

Annual Report 2015



President's Letter

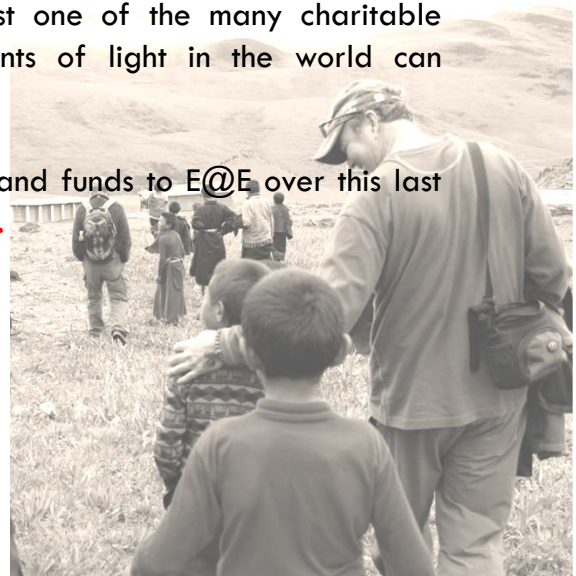
It's been another exciting year at Education At Elevation. I personally feel very lucky to have been able to go to Eastern Tibet and visit the children that we have helped over the years. A group of 4 of us visited, along with our guide, Ouyang and a local Monk. We spent time in the village with the children and repairing/reinsulating the water system. This is a remote area but life is changing due to the approach of modernization. We experienced the importance of clean water and education first hand. The passing of time continues to bring change to this area and the support the organization has provided to improve health and education while being respectful of the preservation of local culture has not lost its importance.

The 31 students currently at the school are enthusiastic about learning and have a stable environment with food, water and shelter to sustain them. They are curious about the world and hungry for knowledge. I believe the power of knowledge in a safe environment is one of the greatest things these children can receive in life. Most of us live with such abundance that we lose sight of what is really important at the heart of life. When we come into contact with people that are living life on more basic terms, not that they don't have their own hardships and sorrows, it can help us strip away the superficial things in our lives.

Exposing ourselves to the world around us, while helping people, even in small ways, helps breakdown barriers and expands our consciousness. Grand goals can easily overwhelm us but if we take on small deeds of good it can lead to an ocean of change for the better. Education At Elevation is just one small organization working with children in Tibet. Just one of the many charitable organizations around the globe. All these points of light in the world can absolutely brighten our existence on the planet.

Thanks to all who have contributed time, effort and funds to E@E over this last year and please know that **it makes a difference.**

Warmly,
Tim Bruce
President, Education At Elevation



Too-Jay-Che (Thank you in Tibetan)
for a wonderful year!

With Warm Compassion,
From the kids and teachers at Nga Gyur Shed Dup Cho Ling,
eastern Tibet and the team from Education At Elevation.



Program Services



- The current group of kids are much younger after the 56 kids graduated and left the school three years ago.
- *Kids are learning and thriving!*
- School enrollment in fall 2014-15: 31 boys
- The school warmly welcomed two new teachers in Fall 2015 and said farewell to the two teachers who had taught tirelessly including long hours during the cold winter months where students gathered in the classroom for warmth at night.
- In July 2015, Sonam Rinpoche visited the school as part of his annual trip to check on the school progress.



L: The top three boys in the class received cash prizes and khata (blessing scarf) from Sonam Rinpoche. They were shy and trying not to express too much excitement. July 2015

Program Services (continued..)

- Food supply purchased in spring 2015 include 900 lbs barley flour, 900 lbs flour, 900 lbs rice, 180 lbs cooking oil, 180 lbs dried noodles, 225 lbs pork and vegetable
- Basic necessities were also supplied to the school. This include wool socks, tee-shirts, multivitamin and medical supplies hand carried by volunteers to the school in September 2015. See later section for more details.



