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FPMT ANNUAL REVIEW 2008

YOUR FPMT: BUILDING A COMPASSIONATE WORLD FROM THE INSIDE OUT



MESSAGE FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE

My very dear Geshes, Sangha, teachers, center directors and staff, students, benefactors, and friends:

FPMT exists only to benefit sentient beings. Through providing Dharma teachings and retreats at our centers around the world, we help students purify their minds and meditate on the path to enlightenment. Students find inspiration and support at our centers as they study and practice the path to enlightenment. By practicing the Buddha's teachings, each person can overcome the sufferings of samsara by ceasing its cause, delusion and karma. This way, we have happiness in all future lives, as well as the ultimate happiness of full enlightenment.

Through our projects, FPMT also supports the great Tibetan monasteries and is helping revive Tibetan Buddhism in Mongolia. We create holy objects, benefit animals, and translate the teachings into many languages. Like this, FPMT is spreading the Dharma and preserving it for many future generations.

As individuals, we can't do much to benefit others. We need an organization. Why? Because when we work as a group, helping many others in many ways becomes very easy. We need facilities and funds for many things in order to help others. We need directors, teachers, cooks, accountants and so many other people, so that we are able to benefit others efficiently.

Our work is to serve sentient beings and the compassionate Buddha's teachings. This is the most important thing for the people working in FPMT centers to always keep in their hearts. Please always remember to keep the happiness of all sentient beings in your hearts, especially the wish to bring them to full enlightenment.

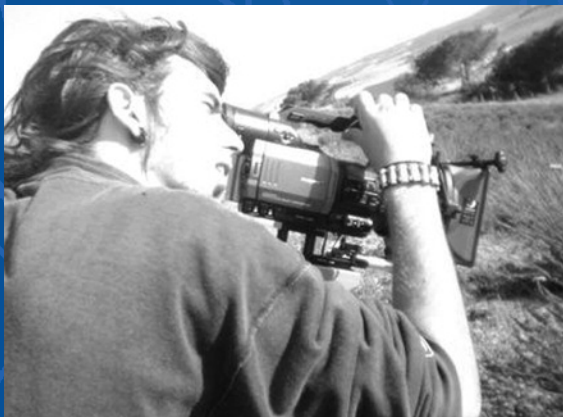
The most important thing for the success of our organization is devotion and compassion. This is the cause for harmony and the best puja. Compassion for others cuts down on problems and makes people want to help you. Devotion collects so much merit, good samaya leads to inner and outer prosperity. If you have devotion along with the wisdom to discriminate what is right, everything comes.

I send my heartfelt deep appreciation to all those who are helping and supporting the centers. This is really an incredibly amazing way of benefiting others and it is the real way to create world peace. In essence, our centers bring compassion into the world. That is what we do. Therefore, you can see how important your work and support is.

With love and prayers,



Zopa



MESSAGE FROM

OSEL HITA

(Tenzin Osel Rinpoche is the reincarnation of our founder, Lama Thubten Yeshe.)

Lama Yeshe taught really well on so many aspects of life – religion, Buddhism, your mind, and the interior universe we all have. One of the things he taught was impermanence and how we all change; how we take form and leave that form, change energies and change dimensions.

You cannot really project your expectations onto anybody or fantasize about the future, because that's only hurting yourself, deceiving yourself. You have to find your own true teacher inside yourself.

Anybody can say "I found the truth. Come and take it." But it's not going to work, because we each have our own truth that we all have to find. Full moonlight shining in the middle of a dark forest can help you find your way, but it's not THE way. Many people think the light is the path, but you're not going to the moon; you're trying to get out of the forest. The full moon just helps you find your way.

Some people seem to expect that because this is Lama Yeshe's reincarnation, then he's going to be just like Lama Yeshe. But today is not like being in Tibet many years ago, or even when the hippies were in Nepal and India in the 1970s. The world has changed a bit, and so I'm trying to find a different way of communicating. One of the ways is through music, movies, and audio visual techniques. In a movie, you can condense so many different stories. You can put in music; you can put in different situations and messages. Even just the sunset can be enough to give you some peace and help you find a moment for meditation. There are so many millions of possibilities.

It is one thing to plan and another for things to actually happen, but for now, that's what I am hoping to do.

I'm really, really grateful for all the help everyone gave me. Thank you for all the support and help.

Osel

MESSAGE FROM

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The goal of our foundation is to preserve the Mahayana tradition, the big heart of compassion and wisdom, and that means keeping the tradition alive in the minds of living beings. Keeping our tradition alive and putting the wishes of Lama Zopa Rinpoche into action requires nourishment and structure.

Plans must be made for the continuity and future of the organization, and that is the work of the FPMT Board of Directors.

We are a diverse and international group of people offering service in a variety of roles within the organization, each bringing our own skills, experience, and expertise to the combined effort of actualizing the vision of our teachers. We are honored to have Lama Zopa Rinpoche and Geshe Lama Lhundrup, the abbot of Kopan Monastery, on the Board, as well as Ven. Roger Kunsang and Ven. Pemba Sherpa. The rest of us are former and present center directors, trustees or advisors of centers, as well as heads of major projects and organizations affiliated with the FPMT. However committed we may be to our own projects, our group vision is the growth and benefit of FPMT in its entirety.

We were able to meet in person only once in 2008 and relied on conference calls and emails for our communication. This year, we helped update of the FPMT Handbook, establishing policy concerning ethical guidelines that protect our centers and teachers, while ensuring the integrity of the organization as a whole. We also laid out grievance procedures in order to clarify the resolution of disagreements in accordance with the laws and customs of our workers all around the world. Finally, we examined issues such as the legal status of FPMT's projects so that they may continue to be of the most benefit possible.



