

Djullé means Good day! Please! Thank you! Pardon! Goodbye! It is a term of courtesy and is used by the Ladakhis in all verbal exchanges.

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THE NEWSLETTER OF HOPE ASSOCIATION

## The neverending knot, symbol of friendship

**« Djullé »,** the title of our newsletter, is a familiar «multi-purpose» Ladakhi greeting! It can mean Hello; How are you? What's new? Where? Please; Thank you; Goodbye...

It expresses friendship and warmth and is used each time we meet someone. Djullé demonstrates an attitude of welcoming, listening, giving and receiving, all of which are the raison d'être of our association, the link between members and cultures.

Our logo, the neverending knot, is an auspicious sign in Indian and Tibetan culture that spans diverse cultures from the Amazon to the troubadours. It symbolizes wisdom and compassion, an indestructible, never-ending link that transcends differences. « Strength does not come from physical capacity, but from an indomitable will. » Mahatma Gandhi



## Editorial

Dear Friends, Members and Supporters,

Once again, this year, we have been deeply touched by your messages and your encouragement. The number of supporters continues to grow and thanks to you, we have found the energy and strength to complete our major project, the house in Leh - «La Maison de Leh».

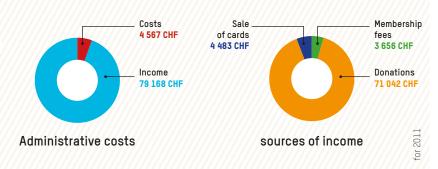
In 2012 our actions made a difference in the lives of four courageous women, who in turn were able to make a change in their own communities. Four women who undertook ambitious projects in Asia and Africa. Thanks to their tenacity and foresight and their ability to act, each one of them has been able carry out a project that benefits her village, town or even her country. Diskit has managed the construction and completion of the «Maison de Leh» to receive children from remote valleys in Zanskar; Dipali Sen has succeeded in making a difference to the lives of the inhabitants of Kutubpur, a remote village in West Bengal; Angeline has set up a hostel for the aged and abandoned of the streets of Yaoundé and Nyima Lhamo has been elected to back the cause of Tibetan women.

You have put your faith in us, we have supported them and they have succeeded. Their success is our reward.

Danielle Föllmi President of HOPE

## **OUR FINANCES IN 2012**

 $\rightarrow$  Our running costs have diminished considerably thanks to the change in the way we function. We now depend entirely on volunteers, which has enabled us to cut our costs by 84% between 2010 and 2011, thereby reducing them to 6% of our income. This means that we can devote almost our entire income to the projects that we support.



## « We give them a helping hand, they give meaning to our lives. »

In 2012, in addition to its activities in Asia, HOPE is supporting a new project in Africa. HOPE respects the values and cultures of local populations and their environment and gives them the helping hand needed to initiate local actions. Thus, children can go to school and be fed and educated, the elderly better cared for and families can improve their economic situation.

Each one of us can add a brick to the building of a better world.



# **PROJECTS SPONSORED IN 2012**

### LADAKH



- The «Maison de Leh»
- Danielle Föllmi's visit to Diskit
- Opening of a hostel for children and guest house for travellers

Nestled amongst the peaks of the Himalayas surrounding the Indus Valley, the «Maison de Leh» is both traditional and avant-garde in its conception, self-sufficient and ecological, adapted to the extreme dry cold climate and dearth of water. Christophe Mercier, the architect of this exceptional achievement, will be in Ladakh in January to check out the solar heating system. On its completion in December, the «Maison de Leh» will be able to house about 15 Lamdon school boarders who are unable to return to their homes for the 3-month long winter holidays because access to the remote Himalayan valleys is impossible in winter. The rest of the year it will function as a guest house so as to become self-financing. Set in majestic surroundings, the «Maison de Leh» has 8 rooms, 4 with en suite bathrooms.

For more information and contact details please see our website

→ www.hope-organisation.com

Budget for 2012 : 15,000 Swiss francs.

## INDIA

- Scholarship holders and sponsorships
- Rigzin, Marianne and Christine, their guardian angels

HOPE currently sponsors 12 scholarship holders : 6 girls and 6 boys, of whom 9 are in Jammu and 3 in Delhi. Five of these students are just starting their studies and four are on the point of terminating, i.e. 4 more than in 2011.

Diskit in Leh and Marianne in Paris accompany and assist them in their studies all year round.

## Total cost of scholarships : 23,000 Swiss francs.

The sponsorship programme launched in 2011 and run by HOPE Espoir (the French branch of HOPE) offers schooling to 13 children at the Lamdon Model School in Leh. Christine in Toulouse and Rigzin Tundup in Leh are in charge of this programme. Rigzin is a former HOPE scholarship holder who knows the children well and visits them regularly.

