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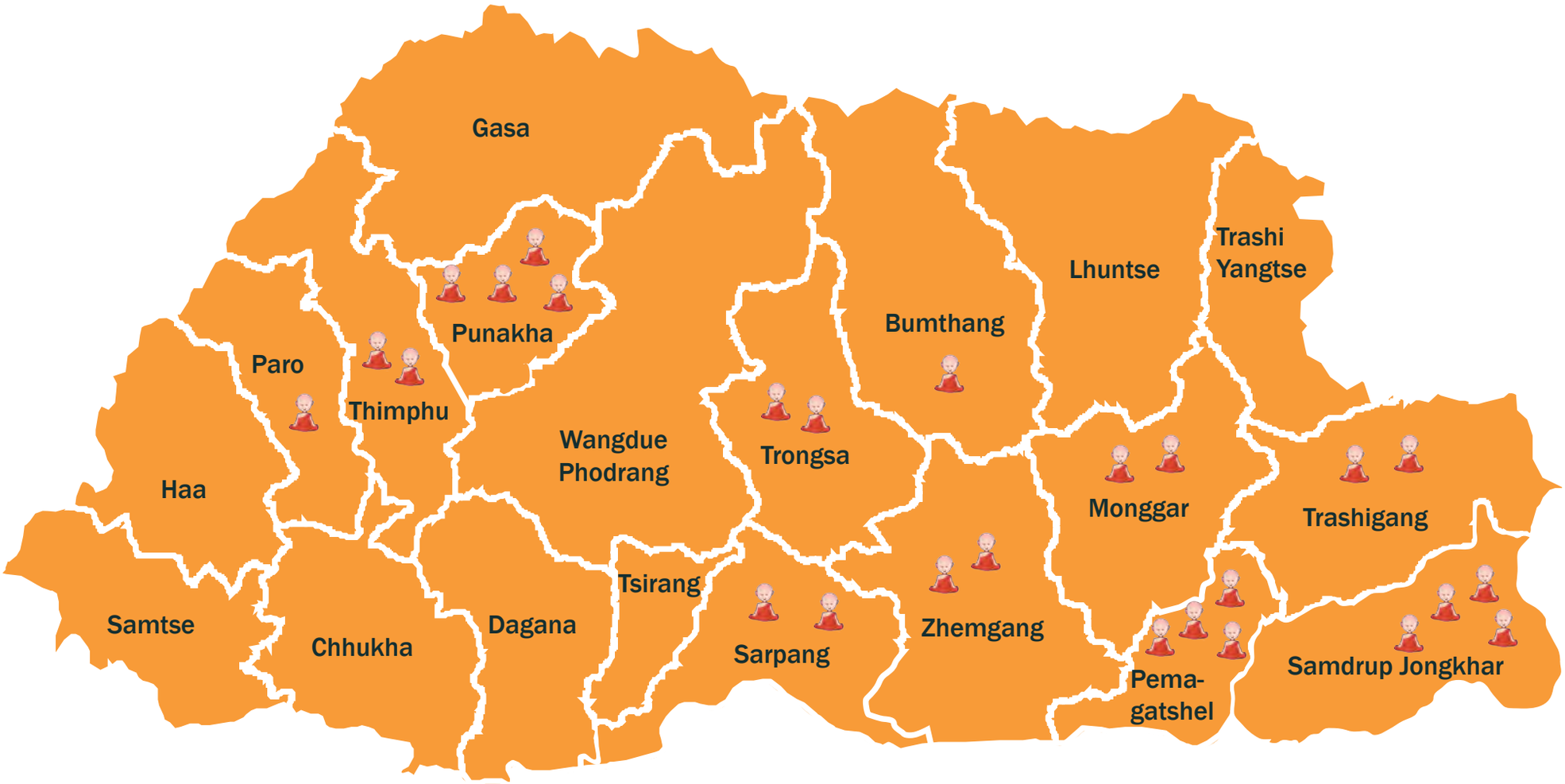
OVERALL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF BHUTAN NUNS FOUNDATION 2009 TO 2013