With the new Handbook completed, the publishing of the long awaited biography of Lama Thubten Yeshe in the near future [forthcoming from Lama Yeshe Wisdom Archives, *Big Love*, by Adele Hulse], the CPMT meeting, and the two retreats with Rinpoche taking place in 2009, we are confident that the FPMT is firmly on the path that our esteemed founders envisioned for it.

The Board of Directors hopes to take it even further along that path.

Paula

Paula de Wijs Koolkin
Chairperson
FPMT Board of Directors



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

VEN. ROGER KUNSANG

Dear Friends,

Lama Zopa Rinpoche taught in eight countries in 2008. It was the usual story – always on the road, working from eight big suitcases. Everything we need is in these – texts and things for initiations and rituals, gifts for people along the way, and one spare set of robes for each of us. Rinpoche is always on the go, never

stopping; Rinpoche always has time for everyone and everything. No matter how busy, no matter how late we are running, Rinpoche is always so focused on others. What an enormous privilege and blessing it is to serve our Teacher, who is a perfect example of living in the Dharma every moment of every day.

What we're doing in FPMT really makes a difference in the world. Think about it. There is no doubt that what we do helps create a more compassionate world. Think how one person's life changes when they meet the Dharma. Suddenly, their life has meaning. They stop harming others and try to help others.

Rinpoche always says we are about creating a world of compassion. That is our job, the opportunity we have every day. All the hard work we do, all the difficulties we face, the long hours, is for the benefit of others. Whatever sacrifice we make, and all the problems we experience is for the benefit of others. We do all of this so that others can benefit from the Dharma. It is our opportunity to serve our Guru and sentient beings. There is no better service!

2008 was a fruitful year for the individuals, organizations and projects within our international community. How are we making a difference? Here are some examples of highlights I encountered in 2008 that I personally felt inspired by:

Ven. Thubten Gyatso finished his three-year retreat on Kangaroo Island after doing 600 recitations of Sanghata Sutra for his preliminaries.

Ven. Katy Cole also finished one year retreat on Kangaroo Island.

Ven. Nyingje and Ven. Sumden completed the 108 springs retreat of Chöd in Scotland.

Geshe Tashi Tsering offered eighteen years of service as resident teacher at Chenrezig Institute, tirelessly dedicated to preserving the Dharma. In January 2009, Geshe-la was requested to take up the position of Lama Umze in Gyume Tantric College.

Hup Cheng has also served for eighteen years as director of Amitabha Buddhist Centre in Singapore.

Ven. Tenzin Namdrol from Brazil quietly completed 250 Nyung Näs, and it is possible she will try to complete 1000 in her life. One of Rinpoche's wishes is for FPMT to fully support those students who commit to doing 1,000 in a lifetime.

The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace, a 3.5 meter high statue carved from gem-quality jade, was completed and will eventually reside in the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Australia.

For seventeen years we have been offering food three times a day to all 2,600 monks at Sera Je, never missing a day.

We have also supported all the main teachers of the Lama Tsongkhapa tradition for ten years, and there are so many more examples of generosity, kindness, and compassion coming from Rinpoche's activity around the world, much of which you'll read about in this Review.

We truly are making a difference. Together we are building a compassionate world from the inside out.

Thank you to everyone,

roger

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

The Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT) is an international, non profit Buddhist organization, founded in 1975 by Lama Thubten Yeshe (1935-1984), a unique Tibetan lama who taught that the essence of Buddhism is a universal teaching on wisdom and compassion not to be confined to any particular cultural trappings.

Currently spiritually directed by Lama Yeshe's heart disciple, Lama Zopa Rinpoche, FPMT is devoted to transmitting Mahayana Buddhist teachings and values worldwide through inspiring, educating and serving our global community.

