



Staying  
Connected  
to Bhutan

BHUTAN FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2011

In many ways, the Bhutan Foundation serves as a bridge between the world's leading institutions and our local partners to build capacity by broadening Bhutan's access to global expertise. Throughout 2010-2011, partnerships with renowned international institutions, with local partner organizations, and with you, our supporters, have enabled us to carry out our mission, as you will see in the following pages. Thank you for staying connected to Bhutan as, together, we connect Bhutan to the world's greatest resources.



The Bhutan Foundation joins all the Bhutanese and well wishers from around the world on the joyous occasion of His Majesty the King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's royal wedding with Her Majesty the Queen Ashi Jetsun Pema Wangchuck. The auspicious ceremony takes place on October 13, 2011.

# Our Mission

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The Bhutan Foundation serves the people of Bhutan in living and sharing the principle of Gross National Happiness. We cherish the values of the Bhutanese intention: measuring “happiness” as the highest attribute of all decision-making. We contribute to strategies of conservation of the environment, equitable and sustainable development, good governance, and preservation of culture in Bhutan. The Bhutan Foundation serves as the only American not-for-profit organization that is wholly focused on the benefit of the country and people of Bhutan, bridging understanding between our two countries and beyond.

# Staying Connected to Bhutan



# Staying Connected through

This year marks a number of momentous occasions in the history of Bhutan. A particularly joyous one is His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's announcement at the opening of the National Parliament that he will wed Jetsun Pema in October. In addition, the year of the Rabbit began auspiciously with the induction of the Fourth King of Bhutan into the Kyoto Earth Hall of Fame in February for his outstanding contribution to the protection of the global environment. Bhutan's efforts toward conservation of the environment have received much international acclaim under the leadership of the Fourth King, who is among the earliest world leaders to become conscious of the mounting pressures of development on a fragile ecosystem. Another milestone achievement for Bhutan, the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Resolution of Happiness, a step toward a holistic approach to development based on Bhutan's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness.

As you will see in this annual report, we at the Bhutan Foundation have been focused on supporting Bhutan through varied programs and events. For example, we held several events in the United States to increase awareness of Gross National Happiness and to provide a greater understanding of Bhutan. We also worked to create consciousness among youth on climate change issues with the Bhutan Ride for Climate program in July 2011. We hope you will enjoy reading about these and many other initiatives that we implement with our partners in Bhutan and the United States.

Poised to transform from an essentially agrarian economy to a more service-based one, Bhutan over the last few years has enjoyed significant growth and rapid socio-economic development, while ensuring the preservation of culture and environmental heritage. This, I believe, has been possible with the Royal Government's efforts continually to improve governance and with the firm institution of democracy in Bhutan. In order to establish a solid foundation for



transparent governance, we now have effective checks and balances in place.

As always, impediments to economic success remain Bhutan's small size, remoteness and distance from global and regional markets, the small size of the private sector and domestic markets, and vulnerability to natural and climate-induced disasters. For a nation that promotes happiness and well-being of the individual, our gravest concern is that poverty continues to be a serious challenge for many distant communities in remote Bhutan, and chronic malnutrition continues to affect around a third of all Bhutanese children. These rural communities desperately need our support, and we at the Foundation must encourage greater involvement by our partners in this area.

We have been extremely fortunate and successful in

our past and ongoing endeavors, entirely from the generosity that each of you has extended. With deep gratitude for your belief in us, I take this opportunity to thank you. We urge you to continue to support our initiatives, especially to ensure that no vulnerable and isolated groups are left behind in the wake of rapid development.

Her Majesty the Queen Mother of Bhutan  
Ashi Tshering Pem Wangchuck  
Co-Chair

# Our Partners: 2010-2011

What do we mean when we talk about “building capacity”? For the Bhutan Foundation, it is about filling gaps and strengthening what is already working in Bhutan. Specifically, we build capacity in Bhutan by supporting programs that help the Bhutanese people conserve the environment, promote equitable and sustainable development, support good governance, and preserve Bhutan’s culture. But we do not do this alone.

As we reflect on the Bhutan Foundation’s accomplishments over the past year, we are reminded of the many wonderful partnerships that led to them. We build local capacity on an individual as well as an institutional level through our partner organizations in Bhutan, who do the hard work of implementing the programs you will read about in this annual report. We are also excited about our ongoing--and developing--relationships with leading institutions in the United States and elsewhere, which have a major impact on building capacity and help us bring Bhutan to the attention of the world. The following are some (but not all) of those institutions:

- The **Asia Society** has been a major partner of the Bhutan Foundation in promoting greater awareness of Bhutan to its members.
- The **Harvard Humanitarian Initiative** provides the Bhutan Foundation and Bhutan’s Ministry of Health with technical guidance for our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program.
- The **International Center for Journalists** is working with the Bhutan Foundation and the Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy to support scholarships at the International Media Institute of India in New Delhi.
- The **National Geographic Society** supports our research programs on snow leopards and provides a platform for greater understanding of Bhutan and the many issues the country faces, such as climate change.
- **Patton Boggs LLP** supports the Bhutan Foundation in addressing policy matters and in increasing knowledge and understanding of Bhutan with decision-makers in Washington, DC, and elsewhere.

The Co-Chair, Hon. Frank G. Wisner, and President, Dr. Bruce W. Bunting, with the Bhutan Foundation staff in Thimphu, Bhutan.



- The **Smithsonian Institution** is developing programs with the Bhutan Foundation in the areas of biodiversity conservation and scientific capacity-building.
- The **University of Montana** partners with the Bhutan Foundation and the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment to build Bhutan’s capacity in wildlife monitoring and conservation science.
- **Phelps Memorial Hospital** supports the Bhutan Foundation and the Ministry of Health by training teams of Bhutanese doctors and nurses in emergency medicine and providing technical support to ensure the best quality of EMS care in Bhutan.
- The **World Monuments Fund**, with the support of the Prince Claus Fund, provides technical support to the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs and the Bhutan Foundation to restore historically and culturally important sites.
- **Yale University** is collaborating with the Bhutan Foundation to develop a bachelor’s degree curriculum in public health at Bhutan’s Royal Institute of Health Sciences and is supporting conservation efforts in forest management as well as research and training opportunities.