“It is not how much we give but how much love we put into giving”

- Mother Teresa

Number of Nunneries in each dzongkhag



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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN MOTHER

TASHICHHODZONG
THIMPHU, BHUTAN

The Bhutan Nuns Foundation facilitates the improvement and basic its wellbeing and education of the nuns of Bhutan. Since its formation in 2009, the Bhutan Nuns Foundation, building on support that already existed, has given or provided outreach to those most in need. It organizes activities that advocate and strengthen the nuns' potential through quality education, that develop skills to benefit their communities as well as the nuns themselves, that connect the nuns within the country, and that improve their basic living standards, all with the profound hope that the nuns of Bhutan can contribute to the peace and well being of our country and the world at large.

There are currently about one thousand nuns in twenty six nunneries scattered across Bhutan. Many of our young girls and women join nunneries in search of a peaceful, selfless and spiritual approach to life. Others seek refuge from poverty and challenging social situations; others are motivated by the search for an alternative or religious education.

Although there are several established nunneries in the country, there is still a great deal which needs to be done. This is especially true in light of the fact that the number of nunneries is expected to increase in the years to come. Our efforts require careful

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN MOTHER

TASHICHHODZONG
THIMPHU, BHUTAN

forethought, negotiation and balance to ensure that the focus remains on the quality of education for the nuns, as opposed to just increasing the number of facilities or institutions.

It has been most gratifying for the Bhutan Nun's Foundation to encourage and watch the growth of the nuns' learning and the development of their skills and capacities related to health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, all of which benefits not only the nuns themselves but also their communities. Further, to strengthen their network, BNF provides exposure tours, conferences, workshops, visits and study exchanges to broaden the nuns views and to empower them-recognizing the great potential and importance of putting Buddhist practice into everyday action.

I am encouraged by what we have been able to achieve in the few years since BNF was established. Our greatest hope and vision for the nuns of Bhutan is for them to become independent, strong, well-educated guides and torchbearers of the dharma in a way that is uniquely Bhutanese. We hope that our efforts will enable the Bhutanese nuns to realize their fullest potential and to contribute to society by being the best living examples of the true essence of the dharma, dedicating their lives to serving all sentient beings.

Tashi Delek!

Yangdön Wangchuck.

Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck

The opening of the first ever International Conference for the Buddhist Nuns held in Paro at the Zhiwa Ling Hotel, on the 14th - 16th December, 2013, included a powerful and moving Tara (Dolma) Offering Ceremony by the Nuns from Kunga Rabten in Tongsa. The ambiance was also made more amazing due to the presences of Her Majesty the Queen Mother, Ashi Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck, members of Royal Family, and other Government Officials and dignitaries.

The Conference was attended by International Nuns and guests from countries including Korea, India, Taiwan, Germany, United Kingdom, United States, Switzerland and as well as Bhutanese nuns from across the Nation.

Thematic working sessions over the three days and included a variety of presenters and panel discussions, which also engaged the audience. Working sessions addressed such topics as the role of Buddhist nuns in the post modern society, challenges and opportunities faced by nuns in today's world, the importance of engaging with the local communities, experiences of living together within the Sangha and further development of life skills for to improve nuns' quality of life.

The conference also provided an exceptional platform for the nuns around the globe to discuss and debate upon relevant issues and concerns and to both further strengthen and expand their networks and understanding.

During the First International Buddhist Nuns Conference at Zhiwa Ling Hotel

Thank you to both Uma and Aman for your generosity. The general managers of both Resorts has gone to great lengths to accommodate our huge group of nuns and conference participants for lunch. I think this was the biggest group of customers they have ever served at one go. And of course, our thanks also go to Etho Metho and Norbu Bhutan for their buses, without which we would not have been able to get to Uma and Aman and enjoy their delicious lunches.

Our Happy participants

Following working sessions at the end of each day, special prayers were performed by the Bhutanese Nuns. The above is the “Chod” offering performed by the nuns on the second day of the conference.

