

Dear Francois,

Patricia asked me to send you a letter explaining my job with the Children's Education Centre in Exile.

I founded the Centre with three others six months ago to produce a monthly newsletter for Tibetan Children. The newsletter is called "Children's Treasure in Exile" and is modeled after a Tibetan publication called Children's Treasure. Unfortunately, the Chinese government censors the Tibetan version and often uses it for propaganda. Children in Tibet grow up believing false information about the history and culture of their homeland. For refugee children newly arrived in India, our newsletter is important to reverse the effects of Chinese government propaganda.

The newsletter tries to pass on knowledge of Tibetan history, culture and current events through stories, games, puzzles, riddles, pictures and instructional lessons. So children are encouraged to explore these issues in novel ways. Additionally, many articles are written by the children themselves. Because they partly contain the children's own work, each issue is eagerly awaited.

Currently we distribute to 25 Tibetan schools all over India, with a total of around 20,000 pupils. It is very popular, and every month we have many more articles sent in by children than we are able to print. Sadly, we are only able to print 500 copies a month due to the costs of printing. Until now, we have been unable to find a regular sponsor for our efforts. We have had generous donations towards printing costs from bookshops, monasteries and individual monks, but each issue requires new funding. Currently to print 500 copies of an issue costs 4,500 rupees total. Until now, we have not charged for our newsletter. This means that each school gets one issue for every 40 pupils. If we could print more, there would be more copies available, and more schools in Ladakh and Nepal as well as India could receive our newsletter. Ideal would be a print run of around 2,000 copies to distribute, which would cost only 6,700 rupees to produce. A breakdown of the costs involved is included in an attachment. Furthermore the equipment we use is dated, and the computer has recently succumbed to an array of viruses. A new computer, printer,

digital camera and scanner would help to ensure that the quality of the publication will not suffer.

If we can continue to print for some time, we intend to begin charging a small amount per copy and eventually to become self-sufficient in our costs. I estimate that to reach this point will take six months to one year. Once the newsletter has reached a stable state, we have several long-term goals for the organisation. We would like to organise events for children living in exile, particularly orphans or those whose parents are still in Tibet. Also, we would like to begin translating classic English language children's literature into Tibetan as well as publishing volumes of short stories written by the children themselves.

If your organisation can help towards some of our costs, we would be most grateful. The most urgent need at the moment is a regular sponsorship for printing costs to ensure the survival of the newsletter. As outlined above, this would require around 4,500 rupees per month, or 6,700 rupees per month for 2000 copies.

I would like to thank you very much for taking the trouble to read this letter and for all your help in the past. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,
Jigmey

Breakdown of costs for printing 500 and 2000 copies

(all costs in rupees)

	500 copies	2000 copies
Printing	2000	4500
Posting	500	1200
Scanning	200	200
Collecting materials	300	300
Communication	500	500
Total	4500	6700