Dear Friend,

These words come from the great Tibetan teacher Patrul Rinpoche, whose collected works were among the books distributed at this year’s World Peace Ceremony in Bodh Gaya, India. Patrul Rinpoche’s wisdom is among the many vast and timeless teachings found in the Tibetan language and culture. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the Tibetan Aid Project and its affiliated organizations were able to achieve a wide distribution of Tibetan books this year, reaching schools and libraries throughout all regions of the Tibetan refugee community.

This year, we helped to donate 200,000 books. As communities gather to study and renew the heart of their culture, these texts bring Tibetans together. None of this would be possible without your generosity, compassion, and awareness of the need for help.

Every year, Tibetan Aid Project supporters from the Bay Area and all across America come together and show their deep concern for the Tibetan culture and people during our annual benefit gala Taste & Tribute San Francisco. Gary Ashley, a long-time supporter, recently wrote about his travels to Bhutan, which borders Tibet—a trip he purchased through a Taste & Tribute auction:

*It was inspiring to see how the concerted application of Buddhist teachings gave rise to a harmonious society that was happy in spite of—indeed perhaps because of—a relative lack of material wealth. But it also gave me a glimpse of the conflict such a society faces when exposed to the temptations of materialistic society, and emphasized the need for the continual affirmation of core principles to maintain that happy, balanced way of life.*

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*Do not take lightly small misdeeds,*

*Believing they can do no harm.*

*Even a tiny spark of fire*  
*Can set alight a mountain of hay.*

*Do not take lightly small good deeds*  
*Believing they can hardly help*  
*For drops of water one by one*  
*In time can fill a giant pot.*
For over forty years the Tibetan Aid Project has supported the efforts to keep the Tibetan culture alive throughout the region by sending over three and a half million books in the Tibetan language as free gifts. The culture and language are faced with a constant challenge of survival, the universal teachings of wisdom, compassion, and peace at risk of being lost or replaced by today’s more materialistic, advertising-driven way of life. The texts we distribute help increase Tibetan education and literacy rates with words of inspiration, wisdom, and faith. Your help makes all the difference.

With just a $10 donation, you can pay for a book to be produced, packaged, and shipped. For $108, you can provide books for a core curriculum for thirty students to study for a year. For $1,080, you can provide the seed collection for a small library. This is not just an opportunity to give—it is an opportunity to change lives, empower whole communities, shape the next generation, and strengthen a culture. We hope you will join us in helping the Tibetan people.

Sincerely,

Judy Rasmussen
Executive Director

P.S. There are opportunities year round to support our mission of preserving and rebuilding Tibetan culture. You can do so today by joining our Community of 1,0000 Blessings campaign with a gift of just $1 a day. For more information, please email 1000blessings@tibetanaidproject.org or visit our website: www.tibetanaidproject.org

P.P.S. If you have any questions about how to start writing or revising your estate plan or how to make a planned gift to TAP, contact Judy Rasmussen at tap@tibetanaidproject.org or call 510-848-4238.

P.P.P.S. Interested in deepening your spiritual practice and helping preserve Tibetan culture? Apply to our work-study volunteer program. Email tap@tibetanaidproject.org for an application.

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