

# 7th annual report 2006 of NIMA-Social projects of Tibet

## New building of the home for old people

Just after his arrival in Ganzi, Nima started with the project of construction of the supplementary building of the home for old people. He founded a construction committee, who's members took over the distribution of the construction works, the controlling of the construction, the purchase of construction material as well as the accounting.

It is a pleasure to inform, that the local authorities issued the construction permit within 2 weeks, which normally takes at least 2 months. The construction could therefore take on very quickly, without too many difficulties. After only 8 months the building was structurally completed.

The following rooms have been built on two floors:

- 15 double rooms for our residents
- 3 double rooms for our guests
- 1 room for praying
- 1 room for the library and computer
- 1 lounge for everybody
- 1 dining room and kitchen
- 1 storage room
- 4 toilettes and 2 showers with hot water

Our old lounge and the praying room where the most cold places in the whole house. No sun could warm up these rooms. This was the reason, why we transferred these two rooms to the new building. In order to have windows which shut tightly, we have decided in the dining room, to renounce to the traditional Tibetan way of construction. Our residents will so spend their days in warmer rooms during winter time. New in Ganzi, is our NIMA canalization system. The sewage will now flow into a cavity and will no longer be led into the river, as it happened sometimes.

Our effective costs were much below the budgeted costs of CHF 135'000.- for the shell construction. This was only possible because of the good planning of the construction and the well organized purchase of the material. The costs for the running of the home for old people are steady although the prices in Ganzi are constantly raising.

## Volunteers

With our 7 volunteers organized for 2006 we could have had an all year round assistance for the projects of the children's sponsorships and the mobile clinic. We were so happy to have found a nurse for the winter time. She would have distributed the medication and done the controlling. Unfortunately, out of the blue, we received the notice, that no work permits would be handed out anymore. The volunteers, which just had arrived, where confronted to the fact that they were only tolerated as tourists at the home for old people. All our attempts to get in touch and discuss with the authorities in order to get an explanation for their decision, were defeated.

## Home for old people/residents of the home for old people

After all these years of running the home for old people, there is a routine between the residents and the collaborators. Everyone knows what he has to do and the work process is well organized. The collaborators are well off and do a very good job.

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At the beginning of the year, Mr. Woga, the home manager told us, that he will be leaving his job in spring. He supported us however as a member of the construction committee until the end of the year, what we very much appreciated. We would like to thank him, in the name of the whole NIMA association for his precious work at the NIMA home and wish him all the very best for the future. At his place, we were able to employ Mr. Kunga, an ancient member of the authorities. Within a short time he was familiar with his work at the home. Furthermore, we have employed Mrs. Yeshe Omo an assistant for the kitchen and Anni Trinly Dolma a supplementary nurse. For the medical care of the residents at the home, we could engage Mr. Dr. Leeo former Chief of the surgery of the Hospital in Ganzi.

The occupants and the collaborators had to support quite some noise coming from the construction. They did it with great serenity.

Four residents out of 21 died this year. A day after Nima's arrival Anni Pema died, in spring Yegu and in August Pema Kandro passed away and shortly afterwards Tselha followed. The two women Tsering Lhatso and Khale together with the blind man Loga were now the lucky ones to be welcomed at the home.

### **Mobile clinic**

After expiration of Mr. Ueli Guggisberg's work permit, our doctor, we had to close our clinic. Until then, 70 patients had received a diagnostic and a treatment. Specially patients with tuberculosis have been transferred to the official tuberculosis ambulatory in Ganzi. We hope now, that the official ambulatory will go to the distant villages spread out in the district of Ganzi in order to give assistance and medical care.

### **Sponsorships for children**

53 sponsored children attend school regularly. They are very hardworking and often count between the best pupils. One child is now going to University and five others attend high school, 10 are in college. One child is attending the school at the monastery. At the children's home, the nun Ani Chini Lhamo is taking care of the children. Thanks to Dega 's help for the homework, the children are very successful at school.

The assistance of the sponsored children, the reports and the contacts with the godfathers and godmothers was a very important and great job which had been done by our volunteers. Thanks to them, it was a very informative and a well controlled sponsorship-system. This work will be maintained - after the "no go" of our volunteers - by Nima and by our collaborator Mr. Goga.

### **Short visit of von Dechen Shak-Dagsay with the film director Mr. Kurt Frischknecht of the Swiss TV**

"At home in two different worlds", a documentary of the life of DechenShak-Dagsay and her projects in Tibet, has been filmed by a team of Swiss TV in Ganzi. A place of discussions about the synergies of the battle against the tuberculosis has been at our ambulatory at the home.

### **Switzerland**

We are happy to welcome Mr. Dolma Wermelinger in the management team of the association. As a Tibetan, living in Switzerland, she knows both cultures. This is very important for our work. At the same moment, Ms. Tanja Herrera informed us about her

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leaving the association at the end of the year, for personal reasons. Her successor Ilona Swoboda, is a social worker and has professionally a lot to do with children.

### The future

The setting-up and the furnishing of the new rooms still has to be done. We shall concentrate on the home for old people, as with the new construction, we have a lot of new rooms. We are planning for 2007 to welcome 9 more residents. Our aim is to have the home fully booked. More residents means more costs and the necessity to employ supplementary staff.

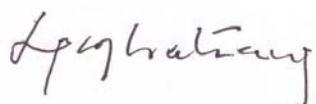
With our 8 guest rooms we offer our sponsors and the tourists the possibility for holidays or short stays at our home for old people. The profit will completely be reinvested in our projects. This offers our visitors the possibility of a social engagement in order to maintain our projects.

### Thanks

We thank the volunteers Ramona Pou-Bruch, Dr. Katharina Eichhorn, Marianne Singh-Sidhu, Dr. Ueli Guggisberg, Mark Gerber, Sonja Kopp, Philipp Koffel and my wife Tashi for their engagement and work in Ganzi. For the generous financial support, great thanks go to the communities of Zollikon and Maur, the sisterhood of the deaconry Neumünster, the Chramschopf in Zollikerberg, as well as the association of communities of the ref. ev. Churches of Zurich, the association of friends of Tibet in Berne and the Inner-Wheel Club, Mrs. R. Amsler, Mrs. M. Hunziker, Mrs T. Ngorkhangsar, Mr. Baer, Mrs. A. Schwenk, Mrs. H. Hug and Mr. and Mrs. Sprenger and to all the sponsors. Your support enabled us to continue our work in the home for old people and the sponsorship of the children. Thanks go to Anne-Marie Tschamper, who has translated our annual reports in English and French and to Nadine Rück who supports us in the work of the Website and the yearly Newsletter.

Tashi delek

**Lobsang Nima Soghatsang**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lobsang Nima Soghatsang".