Of course, any discussion of partnerships would be incomplete without thanks to our most important partner: you. Simply put, your generosity keeps all of these capacity-building efforts--and results--alive. We sincerely thank you and hope you will stay connected to Bhutan through the Bhutan Foundation.

Hon. Frank G. Wisner  
Co-Chair

Dr. Bruce W. Bunting  
President



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# Our Areas of Support



## Conservation of the Environment

Forging partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution and National Geographic Society in building capacity for conservation.



## Preservation of Culture

Connecting our local partners to the expertise of the World Monuments Fund to continue our programs to preserve some of Bhutan's richest cultural heritage sites.



## Equitable and Sustainable Development

Developing relations with Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) to share their expertise on delivering effective Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Bhutan.

## Good Governance

Building partnerships to support the growth of a professional media in Bhutan by partnering with the International Center for Journalist.



Conservation of the Environment

# BIKING across Bhutan to Learn about Climate Change . . .

In July 2011, fifteen American and Bhutanese students, accompanied by Foundation staff, Jamyang Tashi and Tshewang Wangchuck, participated in a 300 kilometre (187 mile) bike ride across Bhutan focusing on climate change issues facing Bhutan. During the course of the ride, they occasionally braved monsoon rains and traversed three 10,000 foot passes. Several of the students had limited experience on long bike rides but became quite proficient bike enthusiasts by the end of the trip.

During their trek, the students learned about climate change as viewed by Bhutanese farmers, monks, hydro-power engineers, and conservationists. The participants visited the largest hydroelectric project in Bhutan, the Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Project, and the smaller scale micro-hydel in Rukubji to learn about energy and climate change. The students were inspired by the Minister of Agriculture and Forests, who told them, “You don’t need a special occasion to care about the environment. It has to come from the heart, everyday.”



(from left) Anna Droege, Kinley Wangchuck, Mara Menahan and Pema Khandu were four out of the fifteen students that completed the 187+ mile bike ride.

*I left the site with many questions like what if there was a glacial outburst? What if the river dried up? Should Bhutan try to grow its economy? Well, one thing was for sure, biking along the roads that I have traveled many times in a car has helped me become more aware of climate change. It has also shown me what a beautiful country Bhutan is.*

*Palchen Wangchuk*



Bike participants visiting the largest hydropower project in Bhutan, the Punatsangchhu hydroelectric project.

The American students came away from the ride with an insight in the role Buddhism plays in influencing how the Bhutanese care for the environment, based on the concern and compassion for other living creatures. The Bhutanese students learned from the Americans the extent of how climate change affects everyone in the world. Inspired by their experience during the trip, field visits and interactions, the students are putting together a set of recommendations to the political leaders who will be attending the Climate Change Summit for a Living Himalayas in November, 2011 in Bhutan. Their story will all be the subject of a documentary film to be released later this year.

The student bike trip was implemented under the aegis of the Climate Change Summit in partnership with the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE), the University of Montana, Sprout Films, and National Geographic. The Tourism Council of Bhutan and several Bhutanese businesses also supported the program.

*Their story is featured on the National Geographic Society website (<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2011/07/04/'tour-de-bhutan'-tackles-climate-change/>). The Bhutan Ride for Climate website has more details on the program, student blogs and pictures from the ride ([www.bhutanrideforclimate.org](http://www.bhutanrideforclimate.org)). This program was also featured in various local Bhutanese media.*



# DEVELOPING Partnerships to Strengthen Our Conservation Efforts

## A Tale of Two Institutions - Smithsonian and UWICE

In January 2011 Tshewang Wangchuck of the Bhutan Foundation gave a presentation at the National Geographic Society's Committee for Research and Exploration annual meeting at the Kaziranga National Park in India. Tshewang's presentation focused on Bhutan, the Bhutan Foundation, and his research work on snow leopards. At this meeting, senior representatives from the Smithsonian Institution expressed an interest in further discussions on issues of common interest, leading to a potential collaboration between the Institution and the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) given the many similar goals of the two bodies. The Director of UWICE, Nawang Norbu, with Bhutan Foundation representatives, met with senior officials of

the Smithsonian in Washington, DC to further discuss subjects for a potential collaboration between the two institutions. Areas identified as of mutual interest were a natural history unit at UWICE, long-term research and monitoring forest plots, training in conservation biology and wildlife management, and assistance for the conservation genetics laboratory at UWICE. UWICE has obtained government endorsement to proceed with the collaboration, and a Memorandum of Understanding is expected to be signed in the near future.

A separate meeting was held at the National Zoo, which is part of the Smithsonian, on a proposed takin exhibit at the Zoo in Washington, DC.

*The partnership between Bhutan Foundation (BF) and UWICE continues to be a most successful one. In the past year, BF has helped us launch a new website and establish Bhutan Ecological Society (BEST), in order for the environmental committee to reach a larger audience and promote greater public discourse on environmental issues. Furthermore, support from BF has helped us carry out timely research on the glacial lakes and conduct a survey of the tiger population in RMNP. Both these projects are crucial to understanding Bhutan's ecological systems and contribute towards furthering the royal government's conservation agenda.*

*Nawang Norbu, Director of UWICE*



(Above) Researchers from UWICE and park staff from the Royal Manas National Park (RMNP). The Bhutan Foundation continues to support wildlife monitoring in RMNP, and will also provide anti-poaching support for the park.

(Right) The takin, *Budorcas taxicolor white*, is a vulnerable species of takin native to Bhutan and is also the national animal of Bhutan. The Bhutan Foundation hopes to create a Bhutan takin exhibit at the National Zoo in Washington, DC.



Phurba and Sangay from UWICE showing Tshewang Wangchuk from the Bhutan Foundation a leopard cat skin collected from Singye Dzong in their efforts to monitor wildlife in Bhutan.

## Tiger Baseline for Bhutan's First National Park- Royal Manas National Park (RMNP)



Royal Manas National Park (RMNP), Bhutan's first National Park, covering 1057 square kilometers, is home to at least 25 to 35 tigers, according to latest survey results produced by UWICE and RMNP. These results were confirmed by remote camera surveys carried out by research teams of the two organizations. RMNP harbors at least seven cat species, and possibly an eighth species if the presence of a fishing cat is confirmed. This makes Bhutan's RMNP a park with one of the highest cat diversities in the world.

