



Telluride Institute Tibet Fund Newsletter

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Dear friends,

2 months have gone by since the last newsletter! After a flurry of Tibet-related activities in July I had to concentrate on my business, make a quick dash to Germany when my mother became very ill (she is doing fine again; at 96!), and ponder the next steps the Tibet Fund could take to most effectively support the people of Tibet.

As most of you know by now, my teaching assignment in Yushu was cancelled after a 6.9 earthquake struck that town on April 14 and flattened it. The children still live in tents and school is held in containers. I am about to send off \$5,000 to ROKPA to help provide food, shelter, education and other basic necessities for the 80 new orphans the school took in after the earthquake. THANK YOU to all donors, large and small.

ROKPA is a Swiss aid organization with offices around the world; their work is very hands-on. They built and supported the orphanage/school in Yushu, among many other projects. I hope to meet the founders at my next journey to Europe (November/December). I also very much hope that they will provide me with another opportunity to live and work in Tibet next year.

The girls at the Lamda School in Ganzi are doing fine, planning a week's vacation around the Chinese National Holiday on October 1 (the day when Mao Ze Dong declared the Communist People's Republic of China, in 1949). Lobsang, the young man who introduced me to the school asked the other day if we could help pay for solar hot water panels that would heat classrooms and dormitories during the icy Tibetan winters. I just sent an e-mail back asking for more details; I'll keep you posted....

Often I am debating with myself how I/we could do more: Is the limited humanitarian aid we provide (restrictions are imposed by the Chinese government, not your generosity) the right way to go, should we become more involved in political campaigns, do more educational outreach, or help sustain Tibetan culture in exile? What else could we do? I welcome any input from you all!

With love and gratitude, Elisabeth

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