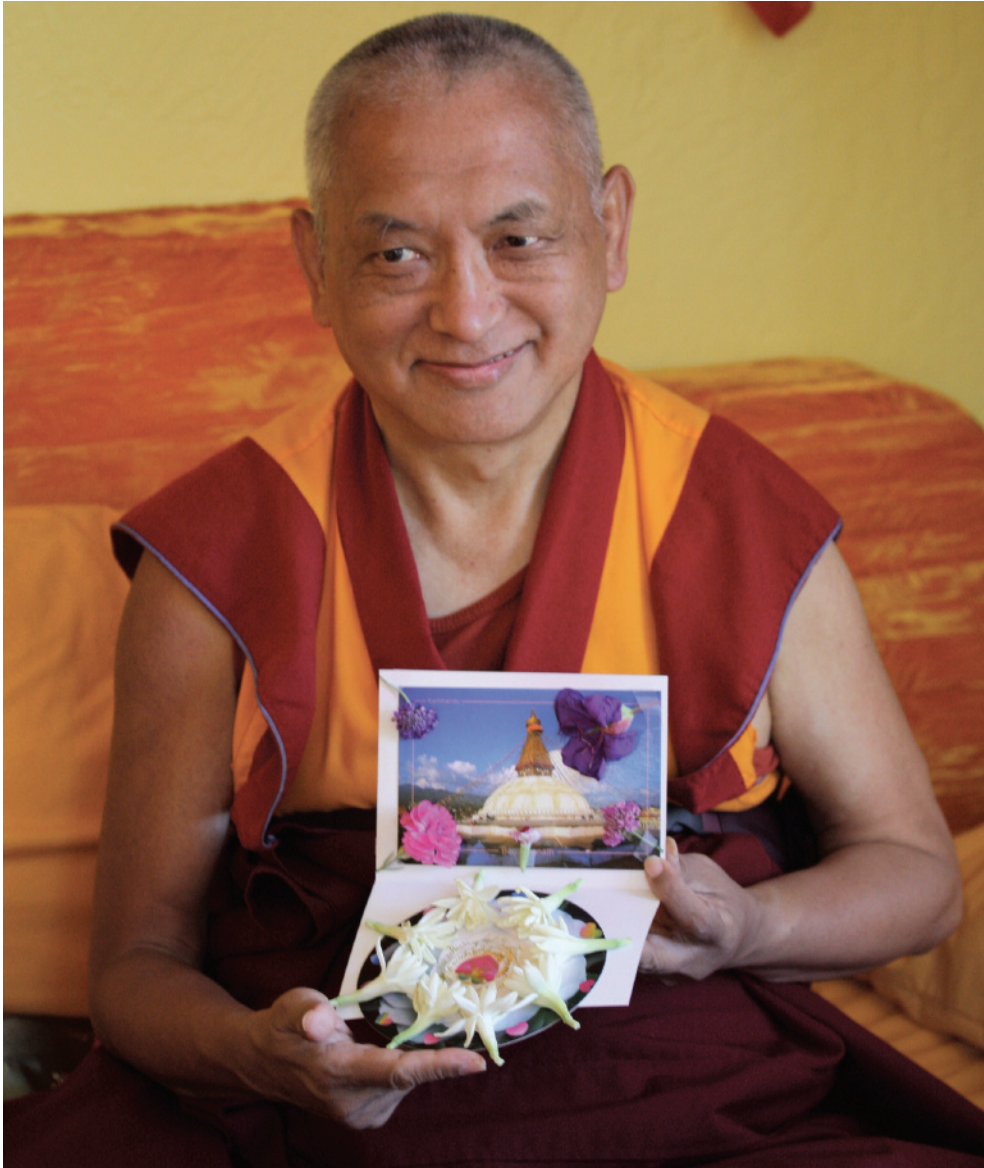
"FPMT" is an umbrella term encompassing our 154 centers, social service initiatives, and projects. Our work reaches across the Asian Pacific, North and South America, Europe, and Russia. Our programs offer a comprehensive, integrated, experiential approach to study, practice, and service in the great tradition of Lama Tsongkhapa of Tibet as taught by our founder and spiritual director.

We hope you enjoy this year's Annual Review. As evidenced in these pages, in 2008 we continued to grow, evolve, and define ourselves according to the need for and interest in our services.



Rinpoche blessing the ocean (the boat was pulling a large Namgyalma mantra plaque)

INSPIRING OUR COMMUNITY



For many, Lama Zopa Rinpoche's activities are synonymous with FPMT. Rinpoche is a limitless source of inspiration to others as evidenced by the 3,000+ letters he received in 2008 from students all over the world, and from the countless invitations Rinpoche received for teachings and blessings.

Rinpoche replied to as many letters and requests as possible, giving extensive personal advice and attention to each student. Rinpoche's response letters ranged from forty-five pages long to half a page; some were just a smiley face on a post card, and one was many small flower petals personally glued by Rinpoche onto a postcard of Bouddhanath Stupa.

Rinpoche traveled widely in 2008, giving and taking teachings, leading pujas and retreats, blessing animals, and benefiting beings as extensively as possible. Rinpoche taught in eight countries, as well as at the annual November course at Kopan Monastery in Nepal, where 244 people from thirty three countries gathered to study and practice. In North America, Rinpoche started the new five year visited North Carolina, New York, Portland, and Crestone, and taught for two weeks at the lam rim retreat in Mexico.

Above: Lama Zopa Rinpoche with a personally designed card for a student. Right: Lama Zopa Rinpoche prostrating at Root Institute, Bodh Gaya

In June, Lama Zopa Rinpoche organized, sponsored, and participated in 100,000 Tsog Offerings to Guru Rinpoche at Bouddhanath Stupa in Nepal for world peace and for the benefit of all FPMT's activities.

After the puja, for the first time in nearly ten years, Rinpoche traveled to Lawudo Retreat Centre high up in the mountains of Solu Khumbu. Lawudo is where Rinpoche's former incarnation meditated for over twenty years. Although the monsoon rains were heavy, many local people made the long climb to receive Rinpoche's blessings.

Rinpoche's new book, *How to Be Happy*, was released by Wisdom Publications. Tulku Thondup Rinpoche says, "Profound teachings on turning every step of life into the wisdom light of happiness are distilled here in simple words for both advanced and beginning meditators."

Lama Zopa Rinpoche spent five weeks in Dehradun in the Indian Himalayas, taking the Wangya Norbu Tangwa (Garlands of Jewels of Hundreds of Initiations) from His Holiness Sakya Trizin. Since much of the lineage for these initiations in the Gelugpa tradition had completely died out, Rinpoche requested and sponsored these transmissions. In addition, Rinpoche offered breakfast, lunch and dinner to all the attending, including more than 700 lamas.

Rinpoche also spent two months in India taking oral transmissions from Khyongla Rato Rinpoche, and spent some time in Washington doing retreat surrounded by snowy mountains, flowers, and chipmunks (Rinpoche calls them "chip nuns"). During the retreat Rinpoche painted the bird feeder roof with mantras and gave unexpected business to local flower shops by completely buying them out of every petal and stem they had to offer.



No words can really completely capture the joyous feelings in my heart when I think of how Lama Zopa Rinpoche and FPMT have benefited so many thousands of people in these past thirty years. Rinpoche is indescribable – so pure, so patient, so humble, and so wise ... and I think it is incredible the way everyone at FPMT is constantly supporting and helping Rinpoche in his untiring quest to bring Dharma to so many thousands of us at every level along the path. I am so humbled by Rinpoche's vast wisdom and patience, and so inspired by the effort being put in by my Dharma brothers and sisters in FPMT, all working with the unwavering goal of making Dharma accessible by teaching, sharing, inspiring, reaching out, lending a shoulder, and showing the way to attaining the peerless enlightenment, and always benefiting others. It is so blissful knowing I am a small part of Rinpoche's great mandala. Thank you everyone, and most of all thank you to Rinpoche for opening my eyes and my mind to the true meaning and purpose of my life.