In the course of the study, research teams also confirmed new-to-Bhutan records of the Crab-eating Mongoose and the Ferret Badger.

The camera traps are operated throughout the year to study seasonal changes in animal movements.

The Bhutan Foundation provided support for purchasing seventy Reconyx camera traps and accessories, logistics, and printing of the research reports.

Pictures captured from camera traps set up throughout RMNP by local Bhutanese scientists from UWICE and RMNP in their efforts to monitor wildlife:



(a) Clouded Leopard

(b) Elephant

(c) Leopard

# PARTAKING in the Conservation Efforts of Our Partners...

## Timber Conservation

A 2003 survey revealed that in the villages of Merak and Sakteng, an unsustainable amount of timber was being harvested for use as wood shingle house roofing. In response, World Wildlife Fund Bhutan (WWF) provided corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets to 241 households in the village of Sakteng. The drop in tree felling was significant following the use of CGI sheets as an alternative to wood shingles.

With support of the Bhutan Foundation and other partners, WWF Bhutan and the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS) scaled up the project in 2011 to cover the remaining households in Merak and Sakteng, thereby making both villages shingle free. Given that wood shingles have to be replaced on a regular basis, and that CGI sheets last for approximately 30 years, this substitution of roofing material has significantly reduced the number of trees being felled. It is estimated that close to 15,000 trees will be saved over the first 30-year period.

374 households have since benefited from the roofing project. Moreover, without the need to replace their shingles every other year, the villagers will have more time and energy to pursue other activities.

This alternative roofing initiative will go a long way in not only preserving forest resources and building awareness of the importance of conservation, but also securing the confidence of communities within the park to partner and participate in the park's future conservation activities.



(Above) Villagers in Merak and Sakteng, two communities within the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary, used wood shingles for roofing.

(Below) Following a government survey, the WWF- Bhutan and other partners have provided corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets to 374 households throughout Merak and Sakteng as an alternative to wood shingle roofing.





## Young Environmental Scholar (YES) Internships at UWICE

Yeshey Tenzin, who holds a Bachelor of Science in Life Science and Karma Yangzom, who holds a Bachelor of Science in Bio-technology were selected as the first UWICE Young Environmental Scholar (YES) interns for a period of six months. During this six month, all expense-paid internship, the two will assist UWICE researchers in field studies and literature review, in addition to helping coordinate seminars and conferences. At the end of their internships, Yeshey and Karma will issue a report on their experiences and the lessons they have learned as they apply to their careers.

*The Bhutan Foundation continues to support our partners' efforts in conserving Bhutan's natural environment. Long considered a global leader in conservation policy and legislation, Bhutan's young democracy now faces challenges larger than ever before. It has the enormous task of balancing environmental conservation and meeting development goals. The Bhutan Foundation supports wildlife monitoring and capacity building, and gaining a better understanding of the impacts of climate change. This is done by supporting the works of Bhutanese conservation professionals, inspiring youth through innovative awareness and educational programs, and cultivating a culture of public discourse.*

# Equitable and Sustainable Development



# BROADENING our Programs with Local Partners . . .

## Youth Interaction through Art Summer Camp

With support from the Bhutan Foundation and several other organizations, VAST (Voluntary Artists' Studio Thimphu) organized a summer art camp in Ura, Bumthang from June 29th to July 3rd, 2011. The camp brought together 120 participants with a mission to give them an opportunity to participate, interact and develop their skills through artistic and socially productive activities during their summer break. The training sessions and activities were led by volunteer artists from Bhutan and Thailand.

*Being an artist is all about the mindset and I think the majority of this artistic mindset is created by the community in which an artist's creativity and talent are fostered. Ura, because of its rural population, beautiful scenery, and eager children, offered a perfect community in which Asha Kama, the Thai masters, and all the volunteers of VAST were able to go beyond teaching techniques and colour choice; they were able to inspire a creative atmosphere within the school and within each individual child that participated.*

*Britt Jensen, VAST Volunteer*



Thai volunteer teaching artistic skills to the local children of Ura at the VAST summer camp at the READ center in Ura, Bumthang.

## A new partnership with READ Bhutan



Gasa, the northern most district of Bhutan, with a population of 3000 inhabitants will look forward to a new library and resource center in 2012.

The Bhutan Foundation, with support from the William H. Donner Foundation, teamed up with READ Bhutan (Rural Education and Development) to establish a resource center in Gasa dzongkhag. READ centers are established in far flung areas to provide resources and services which are specific to the local needs.

The process began with a consultation meeting with local leaders in December 2010. Following the meeting, READ stationed a field officer in Gasa to conduct a baseline survey of the 320 local households and to form a management committee. An existing structure in Damji village was then selected for renovation to house the resource center.

The center will provide educational resources that will complement the nearby Bjishong Middle Secondary School's library and access to information technology. It will also function as a non-formal education center for adults in the area. Further, it will house a women's center to allow the local women to meet to discuss common issues and to receive basic training in areas such as health and finance. Finally, to keep the center operational, a seed grant will be provided to establish a community-based business which will donate part of its revenue to the center each month.

# MOVING Forward with Our EMS Program . . .

## 108 Ambulances

Bhutan is a country marked by rugged terrain with scattered villages, many of which have no facility or personnel to administer emergency care. Transport of a trauma patient in need of emergency treatment can literally take hours. As the Prime Minister has stated, “Ambulatory services are indispensable for Bhutan... and will help the government fill the necessary gaps in providing effective and efficient medical services.” The Bhutan Foundation funded the first advanced Emergency Medical Treatment ambulance which is fully equipped and delivering life saving services in the capital city of Thimphu. Following the Foundation’s example, many other donors have contributed to the purchase of more such ambulances, and the government of Bhutan plans to have in service 108 ambulances within the next year.



