

Supporting the health
and education of children
and youth in northern
India, Nepal and Tibet
since 1962



TRAS' President Annual Report for the year April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

Welcome

Thank you for coming to our 63rd annual general meeting.

TRAS exists because there are people here in Vancouver, and elsewhere in Canada, who want to help people in the Himalayas. Instead of sending people overseas to do the work, we work with local non-profits in the region, who know what the most important needs are on the ground.

I'd like to express our gratitude to you, our members and donors. The work that TRAS supports in the Himalayas happens only because of your generosity, and I'm always both awed and inspired by the commitment of our donors to TRAS's work in the Himalayas for more than 60 years now, helping to improve the health and education of children and young people in Nepal, northern India, and Tibet.

I'd also like to thank Joanne MacLeod, our Office Manager, and our volunteers, particularly our Board of Directors, who keep the organization running.

Activities

I'll present a report on TRAS's projects, and Lynn Beck will present a report on the TRAS Scholarship Fund.

I'd like to present a report on the TRAS sponsorship program, prepared by Joanne, our office manager.

The Himalayan region is both spectacularly beautiful, and at the same time, one of the poorest regions in the world. Sponsorship enables children to receive a quality education. Particularly for Tibetan children, as they have an opportunity to learn more about their Tibetan culture and language.

The sponsorship program began in May 1964 with 13 sponsors. Today we have 81 sponsors supporting 124 children. Over the years our sponsors have helped over 821 children graduate with many of them going on to post-secondary studies.

In 2024-25 we had 6 graduates, and all are pursuing a secondary education. Also, we had 1 child that did not return to school in June, 2 transferred to another school and 1 left to join the army.

School reports, letters and cards were forwarded to many sponsors during the year. Many sponsors send cards and letters, and they have been warmly received by the children who love to hear from their sponsors.

Sponsorship disbursements are sent to the schools and settlements twice a year, and we thank everyone who has paid for 2025. Sponsorship renewal letters will go out in December via email.

We would like to help give as many children as we can, a chance to grow up healthy and with enough education to improve their lives and those of their families and communities.

Organization

Catherine Douglas and Shelley Guardia have joined the TRAS board. Catherine was a professor at the Vancouver School of Economics at UBC, focusing on economic history, technological change, and sustainable development. Shelley ran a tour company for many years, so she's been to the Himalayas many times. Thank you to Catherine and Shelley for joining the board!

If you're interested in joining the board, please let me know, and I'll invite you to our next board meeting, so you can get a sense of how we operate.

Best regards,
Russil Wvong