

The Charitable Projects of Arjia Rinpoche



a Tibetan Buddhist Lama

Become Involved . . .

Cancer Care Program for Mongolian Children

You will discover by reading my memoirs, *Surviving the Dragon*, that although I am Tibetan by nationality, my parents were of Mongolian descent. Because of this connection, I am deeply committed to helping Mongolians who are dying unnecessarily of cancer because they do not have access to cancer screening or treatment.

In response to the needs of our Mongolian brothers and sisters, the Tibetan Center for Wisdom & Compassion in Mill Valley, California and the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center in Bloomington, Indiana will be constructing a Children's Cancer Care Unit at the Maternity Hospital in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. As Director of both the TCCW and the TMBCC, I urge you to get involved.

Background Information:

In the 13th century, Tibetan Buddhism spread to Mongolia and became the main religion of the Mongolian people. Before the 1920s, Tibetan Buddhism was the national religion of Mongolia. The monasteries of Tibetan Buddhism were not only a spiritual home for believers, but also served as a place for them to solve the problems of daily life and treat their illnesses. The monasteries gave support to the spirits of believers and took care of their bodies. During the 1930s to the 1980s, Tibetan Buddhism in Mongolia was forbidden and the monasteries were devastated. They have been undergoing restoration since the 1990s. During the past ten to fifteen years, there has been a surge in the incidence of cancer in Mongolia. Eighty-six percent of the patients who have been diagnosed for cancer have been terminal cases. Most of these patients survived for less than a year. Death from cancer is the second highest cause of death in Mongolia. One out of every five deaths is from cancer. Among this large number of patients, many are children. The incidence of leukemia, brain tumor, and osteocarcinoma in children is higher than in other locales.

Because Mongolia's economy is gradually changing into a market-oriented economy, medical costs are rising. Vulnerable groups, such as the disabled, the elderly, and children, have been plunged into a plight in which they have no money to provide for treatment and a possible cure for their illnesses. The cost of cancer treatment is particularly high and patients from poor families cannot afford to receive it or experience even the most basic of treatment procedures.

"The Cancer Care Program for Mongolian Children" aims to help children of all economic levels who are ravaged by cancer. All patients—no matter what their belief--will receive identical care and love. By means of this program we hope to improve the medical facilities in Mongolia and update the technology standards.

The Progress of the Cancer Care Program:

“The Cancer Care Program for Mongolian Children” has received strong support from relevant departments of Mongolia. We have petitioned the government and are waiting for their approval to build 30 or more units/apartments in a building addition adjacent to the Maternity Hospital located in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. These units will serve as small apartments for children who are stricken by cancer and are undergoing treatment. The children will have their parents stay with them as it is necessary that they be with their sick child. Although we will hand over the units to the Maternity Hospital to administer, we will continue to work with them in the role of advisor. In addition, we will continue to raise funds on an on-going basis to donate beds and sponsor individual children to receive cancer care treatment.

Earthquake Relief

As a Tibetan, I am committed to helping victims of the recent earthquakes in Jiegu, Tibet (Qinghai Province). If you read my book, you will learn how I established a Red Cross rescue mission to aid victims of the great snowstorm in this same Jiegu area during the 1990s. Presently, students at my centers (TCCW and TMBCC) routinely collect donations and send them to the American Red Cross so that our brothers and sisters in Tibet can receive the help they need to rebuild their lives.

The Multi Education Editing Center (MEEC)

Because I believe that the publication and distribution of Tibetan literary works are essential to preserving the Tibetan culture threatened by extinction, I founded the MEEC in India. Our completed projects include a Tibetan Dictionary and a Computer Manual written in Tibetan and English. My Tibetan Assistance Program distributes sutras without charge and continues to help many Tibetan monks, nuns, and scholars living in India and Nepal. Upcoming MEEC Projects consist of publishing the *Golden Rays Sutra*, written in Tibetan and Mongolian to be distributed free to families in Mongolia; a Medical Reference Book in Mongolian and Tibetan, and a Tibetan Encyclopedia which will include English and Chinese subject matter. Future plans include creating a Library of Tibetan Works for the Tibetan exile community in south India. This library will serve Tibetans refugees, especially their children, who wish to further their education and preserve their culture.

Libraries for Children of Tibetan Refugees in Dharamsala

In order for the Tibetan Community-in-Exile to survive in non-Tibetan cultures, it is essential that the children of Tibetan refugees be educated so they can successfully face the complexities of life.

in the twenty-first century. To meet this need, Arjia Rinpoche and his spiritual students are donating books to two schools for the children of Tibetan refugees located in Dharmasala, India. They have purchased 300 books in the Tibetan language for each school and are presently investigating educational organizations in the USA that will provide English language books. In addition, they will provide the necessary shelving to house these books in the libraries where they will be located. The Multi Education Editing Center, already established by Rinpoche in Dharmasala will monitor this project to ensure that the donation, distribution and shelving of the books will be achieved in an efficient and timely manner.

The Tofu Project

Traditionally, Buddhist monastics eat whatever food that is offered to them. Recently His Holiness has promoted a meatless diet. Because of this, Arjia Rinpoche, with the Tibetan Center for Compassion and Wisdom (TCCW) and a group of Dharma friends in the San Francisco Bay Area started the “Tofu Project” to provide for large scale tofu production at Tibetan monasteries in exile. Several monasteries in south India have been given tofu makers so they can more easily facilitate a vegetarian diet for those monks who wish to follow His Holiness’ wishes.

Monastery Medical Project

Many Tibetan monks living at Tashi Lhumpo Monastery in South India suffer from stomach problems. To provide relief from their suffering, I am starting a program to conduct research on this debilitating condition. We hope to provide a solution in the near future.

Make Your Life More Meaningful . . .

Benevolence makes the lives of people more meaningful. It also creates a positive energy in the world, bringing benefit to immeasurable sentient beings. Your benevolence is the best medicine for persons in this troubled world who are less fortunate than you. Your compassion will also heal your own sufferings.

Please read my memoirs, *Surviving the Dragon*, and become involved in my charitable projects. All proceeds from book sales will support these programs. All proceeds from book sales will support these programs.



You May Send Your Donation to

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