## Improved Healthcare Delivery

The Bhutan Foundation is working with the Ministry of Health to establish Bhutan’s first trauma registry. A trauma registry is a database that will collect and analyze data on trauma patients in order to optimize resource utilization. Accurate data collection helps assess and ultimately improve healthcare delivery. It will also help improve patient care. The pilot trauma registry is currently underway at the National Hospital in Thimphu. The Foundation seeks to expand the pilot project into a system that will become a reliable and robust system of recording trauma in the country.



(Left) A fully-equipped ambulance was donated to the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH) and is now ensuring the timely delivery of EMS in the capital.

## Bhutanese Team trained in the United States

The Bhutan Foundation sponsored the attendance of a team of five Bhutanese doctors and nurses in a one-month training program provided by the Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, New York. They were trained and certified in emergency courses such as Basic Emergency Medical Technician, Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Advanced Trauma Life Support. The team was also trained to become trainers in Bhutan for first responder courses. They also travelled to Boston, Massachusetts to visit Brigham and Women’s Hospital, New England Baptist Hospital, and the Tufts Medical Center. This was the second emergency trauma team sponsored by the Foundation for training in the United States.

## Creating Local Health Care Workers

In emergency medicine, the “golden hour” is the first hour following traumatic injury being sustained by a casualty, during which there is the highest likelihood that prompt medical treatment will prevent death. The Bhutan Foundation partnered with Harvard Humanitarian Initiative to conduct a “Training of Trainers” workshop where thirty doctors and nurses were trained to teach basic emergency medicine. These health professionals later conducted workshops to train additional doctors and nurses at Thimphu National Hospital and Gelephu Regional Hospital. The focus of the training workshops was on emergency conditions commonly seen and easily treatable at district hospitals, and on situations where critical, timely interventions can make dramatic differences in patient outcomes.

*Two Bhutanese general physicians were working at the National Hospital in Thimphu on an evening shift. I had been practicing intubations with them on a dead patient we had in the Emergency Department the other day and I was quizzing one of the doctors on Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS). Then the next evening they had a patient who witnessed cardiac arrest in the Emergency Department. The same Bhutanese general physician was on duty and shocked the patient 3 times. He was able to quickly look up management guidelines for the patient using the ACLS poster developed by the previous HVO volunteer doctor. Meanwhile, the other physician intubated the patient. As a result, the patient was saved and sent to the Intensive Care Unit! The Bhutanese General Physicians believe this was the first ventricular fibrillation arrest survival by a Bhutanese General Physician that he is aware of and was very proud. They both were walking on water and came by to express their gratitude for all the Bhutan Foundation HVO trainings.*

*HVO Emergency Room Physician*

(Right) HVO Volunteer helping train local health workers at the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital in Thimphu on basic emergency medicine.



Bhutanese physicians and nurses being trained on emergency medical services (above) at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and (below) at Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, New York.



# BROADENING Special Education in Bhutan. . .

## Leadership Academy for Special Education

The third summer conference on 'Leadership Academy for Special Education' was held in Thimphu from July 5th-9th 2011. Funded by the Bhutan Foundation, the four day workshop was a collaborative effort with the Bhutan Youth Development Fund and the Ministry of Education. As in previous years, the workshop focused on working with 60 school principals, teachers and Special Education Coordinating Officers (SENCOs) from the eight pilot schools. Topics discussed included instructional leadership, implementation of special education programs, team-building skills and problem solving strategies. The conference was attended by 60 participants from the eight pilot schools. The conference was held by the Ministry of Education with the assistance of three members of the United States Special Education Advisory Committee. The specialists also spent time at Changangkha Lower Secondary School, Thimphu where over 30 students with varying disabilities attend classes. Changangkha School was identified as the lead pilot school to serve as the model for the seven other schools across the country.



The Third Special Education Conference held in Thimphu, Bhutan attended by the Minister of Education, officials of the Ministry of Education, Special Education specialists from the U.S and teachers from across the country



A student from Drugyel L.S.S.- Deaf Education Unit utilizes the computers donated by the Bhutan Foundation for the first time.

## IT Equipments for the Deaf Education Unit in Paro

In June 2011, the Bhutan Foundation handed over equipments worth \$10,500 to the Drugyel Lower Secondary School's Deaf Education Unit. The Deaf Education Unit is one of eight schools under the 'Enhancement of Educational Opportunities for Children with Special Needs.' The equipment consisted of computers, projectors and printers which will be utilized by the 65 children with hearing imparities at the Unit. The support to the Deaf Education Unit was made possible through contributions from the Brendon Mann Foundation and the T.C. Swartz Foundation in the United States.

By the end of 2011, the pilot schools will be equipped with assistive devices, sports and recreation equipment, and other means of helping children with disabilities. The Special Education project continues to make progress as it completes a successful third year.



(Above) Ugen Choden and Tshering Denka from the Bhutan Foundation hand over computers to the staff and students of Drugyel L.S.S.- Deaf Education Unit.

*Many of the teachers and principals who attended the conference reported that they found the workshop invaluable in helping them to begin to implement special education in their schools. Participants found it extremely helpful to see various instructional strategies modeled by the Resource Team and to learn about designing lessons to meet the needs of the students. Furthermore, all the participants requested additional training and resources in helping them meet the needs of children with special needs. As one of the teachers who attended the workshop wrote in her evaluation, "It was the most interesting workshop I ever attended and it made me realize that students with special needs can be great successes!"*

*Laurie Levine, American Special Educational Advisory Committee Member*

*Being able to intern for the Bhutan Foundation and work on the Special Education Program for the past year was invaluable. Having previously worked for the government as a teacher this program definitely gave me a different understanding on teaching for and according to the needs of the students. On the other hand, this experience also provided me an insight into the workings of a non-profit organization. Bhutan Foundation's Special Education Program is truly helping enhance the level of education provided in Bhutan for the students with special needs. Therefore, even after the completion of my masters, I plan on continuing to keep myself engaged in this program.*

*Chhoeki Penjor, Special Education Program Intern, Bhutan Foundation*



Students at the Drugyel L.S.S.- Deaf Education Unit learn from their teacher. The approach for teaching students of special needs is in need of critical advancement and the Bhutan Foundation hopes to continue the progress it is making in advancing education for these children.