Lillian Too
Malaysia



10 Clockwise from top left: Lama Zopa Rinpoche and his dog, Om Mani Padme Hum; Lama Zopa Rinpoche benefiting sentient beings in Nepal; His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Lama Zopa Rinpoche; Lama Zopa Rinpoche with mariachi band in Mexico



Above: Lama Zopa Rinpoche, Dagri Rinpoche, and Khadro-la, Bodh Gaya, India

LIVE WITH COMPASSION.
WORK WITH COMPASSION.
DIE WITH COMPASSION.
MEDITATE WITH COMPASSION.
ENJOY WITH COMPASSION.
WHEN PROBLEMS COME,
EXPERIENCE THEM WITH COMPASSION.

- LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE -

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- Lama Zopa Rinpoche traveled and taught extensively, inspiring students around the world.
- Many students engaged in extensive practice expanding their capacity for helping and inspiring others.



Above: During the recent Garlands of Jewels of Hundreds of Initiations organized by Lama Zopa Rinpoche and given by the head of the Sakya lineage, His Holiness Sakya Trizin, His Holiness mentioned that He is very happy with FPMT, always so impressed by the FPMT centers. His Holiness said, “FPMT is preserving the pure Dharma” and expressed gratitude to Lama Zopa Rinpoche, saying that FPMT’s activities around the world are “very inspiring.”

EDUCATING OUR COMMUNITY

Education is at the heart of FPMT. We facilitate a global network of educators, editors, translators, and publishers to bring universal and transformative teachings and trainings to students and leaders of all ages, levels, and backgrounds.

In 2008, we started planning *Light of the Path*, an experiential Lamrim program to be taught by Lama Zopa Rinpoche in 2009 followed by an online program. While FPMT now has seven standard programs, none of them highlight the teachings of our founder and spiritual director. The addition of the Light of the Path program will perfectly round out and complete FPMT's education curriculum .

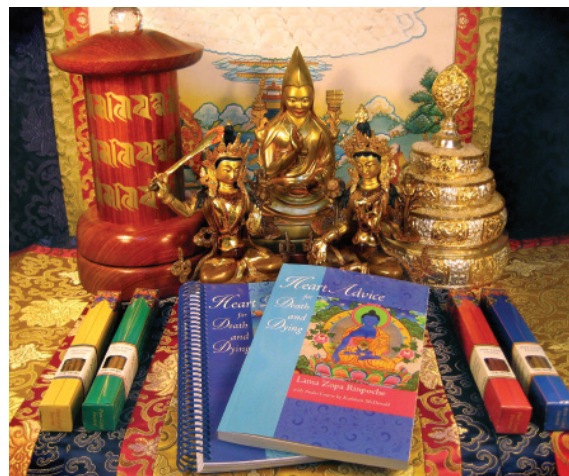
2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- Our translation work continued to flourish with the FPMT prayer book being translated into French, Spanish, and German.
- The popular *Discovering Buddhism* program continues to benefit many. We saw the translation of this program into German, and the at-home version became available in Spanish and the Russian is in process.
- An FPMT Translation and Editorial Committee was established.
- The fifth Lotsawa Rinchen Zangpo Translator Program began in Dharamsala, India in November with 22 students.
- Gyalsab Je's commentary *Ornament of Essential Explanation* was completed for students of the *Basic Program*.
- Nagarjuna, Barcelona completed its first round of the *Basic Program* and started a second.
- A *Basic Program* in Spanish began in Mexico.
- Nalanda Monastery in France began a new five year residential *Basic Program* taught in English, French, and Spanish.
- *Basic Program Homestudy* saw the addition of a new module on Tsongkhapa's *Middle Length Lam Rim*, as taught by Geshe Jampa Gyatso at Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa, Italy.
- Our second *Masters Program* began at Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa in Northern Italy, with fifty one students of various nationalities in residence and 151 students participating via correspondence in English, Italian, and Czech.
- *Heart Advice for Death and Dying* was made available as a home-study course and will be made available as a course for centers in 2009. The program includes a course book of heart advice by Lama Zopa Rinpoche and audio teachings and meditations by Ven Sangye Khadro.
- Maitripa College in Portland hosted an interfaith conference on contemplative practice and social service. Maitripa received its accreditation as a degree granting institution, becoming a college, and its first graduating class completed their coursework for the Masters of Arts Degree in Buddhist Studies.
- Three Inner Job Description trainings were offered to great acclaim. These trainings provide tools for developing what Lama Zopa Rinpoche calls the "inner professional" as a means of fully integrating Dharma into our service to the organization and sentient beings.

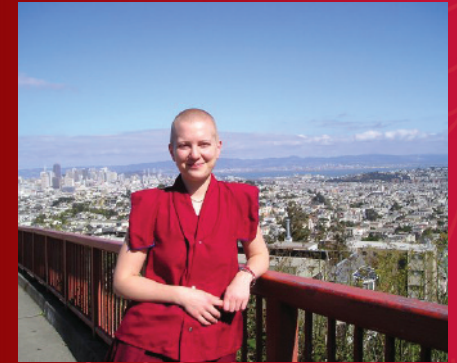
One of the most significant challenges facing the extension and preservation of our education programs is a lack of resources to support translation and multi media, both of which are crucial to providing education mediums in sync with the needs of today's learners and accessible to our world wide mandala. As a global community, our need for translated works easily accessible online cannot be underestimated.



