

JHAMTSE INTERNATIONAL YEAR END REPORT: 2010 In Review

Jhamtse Gatsal

2010 brought new meaning of our mission and activities. Our teacher and leader, Venerable Lobsang Phuntsok, has been in India for all of this year guiding developments at Jhamtse Gatsal Childrens' Community and the progress has been quite wonderful. A snapshot of 2010 follows.

The Gatsal children, the magic of the place

The 75 children selected are often orphans and without exception would not have the opportunity of attending school otherwise. The children are quickly integrated and the transformation is breathtaking. They arrive at Gatsal and are loved, get a family, their own village, nutritious meals 3 times a day, and their health and well-being is lovingly cared for.

Instruction takes place in Hindi, English, Monpa (the local Tibetan dialect), and Tibetan. The children are very diligent with their studies, currently occupying K-6. Their days are full, from 4:30 am until dark, with prayers, schoolwork, music, dance, and cleaning chores at the school.



Celebrations

Celebrations are an opportunity to display the traditional Tibetan and Monpa cultural heritage, with special costumes and new school uniforms. There is dance and music practice daily through the year, and the practice pays off – the children win prizes in the competitions each year.

When **His Holiness the Dalai Lama** visited the region, Lobsang was able to meet in private audience with His Holiness. The Dalai Lama was very moved and impressed by what Lobsang and the staff are accomplishing and became a supporter and sponsor of the school, saying: "Very good work. Very good work. Very good work. Take good care of the children." Lobsang did not want to accept his gift, but His Holiness' secretary refused with the comment that it was the Dalai Lama's wish that his financial support would help Jhamtse's fundraising efforts.

The Venerable Lobsang Delek, Lobsang's principal teacher and until recently the abbot of the Tantric University, visited the Childrens' Community last fall. He gave multiple teachings to all, including about 3,000 people from the surrounding villages. Lobsang said "I remember once an old wise monk told me a good teacher will teach many students, but each student will feel he is only speaking to you. He was right. I realized how much I miss his teaching, and I almost forgot what it is like to receive teachings from your own teacher. It is truly a special gift!!"

New baby

The newest member of the school is a foundling who would have died in the street. Little Tenzin Phuntsok is healthy, and enveloped in love.

Staff, teachers, house mothers

22 staff, including teachers, amas, kitchen crew, driver, and maintenance/garden workers devote their time, energy, and caring to the children. All praise goes to Amas Tenzin, Yangzom, and Tsering for the hard and dedicated work they do caring for the children, creating families that are truly models of an ideal community.



Health and well-being, volunteers

Health continues to be a major concern given the lack of quality care in the region, but we have made great progress as a result of hiring a qualified nurse (and teacher), Miss Nandita, able to care for all at Gatsal. In the few cases that we have had to visit doctors or needed special tests or treatment, we have had to take children to a good hospital in the neighboring state, Assam. Nutrition at Gatsal continues to improve, and the Children's Garden was a great success, producing an excess of fresh vegetables into their diet, with the excess sold to the market.



The contributions of other volunteer visitors to Jhamtse Gatsal have been immense. Our amazing Sandy Wood traveled in the summer with Ross Marino. While there they met with Hannah Greenspan and Sarah French who helped teach; a wonderful drama teacher from Switzerland, Suzanne Bader also came to teach in the summer. Sarah French told her father, an architect in Lexington about Gatsal, and now Jon French and Sonam Gayleg, a Bhutanese architect with postgraduate training at MIT are preparing a Master Plan for Gatsal which will help both in determining the capacity of our site and prioritize the projects to enable growth at the school. The architects are doing this planning primarily as a contribution to Jhamtse.

Facilities – 2011 and beyond

The bathhouse begun in 2009 is nearing completion. The original facility is further from the school and family buildings and insufficient for the growing Childrens' Community. The new facility, a two storey building, is adjacent to the school and family buildings, and will be larger, more functional, and encourage better hygiene with more frequent hand washing and bathing. The new bathhouse is expected to be complete early 2011. We are still collecting funds for this building.

The Master Plan, currently in preparation, will determine the limits to our Community population and will prioritize the capital projects to enable growth. We will surely need to plan for new family housing and staff and guest facilities. The plan will also enable us to define the capital projects so that we can raise adequate funds for their construction.

Jhamtse Buddhist Communities

In addition to the two Concord and the Worcester sanghas, two there is now a sangha meeting at First Parish in Northboro on Thursday evenings, and a second sangha meeting in Worcester on Friday evenings at Linh Son Temple. The sanghas continue to study and practice using core texts and commentaries. We have had new video teachings from Lobsang as well as a weekend of workshops by guest teacher Geshe Pema Dorjee, and the auspicious visit of the Jade Buddha in Worcester. The sanghas continue to thrive and are eagerly awaiting the return of their teacher.

