Circa 19XX: His Majesty the Third King of Bhutan, Druk Gyalpo Jigme Dorji Wangchuck dances with the local community at the Paro Tshechu Festival.
The painting on the cover was completed by Phurba Namgay after an assessment carried out in the Jomolhari community about what life is like in the Jomolhari region. This painting portrays life where people live harmoniously with their surrounding environment, which includes snow leopards, living culture, rich environment, and ecotourism.
“...there is a higher responsibility—not written in any legal document but instead enshrined in humanity and history—a natural responsibility and a duty that we all must shoulder equally, irrespective of who we are. Of paramount importance to the strength of a nation is the ability of her people to live as one united family—a community in which interaction is marked by trust, understanding, and cooperation.”

—His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
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Following a Bhutan Foundation board meeting some years ago, a member came up to us and said, “You know, the Bhutan Foundation really feels like a family.” We couldn’t agree more. Our donors, board and advisory members, staff, and partners are united in supporting the Bhutanese people as they develop their country according to their inspiring values. We think the sense of community we share at the Bhutan Foundation is a reflection of the Bhutanese sense of compassion and interconnectedness.

In Our Community: Bhutan Foundation Annual Report 2017, we invite you to see how your support of our unique places and people contributes to the larger Bhutanese community.

Nevertheless, we are a developing country, and we are eager to learn from and share with the global community as we strive to build capacity to meet our challenges, such as ensuring access to emergency medical care for citizens in remote locations, helping parents to become advocates for their children with disabilities, preserving our heritage sites and music, and involving rural communities in protecting endangered wildlife. In many cases, our nonprofit organization support the efforts of our citizens from remote villages to growing cities. As you’ll see in this year’s annual report, this is where the Bhutan Foundation makes an impact in Bhutan’s varied but unified communities.

Thank you for your continued interest in Bhutan through the Bhutan Foundation. You are not only a supporter, you are an important member of the Bhutan Foundation community.

In Bhutan, our national sense of community is more like that of a family, one with shared heritage, values, traditions, food, and culture. This perspective affects our approach to everything we do. It would be hard to imagine Bhutan without our colorful festivals and music, and tourists come from across the globe to find inspiration among our mountains and monasteries. Our scientific community is studying and preserving our treasured wildlife for the benefit of Bhutan and the world. Our rural communities are feeding the country, while our urban communities are preparing Bhutan for the future. We are all united by our shared history and distinctly Bhutanese development philosophy of Gross National Happiness. Collectively, our individual communities reflect our Bhutanese identity.

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Key focus: Environmental Conservation

Snow Leopards are protected in Bhutan and thrive due to the community’s conservation efforts.

1 School
1 Basic Health Unit (II)
10 Villages
183 People
6 Projects
7 Partners

Our Engagement

Jomolhari School Among Snow Leopards
Jomolhari Highland Greenhouse in Soe
Jomolhari Mountain Festival
Namad Health Camps
The Jomolhari region is regarded as one of the most important areas in Bhutan for snow leopards. It’s a unique and age-old patch of pristine natural beauty that holds great promise for ecotourism. The fate of this mountain environment, including its snow leopards, is, however, dependent on the local herders who make up the community here. The prosperity, resilience, and sustainability of the community will bode well for all its inhabitants, human and non-humans alike.

The Jomolhari Snow Leopard Conservation Program is an overarching initiative that not only encompasses the environmental aspect of conservation, but also focuses on bringing benefits from conservation to the local highland communities. From building a school to improving veterinary and human health services, we have supported the community in becoming more resilient. Through the annual Jomolhari Mountain Festival, ecotourism opportunities are currently being explored inside and outside the park to benefit the community.

Recently, the park trained all the members in camera-trapping techniques in order to make them more connected to the snow leopards living in their area and to allow the park staff to use the herders’ extensive local knowledge. At the upcoming festival, they will showcase their results. The festival also focuses more on snow-leopard conservation messages with active participation of the community members. This year, the Lingzhi community will join the festival, in addition to the Yaksa, Yutoed, and Nubri communities.

For now, the Bhutan Foundation is exploring more options to improve facilities in this region as an exciting ecotourism destination by setting up resthouses at campsites and supporting unique homestays in the area. The Bhutan Foundation also has developed materials for the Snow Leopard Chest, a snow-leopard-focused educational toolkit that will be used to engage young children in learning about snow leopard conservation through games, in the classroom, and through creative exploration.