NEPAL Earthquake Fund

- 10% of the money raised from 2015 Spring fundraiser, equals to \$315, was donated to the Nepal Earthquake Support fund administered by FPMT Foundation.



Program Services (continued..)

Girl College Sponsorship

- In spring 2015, E@E started sponsoring two Tibetan young ladies, Deyang and Yangchen, for their college via Tibetan Village Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Tibetan in Kham area. This is part of E@E continual effort to bring education and to empower girls in rural Tibet. Each girl received \$900 USD equivalent to one year of collegetuition.



Deyang, 22 years old from Yushu, Qinghai, came from a family of 4 siblings. Her mother is illiterate and work hard to send them to school. She is studying program creations and hope to work on multimedia when she graduate.

“I love multi-media since I was a kid. I wish in future I could work on multi media.” - **Deyang** .

Yangchen, 25 years old from Yushu, Qinghai, grow up with a singled dad and came from a 4 siblings family. Her mom passed away when she was 15 years old. Yangchen wanted to become a writer representing a voice of poor and women of remote and poor on Tibetan plateau.

“I would become a useful member of my community in order to repay my father’s gratitude - **Yangchen**



Water Project First Test

History: E@E has completed a 2,300 feet long underground pipe to provide running water to the school in summer 2014. The goal of this project is to provide a sustainable water system for the improvement of the health and sanitation of the students and local community.

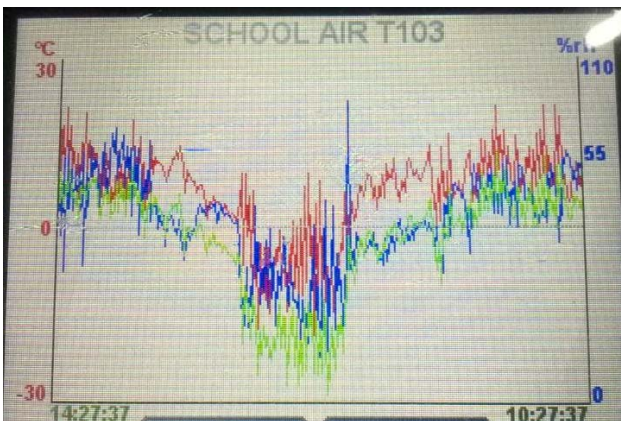
Test: 2014/15 was the first winter for the truth test of the running water project. We had positive results that the water was flowing even in the middle of winter at the high mountain (14,400 feet) in Tibet. We are super excited for the result that the project was a success.

Challenge: The school reported leaky water taps in spring 2014 and we believed it was due to the freezing of water in the outdoor taps. Ouyang and Tim replaced the water taps and repaired the pipe insulation when they visited the school in September 2015 – *THANK YOU guys!*

Improvement: Subsequently, a small room with 4 walls and roof were erected in Fall 2015 around the water taps to prevent direct wind chill at the water taps.

Hooray!

There is running water the entire winter!



Graphs: Two online data loggers with temperature probes recorded ambient temperature (T103) and underground valve pit air temperature (T101). The graphs covered a year long of data starting from August 2014 to July 2015, data were collected once every hour.

L: It showed the lowest ambient air temperature at -20 deg C (-4 deg F) – the red line.

R: It showed the lowest air temperature in the valve pit above 0 deg C even during the coldest day

In fall of 2015, a team from E@E visited the school for the first time since 2013. The team included Tim Bruce (2013-2015 President of E@E), Nancy Buyers (Tim's wife and also an E@E board member), Patti Shelton (then an E@E board member, and now President of E@E), and Elizabeth Peterson (a charity-minded teen and friend of E@E). In Chengdu, the American team met up with Ouyang, Chengdu resident and friend of E@E who has done a great deal of construction work there, including doing much of the work on building the water system over the summer of 2014. Also joining them was a local Tibetan monk, Gunga-la, whose driving services were essential in getting the team from Chengdu to the remote village where the school is located. His translation services were also essential in allowing the team to speak with the locals, most of whom speak only Tibetan.

