure.

Studying and living at Tibetan Homes Foundation will give Tenzin the opportunity for a better quality of life. With your help, we hope to make this even better by ensuring she has access to hot water; especially during the harsh winter months. Hot water is vital for good hygiene and a healthy life; for Tenzin to be able wash properly and even have a hot bath on occasion, will make a huge and vital difference to her life.

We have a real opportunity to fund this sustainable source of hot water for Tibetan children and we are asking for your help to make this opportunity a reality.

£15 can buy pipes and fittings to supply hot water to the children's 'family' homes

£30 can help buy water tanks and stands

£60 can go towards buying the solar water heaters needed to heat water for all the children living at Tibetan Homes Foundation

The solar panels will not only mean a better quality of life for the children living at the Foundation, but will also ensure Tibetan Homes Foundation have sufficient funds to continue their vital work in other areas to benefit as many children as possible.



The proposed place of installation for the solar water heaters; located at the heart of the campus where the sunlight is direct

Your generosity today can help refugee Tibetan children through the fast approaching, harsh winter months. Your donation will be used where it is needed most and enable us to support this and other urgent projects that bring sustainable and practical help to Tibetans in India, Nepal and Tibet.

Thank you.

All best wishes,

Philippa Carrick

Philippa Carrick, Chief Executive Officer



<supporter ref no>