Jhamtse Youth

Sandy Wood has been working on fund-raisers for the new bathhouse with her colleagues at Vassar and has spoken at Oak Meadow Montessori in Littleton, Keystone Montessori in Chelmsford, and Concord Academy, and is in contact with a number of other area schools. As youth groups work together toward a common goal, the emerging impact of their good work causes them to take ownership and become even more engaged. We are currently planning various youth group activities and a program for a summer youth trip to Jhamtse Gatsal.



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Next year, our funding needs will be much greater. The primary reasons are recent growth in school population and the capital improvements necessary at the Childrens' Community, plus the expected return of Lobsang to the US (housing, an administrator, etc.). At Gatsal, we need to bring in a reliable and secure water supply, and then new family housing. The fundraising targets will be \$300 - \$400,000, requiring that we reach out to many new funding sources.

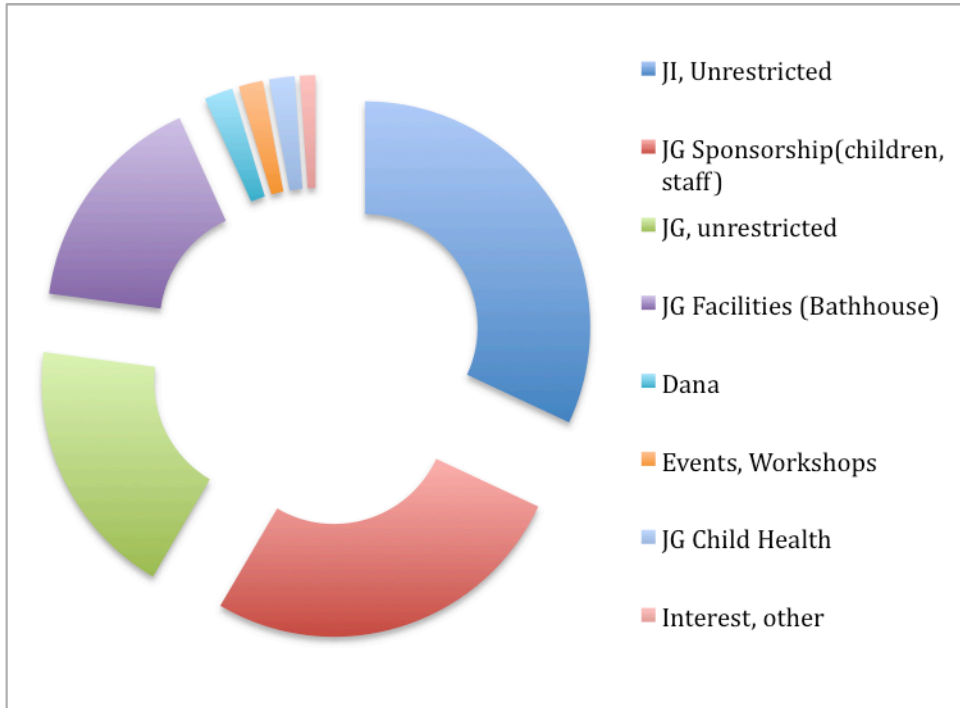
Financial results: Jhamtse International 2009, 2010 and 2011 Projected

Profit & Loss, CY 2010 (NB: both numbers and formats are preliminary)

Income	2009	2010	2011 (proj)
Grants	\$ 0	\$3,000	
Direct public support	93,625	117,367	
Special Events Income	702	2,518	
Interest Income	1,079	238	
Uncategorized Income	400	850	
Gifts-In-Kind, Individuals	<u>4,399</u>	<u>2,256</u>	
Total Income	\$100,205	126,229	
Expense			
Administration: Supplies, mailing, etc.	\$ 0	\$ 748	\$5,000
Salary, Expenses (Lobsang)	0	0	9,100
Awards & grants (support monks/ teachings)	17,050	6,700	0
Business Expenses, fees	244	1,294	500
Transfers to Gatsal, operations	69,091	92,615	137,000
Transfers to Gatsal, capital	7,344	29,885	10,781
Fundraising (Print & mail)	1,822	1,438	5,000
Retreat and workshop expense	1,914	4,510	5,000
Business Expenses, fees	244	1,294	500
Facilities, Fees in lieu of rent	2,461	681	2,500
Operations	3,169	320	2,500
Travel and meetings	<u>2,584</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Total Expenses	\$105,697	\$139,885	\$200,971*
Net Income	(\$5,492)	(\$13,696)	
Cash on-hand and in bank			
Beginning of year	\$110,820	\$110,378	\$100,060
Receivables			2,289
End of year	110,378	100,060	
Receivables		2,289	

* Does not include funds necessary for future capital projects
From QuickBooks records, not yet audited. For more and detailed information, please go to www.jhamtseinternational.org

Jhamtse International, Income by Class, 2010



Jhamtse International, Expenses by Class, 2010