Participants’ comments, “The prayers were my favorite but I do wish I’d had have information on meaning and procedures beforehand”.

The feedbacks received from nun participants at the conference indicated that the event was a milestone learning opportunity, and one which also contributed to their recognizing and reaching their fullest potential. For many of the Bhutanese nuns, it was a first time ever experience to attend such a conference, be part of an international forum such as this, and to exchange and share ideas. As a result, this also contributed to their empowerment and building of confidence.

To quote few of the participant's own words from the evaluation forms:, "I enjoyed overall conference as it is my first time participating". "Meeting the Bhutanese nuns, the range of international experience and nuns from other traditions was wonderful". Working session was very good, we get to learn all theory and practical knowledge".

Another participant said, "I enjoyed everything, the organization, the energy and most of all Her Majesty's presence and warmth completed the entire conferences. The ambience of the conference hall was serene. The ample time given to speakers and for Q & A. The accommodation and food is excellent. The cultural dances/events are very well performed/planned". "Most of all, it was very kind of Her Majesty to host a beautiful Gala Dinner on the final evening. Everything was absolutely magical".

Busy filling out the evaluation forms on the final day of the Conference.

Training of Trainers (ToT) in Life Skills Education, supported by UNFPA Bhutan. Senior Nuns and Nun teachers from 13 different nunneries participated in this training.

The first Training of Trainers (TOT) in Life Skills Education (LSE) in Paro, supported by UNFPA Bhutan. Eleven nuns from different nunneries throughout the country participated.

Each Nun is required to make a presentation at the end of the training.

Her Majesty, the Queen Mother, awards certificates to participants after the first TOT.

The 2nd TOT on Life Skills Education, also supported by UNFPA, was held in Bumthang this year (2013).

“Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Training Center at Tshalumaphay

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck at the Ground Breaking Ceremony.

Eleven nuns from different nunneries in the country participated in the Ground Breaking Ceremony following the Training of Trainers (TOT) in Life Skills Education in Paro.

Nutrition, Health/Hygiene and First aid training for the nuns.

Over the two years after the inception of the Foundation, we carried out several activities geared towards raising awareness on health, hygiene, nutrition and fist aid response. We used a combination of methods, inviting representatives from nunneries throughout the country to a particular location, but also visiting almost each and every nunnery, raising awareness on communicable and non-communicable diseases. However, very soon we realized that it wasn't enough to talk about health, hygiene and nutrition when many of them did not have proper toilets or shower rooms, or enough food on the table. Hence, we not only gave trainings and raised awareness but we also raised funds and found interested donors to help the nunneries get running water, build toilets and shower rooms and receive training on how to keep a balanced diet.

In the past year, BNF coordinated with the local Agriculture Offices to train the nuns on how to grow their own vegetables in kitchen gardens, make tofu and plant fruit trees. The Agriculture Offices in Tashigang and Pema Gatshel have been very helpful and have provided the local nunneries with greenhouse facilities to grow their own green vegetables in winter. However, not every nunnery has space to participate in these kinds of activities.

District Agriculture Officers of Trashigang and Pema Gatshel checked the climatic condition to determine the kinds of fruit trees that would be suitable for those nunneries in that area. Otherwise, the only vegetables that the nuns usually grow are chilies and potatoes.

Fruit tree plantation at Samten Choling Nunnery. In the future, they will be able to supplement their diet with fresh fruit, but also to generate some income by selling homemade products such as jam and dried fruits.

Nuns from three nunneries in Pema Gatshel and Tashigang District received training on Tofu making.

Tofu-making training for the Nuns

Firefly Mission Friends from Singapore visit Shedrup Choling Nunnery in Gelephu and Yosel Choling Nunnery in Panbang, Zhemgang District.

Distribution of Crocs & Socks to the Nunneries, sponsored by Dr. Conrad Whether from Germany, with Mr. Fritz Baumgartner's assistance.

On every 21st day of the month, BNF organizes women's gatherings to listen to Nuns' Dharma talk in BNF Office Hall.