# GIVING a Helping Hand. . .

## Opportunities for Young Entrepreneurs

In response to emerging unemployment youth issues, the Loden Foundation launched the Loden Entrepreneurship Program (LEP) to assist young people who are searching for guidance and support to become entrepreneurs. The program aims to help them realize their dreams by providing them training, moral and technical support, and initial interest free loans to start new entrepreneurial ventures. In addition to helping young individuals succeed, the program has a larger impact of promoting youth leadership through entrepreneurship, innovation, and social volunteerism, ultimately building a new generation of socially responsible and ethical entrepreneurs. Loden also has a growing resource base of successful Bhutanese and international entrepreneurs, who voluntarily support and provide guidance to young entrepreneurs as mentors. In the past year, the Bhutan Foundation supported the training of entrepreneurs as well as a 22 year old entrepreneur from Dagana, Kinley, who has now started a building maintenance unit.

## From an Office Assitant to Entrepreneur of the Year



Deki Wangmo named the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 in London, UK.

Deki Wangmo, a 32-year old entrepreneur from Lhuentse, began her career as an office assistant for one of the many automobile workshops in Thimphu after she left school in 10th grade. Soon after, she started a small tyre repair store, but her dream was to build a tyre re-treading business. Not having sufficient funds, Deki looked to Loden Foundation for financial support. Loden Foundation, a partner organization of the Bhutan Foundation, through their LEP (Loden Entrepreneurship Program) helped bring Deki's dream to reality. Loden's partner, Youth Business International, based in London, coordinated the Annual Entrepreneur of the year competition in the UK and Deki was crowned the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2011. Loden Foundation has funded the establishment of 27 businesses and is looking forward to helping increase that number to 40.

## Coming to the Rescue

In a string of bad luck, Chamkhar town in Bumthang suffered three major fires within a period of nine months. On October 26, 2010, a fire destroyed sixty-six shops, leaving 266 people homeless. Then, a second fire broke out on the morning of February 18, 2011, burining down 29 shops. A 24-year-old man was killed and his wife and son were severely injured. Yet another fire razed 33 houses to the ground on May 27. A police investigation into the matter concluded that it was set deliberately. The government provided temporary shelters, food and other emergency care for the victims as plans of rebuilding their homes were developed and executed.

The Bhutan Foundation has made contributions to His Majesty's Welfare Fund amounting to over \$75,000 to support the relief work underway in Bumthang. The contribution was made possible through the support of the foundation's long-term donors in the United States and from friends of Bhutan who have contributed online.



# PROVIDING Youth Access to Resources . . .

## Scholarships for Higher Education



*My parents are both simple farmers and cannot afford to pay for my higher education. I heard about the scholarships awarded at Kuengaa High School, and went ahead and applied. Today, I am very fortunate that I have the opportunity to continue my studies, which I will be completing this winter.*

*Tara Bir from Sibso Village, Kuengaa High School*

(Left) Four students that have been awarded the Friends of Kuengaa Scholarship. The Bhutan Foundation in collaboration with Mr. Eric Kramer have established these scholarships for students who do not have access to resources for higher education.

(Below) Regina DeLuise teaching students at VAST in Thimphu about cyanotype prints and how it is sensitized in sunlight and developed in water. This is a new and exciting technique for the students.



## Connecting International Expertise to Local Partners in Bhutan

*In my capacity as a volunteer, I ran a photography workshop, introducing the fundamentals of the medium to about 20 children from VAST, Volunteer Artists' Studio, Thimphu. During the time I was in Bhutan, VAST was producing the arts festival, Young Zoom on Garbage, and I assisted as the students continued the photographic aspect of the project. The ambitious project of building a camera obscura was also undertaken and was a great success.*

*I also ran a two-day workshop for NGO program officers, mainly partners of the Bhutan Foundation. Our goal was to identify ways to best use photography to highlight each organization, primarily in print media. Together we shot in the field and critiqued the work each participant produced. I hope I contributed as much to the lives of the Bhutanese as they contributed to mine.*

*Regina DeLuise, Guggenheim fellow and faculty of Maryland Institute College of Art*

# Good Governance



# INITIATING Discourse in a Democracy . . .

## Cultivating a Culture of Public Discourse

A large hydropower project is positioned next to a rapidly growing area of towns in a fertile agricultural region in Bhutan. Economic speculation in the Punakha-Wangdue valley has fostered a wave of construction that risks turning the entire valley into an unplanned urban sprawl plagued by the common problems of waste management and pollution, poor service delivery, and limited access to resources. However, hydropower generation and its sale is of utmost importance to Bhutan's economy. Eight-five percent of the 1200 megawatts of electricity to be produced by the Punatsangchhu project will be exported to India, generating significant revenue for the country.

Thus, the need for a public discourse to discuss this issue is critical. There is a tradition in Bhutan for resolving such difficult problems. Long before the country's transition to democracy, villages used community meetings, called "zomdu" to serve as a consensus-building platform for issues affecting the whole community. With the recent adoption of a parliamentary democracy, the spirit of "zomdu" can be applied to this hydropower project issue.

Public discourse would play a key role in inviting comments and criticisms from various stakeholders to ensure that the planning process of these urban areas is transparent, fair, inclusive, and visionary. To this effect, the Bhutan Foundation is facilitating a dialogue between the Bhutan Ecological Society, the Bhutan Media Foundation and various media houses to lead a public discourse session on the 'Long-term Integrated Planning of Punakha-Wangdue Valley' as an example to encourage such processes on issues that affect the wider community. This activity is planned for November 14th 2011 during the week of the Climate Change Summit for a Living Himalayas.

(Right) The White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*) is one of the most endangered bird species in the world and is found in the Punakha-Wangduephodrang region. With the construction of the Punatsangchhu hydropower project, this endangered bird is at risk.

