

# Tibetan Aid Project



SUPPORTING TIBET'S HERITAGE SINCE 1969



## *Happy Losar, the Tibetan New Year!*

Starting March 5th, Tibetans will bid farewell to the tumultuous Year of the Iron Tiger and enter into calmer tides with the Year of the Iron Rabbit. Rabbit years hold the promise of being stable, peaceful and lucky. We at the Tibetan Aid Project hope this will be true for you and your family.

The Losar New Year celebration is the most important holiday for Tibetans, a time of new beginnings, hope and the spirit of renewal. Traditionally, it features a three-day festival during which offerings and prayers are made, prayer flags are hung, dances are performed and special food is prepared.

After years of struggle, the Tibetan people have good reason to look forward with hope. But it has taken a long time. The communist takeover of 1959 put Tibetan culture at risk of extinction. Many sacred texts and manuscripts were destroyed, while those that were saved deteriorated from lack of proper care. This loss was a devastating blow for a culture so deeply rooted in written spiritual teachings. Bereft of the precious writings and art that formed the foundation of their culture, the refugees faced the danger that their way of life would vanish forever.

For 42 years now the Tibetan Aid Project, with the help and generosity of supporters like you, has persevered in its mission to preserve, rebuild and perpetuate Tibetan culture. Your donations over the years have enabled the Tibetan Aid Project to help distribute over 3 million books, 120,000 prayer wheels and 4.3 million art prints to Tibetan refugees all over the Himalayan region. The tradition continues this year. In February we will be distributing 188,000 books in Bodh Gaya, India for the World Peace Ceremony, where over 10,000 Tibetan monks, nuns and laypeople from over 3,300 retreats and monastic centers gather every year to pray for peace and for the well-being of all humanity.





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Tibetan tradition teaches that all actions have results. The gift of books made possible by your donations has sparked a revival of Tibetan culture. Before, up to eight villages had to share one Kangyur, or direct teachings of the Buddha. These texts were often extremely old and fragile, and could not be handled often.

A monk at the World Peace Ceremony described how the Tibetan Aid Project’s efforts have changed the landscape of literacy among the Tibetan refugee communities and their neighbors. “Now in Bhutan so many people read the Kangyur,” he said. “Every year I come here to collect the Kangyur, and I take them to the monastery. Now whatever students want to read, they can take the book from the library and read.”

Rising literacy rates among all segments of the Tibetan population, increased possibilities for nuns to achieve advanced levels of education, and the building of libraries all over the Himalayan region are all evidence of the good you have helped accomplish. You have helped give an invaluable gift and offered hope to a struggling people.

One monk at the Ceremony declared, “I see many benefits for the future. Even though some day I will pass away, these books will continue to benefit people through study, practice, and reflection.” Indeed, the gift of books helps lift the Tibetan people to new levels of prosperity through increased literacy, allowing them the time to be able to study and practice the Dharma and continue their precious tradition. Your compassion and support are truly, deeply appreciated.

From everyone at the Tibetan Aid Project, we wish you and your family joy, abundance and good health in the new year. Happy Losar!

Rosalyn White  
Executive Director

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One great way to support our mission of preserving and rebuilding Tibetan culture is by joining our Community of 1,000 Blessings campaign with a gift of just \$1 a day.

Mark your calendars! Taste & Tribute San Francisco will be held November 18th. To donate auction items for the SF or NY dinners, please contact us.