Recently completed project at Kila Nunnery, Paro

Kila Water Project, sponsored by Ms. Suzanea Von der Heide through Hon'ble Lyonpo Chenkyab, Dorji, Chairman of the Royal Privy Council of Bhutan and Ms. Marily Mearns from Canada through Bhutan Foundation.

With this support, we have constructed two water tanks, three water taps for washing and provided quality pipelines from the source at several kilometers to the nunnery through impossibly high cliff (see the photo).

The nuns are very happy and said, "Now we will never face water problem, even during the dry winter season".

The nun are very grateful to the above mentioned donors for supporting this water project.

Projects completed in various nunneries

Sherab Yesel Choling

Ugyen Phuntshok Choeling, Lower Chotpo Goenpa

Provided a toilet for the retreat in Kunga Rabten Nunnery

Penjor Choling in Dorangthang

Pema Choling Nunnery, Bumthang

Tshamang, Mongar. Branch nunnery of Pema Choling

Projects completed in various nunneries

Upper Chothpo Goenpa, Pema Gatshel District

Samten Choling Nunnery, Wamrong

Kila Nunnery, in Paro

The above nunneries benefited from BNF's assistance for basic infrastructure such as toilets, running water, kitchen, setting up a Library. They also received partial support towards construction of their living quarters. These projects have been backed by the individuals and organizations mentioned below:

Helvetas, Bhutan
Elysium Foundation
William Hinman Foundation
Ms. Marily Mearns
Ms. Susanne von der Heide
UNFPA, Bhutan

A few more works in progress are supported by donors such as Firefly Mission of Singapore, which will be completed within the next one year.

Shedrup Choling Nunnery in Gelephu

Scholarships / Sponsorships for Indigenous Medicine Studies

Ani Leki Chungdon, from Shedrup Choling Nunnery in Gelephu.
Ani Phuntsho Wangmo, Samten Choling Nunnery, Tashigang Wamrong.
They are in their first year at the Ladak Nuns Association studying Indigenous Medicine. They are determined to become doctors (Drungtsho), go back to their own nunneries and serve in the nunneries as well as benefit the local communities. This is also exactly what BNF hopes they would do.

Ani Rinzin Lhamo, graduated from Pema Choling Nunnery in Bhumthang. She was one of the first batch of nuns who completed 9 years of Shedra (Master's Degree Level) in Buddhist Philosophy. After her graduation, she taught at Pema Choling for one year. She is a most deserving candidate for the Indigenous Medicine Studies program but was not able to get the government scholarship. Although BNF did not have any scholarship fund at the time of her admission we still went ahead and supported her. After the end of the 1st year we managed to find a sponsor for her and she is happy that she can continue the program without having to worry about "what if BNF is unable to continue to support my studies"? Now she has a smile on her face.

She is in her 2nd year at the Institute for Indigenous Medicine Studies in Bhutan. Ani Rinzin is a hard-working and dedicated student who also wishes to benefit society beyond her nunnery after completion of her studies at the Institute.

Bhutan Nuns Foundation would like to thank the sponsors who have made it possible for these three dedicated students to pursue theirs as well as the Foundation's dreams. At the end of their study courses they will go back to their own nunneries who prepared them and made them such special people, and will benefit society at large with the knowledge they have acquired during training.

Thanks to brother Joon Huang, Firefly, Singapore
Ms. Silvia Hansel, Switzerland

Nun Teachers making a difference

Ani Lopen Choni Zangmo, teacher at both upper and Lower Chothpo Goenpa.

Ani Lopen Jigme Wangmo, Teacher at Sharab Yesel Choling, in Martshala.