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Conservation of the Environment

Preservation of Culture

Support for the Bumthang Health Team and the Nomad Health Camp

Support for the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research

Adaptive Re-use and Restoration of Wangduechhoeling Palace

HEROES Climate Change Project

Key focus: Cultural Preservation

- 19 Schools
- 5 Basic Health Units (II)
- 1 District Hospital
- 99 Villages
- 18,965 People
- 6 Projects
- 9 Partners

Wangduechhoeling Palace

is the finest representation of 19th century Bhutanese architecture and a symbol of the establishment of Bhutan's monarchy.
The Wangduechhoeling Palace, located in the Bumthang valley in central Bhutan, bears historic significance as a powerful symbol of the glories of Bhutan’s past. It was once the central political, social, and cultural hub of Bhutan. The palace is an important representation of not only the Bumthang community, but also Bhutan’s community as a nation. The Bhutan Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs and the U.S. Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation is now documenting and restoring the palace to its former glory—a restoration that has brought back much activity to the palace grounds after being neglected for over 50 years.

Last year, Her Majesty Gyalyum Tseyring Pem Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan and Co-Chair of the Bhutan Foundation, visited the palace to review the progress of the restoration work and meet with the local Bumthang community and local government to gauge their interest in the restoration of the palace. She addressed Her Majesty said, “I think this is an important national project and the community here must understand its significance and participate. This is a treasure for all of us. It is because of our ancestors that we enjoy the peace and happiness in our country today.” Her Majesty’s keen interest in involving the local community and talking about the importance of the Wangduechhoeling Palace was a significant royal symbol for all.

With the first phase of the Wangduechhoeling Palace restoration complete, the second phase of structural restoration is now beginning. Namgay, the master carpenter on the project, is also training 40 young Bhutanese men and women, some from within the Bumthang community, in conservation techniques. Going forward, the palace will serve as an important model for cultural restoration of Heritage sites in the country.
Support for the River Guides of Panbang

Preserving and Promoting Traditional Music and Dance

Conserving Bhutan’s Mountain Tigers

Our Engagement

Key focus: Sustainable Development

The River Guides of Panbang

is a social enterprise led by 10 young entrepreneurs who were inspired to start their own business in their village to curb unemployment and rural-to-urban migration.

28 Schools
16 Basic Health Units
1 District Hospital
153 Villages
21,501 People
4 Projects
4 Partners

PANBANG Community Stats
After graduating with a master's degree in social work from Madras Christian College in Chennai, India, I was searching online for job opportunities in my field of study. After much research, I came across an article in Kuensel, Bhutan’s national newspaper, about the Ability Bhutan Society (ABS), a small civil society organization (CSO) that provides services for children with disabilities. Being passionate about improving and increasing services for children and adults with disabilities, I also hope that the services provided by ABS can be continued for many generations to come.

I applied to become an intern and volunteered for three months, after which I was hired as the first full-time employee of ABS. With all the skills and support I have received, I plan to go back to ABS to improve our programs significantly, especially on the clinical side. I have been getting my certification for Applied Behavior Analysis from the Florida Institute of Technology, which was facilitated by ACA as a part of the experiential learning process. I was also able to work as an assistant behavior analyst, receiving over 1,500 hours of supervision from a certified behavior analyst. After working for a while, I am now coming back to ABS.

The Bhutan Foundation has supported ABS since its inception, and when the Foundation offered us an opportunity to be trained at the Anderson Center for Autism (ACA) in New York, we were thrilled. Over the last year and a half, I have spent my time at the ACA learning about opportunities for education, life-skills development, and clinical, health, and residential needs of children and adults on the autism spectrum. In addition, I have been getting my certification for Applied Behavior Analysis from the Florida Institute of Technology.

However, none of us at ABS had much training in this field, and it was a constant challenge for us to address the needs of all those who sought our help. Each child who came to ABS seemed to have different needs, and it was difficult for us to identify and screen these needs. Limited but not sufficient services from the Royal Government of Bhutan. Having had no experience in this field, I worked tirelessly with our founder and executive director, Ms. Beda Giri, to get programs started at ABS. We received help from a special education specialist from the United States and were able to start minor programs, including awareness campaigns on the different types of disabilities and parent education. As awareness for our organization grew, so did the number of children and parents who came to seek support at ABS.

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The MBRC aims not only to revitalize the interest in these songs and dances in the local communities (especially among youth) but also to promote the preservation of such traditions through research. They also plan to explore what potential these cultural traditions may have to develop cultural tourism initiatives in the region. By promoting cultural tourism, they would like to improve the preservation efforts. MBRC hopes to raise awareness and interest in these cultural practices, especially for the youth of the community. Knowing these traditions are being able to perform these cultural dances and songs will, hopefully, instill a sense of pride and understanding of their heritage and promote respect and communication between the youth and their elders in the communities.