## Journalism Scholarship to Support Professionalism among Media

*The Bhutan Foundation has been immensely helpful to the Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD) in supporting a journalism scholarship. This year, the scholarship was awarded to Mr. Rajesh Rai, a reporter from Bhutan Times, one of the local newspapers in Bhutan. This scholarship supports a 10-month post graduate diploma course offered by the World Media Academy in Delhi, India. He started his course on August 16th, 2011 and will be learning about print media and television. Alongside, he will also be interning at a news agency in Delhi for hands-on experience. The Bhutan Foundation has always been a major supporter in enabling our mission. BCMD truly believes that essential training and education of key persons will have direct impact on Bhutan's democratic transition through strengthening media and expanding public discourse. Thank you for supporting us!*

*Pek Dorji, Executive Director, Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy*

(Below) Construction of the Punatsangchhu Project



# Preservation of Culture



# CONTINUING Support for Bhutan Nuns' Foundation . . .



(Above) Kitchen at Kila Goempa Nunnery in Paro that requires a lot of reconstruction.

(Left) Tashi Zangmo, Executive Director of BNF, with nuns at Dorangtha Nunnery during her visits to nunneries across the country to assess their living conditions and locate their needs.

(Below) Nuns carrying water pipes to Yesel Choling Nunnery in Martshala.

## Improved Facilities for Nuns

Nuns play a critical role in not just preserving the Buddhist tradition and culture, but also inspiring their communities through social responsibility. Unfortunately, most of the country's twenty two nunneries lack basic necessities such as clean water, bathrooms, and shower facilities. Some do not even have proper room for sleep. Over the past year, the Bhutan Nuns Foundation (BNF) has successfully worked with nunneries across the country, in assessing their living conditions and identifying critical needs for each.

With support from the William Hinman Foundation,

the Bhutan Foundation helped provide clean running water to Yesel Choling Nunnery in Martshala, Samdrup Jongkhar District. We also supported the building of toilets for Penjor Choling Nunnery in Punakha, and a kitchen for the Kila Goempa Nunnery in Paro.

Besides improving living conditions of the nuns, the Bhutan Nuns' Foundation plans to build a training centre for nuns. In the last few months, several training sessions for nuns were conducted in health and hygiene, and basic life skills. On June 13th, 2011 the first National Nuns Conference was also held.



# MOVING Forward to Continue Restoration of Sacred Sites . .



(Above) Renovations being made at the Garkhai Lhakhang (monastery) in Shingkar.



(Right) Bhutan Foundation staff, Jamyang Tashi and donors of the project visiting the site to evaluate its progress.

## Shingkar

Shingkar remains an important holy site due to its connection with Longchenpa, a renowned Buddhist teacher and one of the most important authors in the Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism. Longchenpa's attendant, Rahula (one of the main protectors of the Nyingma school of Buddhism), also has a lasting legacy in Shingkar. He is said to have miraculously tapped a spring below the monastery. Today, this spring water is famous for its healing powers, and Bhutanese people travel to this spring in hopes of recovery from illness and disability.

The Bhutan Foundation, with financial support from the William Hinman Foundation, has supported work at the Garkhai Lhakhang (monastery) in Shingkar (also known as the Drogri Rinchen Jungney Lhakhang). Much progress has been made in expanding the existing old structure and is nearing completion.



## Preserving Vanishing Languages of Bhutan

The Bhutanese people in different regions of the country have historically spoken a variety of dialects, and much of the national heritage lies embedded in rich oral traditions related down through generations. A number of these dialects, sadly, are disappearing. The Bhutan Foundation, in partnership with the Firebird Foundation, Dzongkhag Development Commission and the National Library, is seeking to record, transcribe and reinvigorate the oral literature and traditions of vanishing languages in Bhutan. The Bhutan Oral Literature Collection Project is focused on training and inspiring local speakers of endangered languages to record their own oral literature and ecological knowledge in order to make them available to future generations and the outside world.

## Restoration from Earthquake Damage

The Prince Claus Fund and the World Monuments Fund continue to support the Bhutan Foundation's efforts to restore Drametse Lhakhang and Trashigang Dzong after earthquake damage sustained in September 2009. Bhutan's impressive Dzongs or fortresses and remarkable monasteries are crucial to the country; having withstood history they represent the country's cultural heritage, independence and sovereignty.



(Right) The Bhutan Foundation (BF) continues its efforts in restoration of important cultural heritage sites to preserve Bhutan's rich culture. The WangdueChhoeling Palace located in the Bumthang valley is the birthplace of Bhutan's monarchy and is in critical need for restoration. BF hopes to have this project underway in 2012.

(Left) The palace houses 30 novice monks today in certain livable sections of the palace with no proper toilets or water.





traveling across the U.S. and more to Increase Knowledge of Bhutan and the Bhutan Foundation



cookbook featured on amazon.com



# Bhutan Foundation

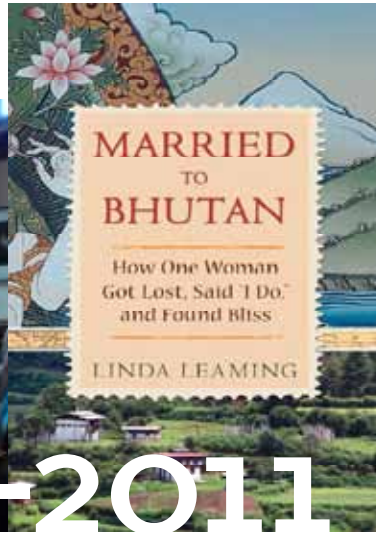


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Yale University in New Haven,  
Connecticut



Bhutan and Linda  
Leaming at Asia  
Society



taking steps  
to many more  
events in  
2011-2012

in 2010-2011

celebrating Bhutan's 103rd  
National Day in New York



awarded Les Folies Bergeres  
Best Asian Cuisine cookbook  
for 2011 in Paris



celebrating  
World  
Tourism Day  
in Thimphu,  
Bhutan

# Our Local Partners



## Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy

Bhutan Centre  
for Media and Democracy



The Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy (BCMD), established in 2008, focuses on building a culture for democracy through promoting quality media, building critical thinking skills among media users, and strengthening discourse, research and educational activities on media and democracy. With support from the Bhutan Foundation, BCMD has held writers' workshops as well as provided scholarships to developing Bhutanese journalists.