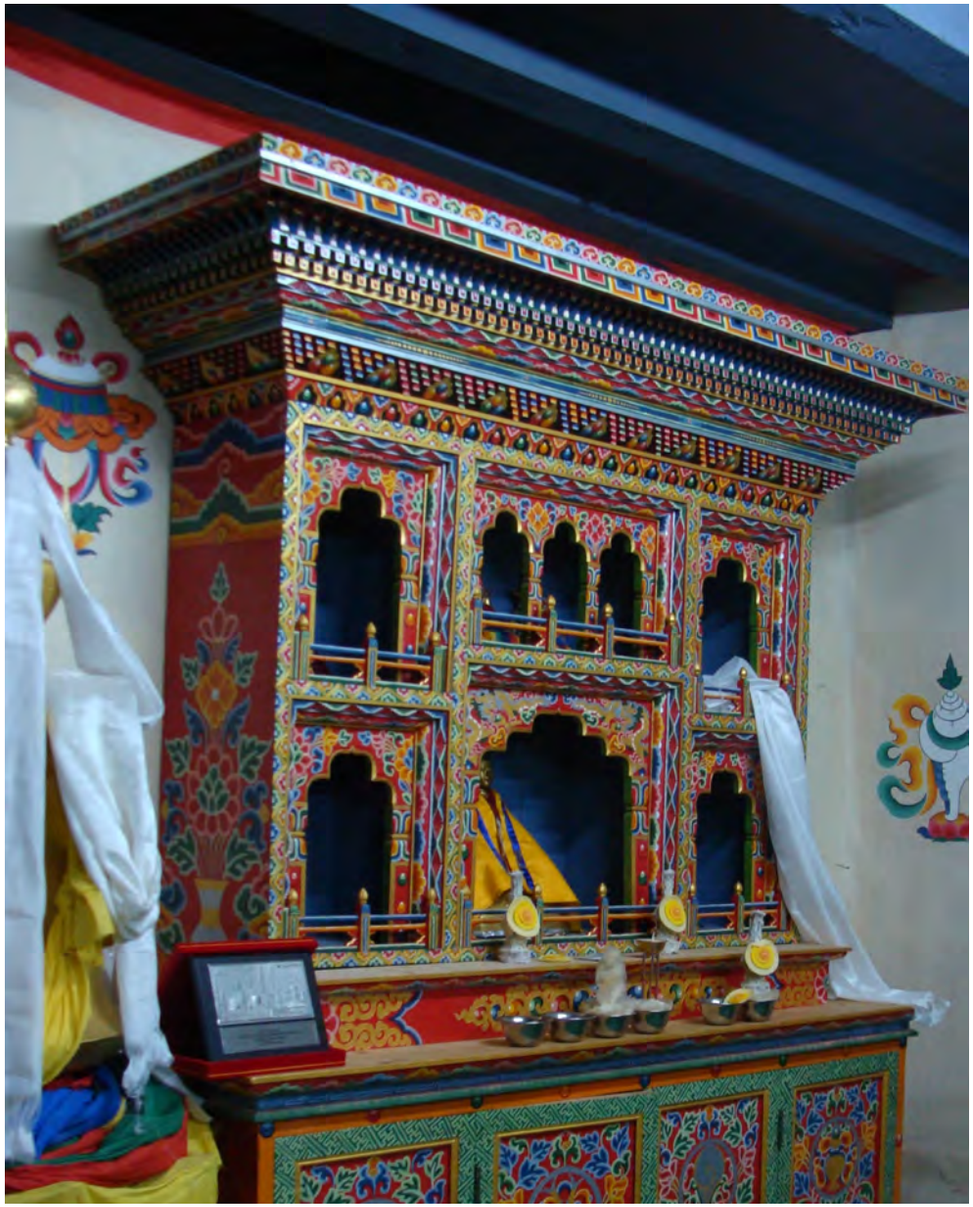
Little Pema already found her own student. A senior citizen who resides at the nunnery is being taught alphabets by 5-year-old Pema Choden.

"When I was walking around visiting the little living quarters of the nuns in Samten Choling Nunnery in Wamrong, I heard lot of laughter and noise from one of the old ladies' house. When I peeped through the door, I saw that Pema was teaching the 72-year-old lady the Bhutanese alphabet which she learned. They were laughing and having lot of fun." (Recorded by Dr. Tashi Zangmo, during one of her visits to the nunnery). Bhutan Nuns Foundation, on behalf of the young nuns in these nunneries, would like to thank the donors of Khyentse Foundation with all our hearts. You have inspired many young nuns like Pema to be future teachers and 72-year-old grandmas to be students even at their age. She had never dreamt that she could study and learn.