Maitripa graduating class



Lama Zopa Rinpoche's Heart Advice for Death and Dying home-study course



In essence, attending the Masters Program is enhancing my knowledge and understanding of the teachings, and this is directly proportional with the strengthening of my faith and conviction in the Dharma, and enthusiasm in the practice, so that I can be of some benefit to all others in the future!

Ven. Tiziana Losa
Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa
Pomaia, Italy
www.iltk.it



When my studies at Maitripa College began, FPMT provided me with the deepest meaning and best practice imaginable. Through the unbelievable kindness of Kyabje Zopa Rinpoche, I am able to take advantage of this educational opportunity because of the scholarship offered to me by the FPMT Education Scholarship and Development Fund. The opportunity to study, meditate, and serve the community through the Maitripa College's Master's program in Buddhist Studies has been life transforming on many levels. I work full time, study full time, and care for my family. The integration of daily interactions and philosophical reasonings and meditation is rich and rewarding, and the teachings I have received at Maitripa, guiding me to simultaneously be engaged in the world and practicing the spiritual path, have had a particularly thorough effect on my mind.

Rachel Ryer
Portland, Oregon, United States
Maitripa College
www.maitripa.org



I started looking into Eastern philosophies when a friend lent me a Deepak Chopra book and five years ago, I started meditating. A year later, I saw His Holiness the Dalai Lama and that marked a turning point in my life. I found the FPMT website and ordered the first module of *Discovering Buddhism at Home*. It has taken me over four years to get to Module 13 and it is the greatest challenge of my life.

Every aspect of my life has been changed by the *Discovering Buddhism at Home* course. I now have a healthy, positive attitude and motivation towards everything I do. I realized that my fear and anxiety arise out of selfish desire. Just this one simple truth has taken me a long way. I still have some fear and anxiety, but it only lasts for hours or days, not weeks and months. I hope I have dealt my ego a lethal blow just by admitting that I am afraid – afraid things will not go the way I want, afraid I will not be liked, afraid that about the same time I learn how to live, I will have to die.

Recently, I found myself driving up and down very steep mountains, in heavy traffic and pouring rain. At first I was scared to death, but then I turned my concern towards the other travelers on the road. Simply by saying to myself “I wish you all happiness and comfort” and by reminding myself to remain completely present, my fear began to fade. I only allowed myself to be concerned for the safety of the other drivers and I knew that this concern would keep me safe as well.

I cannot imagine how I was surviving in this world without this little bit of wisdom that has been revealed to me. By “little bit of wisdom,” I mean that I have only begun to reveal an endless ocean.

Geoffrey Kassin (Thubten Sherab)
Petoskey, Michigan, United States

Geoffrey Kassin took refuge with Lama Zopa Rinpoche on Sept. 11, 2005.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Lama Zopa's vision and capacity for serving others is endless. If education is the heart of FPMT, surely our charitable projects and support for our affiliates are our many arms, reaching far and wide to offer service and guidance wherever Rinpoche identifies a need.

PROJECTS

FPMT supports charitable projects spanning in purpose from ambitious initiatives to build 100,000 prayer wheels, stupas, and statues; to a sanctuary for animals who would otherwise be killed; to providing education scholarships; to helping preserve Buddhist teachings in Mongolia; among many others. These projects are essential to our objective of building a more compassionate world from the inside out and critical to our mission of transmitting Mahayana Buddhist teachings and values worldwide.

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- \$2,156,833 total was collected for disbursement to our charitable projects.
- We raised almost \$265,000 for the Sera Je Food Fund, where three nutritious meals are offered daily, allowing the managers of the Fund to continue to improve the quality of the food offered.

Some of the 2600 monks at Sera Je Monastic University





FPMPT's investment in Sera Je helps produce good monks and teachers who travel and bring happiness and peace to others. The monks' studies and debate take so much time, and because we provide them [through the Food Fund] with the leisure time to devote to their studies and practice, they are able to build character, pure ethics, and an attitude of service to others. Therefore, this effort and support by FPMT is so meaningful to the world, because it helps develop peace and compassion. Each and every monk of Sera Je acknowledges and so much appreciates the support of Lama Zopa Rinpoche and FPMT.

Ven. Nyima Tashi
Sera Je Monastic University
Bylakkupe,
Karnataka State, India



Rinpoche teaching children from village schools who are guided by teachers trained at Maitri Charitable Trust, Bodh Gaya; The Dolma Ling Community Center Soup Kitchen

- We offered \$45,000 to support the education of teachers at Gelug monasteries through the Lama Tsongkhapa Teachers Fund. We sponsored 650 of the top students of Sera to attend the annual Winter Debate (this year at Ganden Monastery), and for over 400 to attend the Gelug exams at Drepung Monastery. In addition, we continued to provide monthly stipends to the main teachers and lineage holders of our tradition.
- In addition, we continued to provide monthly stipends to the main teachers and lineage holders of our tradition.
- Construction of the Amdo Eye Center was completed, stabilizing efforts to provide quality cataract surgery and general eye care for all. Amdo is home to people of both Tibetan and Chinese descent, many of whom live far from modern health care facilities. As a result, the prevalence of blindness in Amdo is four times higher than the national average. To date, the FPMT community, along with other benefactors such as His Holiness the Dalai Lama have raised over \$300,000 for this project.
- Through the FPMT Puja Fund, over \$70,000 worth of pujas were sponsored and dedicated to removing all obstacles to FPMT centers, projects, students, and benefactors as well as their families and those who have passed away. Pujas such as Medicine Buddha puja, 100,000 Praises to Tara, and Hayagriva puja have been personally chosen by Lama Zopa Rinpoche as most beneficial for overcoming obstacles and creating success.