## Bhutan Youth Development Fund



The Bhutan Youth Development Fund (YDF) was established to address the growing needs and issues of Bhutanese youth in a rapidly modernizing society. With a special focus on disadvantaged youth, BYDF enables Bhutanese youth to realize their full potential as productive citizens by providing financial support for youth development activities. The Bhutan Foundation and BYDF have partnered together to provide educational opportunities for children with special needs in eight model schools throughout Bhutan.

## Ministry of Agriculture and Forests



The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) is the custodian of Bhutan's renewable natural resources. The Bhutan Foundation supports MoAF's through our conservation and sustainable development programs. The main partners representing MoAF are the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment, the Department of Forests, and Royal Manas National Park.

## Bhutan Nuns' Foundation



The Bhutan Nuns' Foundation (BNF) supports nuns and nunneries as an important means to ensuring that all girls and women in Bhutan are valued and have access to quality education, improved living conditions and are self-reliant, thus enabling their successful participation in the socio-economic development of Bhutan. The Bhutan Foundation is working with the BNF to improve the living conditions of nunneries throughout Bhutan.

## JAST



The Jangsa Animal Saving Trust (JAST) is a non-profit charitable trust established in 2009 by Lama Kunzang Dorjee. Based on the Buddhist principles of compassion and care for all living beings JAST is committed to the welfare of animals. They have also joined the efforts of the Humane Society International (HSI) and the Department of Livestock in the Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release program for stray dogs in Bhutan. The Brigitte Bardot Foundation has provided funding to the Bhutan Foundation to support JAST's street dog programs in Bhutan.

## The Loden Foundation



The Loden Foundation is a nonprofit organization that supports education and learning in Bhutan. The Bhutan Foundation supports Loden's Entrepreneurship Program which trains and supports young Bhutanese entrepreneurs in business ventures by providing them with training, technical and moral support and initial funds to start their business.

## Ministry of Education



Through the Ministry of Education (MoE), the government of Bhutan aims to provide the best possible education for the youth of Bhutan. The Bhutan Foundation has partnered with the Ministry of Education and the Bhutan Youth Development Fund in efforts to improve education in Bhutan for children with special needs.

## Ministry of Health



The mission of the Ministry of Health is the achievement of national health goals through sustained provision of quality general and public health services. In 2009, the Bhutan Foundation partnered with the Ministry of Health to work on improving the delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) throughout Bhutan and we continue to make progress as the EMS program advances into its fourth year.

## READ Global, Bhutan



READ Bhutan was launched in December 2008 with the mission to create public library infrastructure in the country. READ opened their first Community Library and Resource Center in Ura, Bumthang in May 2010. The Bhutan Foundation has partnered with READ Bhutan to open a READ center in Gasa.

## RENEW



RENEW, which stands for Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women, was established in 2004 to help shape the role of women in Bhutanese society by dedicating its work to empowering disadvantaged women and adolescent girls, especially victims and survivors of domestic violence. The Bhutan Foundation continues to raise funds online to support RENEW.

## Royal Society for Protection of Nature



The Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) works to inspire personal responsibility and active involvement of the people of Bhutan in the conservation of the country's environment through education, research and sustainable livelihood opportunities. The Bhutan Foundation continues to support the activities of RSPN through our programs under the Conservation of the Environment.

## Tarayana Foundation



The Tarayana Foundation is a nonprofit organization working to uplift and enhance the lives of vulnerable communities in rural Bhutan. The Bhutan Foundation supports Tarayana in promoting equitable and sustainable socio-economic development, particularly in the areas of education and poverty alleviation.





## UWICE



Under the tenth development plan, the Royal Government of Bhutan established the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) to advance forestry and environmental education and research. The Bhutan Foundation supports UWICE's conservation research and wildlife monitoring programs.

## Voluntary Artists' Studio, Thimphu



Voluntary Artists' Studio, Thimphu (VAST) encourages Bhutanese youth to participate and develop their potential talents as well as share social responsibilities through artistic explorations and other socially useful and productive work. The Bhutan Foundation has provided grants to VAST for core support and toward its programs such as Young Zoom on Garbage and youth camps.

## World Wildlife Fund-Bhutan



World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Bhutan began its conservation work in 1977 and now, works closely with the Royal Government of Bhutan to support an integrated and collaborative conservation program. The Bhutan Foundation supports WWF Bhutan's project in Merak to conserve Bhutan's rich natural heritage through.

*We Join Hands...*

*to Strengthen Our Programs*



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Humanitarian  
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Service Corps



**PHELPS**  
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*Improving Global Health Through Education*

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**PERKINS**  
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND  
ALL WE SEE IS POSSIBILITY



**Asia  
Society**



**NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC**

**Yale University**



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

The Bhutan Foundation has developed institutional linkages with organizations - big and small- to help enhance our programs in Bhutan. By connecting these institutions in the U.S. with our local partners in Bhutan, the Bhutan Foundation has maximized effective and complete implementation of programs. The extra leverage and global network help build alliances that continue to provide guidance in order to deliver results.



# Bhutan Foundation Grants

## CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

100,000+

Ministry of Agriculture

For the national dog population and rabies control program

50,000 to 99,999

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
For Young Environmental Stewardship

World Wildlife Fund Bhutan  
For Merak project

20,000 to 49,999

Humane Society International, Bhutan Field Program  
For the national dog population management and rabies control program

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
For camera traps and field equipments

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
For workshop on wildlife research

University of Montana  
For Bhutan Research Grant

5,000 to 9,999

Bhutan Bike for Climate  
For climate change program

JANGSA  
For animal welfare program

Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN)  
General Support

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
For electric car

1,000 to 4,999

Royal Manas National Park (RMNP)  
Equipment for park staff

Royal Manas National Park (RMNP)  
For tiger survey research

## EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

100,000+

Ministry of Health

For improving emergency medical services program

50,000 to 99,999

Bhutan Youth Development Fund  
General support

His Majesty's Welfare Fund  
For earthquake relief

20,000 to 49,999

Creative Curiosity  
For advancing the special education program

READ Global  
For READ library and community center in Gasa

Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality  
For scholarship

Tarayana Foundation  
General support

10,000 to 19,999

Bhutan Youth Development Fund  
For children with special needs program

College of New Rochelle  
For children with special needs program

5,000 to 9,999

Special Education Intern  
For advancing the special education program

Drugyel Lower Secondary School, Deaf Education Unit, Paro  
For computers and equipment