## INDIA

- Kutubpur School
- Patricia and Roger Bell's visit to Dipali Sen
- Inauguration of the new classroom

Kutubpur is a remote village that does not appear on any maps, about a 2-hour drive from Calcutta. Its inhabitants are among the most economically underprivileged in the region. Dipali Sen, President of the West Bengal Council of Women, set up this school for the children of Kutubpur village aged between 4 and 6 to prepare them to attend the public



primary school. It provides schooling, uniforms, medical care and a daily meal. The teachers, who receive minimum salaries are qualified and highly committed.

The number of pupils has increased to 72 and in 2010 HOPE financed the construction of a new classroom that was inaugurated in March when Roger and Patricia Bell visited Kutubpur. In 2011 HOPE made the school a gift of CHF 3,500 to use at its discretion.

Donation : 3,500 Swiss francs

## AFRICA



- Acquisition of a cocoa plantation to help finance a hostel for aged homeless people
- Angeline invites the members of HOPE

Angeline Nsina is building a home for 50 aged homeless people in Yaoundé. It is a model for a future complex for handicapped street kids. The home will be run by qualified volunteers and financed by various activities: a kitchen garden, mushroom cultivation, a pond, workshops, medicinal plants, a bakery, etc... Angeline also acquired 20 hectares of agricultural land with a cocoa plantation, a highly profitable crop.

Donation : 3,025 Swiss francs for the purchase of the plantation



## « The aim of humanism is freedom in the true sense of the word. » Alain

# HOPE is 20 years old! Thanks to you, we have been able to share this wonderful adventure for the last 20 years!

→ The words Sharing and Respect underpin HOPE's entire philosophy, bringing together its members like the harmonious notes of a piece of music. We could say «united we stand, divided we fall» and together we form a solid chain with our partners in the field. Together, through perseverance and courage, sharing our joys and our little sorrows, we will continue to make our modest contribution to a better world. → New visual identity, new means of communication - This year HOPE was given a make-over; its logo has been updated and it has been given a new visual identity.

→ To improve our communication with you and all our other helpers and others who may be interested in our activities, HOPE has joined social



media with the creation of a Twitter account, a Facebook page and «Dropko», a Facebook discussion group for exchanges with our scholarship holders

Visit our new website → www.hope-organisation.com

#### Sharing, also closer to home

We also apply our philosophy of sharing in the management of our finances by giving priority to those nearer to us. Thus, since 2010 our printing and mailings are done by EPI (Etablissements publics pour l'intégration), and Trajets, two Geneva establishments which offer social and professional integration to people with special needs.

#### Donation by the Indian Association of Geneva

At a recent AGM, The Indian Association of Geneva decided to set aside a yearly sum to be donated either to a local organisation



or an organisation in India. Patricia Bell, Secretary General of HOPE, who is also a member of the IAG, applied on behalf of HOPE and in spring of 2012 the IAG made a donation of 500 Swiss francs to HOPE for its work in India. HOPE would like to express its heartfelt thanks to the IAG and its members for this honour.

### Nyima Lhamo

Nyima is a former HOPE scholarship holder. She was a brilliant student and graduated from the University of Mangalore in India with BA in statutory law. In April 2012 she was elected Secretary General of the Tibetan Women's Association (TWA) in Dharamsalla for a period of 3 years.





### Thanks

Last, but not least, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all our friends and volunteers who have so generously offered us their help and their savoir-faire throughout 2012, both in France and in Switzerland : our chartered accountant, architect, graphic designer, webmaster, translators, local representatives, too numerous to list here.

Our continued thanks to old friends who attended the birth of HOPE and the «wise men and women» and the members who first set the ball rolling. By working together we all – members of HOPE and beneficiaries – share in the life and progress of the world on 3 continents.

A big thank-you to all.



« That best portion of a good man's life, his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love. »

William Wordsworth (1770 - 1850)

# SMALL GESTURES FOR EVERY BUDGET

A small gesture, a small sum of money, can go a long way. Such gestures include not only money but also the proof of our willingness to commit ourselves to helping those who need us. Therefore, we would like to suggest, if you are able and willing, that you consider contributing to providing a better life to our beneficiaries by funding some of their needs.

STUDENTS AND SCHOOL-CHILDREN	CHF	€
School books	52	43
Extra tuition for a child with learning difficulties	69	57
Books for students	87	72
University registration fees	104	86
THE HOUSE IN LEH		
First aid kit (for 15 children)	87	72
Statue of Buddha and ceremonial artefacts	175	150
Trees for the garden	43	36
Plants for the kitchen garden	17	14
Tools for the garden	55	46
Book-case and library books	1 730	1 433
Text books on science, information technology, social sciences, lan- guages (7 subjects)	52	43
A subscription to a magazine	15	12
Army surplus blankets to be converted into window curtains	17	14
Losar (New Year) meal for 15 children	43	36
Saucepans and cooking utensils	870	720
3 footballs	10	8
A clothes washing machine (for a communal laundry)	519	430
A computer and printer	570 + 519	473 + 430
A stock of rice for winter	61	50