Bhutan has always been an oral society with distinct stories and songs passed through generations serving as the main platform through which the Bhutanese people learned about their values and culture. These oral traditions are crucial for Bhutan because they keep unique cultural identities intact, and they teach the Bhutanese people about their lineages, beliefs, and values. But these traditions are under-estimated, unrecorded, and at risk of disappearing, especially with modernization and the ongoing rural-urban migration in the country.

Since 2008, the Music of Bhutan Research Centre (MBRC) has been researching, recording, and archiving musical traditions in the country. So far, they have managed to accumulate over 20,000 hours of audio-visual field recordings, transcriptions of songs and interviews, field notes, photographs, musical instruments, and dance costumes. The songs that have been documented so far include songs and dances that are exclusive to the Nyangtri Gwog (group of villages) of the Zhemgang region. Prabang is a chwog (smaller cluster of villages) outside Nyangtri Gwog. Three songs, named “Dangdri Fungam,” “Chukha Tashi,” “Kuentsa,” and “Mega Yong Yong” are at risk of being lost and forgotten by the local community. With time, changes have been made to the original lyrics and choreography. And many youths are not taking as active an interest in these songs and dances as did their predecessors. The songs portray what everyday life is in these communities, from cultivating fields to warding off evil spirits. They have played an important part in preserving the Bhutanese culture and traditions, but the fear of these songs has been more visible since they are now only rarely performed or sung by the local community.

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SPOTLIGHT PROJECT

Preserving age old songs and dances from communities throughout Bhutan

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THIMPHU
Community Stats

Key focus: Good Governance

Emergency Medical Services are now being provided by the Bhutan Emergency Aeromedical Retrieval (BEAR) team, saving lives throughout the country in the most remote areas.

47 Schools
13 Basic Health Units
4 District Hospitals
226 Villages
116,012 People
5 Projects
21 Partners

Our Engagement

Support for Individuals with Disabilities
Addressing Public Health Needs
Improving Emergency Medical Services
Support for Civil Society Organizations
The Bhutan Foundation is passionate about making a positive impact in all of Bhutan’s communities, especially those in remote and hard-to-reach areas. For families living in remote communities, transport to the nearest health-care facility can take hours or even days. In 2016, the government of Bhutan purchased two helicopters that will be used for tourism and medical emergencies. But many urgent emergency patients cannot be saved by simple helicopter evacuation, as they require immediate resuscitation and care on site and during transport. The high level of intensive care required by these patients make aeromedical services a key component of emergency medical services.

Recognizing the need for a trained aeromedical team, the Bhutan Foundation worked with the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital and the Ministry of Health to create a specialized aeromedical retrieval team known as BEAR: Bhutan Emergency Aeromedical Retrieval. The BEAR team is the designated medical team that responds to emergency medical evacuations by helicopter to rescue critically ill and injured patients across Bhutan. The team is trained to safely evacuate, stabilize, and transfer patients and is led by an emergency medicine physician. The Bhutan Foundation has supported the BEAR team from inception to execution, including providing medical equipment and training the team. Since its activation in August 2017, the BEAR team has saved more than 32 lives throughout Bhutan.
Being inclusive has always been a part of Bhutanese societal values and heritage, but opportunities for children and individuals with disabilities in the schools and in the workforce have been limited. Recognizing this, Bhutan is now developing specific efforts to support children and individuals with disabilities in the public school system, health system, public spaces, and at the policy level.

With increased awareness, Bhutan is now seeing an increase in the number of individuals with disabilities seeking support, especially in the schools. In response, the Bhutan Foundation’s special education program seeks to support children and youth with special needs by building capacity of the schools’ educators, leaders, health providers, and, most recently, parents.

To help parents understand needed services for their children and how to become advocates for them, the Bhutan Foundation in partnership with Perkins International has supported the development of parent support groups in Bhutan. We supported two parents in participating in the 5th Parent Advocate for Visually Impaired Children (PAVIC) Congress in Manila, Philippines. The two parents, Ms. Ugyen Choden, mother of a four-year-old daughter on the autism spectrum and with low vision, and Ms. Karma S. Dorji, mother of a nine-year-old son who is also on the autism spectrum, learned what a strong parent support group can do to advocate for their children, to avail services, and to gain support from peers, teachers, schools, the community, and the government. Upon arriving back to the country, the two parents put together an action plan to start a parent support group in Bhutan. Both parents have met with two groups of parents and have formed a small group on Facebook called “We Can Make a Difference” that meets once a month.