Namee Samee Kadeen Chee (Thank you Beyond Sky and Earth)

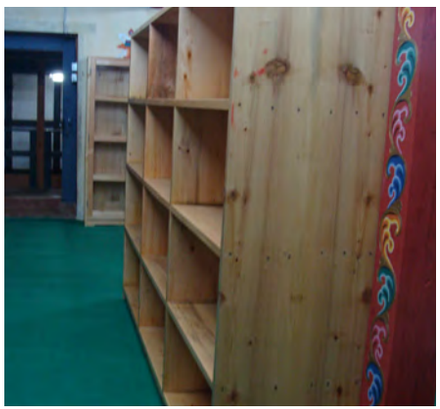
At the end of the year after completing their lessons, the teacher asked everyone to share their experience of the year. There was silence in the room for a while which was broken by little 5 years old Pema Choden, who was just an observer in that group. She said, “I was brought here by Ani Katang (meaning the head nun). I was very little. But I have grown big. Now I know how to read and write because of Ani Lopen (Teacher)”. According to the Teacher, hearing Pema say this was the best moment of her life. She could not keep back her tears while talking about Pema.

To share a bit about Pema Choden’s background: Pema is a very bright little girl. Both her parents are speech and hearing impaired but physically able people. Other villagers in the community told the head nun that the couple took their little girl child along when they went for work in the fields, on road construction projects or wherever they managed to find work. Therefore, the little girl was exposed to all kinds of weather conditions throughout the day. Seeing this, the head nun decided to have the little girl live at the nunnery and study. Pema is very happy at the nunnery. The older nuns take good care of her and give her lots of attention. She is such a happy child and makes everyone around her happy.



Library facility in Pema Choling Nunnery, provided with the kind support of UNFPA Bhutan.

Why Pema Choling? The criteria for setting up a library are not random. Since we cannot provide support for building the infrastructure, we see if the nunnery already has a room that can accommodate a library. We take into account the size of the nunnery and the academic activities they are involved in. We also look at the potential of the library to benefit not only the nunnery but also the local communities through loan of books or other ways, so that the books are not lying idle in the library shelves. In the library we would like to have books that the local people would be unable to afford or to store safely and correctly.



The Future Projects and the way you can support

We will continue our work with individual nunneries to improve their basic necessities. The other priority for the coming few years is to focus on the construction of the Training Center in Tshalumaphy. Having a separate space dedicated to the nuns, where they will feel comfortable to come together is crucial. So far, the biggest challenge that we have encountered when we organized workshops, trainings, conferences and other activities for the nuns in Bhutan is the availability of a proper space to accommodate the participants. Lack of suitable accommodation sometimes deter or even prevent some of the nuns from attending many of the important gatherings, as some feel it is not appropriate for nuns to be with relatives and acquaintances.

Therefore, the Bhutan Nuns Foundation, under the guidance of Her Majesty, the Queen Mother Ashi Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck, has been trying to create a Resource Center, where activities for the specific benefit of the nuns can be organized and hosted.

Training programs such as ToTs prepare and help nuns to reach out to society al large through teaching and counseling the population.

Budget for this particular project is estimated at 1.5 Million USD.

Current projects awaiting your support:

1.	Salary and stipend for teachers for a nunnery (3 required)	US$ 1,000 per year
2.	Scholarships for a nun to study Tibetan Medicine or Sanskrit in India	US$ 3,000 per year
3.	Improve/construct living quarters for 20 nuns in a small nunnery in Eastern Bhutan	US$ 40,000
4.	Provide clean drinking water supply	US$ 10,000
5.	Provide books, teaching aids and supplies for one nunnery	US$ 5,000
6.	Sponsor a cooking stove/room heater and its installation	US$ 600
7.	Donate a new roof for sleeping quarters for one nunnery	US$ 4,000
8.	Set up a library for a nunnery and the surrounding community	US$ 20,000
9.	Build capacity for BNF staff and new publications	US$ 8,000
10.	Sponsor a Three Year Retreat	US$1,775

Personal Help from the Nuns:

Nuns will perform prayers/Pujas for the specific benefit of yourself, your friends and your family at any time (currently living, facing an illness or other life challenges, or for those who are deceased) - The amount of the donation is free

(Please email the details of the recipient along with your offer).

