

## A LETTER FROM THE TRAS PRESIDENT, CHERYL SULLIVAN

My recent trip to Nepal and visits with two of our local partners, Buddha Academy and READI Nepal, left me feeling encouraged and inspired. In Kathmandu I had a wonderful tour of Buddha Academy and spoke with Tashi Chozon, who oversees the Academy, and her son, Tenzin. I was not able to travel to Humla (an unreliable flight service or a 12 day walk from the nearest regular airport), to see READI Nepal in action, but I did meet with the two volunteer directors who work in Kathmandu. The dedication of our partners striving to improve the lives of others is remarkable. This, coupled with the hard work and willingness on behalf of those wanting to give their children a better opportunity, leads to visible improvements in quality of life. People helping people regardless of race, religion or culture is the basis on which TRAS was founded. Real positive change takes time and with a commitment to truly make a sustainable difference, it happens.



I was delighted on my travels to meet young boys and girls speaking fluent English who were excited to talk about going to school and learning about the world. It was heart warming to hear from fathers the importance they place on education for their children, both girls and boys. There is such a high demand from villagers to include their children in the READI program that Raj, working for READI in Humla, has to turn his phone off. Buddha Academy is absolutely overflowing with students.

Yes, life is still hard. Many of the luxuries we take for granted are non-existent – electricity, central heating, running water, affordable food supplies and access to health care. However, because of the generosity of volunteers and donors, there is hope - hope where none existed

before. In isolated regions people now have access to communications – sporadic and unreliable as they are, they do exist. Solar lighting, improved farming techniques, water filtration systems, health education and schooling are becoming more accessible.



Our partners give much to better the lives of those less fortunate and are forever grateful for the funding and support from TRAS. TRAS' philosophy is that real development is a long-term commitment and that working progressively within our partner communities is the most effective way to support the road to independence.

Life is beginning to improve in the poorer regions of the Himalayas but we must keep the momentum going to bring these communities to a point where they can become self sufficient. What we do does make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Please help us continue our important work by sponsoring a child's education, funding a project, adding to the scholarship fund or making a general donation.

On behalf of the TRAS Board of Directors and our Nepalese, Tibetan and Indian partners, I wish you a safe and pleasurable holiday season and a very Happy New Year. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

## Buddha Academy, Kathmandu



## READI Nepal, Humla



*Mim and Vinod,*

*READI Nepal volunteer directors in Kathmandu*



***“I belong to Dalit which is the most backward cast in Humla. I am very happy because READI has provided such facilities to the children of very poor Dalits, Janajatis and helpless families. I wish good luck for the work of READI in Humla.” - Jan Singha Damai***

