

TIBET RELIEF FUND

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“ On a recent visit to Tibetan Homes Foundation I was really saddened to learn that there were very few resources available to provide the children with toys and games to play with. Everything felt very austere.”

Philippa Carrick, CEO, Tibet Relief Fund

December 2013

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your fantastic response following our most recent appeal for solar panels to provide hot water at Tibetan Homes Foundation. Your support has enabled us to send a grant directly to the Foundation to purchase and install solar panels that will give a sustainable source of hot water to the children living there. We could not have done this without you, thank you.

In that appeal we talked of the long-standing relationship Tibet Relief Fund has with Tibetan Homes Foundation, a relationship that goes all the way back to when it was first established in 1962. Over the ensuing 51 years, with your help, we have provided accommodation for children and teachers, classrooms and teaching equipment, mattresses and bedding, winter clothing for the children and much more. We are really proud to have been involved with such a fantastic project for so long.

However, whilst we have been able to support the basic education, sanitary and health needs of children living at the Foundation; more basic childhood needs have had to take a back seat.

We want to change this.

Children at Tibetan Homes Foundation have few, if any, toys and games. As a consequence they have very little opportunity for fun and enjoyment outside of their school work. For over 2,000 children, the Foundation is their home; they live there all year round not just during school and term time. For these children it is essential there are fun and entertaining activities available outside of their study.

The above photograph of a typical dormitory shows just how plain and institutional the children's living quarters are. Whilst the dormitories are great in providing for basic needs, with your help we want to help to turn Tibetan Homes Foundation into a more cheerful and fun environment for all the children who call it their home.

Earlier this year when I visited the Mussoorie campus I was accompanied by Tenzin Ngawang, an ex-student of Tibetan Homes who now works with Tibet Relief Fund at the Empowering the Vision project. When I noticed a group of young children playing with what looked to be a football, Ngawang explained that the children were still doing as he did when a young boy, namely making a football from old socks stuffed into a bag. I was really saddened to learn that there were very few resources available to provide the children with toys and games to play with. Everything felt very austere.



A young student at the Foundation

We must not, and should not, forget the importance of toys in the development of children as rounded and happy individuals. Toys for the children would not only bring fun and diversity to their lives, but the toys themselves would bring educational benefit.

Toys such as board games, dolls and cars could help social development, encourage children to interact with one another and develop communication. Crayons, paints and paper could help creative and intellectual development. Toys such as musical instruments and play dough could help sensory development.

The children of Tibetan Homes Foundation are the future of the Tibetan community. With your help we want to do all we can to give them the best possible start in life by ensuring their happiness today.

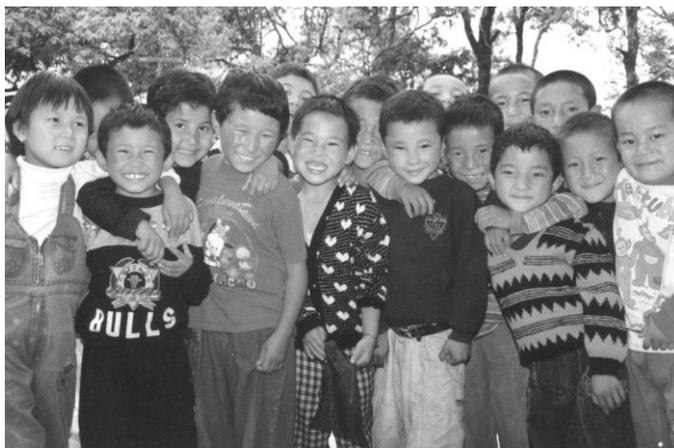
£15 could help to buy board games and other toys for the children

£30 could help to buy cricket bats and other outdoor sporting equipment

£60 could go towards uniforms to allow the children to take part in inter-school sports events

We want to give children at Tibetan Homes Foundation the opportunity to enjoy fun and play during the bleak winter months and bring joy and laughter to children who have already been through so much. To do this, we need your help.

Your generosity today can help bring joy to the lives of refugee Tibetan children. 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.



Students at Tibetan Homes Foundation

Thank you.

With all best wishes and warmest season's greetings,

Philippe Carrick

Philippa Carrick, Chief Executive Officer