You can also help us to reach our goal of raising US$500,000 within the next 5 years as Endowment Funds for the long term sustainability of the Foundation.

How you can support BNF through your generous giving:

- You may contribute the full or partial amount towards any of the above projects.
- Make a one-time cash or check gift (see instructions below)
- Sponsor a prayer dedication as described

Transfer your donation directly to the BNF account

(sorry, no checks allowed in Bhutan)

Account Holder:	Bhutan Nuns Foundation
Bank Address:	Standard Chartered Bank
	6 Battery Road, Singapore 049909
	SWIFT Code: SCBLSGSGXXX
	Sort Code:60-91-04
Beneficiary Bank Account:	01-7-005970-7 (USD A/C)
Beneficiary Bank:	Bhutan National Bank, P.O. Box: 439
	GPO Building, Chang Lam, Thimphu, Bhutan

Beneficiary/Ultimate Beneficiary: Account # 5000037886021 of Bhutan Nuns Foundation maintained with BNB, Thimphu, Bhutan.

Important information (US donors only):

For tax exemption purposes, US donors can make donations through the Bhutan Foundation; online at www.bhutanfound.org or by mailing a check. **In both cases, please mention clearly Bhutan Nuns Foundation as beneficiary.**

The Bhutan Foundation
Suite 525 2100, Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037, USA

Bhutan Nuns Foundation Team

Ms. Karma Luday
Chair of the Board

Aum Kunzang Choden
Board Member

Dr. Chencho Dorji
Board Member

Ani Rinzin Lhamo
Board Member

Dr. Tashi Zangmo
Executive Director

Ms. Sonam Chhoki
Program Officer

Ani Namgyel Lhamo
Staff

Ms. Kezang Tshomo
Finance Officer

Donor Acknowledgement

You have touched the hearts of nuns across Bhutan with your generosity. Bhutan Nuns Foundation would like to express its deepest gratitude to all donors and supporters, present, past and future. Without your help, BNF simply could not reach out to these wonderful, dedicated and courageous nuns, ready to risk a path of deep change for the benefit of society at large. On their behalf, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Being sensitive to those donors who prefer not to mention their names in the documents and reports which are accessible to the wider public, we have avoided highlighting individual names and only included the names of our partner Organizations. If some of the projects you have supported or contributed to in the past do not appear in this report, this indicates that the project is still ongoing and will be updated upon completion.

2012 Audit Report

AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE BHUTAN NUNS FOUNDATION, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2012

The Royal Audit Authority (RAA) has audited the accompanying financial statements of the Bhutan Nuns Foundation, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Statement and schedules forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2012, as required under the Audit Act of Bhutan 2006.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Financial Rules and Regulations 2001 and generally accepted financial reporting framework. This responsibility includes, designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

RAA's responsibility

The RAA's responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on its audit. The RAA conducted the audit in accordance with RAA's Auditing Standards and Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. Those standards require that the RAA complies with the ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

Scope of Audit

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on auditor's judgment, including the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Foundation, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

The RAA believes that the audit evidence obtained by it is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for its audit opinion.

Opinion

In RAA's opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects the financial operations of the Foundation for the year ended 31st December 2012 and of its fund balance as on that date in accordance with the Financial Rules and Regulations 2001 and generally accepted financial reporting framework.