In the long run, having a strong parent support group in the community will allow the parents, government agencies, and other stakeholders to work together. The parents would also be able to provide feedback on services so that targeted and relevant interventions take place. Parents understand the needs of their children the best and would be an experienced voice to develop appropriate policies and services for their children, allowing the government to use their resources more effectively. To continue building an inclusive community, the Bhutan Foundation also supports developing the capacity of health workers, social workers, and educators in the field of disability.

SPOTLIGHT PROJECT
Building parent advocacy in special education
Our Small Grants

- Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy: Youth Speak Project
- Chithuen Phendhey Association: National Drug Awareness & Prevention Campaign
- Highland Greenhouse in Lingphu
- Loden Foundation: Read to Light Project
- Bhutan Cancer Society: Cancer Registry
- AMRITH: Special Education Awareness Video on Transition
- Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative: System of Rice Intensification Project
- Reviving traditional Bhutanese paintings using herbal pigments
- Training of mud and solar techniques to Bhutanese architect through the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives

* Nationwide projects
Local Partners

Ability Bhutan Society
Amankora
Bhutan Cancer Foundation
Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy
Bhutan Ecological Society
Bhutan Media Foundation
Bhutan Nurse Foundation
Bhutan Youth Development Fund
Bumthang Health Team
Chithuem Phenkey Association
Clean Bhutan
Dhunsel Home Spa
Disabled Persons’ Association of Bhutan
Draktsho Vocational Training Centre
Her Majesty’s Gyalyum Charitable Trust
Jangsa Animal Saving Trust
Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital
Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law
Khesar Gyapaj University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan
The Lhomon Society
Loden Foundation
Music of Bhutan Research Centre
Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women
River Guides of Panbang
Royal Government of Bhutan
Royal Society for Protection of Nature
Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative
Tarayana Foundation
Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research
UNICEF Bhutan
VAST (Voluntary Artists’ Studio, Thimphu)
World Wildlife Fund Bhutan

International Partners

Anderson Center for Autism
Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital
Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO)
Humane Society International (HSI)
Karuna Foundation
Lonestar Film Festival
National Geographic Society
Perkins International
Phelps Memorial Hospital Center
Smithsonian Institution
Snow Leopard Conservancy
Squire Patton Boggs LLP
Tao & McKown Architects
University of California San Francisco
University of Montana
US Ambassadors’ Fund for Cultural Preservation
USAID
World Monuments Fund
World Wildlife Fund
Yale University

Local leaders (right) of the Jomolhari community explain what benefits snow leopard conservation brings to the local community to Tshewang Wangchuk (left), Executive Director of the Jomolhari Foundation, at the Jomolhari Mountain Festival in 2016.
Bhutan Foundation Grants Fiscal Year 2017

Conservation of the Environment

20,000 to 49,999
- River Guides of Panbang Social Enterprise
10,000 to 19,999
- Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research Monitoring Forest Cover Change
5,000 to 9,999
- Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research National Geographic Explorer Grant for Clouded Leopard Research
1,000 to 4,999
- Jamolhari Community Snow Leopard Conservation Community Program
- Royal Manas National Park Visitor Facilities
- Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research Bhutan Phenology Study–Himalayan Environmental Rhythms Observation and Evaluation System
- Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research Tiger Conservation

Equitable and Sustainable Development

50,000 to 99,999
- Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences Public Health Program
- Ministry of Health Improving Emergency Medical Services
20,000 to 49,999
- Bumthang Health Team Wangduechhoeling Hospital
10,000 to 19,999
- Ministry of Education Enhancement of Educational Opportunities for Children with Special Needs
5,000 to 9,999
- Changangkha Middle Secondary School Special Education Unit
- Tashiyangtse Wildlife Sanctuary Nomad Health Camps in Merak and Sakteng
1,000 to 4,999
- Wangchuck Centennial National Park Nomad Health Camps in Bumthang District
- Jamolhari Community Nomad Health Camp in Jamolhari

Good Governance

100,000 to 200,000
- Royal Grandmother’s MBB Charitable Fund General Support
- Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law General Support
- Tarayana Foundation General Support
- Gyalyum Charitable Trust General Support

Women and children of the Sakteng community queue up for the Nomad Health Camp conducted in partnership with the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary, Trashigang Hospital, and the Bhutan Foundation.
Funding and Financial Overview

Bhutan Youth Development Fund
General Support

College of Science and Technology
International Conference on Renewable and Sustainable Energy and Design