SERVING OUR CENTERS

FPMT Center Services provides structure and support to newly developing and established centers alike, assists centers in finding teachers, coordinates the teaching activities of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, and helps provide an overall structure for FPMT as it grows and expands into the 21st century.

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- Seven new centers affiliated with FPMT bringing the number of affiliated centers up to 53. These agreements advance and protect the mutual interests of the centers and services, as well as the organization as a whole.
- FPMT held regional meetings combined with service trainings in Australia, Europe, and North America, allowing our center staff to re affirm their relationships with each other, find new inspiration, solutions, and guidance.
- The release of our updated *Handbook* and brochure contributed to our 2008 goal of increasing the effectiveness of our external communications in an effort to preserve FPMT's mission as a whole.



Above: Osel Ling Retreat Center, Spain www.oseling.com
Left: Mahamudra Center, New Zealand: www.mahamudra.org.nz

FROM THE PALACE OF
VIII JETSÜN DAMBA TO SHEDRUP LING:

THE STORY OF A DHARMA SISTER IN MONGOLIA



I feel my precious gurus have offered me such great opportunities to learn and practice the Dharma through the Shedrup Ling Center. Seven years ago I was highly dependent on medicine and so many different kinds of pills due to illness. I had a bad habit of eating too much, then going to sleep. Now I am very busy and full of energy, and I have Dharma practice.

Sometimes I am amazed at the difference between the Davaasuren seven years ago and today's Davaasuren. I try my best to get rid of anger and stupidity. I think now I have a better understanding of how everything is interrelated. It is why I try to be compassionate and seek ways to help others.

To me, the best way to repay the center for its generosity is to continue to learn and practice teachings of our gurus. My main responsibility is to watch and work with my mind, help my three children become kind, compassionate, good hearted people, and do my best to help all sentient beings.

Mrs. Davaasuren
Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia
Shedrup Ling
www.fpmt.org/mongolia





Above: Shedrup Ling, Mongolia: www.fpmt.org/mongolia

Opposite Page:

Above: Lama Zopa Rinpoche blessing young students in Indonesia

Below: Centro Yeshe Gyaltsen, Mexico: www.budismocozumel.com



A few days ago I completed a year of retreats at two FPMT centers (though I have visited and am familiar with several others). The staff of the two centers could not have been kinder and more supportive. It is especially through appreciating their cultures of care and support that I have renewed my admiration for the FPMT, and thereby for Lama Zopa Rinpoche's extraordinary holy activity for sentient beings.

Andy Wistreich
Somerset, England
Jamyang Buddhist Centre
www.jamyang.co.uk

Clockwise from top:
Root Institute, India: www.rootinstitute.com
Kopan Monastery, Nepal: www.kopanmonastery.com
Gendun Drubpa Study Group, Canada: www.gendundrubpa.com



SUSTAINING OUR MISSION: DEVELOPMENT



Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Rinpoche's Office, or "FPMT International Office," is the headquarters of the FPMT organization and provides the necessary framework for all FPMT activity, coordinates communication between Lama Zopa Rinpoche and the larger organization, and provides support and services to our affiliates.

International Office's purpose is to implement, facilitate, and coordinate the vision, resolutions, and strategic decisions laid out by the Spiritual Director and the Board of Directors.

In 2008 we identified a strong need for initiatives to generate reliable revenue for our infrastructure which supports the activity of FPMT as a whole. Additionally, we recognized that the organization's magazine, *Mandala*, could not continue running at a financial loss to the office. We began 2008 with strategic plans for establishing a broad donor base of individuals at various levels of giving to provide reliable income and foster a sense of connection and purpose amongst our supporters. Naturally, *Mandala* found a home in these conversations as its sole purpose is to serve as a unifying communications piece for the greater organization.

With this in mind, May 2008 saw the launch of **FPMT Foundation Membership**, a membership initiative to be composed of students and friends working together to support FPMT's global activities. In this transition, *Mandala* was turned into an integrated benefit of the FPMT Foundation Membership program instead of the previous subscription oriented product model. As a result, *Mandala* is now better poised to inform readers on FPMT activities, to engage readers in those activities, and to more directly provide the inspiration, teachings, and transformative tools of the Mahayana tradition.

Foundation Members come from all walks of life. They are connected to FPMT Dharma centers and projects, work with one of our home-study programs, read *Mandala*, connect with us through our website, or shop at the Foundation Store. As members, they receive *Mandala* and the newly debuted *Mandala* eZine, an online journal which allows us to offer audio and video content, interact creatively with our readers, highlight our various social service projects, and provide more of the timeless and inspiring stories and teachings in which *Mandala* specializes. Foundation Members also receive a discount at the Foundation Store and, starting in April 2009, will receive access to the Online Learning Center, where our innovative and comprehensive educational programs will be available for download. We have received incredible support and interest in our Online Learning Center which, through its accessible format, will bring Dharma education to even more students around the world.

Foundation Membership aligns with FPMT's mission to inspire, educate, and serve our global community.



I have been a student of Eastern wisdom for seven years. I first encountered FPMT two years ago through Lama Zopa Rinpoche's interest in and work for animals. The more I read, the more resonance I felt with FPMT's worldwide work.

From the perspective of a newcomer to FPMT, Mandala is like a lifeline to the work of the organization and the wisdom of its leaders. The new eZine format is wonderful! I can feel the love flowing through the words, images, and sounds into the world and into my life. I don't live near a Dharma center, so this – and frequent visits to the website just to read the revolving quotes – is my connection to FPMT and my reminder to live an aware and purposeful life.

