

# FRIENDS OF MANJUSHREE VIDYAPITH SCHOOL & ORPHANAGE

Newsletter No 10. December 2014



## Dear Friends Tashi Delek!

The Manjushree family send lots of love and warm wishes to all our loyal supporters in UK. I have just returned from the orphanage – I spent 4 weeks there, with FMVSO Chairman David Brown. We were fully integrated into the daily life of Manjushree –

teaching, working and playing with the children. We shared and discussed plans and policies with Lama Thupten, Amar the headmaster, and the teachers and invited Lama Thupten and Amar to join us for our half-yearly Trustees meeting. We were all in agreement that transparency and trust were essential to demonstrate to our donors that the FMVSO funds are being well used.

Lama Thupten expressed his heartfelt gratitude for sharing in our meeting and getting a clear picture of FMVSO's operations. He acknowledged that it was his and Amar's responsibility to explain how our contributions are used and we were given free access to Manjushree's accounts. Amar provided current costings for food and for further education and these will enable me to calculate the 2015 FMVSO budget requirements.

Amar asked that we include this message from him : ***"It is a great pleasure to be able to express my feelings in the FMVSO newsletter. The important role which FMVSO is playing to encourage and promote the tiny angels of this region in the field of education is very commendable. Through the hard work and dedication of FMVSO members, we have gained confidence and energy and the teachers and students have all benefitted from the kindness of FMVSO towards this home. Thank you for being part of the Manjushree family."***



Amar has been at Manjushree for the last 13 years and has been involved in the many changes.

To start with, the 'School Building' just provided enough classroom space but as numbers grew, classroom accommodation became an increasing problem. Classes were held out of doors or in the dormitories.



In recent years a temporary classroom block made of wooden sheets and corrugated iron has provided almost enough space – just the little ones are taught in the dining hall or out of doors – when the sun shines.

In 2015 all this will change. Thanks to the generosity of a wonderful Japanese lady and her friends, a magnificent new Academic Building has been constructed. It is almost complete and should be in use next summer.



Students up to age 13/14 are currently being educated at Manjushree. Lama Thupten aims eventually to provide schooling up to the end of secondary education.

FMVSO are very aware of the quality of the education provided at Manjushree compared with that of the local schools and wish to support Lama Thupten in his aim. **The Trustees of FMVSO have pledged to fund the 2 senior teachers mandated by the Indian Government to teach at secondary school level.** This will allow the 15/16 year olds to be taught at Manjushree.

**Education is still seen by FMVSO as one of the 2 main funding priorities.**



**FMVSO has pledged to give every the student the opportunity to go on to further education- either academic or vocational. We are currently fully funding 20 students at college.** Trustees David and Di gave CV writing training and practice interviews to the senior students (pictured) who will be applying for college in the next year or 2. They recognise and acknowledge that they are being given the chance to go to college through funding by well-wishers in UK – they send their love and thanks to you all.

**The strong sense of family** continues even when the students leave to go to college. They are in regular contact with each other and with MV and return home whenever they can. David and Di spent time with the 1st year students in Bomdila. Through the sensitive and loving care and assistance willingly given by his MV brothers, our most handicapped student (who has no arms) is able to cope with his severe disability away from the cocoon of MV home. Two senior MV post-grads, both working in Bomdila, are actively supporting and mentoring the three 1st year students. The 6 students at college in Delhi share an apartment and look after each other in every way. The boys are very protective of their sisters. **5 of our post-grads are currently back at MV.**

Tsering has a government funded post as Accountant/Administrator at MV. This a 10 year contract and Tsering eagerly awaits having her own office in the new academic building. She is currently sharing the job with Lhakpar who will be going to a Government-funded job as accountant at another school next year. They are both teaching too and are on the teachers' duty rota.

Pasang Is Girls' Hostel Warden and in charge of the clinic. She is also teaching. She has just submitted application for MA in History, to be followed by B Ed - Both to be done by correspondence course. Jigmy Is applying for jobs in Itanagar to fund further studies. He Is Boys' Hostel Warden and has been teaching Junior classes. Phurpa has a full time job in administration in Tawang hospital.

**FMVSO is committed to providing the necessary funds to feed the children**



The children are remarkably healthy. They get plenty of exercise; the boys play football and volleyball most afternoons; the girls play badminton - and volleyball when they get the chance.



They look well fed but they are not overweight.

Lama Thupten Phuntsok sends you this message:

***"I and the Manjushree family wholeheartedly thank you so much for your kindness and compassionate support towards the under privileged children of this remote Himalayan region"***



**Our loyal, generous and wonderful supporters are making a huge difference to the lives of the children of Manjushree. Thank you from all of us at FMVSO**

**Di Gallagher**

FMVSO Trustee  
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**NEW Website:** [www.fmvso.org](http://www.fmvso.org)

**All donations to FMVSO go direct to Manjushree. No expenses are deducted and our trips are entirely self-funded**