

A Case Statement of Tibetan Village Project



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The Story and Vision of the Tibetan Village Project for Prospective Donors



Mission of Tibetan Village Project:

Tibetan Village Project (TVP) is dedicated to promoting sustainable development while preserving the rich cultural heritage of Tibet.

What is the story of Tibetan Village Project?

Tamdin Wangdu grew up in a remote village in central Tibet. Like many other Tibetans, Tamdin did not have the opportunity to go to school, have access to clean drinking water, medical care or electricity. These necessities still do not exist in many places in Tibet. However, Tamdin's dreams led him to explore opportunities and possibilities. He came to the United States in 1993, learned English and earned a Bachelor's degree in Business and Computer from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

In 2001, Tamdin and his family started the Tibetan Village Project in order to fund a medical treatment and prevention program for his village and the surrounding areas. Now several years later, the Tibetan Village Project has expanded its programs to

support schools and community development projects that are funded by donors primarily from the United States and Australia.

What has TVP accomplished since it started in 2001?

1. Assisted in the building of one clinic and secured three clinic spaces from the local government as a way of leveraging funds and collaborating effectively. Thus, four clinics benefit more than **3,200** patients annually through treatment and prevention programs.
2. Assisted in building one school that now has **95** students. Since then, TVP has shifted its focus towards supporting schools that are already built but are having difficulty staying in operation due to a lack of resources, including funds. Thus, approximately **1,200** students, including orphans, in 10 different schools have benefited with the donation of school supplies, warm blankets and clothes, textbooks, and

Snapshot of Past TVP Financial and Reporting Activities

<i>Year</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>990 to IRS</i>	<i>Annual Report</i>
2009	\$148,000 (10/1/09)	Due 5/1/2010	Due 12/31/2009
2008	\$103,220.95	Filed	Available to share
2007	\$174,714.88	Filed	Available to share
2006	\$105,510.00	Filed	Available to share
2005	\$38,152.00	Filed	Available to share
2004	\$26,823.00	Filed	Available to share
2003	\$18,131.00	Not Required	Available to share
2002	\$5,061.19	Not Required	Available to share
2001	\$6,447.83	Not Required	Available to share

supplemental food. In an effort to combat malnutrition problems, TVP has built six greenhouses that provide fresh vegetables for school children.

3. Renovated and rebuilt four bridges that now provide safe passage to schools, clinics, farms, monasteries, shops, and major roads for more than **8,000** people including elders and school children.
4. Established an **income generating micro-enterprise program** consisting of skills training, business management training and microfinance. As of 2009, TVP has trained approximately 30 Tibetans in woodworking, weaving, sewing, and mechanics. In addition, TVP has provided loans to start 12 businesses; one handcraft store, six motorbike repair shops, one tractor repair shop, two convenient stores, one grind mill and one oil press in villages and townships.
5. **Ecotourism:** Tibet is a special travel destination and tourism is one of the biggest sources of income for the region. However, people question whether or not their tourist dollars help or hurt the Tibetan way of life and the environment. We believe it all has to start with education for both members of local communities and visitors. As a result, TVP started *Conscious Journeys*, a volun-tourism program that organizes cultural and educational trips to Tibet. In addition, TVP has developed training and educational materials and trained over 80 Tibetans (mostly tour guides) by organizing ecotourism workshops and trainings.

6. **Cultural and Outreach Program:** Educated roughly **20,000** people about all aspects of Tibetan culture and sustainable development through exhibits, films, presentations, and discussions in more than 50 locations, including universities, libraries, churches, community centers and other public venues.

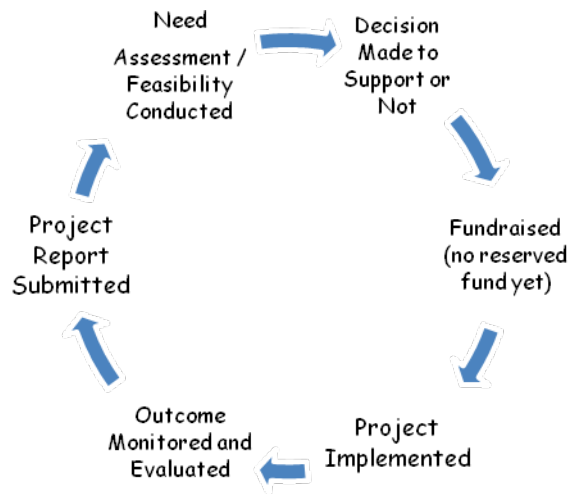
Where TVP stands today? Since 2001, TVP's projects have focused primarily on Tamdin's home village area in central Tibet. In its first year, TVP built and supported the operation of a medical clinic with donations of \$6,400 from 50 donors. Since then, TVP has grown to benefit approximately 10,000 people through education, health, and community development projects. TVP has accomplished all of this without a single paid staff member! However, TVP has reached a critical juncture where a full-time staff person is needed to manage the ever-growing number of volunteers and projects. In November 2007, Tamdin left his IT consulting job to focus solely on TVP projects, and now he spends several months of the year in Tibet. As a way of supporting its operational activities and enhancing its mission, TVP has expanded its *Conscious Journeys* program that promotes responsible tourism and generates earned income. This allows TVP to continue to spend donated funds on designated purposes.

How is the project coordinated in Tibet?

The organization is founded and coordinated by Tibetans to help themselves using a "bottom-up" approach. Most of our projects are small-scale initiatives that work directly with Tibetan villagers through project

coordinators chosen from each village who know the local situation, understand the culture, and speak the language. Under the TVP board's direction, project coordinators in the field and Tamdin Wangdu oversee all aspects of project implementation, from coordinating village participation in each initiative, to distributing funds and compiling reports.

Project Cycle Map



What is TVP's Long Term Goal? While continuing to support ongoing medical and educational programs, TVP takes the initiative to address the sustainability of our programs by: (1) identifying need vs. feasibility in Tibet, (2) assessing our own capabilities and, (3) narrowing down to focus in the most effective area. Thus, TVP plans to expand its projects in areas of income generating micro-enterprises that tackle the issue of growing economic marginalization, as well as, issues of cultural survival.

Here some ways to support TVP's effort:

- **General Contribution:** No donation is too big or too small. TVP spends every donated dollar on the project for which it is designated or most needed. The contribution can be mailed or made by credit card via: www.TibetanVillageProject.org.
- **Friendship Circle:** This monthly giving program of \$10 or more funds our ongoing general health and education projects that are TVP's highest priority. You can designate your contribution for a specific project (e.g. a medical clinic or a school) or where most needed.
- **Compassion in Action:** To decrease aid dependency, empower Tibetans, and ensure TVP's sustainability, consider supporting our **Compassion In Action Campaign** - a responsible 5-year, \$500,000 microfinance program designed to provide culturally appropriate skills training, business management, and small loans to Tibetan individuals and families. Become a **Patron Circle Member** today (\$1,500 or more annual contribution) and help Tibetans supplement their traditional livelihood with commercial interests that meet both community needs and the rapidly changing economic landscape of Tibet.

Gifts are accepted in whichever way is most convenient for the donor, either through multi-year pledges or a single donation. TVP is a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 status and your contribution is tax-deductible in the USA. Thank you.