The team brought the children's winter clothing supplies (such as wool socks and new T-shirts to go under their school robes). They also brought soccer balls and a few treats, to brighten the children's days, along with children multivitamins, to help keep the children nourished during the long winter (during which fresh fruits and vegetables aren't available in this area of the world). The multivitamins fundraiser was held last year July. Thank you all who purchase *Jamba Juice BOGO* cards last year and *Bellevue Festival of Arts*.



E@E Team at the School (continued...)

The students were very excited to meet the Americans who have been working so hard to help support them and their school. The team spent time playing soccer with the children, which everyone enjoyed. Photographs were taken of each child, next to a chalkboard on which the student had written his name and age. This allows us to keep track of the kids, and see their growth and progress through the years. Recordings were also made of the class chanting together.



L: Stones with names of water project donors lined the pathway of the underground pipe from the mountain to the water taps. The children carried the rocks, and placed them directly over the path of the pipe that carries the water to their village.

At an altitude of over 12,000 feet, the children ran merrily along, while the team struggled to keep up! Besides being a fun adventure, this allowed the children to feel more connected to the people that have helped them, and to express their gratitude. If you donated towards the water project previously, your name is now an indelible part of the landscape in rural Eastern Tibet.

R: A student affectionately kisses a stone with names of a few donors that supported the water project.



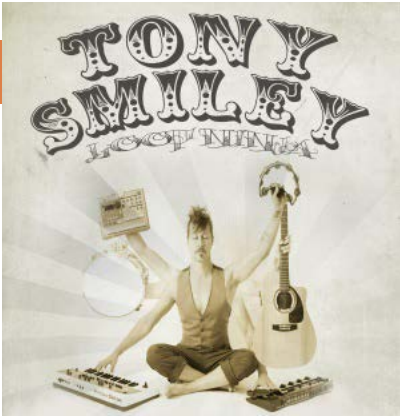
E@E Team at the School (continued...)

Patti, a medical doctor, procured a large stash of medical supplies, which were donated by Children's Hospital. E@E also provided some basic medications (such as 4 antibiotic ointments and 1,000 Advil, 1,000 Ibuprofen, 240 band aids). All of these items were brought to the school by the volunteers as some items are just not practical to be sent so far PLUS mail service has not reached the school yet. More than half of the suitcases of each volunteers were filled with E@E items, THANK YOU volunteers!!!

Patti spent several hours with a local healer who lived in the village, teaching him to use the supplies and answering his questions. While these items, such as bandages and suture kits, are taken for granted in Western hospitals, the local healer had never dreamed that he would have access to this quality of supplies in his remote village. The children of the school, and the people in the local area, will have a better chance of healing from the inevitable injuries and illnesses that happen to everyone, especially when they're living in this remote area. *The locals effusively expressed their gratitude.*



Local Activities



Spring Fundraiser:
MUSIC + LOVE =
EDUCATION

A huge THANKS to Yaima and Tony Smiley for playing their beautiful music on our spring fundraiser on May 9, 2015.



Yoga sessions benefiting E@E by Patti S. MD., Redmond, on Nov 26, 2015. Thank you Patti!

Patti is also the author of her first book, *The Yoga Doctor*, published in 2015.