Ainslee Kinross
Boulder, Colorado,
United States



MERIT BOX

The **Merit Box** program also gives students and friends of FPMT an opportunity to support the activities of the organization. Each participant receives a beautiful practice booklet and donation box to place on their altars. Yearly, all donations accrued in the boxes are sent to International Office and Lama Zopa Rinpoche personally decides on the use of the funds.

The Merit Box was completely redesigned, and the accompanying practice booklet was translated into eleven languages. We also began accepting applications from participating centers and projects for Merit Box grants to facilitate distribution of the funds to educational initiatives and organizations building holy objects all around the world.

WORK A DAY FOR RINPOCHE

Work a Day for Rinpoche allows all those who are inspired by Rinpoche's activities to spend one day in full support of his compassionate contributions to the world. On a merit increasing day of the Tibetan Buddhist calendar, students dedicate their work and a day's salary (or more) to a greater purpose. Participants report feeling very close to the teachings that day, finding it especially easy to generate the good heart for the sake of everyone around them, and enjoy being part of the larger worldwide community of students working together for the preservation of Rinpoche's vision.

In 2008, people in forty two countries worked one day for Rinpoche on the most holy day of Saka Dawa, contributing over \$60,000 to this fund.

THE FOUNDATION STORE

The **Foundation Store** provides a vast selection of Buddhist materials, including prayers and practices, home-study programs, Dharma study materials for children, sacred art, meditation supplies, and books to practitioners all around the world. Our goal is to provide Dharma students at all levels with the materials they need for their education and practice, while providing financial support for all of FPMT's activities. All Dharma proceeds from the store generated above the cost of production are strictly categorized and used only in accordance with the guidelines on Dharma income.

The Foundation Store increased its revenue in 2008 and also increased its wholesale orders to FPMT centers, demonstrating that the educational materials of FPMT are reaching an even larger audience.

Visitors to the Practicing Generosity area of the store donated over \$37,000 in direct support of our charitable projects.

These three programs: **FPMT Foundation Membership**, **Merit Box**, and **Work a Day for Rinpoche**, and our retail business, the **Foundation Store** are essential for supporting the success of our work. Our fundraising initiatives help support the infrastructure of our organization so that we can implement our programs and achieve our mission, as well as contribute to our ability to act as a grant providing organization through our support of charitable projects.

Significant technology based changes have improved our infrastructure and the internal business processes which directly support our efforts in development and program delivery. We converted to an integrated online database which allows us to much better manage our relationships with donors, members and supporters. Through this conversion we are now able to communicate more broadly and quickly through an email messaging software that allows us to send our Foundation Store and FPMT eNews in half the time, while being compliant with international SPAM laws. Our supporter information is much safer because our new database is hosted on an internet platform so our database backups and administration support are handled by the vendor, rather than in the office. We've been able to thank people almost on the same day that we receive on online donation because of our new database functionality. Tracking all the changes of staff within Centers, Projects and Services is now so much more manageable as we can flag comings and goings in a far more efficient way. To that end, all technology projects have a business/organizational function, and technologies are chosen to support and further the mission of FPMT.



Kelly Barros, Annie Moon, Laura Opperman

When I was a new Dharma student, I visited the store at Land of Medicine Buddha and found there a beautiful picture of Lama Zopa Rinpoche and a copy of the FPMT prayer book, *Essential Buddhist Prayers*, to provide a foundation for my daily practice. Now that I am the Bookstore Coordinator at Land of Medicine Buddha, I feel so fortunate to be able to provide LMB's students with the vast store of incredible practice materials offered by the Foundation Store. And when students request materials we don't have in stock, it is easy to refer them to the Foundation Store website, where they can purchase or download what they are looking for.

One woman recently drove thirty-five miles to find solace at Land of Medicine Buddha while her cat was dying. She stopped at the store to find something of comfort and was able to leave with Lama Zopa Rinpoche's *Recitations for Animals* CD to play for the benefit of her animal friend. How fortunate our physical store is to be able to offer the incredible practice materials offered by FPMT under the guidance of Lama Zopa Rinpoche.

Annie Moon
Land of Medicine Buddha
Soquel, California United States
www.landofmedicinebuddha.org

FINANCE

Financial performance in 2008

FPMT Inc. funds are divided into two broad categories: **restricted** and **unrestricted**, depending on whether a donor-imposed restriction exists or not.

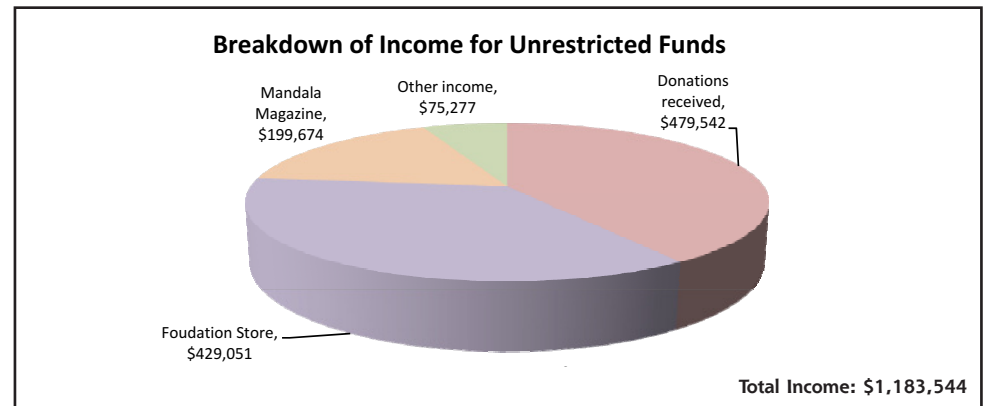
Restricted funds are divided into charitable funds and fiscal agencies, depending on whether FPMT Inc. has full control over the management of the funds, or if FPMT Inc. is meant to function as an agent.

