

Vleuten, 21-1-2018

Dear friends and sponsors of the HNGF!

In the ANNUAL REPORT 2017 we would like to inform you about the activities of the past year.

First of all, we want to thank our 12 loyal donors again for their support giving periodic contributions so that we have been able to finance our activities.

This year in October, the HNGF will celebrate its first lustrum and many of you were there from the first hour. We are very grateful for your continuous support and trust.

This year we also received some large donations from the: de Jong family - Eenling, family Koekenbier, Ursula Heine-Varias, Lymph-O-Logoc and Weitz Ingolf. Thank you very much for that!

Progress of projects in 2017:

### **Project Monks Mainpath**

The **young monks of H.E. Beru Khyentse Rinpoche** were relocated after the devastating earthquake in Nepal, in 2015. From Boudanath they were divided over different monastery locations. Meanwhile, for various reasons, the choice has been made that the boys will stay in Mainpath (India) permanently. The conditions are better and the weather is more pleasant and especially now that monastery is better equipped for their residence. With your support, a classroom has been set up: tables and school benches have been made and a blackboard was purchased.



The new wooden school desks and tables



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In addition, Karma Tsering made the request for a laptop and a printer. The purpose of this is mainly to be able to make and print tests. There is no good internet connection in Mainpath so unfortunately he can not (yet) use the laptop for other educational purposes. There may still be notebooks and other school supplies to be purchased. He is also thinking about a number of educational games that can be used in outdoor games. In spring he will submit a budget. Through our new contact in Bodhgaya, the monk Sonam Topchen, we stay in contact regarding his plans. The contact we have with him is pleasant and smooth.



In the renovated classroom!

### **Project Himalaya Children**

Last year we introduced Claudia Butnik, a Buddhist nun, living in Antwerp. She has been committed to her project called 'Himalaya Children' for many years.

In Sikkim children from poor families are sponsored. The sponsorship finances school fees, school supplies, clothing and if necessary, medical care.

The HNGF also sponsors two girls. The parents sign a contract in which they promise not to sell the girls but spend the money on them. There is supervision by a local contact person on the spending of the money. In addition, Claudia is in the region for 4 months every year. The parents are obliged to account for all these expenses and Claudia regularly visits the families and checks that the funding is correctly used.

We were impressed by Claudia, who reached her 70<sup>th</sup> year, last year.

With dedication and the energy that she has available, she tries to improve and support the lives of 18 children in this way.

Because it is not always easy to find sufficient donors, we would like to increase the number of children, sponsored by the HNGF, from 2 to 4.



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The families supported by Himalayas Children in Sikkim



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### **Project School in the sky: School for girls and women in Soreng**

During the visit to Bodhgaya in India last December, we came in contact with lama Puntso, a French lama. He has had a foundation since 1998 with the same objectives as the HNGF. We are in discussion and investigate whether we can work together for the construction of girls / women school in Soreng near Darjeeling. The foundation is under construction .. Once there is more clarity about the progress of the construction, and the financial route has become transparent, we want to start sponsoring this project in 2018.



The construction of the foundation of the new complex in Soreng

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Partly the plans for 2017 were not all realized. The PR activities on courses at Diamantweg center did not usually flourish in the past year. The focus in these centers is on a different level and there is currently less room for the HNGF than in previous years.

We have adjusted the targets for 2018 and we want our PR activities to move to other Buddhist centers and outside the centers. The planning of the activities in 2018 is currently being made and will be published on the website by the end of January, together with this annual overview 2017. It can be found on the website under 'News'.

We would like to thank you again very warmly!

We hope that together again in 2018 we can make more difference to these children!

With kind regards,

Miriam Bezemer, Peter Kersten, Ursula Heine



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**Better Education for a better Future**



**HNGF HIMALAYA'S NEXT  
GENERATION FOUNDATION**



The foundation aims to contribute to improving the living conditions of children in the Himalayan region by focusing on education and training opportunities. Our attention is focused primarily on children in Nepal and Northern India.

The quality of education offered by local schools is often quite poor, which is why many children cannot read or write. Some of the children in the poorest areas enter a convent to become a monk or nun (sometimes temporarily). But because the monasteries are completely dependent on private donations, living conditions there are also frequently primitive. At times there is no money for clothes, medical care or school supplies.



Education and training are important to help children develop their potential. We intend to promote equal opportunities for both boys **and** girls.



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