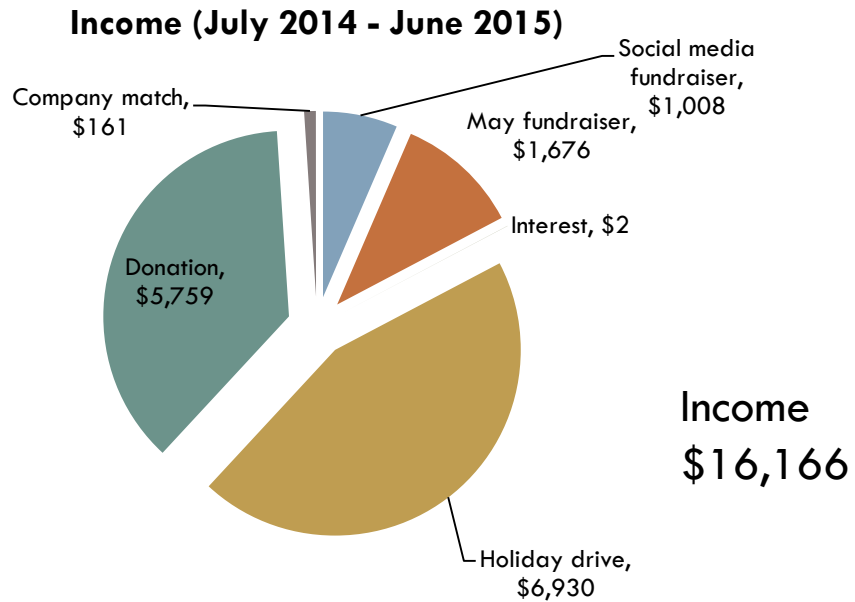


2015 summer campaign started with Jamba Juice BOGO cards in July and ended with a booth at the Bellevue Festival of Arts on July 25, 2015. The donated funds were used to provide multivitamins for kids in Eastern Tibet. Over **4,100 children multivitamin** were bought from Costco and carried by volunteers to the school in September 2015. Thank you Ann S, Leslie A., Vijaya and Swetha and our volunteers for taking time from their busy summer schedules to help out at the booth!

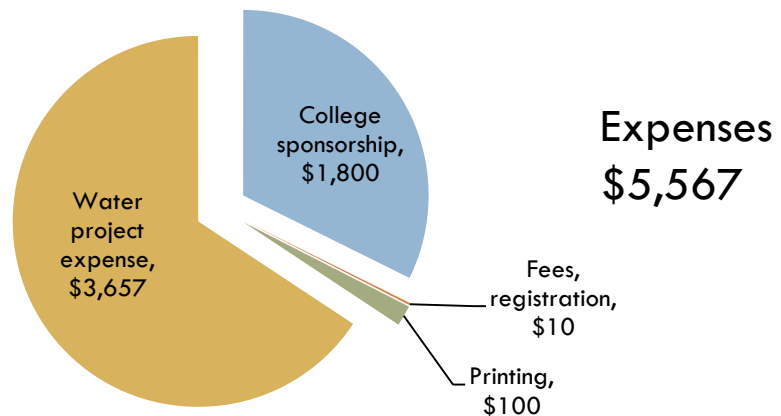


Financial Overview

July 2014 – June 2015



Expenses (July 2014 - June 2015)



Note: Clothing, food, shoes, teacher salary (~ \$7k) for school year 2014-15 was not shown here because E@E reimbursed the school when receipts were submitted to us. This amount will be included in financial year of 2015 – 16.

Financial Overview

July 2014 – June 2015

Consolidated Statements of Activities			
July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015			
		2014-2015	2013-2014
		\$	\$
Revenue and support			
	May Fundraiser	1676	5995
	General donation	5,759	8,898
	Fair (Bellevue Festival of Arts)	630	682
	Holiday Drive	6,930	8,952
	Bank interest	2	19
	Social Media Fundraiser (Gofundme)	1008	-
	Company Match	161	-
		16,166	24,546
Expenses			
	Program services - School program/College Sponsor	1800	14413
	Program services -Water project	3,657	22,262
	Printing/postage	100	656
	Professional fees/License fees	10	-
	Others	-	-
		5,567	37,331
Net Assets			
	Beginning	8,233	21,018
	Ending	18,832	8,233

List of Directors (July 2014- June 2015)

Sonam Rinpoche	Spiritual Advisor
Tim Bruce	President
Sean Caras	Vice President
Wendy Wong	Secretary
Michele Thomson	Marketing
Yuko Caras	Treasurer
Eric Mentele	Board Member
Nancy Buyers	Board Member
Patti Shelton	Board Member
Patrick Low	Board Member