Jangsa Animal Saving Trust
General Support

10,000 to 19,999

Bhutan Ecological Society
General Support

Loden Foundation
Loden Entrepreneurship Program

World Wildlife Fund Bhutan
General Support

5,000 to 9,999

Bhutan Canada Foundation
Teach in Bhutan

Bhutan Nurse Foundation
General Support

Drukstho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth
General Support

Loden Foundation
Read to Light

National Biodiversity Centre
Bhutan Orchid Project

School of Global Studies
Bhutan Scholarship

Wheaton College
Bhutan Scholarship

Yale University
Bhutan Scholarship

1,000 to 4,999

AsNy Bhutan Society
General Support

Bhutan Cancer Society
Bhutan Cancer Registry

Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy
Youth Speak: Deepening Democracy through Citizen Voice and Action

Bhutan Cultural Atlas
General Support

Chithuen Phendrey Association
National Drug Awareness and Prevention Campaign 2017

Department of Culture
Sun and Earth Natural Building International Festival

Green Pigment Arts
Herbal Pigment Paints Research

Jomolhari Community
Highland Greenhouse in Soe

Lingzhi Community
Highland Greenhouse in Lingzhi

Ogyen Choling Foundation
General Support

Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women
General Support

Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative
General Support

Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative
System of Rice Intensification in Rekhey Village

Up to 1,000

Royal Society for Protection of Nature
General Support

Volunteer Artists’ Studio of Thimphu (VAST)
General Support

Preservation of Culture

Over 300,000

Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
Restoration and Adaptive Re-use of Wangduechhoeling Palace

50,000 to 99,999

Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
Restoration of Drametse Lhakhang

20,000 to 49,999

Faculty of Traditional Medicine
Ex-situ Conservation and Preservation of Medicinal Plants

Music of Bhutan Research Centre
Research and Archiving of Traditional Songs and Ritual Arts

1,000 to 4,999

National Institute of Traditional Medicine
Rotary Club of Thimphu Project

Events

1,000 to 4,999

Beskop Tshechu Film Festival
Promoting Documentaries and Short Films in Bhutan

Mr. Dagay, park ranger of the Soe Range of the Jigme Dorji National Park, is leading the training course of camera traps for the Snow Leopard Conservation Committee members of the Jomolhari region.
During fiscal year 2017, the Bhutan Foundation raised $2.6 million in revenues and $460,000 in-kind support. Most of our funding continues to come from individuals and private foundations. The Bhutan Foundation strives to maximize the proportion of funds we raise toward supporting programs in Bhutan. I am pleased to report that in 2017, 91 percent of our total expenditures were program related. Program expenditures were as follows: $183,000 for conservation of the environment; $685,800 for equitable and sustainable development; $961,400 for good governance; $549,800 for preservation of culture; and $114,700 for events to increase knowledge of Bhutan. Supporting services expenditures of $250,400 accounted for 9 percent of total expenses.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support. Your support helps communities in Bhutan to better conserve the environment, uphold their culture, advocate for good governance, and promote equitable and sustainable development.

Brian J. Menkes
Treasurer

Selden is a rice farmer from Rekhey village in Samdrup Jongkhar and has greatly benefitted from the SRI method of rice cultivation by increasing her yield by 133%.

**Financial Summary Fiscal Year 2017**

**Support and Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations and Trusts</td>
<td>1,509,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>980,808</td>
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<td>Government Grants</td>
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<td>In-Kind Services</td>
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<td>Other Support</td>
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<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
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**Program Expenses**

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Conservation of the Environment</td>
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<td>Equitable and Sustainable Development</td>
<td>685,837</td>
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<td>Good Governance</td>
<td>961,414</td>
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<td>Preservation of Culture</td>
<td>549,764</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events to Increase Knowledge of Bhutan</td>
<td>114,732</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,494,700</strong></td>
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**Supporting Services**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>109,156</td>
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<td>Management and Administration</td>
<td>141,208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Supporting Services</td>
<td>250,364</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,745,064</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Financial Overview**

Brian J. Menkes
Treasurer

Selden is a rice farmer from Rekhey village in Samdrup Jongkhar and has greatly benefitted from the SRI method of rice cultivation by increasing her yield by 133%.
Ways to Give

Your support helps build GNH-inspired sustainable communities that are economically, environmentally, culturally, and socially resilient.

Donate Online  www.bhutanfound.org/donate

Send a Check  Bhutan Foundation
21 Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 755
Washington, DC 20036

Wire Your Donation or Make a Stock Gift  Please contact the Bhutan Foundation at (202) 609-7363 or email: info@bhutanfound.org

A Gift in Your Will  Please remember the Bhutan Foundation with a gift in your will. There are several ways to make a bequest to the Bhutan Foundation through your will or other estate plan: a residual bequest, a percentage bequest, a specific bequest, or a contingent bequest.

Landscapes and waterfalls along the Jomolhari Mountain Trek, home of the elusive snow leopard.
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