Health Volunteers Overseas  
Bhutan EM Physician HVO program

# July 2010 – June 2011

1,000 to 4,999

Kuengaa High School  
Scholarships

Loden Foundation  
General support

Health Trust Fund  
General support

Kharab Community School  
For school equipments

RENEW  
General support

Voluntary Artists' Studio Thimphu (VAST)  
General support

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

5,000 to 9,999

Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy  
General support

1,000 to 4,999

Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy  
For journalism scholarship

Civil Society Organization Workshops  
For quickbooks and photography workshops

## PRESERVATION OF CULTURE

20,000 to 49,999

Shingkhari Dechenling Kidu  
For restoration of Shingkhari temple

10,000 to 19,999

Bhutan Nuns' Foundation (BNF)  
General support

Foods of the Kingdom of Bhutan  
For promoting Bhutanese culture

5,000 to 9,999

Ministry of Home and Culture  
For Somrang Lhakhang

Nang Lhakhang  
For restoration of temple

World Wildlife Fund Bhutan  
For Tang Valley project

1,000 to 4,999

Bhutan Oral Literature Project  
General support

Khyentse Foundation  
For a multimedia art center in Bhutan

Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag  
For restoration of historical and cultural sites in Trashi Yangtse

Below 1,000

Kilu Music School  
General support

## EVENTS

1,000 to 4,999

Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators  
Event on Gross National Happiness

Below 1,000

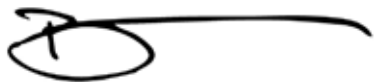
Japan Light for Hope  
Supporting an event to raise funds for Japan earthquake

# Funding and Financial Overview

In 2011 the Bhutan Foundation raised \$1.5 million, an increase of 13% from 2010. The majority of our funds continue to be raised from foundation and trusts, and individuals from the United States. We are most appreciative of our donors, whose philanthropy has furthered our programs in Bhutan.

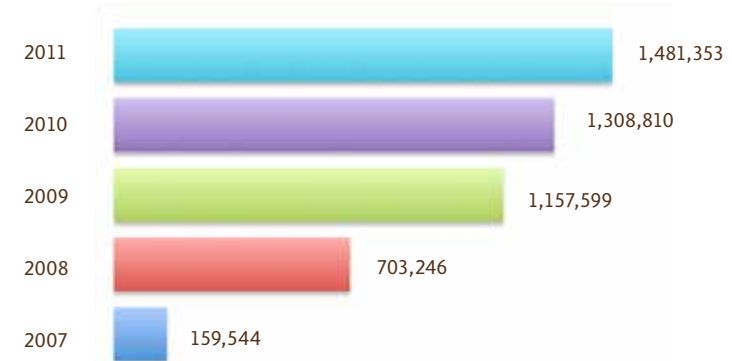
The Bhutan Foundation completed another active year of programming through local partners in Bhutan. Program expenses, which total \$1.4 million, represents 90% of all expenditures. Supporting services made up the remaining 10% of expenditures.

The Bhutan Foundation's program expenditures were in the areas of \$543,000 towards conservation of the environment, \$582,000 towards equitable and sustainable development, \$80,000 towards good governance, and \$157,000 towards preservation of culture. The Foundation also expended \$43,000 on events to increase knowledge and awareness of Bhutan.



Brian J. Menkes  
Treasurer

## REVENUE GROWTH \* Over Five Years



\* Please note that the Bhutan Foundation changed its fiscal year in 2009 and these figures reflect the new accounting period.

## FUNDS RAISED By Source

Individual Contributions	41%
Foundation & Trust Contributions	57%
Government Grants	2%
Corporate and other Support	0%



## Financial Summary

### SUPPORT & REVENUE

Individual Contributions	606,217
Foundation and Trust Contributions	846,959
Government Grants	24,310
Corporate and Other Support	3,867
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>1,481,353</b>

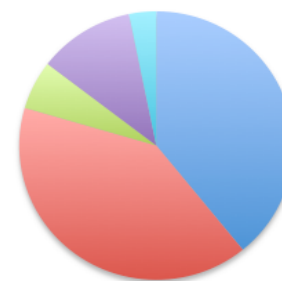
### PROGRAM EXPENSES

Conservation of the Environment	542,675
Equitable and Sustainable Development	582,175
Good Governance	80,308
Preservation of Culture	156,823
Events To Increase Knowledge of Bhutan	43,356
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>1,405,336</b>

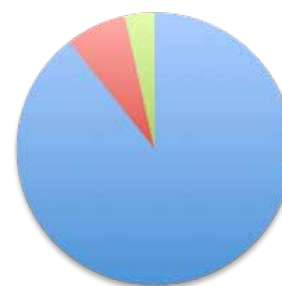
### SUPPORTING SERVICES

Fundraising	53,013
Management & Administration	109,005
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>162,018</b>

### PROGRAM EXPENDITURES By Program Areas



### EXPENDITURES





सतिवन्द्य  
सतिवन्द्य

# Ways To Stay Connected

With your support, the Bhutan Foundation and its partner Bhutanese nonprofits can save more lives, better protect the Bhutanese environment, give hope to children with special needs, guide young entrepreneurs, help local nonprofits thrive, develop the role of a free press in a new democracy, preserve Bhutan's unique culture, and much more. You can contribute by . . .

## Donating Online

[www.bhutanfound.org](http://www.bhutanfound.org)

## Mailing a Check

Bhutan Foundation, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 525, Washington, DC 20037

## Making a Wire Transfer

To make a wire transfer please contact the Bhutan Foundation at (202) 609-7363 or email: [bhutanfoundation@bhutanfound.org](mailto:bhutanfoundation@bhutanfound.org).

## Making a Stock Gift

The best method of transferring donated securities into the Bhutan Foundation account is via a DTC Transfer. You will need to initiate the transfer with your broker.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Dawa Sherpa at (202) 609-7363 or email: [dawa.sherpa@bhutanfound.org](mailto:dawa.sherpa@bhutanfound.org).

Please contact the Bhutan Foundation office by telephone or email once the transfer has been arranged.

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