Auditor

Noted & Concurred:

Assistant Auditor General

Date: 9/8/13

ROYAL AUDIT AUTHORITY
RELIABLE ASSERTIVE RAA ACCOUNTABLE
BHUTAN INTEGRITY HOUSE

Bhutan Nuns Foundation

Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st Dec 2012

Income	Schedules	2012 Nu	2011 Nu
Direct Income			
Donation Received	*I*	*11,903,750.40*	*9,414,135.91*
Indirect Income			
Interest Income	*IX*	*223,761.82*	*77,676.83*
Total		**12,127,512.22**	**9,491,812.74**
Expenditure			
Employee Benefits	*III*	*1,581,500.00*	*1,257,097.35*
Administrative Expenses	*IV*	*422,987.02*	*224,344.35*
Esatblishment	*V*	*4,796,657.93*	*4,966,073.95*
Donation Payment	*II*	*1,172,712.00*	*1,357,000.00*
Professional Expenses	*VI*	*1,264,000.06*	*664,724.93*
Depreciation	*X*	*102,408.14*	*20,238.38*
Amortisation	*X*	*629,178.20*	
Total		**9,969,443.35**	**8,489,478.96**
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		**2,158,068.88**	**1,002,333.78**

Executive Director
Bhutan Nuns' Foundation
Thimphu : Bhutan

Finance Officer
Bhutan Nuns Foundation
Thimphu : Bhutan

Bhutan Nuns Foundation

Balance Sheet as at 31st Dec 2012

Assets	Schedules	2012 Nu	2011 Nu
Fixed Asset	X		
Furniture		*46,506.40*	*58,262.24*
Laptop		*57,093.75*	*68,906.25*
Office equipment		*172,661.56*	*8,906.25*
Office Vehicle		*329,329.00*	
Tally		*21,725.00*	
Water Tank		*253,328.57*	
Road(1.7Km)		*2,516,712.80*	
Total		**3,397,357.08**	**136,074.74**
Current Assets			
Work in progress	*VII*		*2,886,757.00*
Loans & Advances (Asset)	*VIII*	*61,061.78*	*347,821.78*
Cash-in-hand		*(7,799.18)*	*14,080.18*
Bank (Saving A/C)		*5,334,667.15*	*3,780,734.29*
Bank (Fixed Deposit)		*500,000.00*	
Accrued interest		*12,708.65*	
Total		***5,900,638.05***	***7,029,393.25***
Total Assets		**9,297,995.48**	**7,165,467.99**
Liabilities			
Accumulated Fund		*7,144,475.39*	*6,142,141.61*
Add: Reserves & Surplus		*2,158,068.88*	*1,002,333.78*
Total		*9,302,544.27*	*7,144,475.39*
Current Liabilities			
Health Contribution(HC)			*1,050.00*
PF(Employee Contribution)			*10,500.00*
Salary Tax(TDS)			*8,543.00*
TDS(2%)		(4,548.79)	*899.6*
Total		(4,548.79)	20,992.60
Total Liabilities		**9,297,995.48**	**7,165,467.99**

Executive Director
Bhutan Nuns' Foundation
Thimphu : Bhutan

ROYAL AUDIT AUTHORITY RAA

Finance Officer
Bhutan Nuns Foundation
Thimphu : Bhutan

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Bhutan Nuns Foundation (BNF)
P.O. Box 1169
Thimphu : Bhutan
www.BhutanNuns.org
Email : bnf@bhutannuns.org

Established in 2009, the Bhutan Nuns Foundation located in Thimphu provides support for education and improvements in basic living condition to nunneries who seek our support. The Foundation is dedicated to:

- Improving basic living standards, food, sanitation, medical care, basic to higher education in existing nunneries
- Working towards sustainability and self-sufficiency through trainings and creating innovative educational opportunities beyond the mundane rituals.

Patron

Her Majesty the Queen Mother, Ashi Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck

Board of Directors
Dr. Chencho Dorji
Karma Luday
Kunzang Choden
Ani Rinzin Lhamo

Executive Director
Dr. Tashi Zangmo

Staff
Ms. Kezang Tshomo
(Finance Officer)
Ms. Sonam Chhoki
(Program Officer)
Ani Namgyel Lhamo
Asst. Program Officer