Unrestricted funds are all that do not have a restriction imposed by the donor.

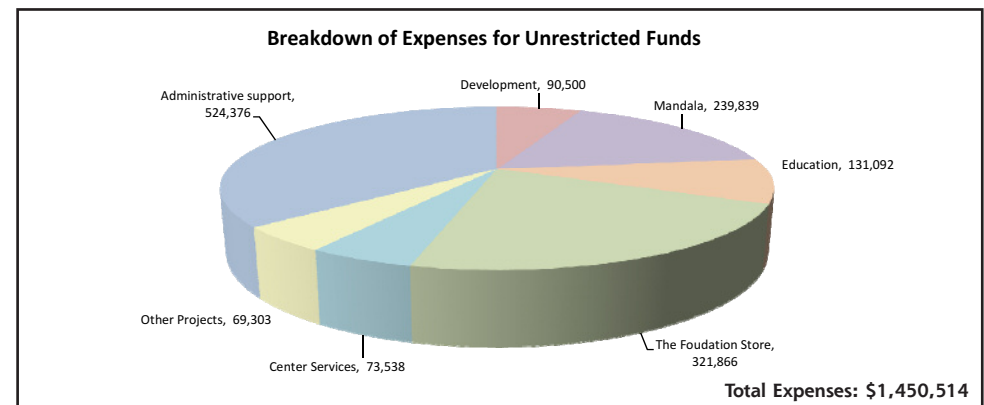
This category includes activities and projects which do not have a specific restricted assignment. Here, funding is collected for our educational programs, *Mandala*, administrative infrastructure expenses, as well as many other projects and programs.

A breakdown of all unrestricted income and expenses received is shown in the annexed charts.

Unrestricted Funds Income	
FY 2008 (In US Dollars)	Income
Donations received	\$ 479,542
Foudation Store	\$ 429,051
Mandala Magazine	\$ 199,674
Other income	\$ 75,277
Totals	\$ 1,183,544



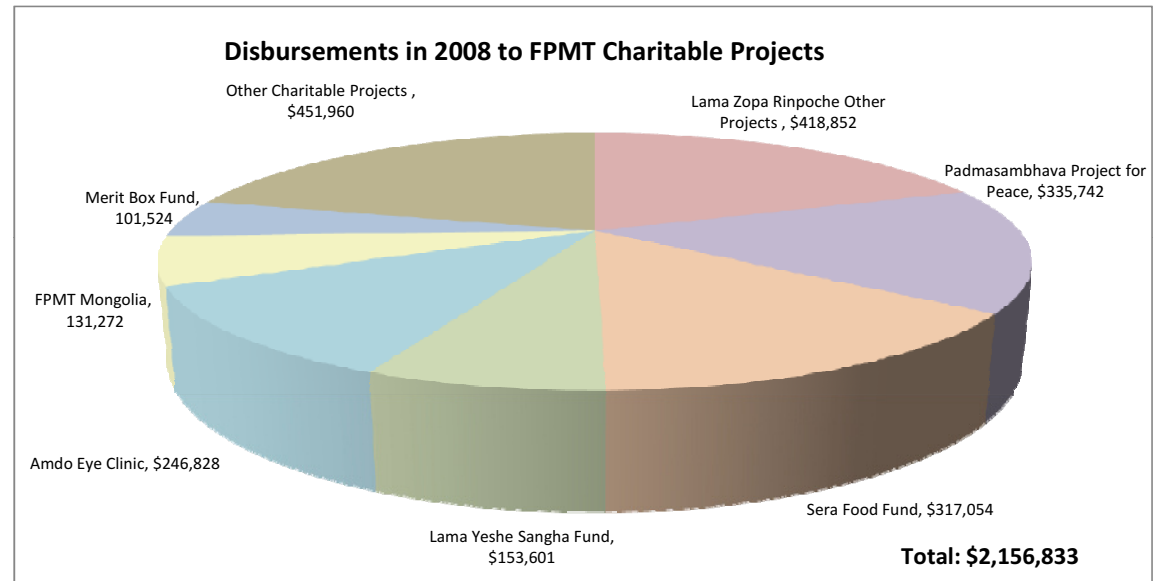
Unrestricted Funds Expenses	
In US Dollars	2008
Development	90,500
Mandala	239,839
Education	131,092
The Foudation Store	321,866
Center Services	73,538
Other Projects	69,303
Administrative support	524,376
Totals	1,450,514



CHARITABLE FUNDS

Charitable funds are the projects managed entirely by FPMT, or managed by a separate entity providing FPMT has a certain degree of control. A breakdown of the charitable project income disbursement is shown here:

Details of Disbursements to FPMT Charitable Projects	
In US Dollars	2008
Lama Zopa Rinpoche Other Projects*	418,852
Padmasambhava Project for Peace	335,742
Sera Food Fund	317,054
Amdo Eye Clinic	246,828
Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund	153,601
FPMT Mongolia	131,272
Merit Box Fund	101,524
Other Charitable Projects:	
Lama Tsong Khapa Fund	70,693
Puja Fund	70,550
Work a Day Project	69,595
Education Scholarship Fund	54,192
Sakya Initiations	51,034
Lam Rim Chen Mo	30,002
KZR Long Life Puja	25,402
HHDL Long Life Puja	21,106
Prayers for the Dead	15,186
Prajnaparamita & Sanghata	14,633
Maitreya Statue Project	10,649
Land of Calm Abiding	7,051
Stupa Fund	3,638
Animal Liberation Aptos	2,793
Animal Liberation Sanctuary	2,477
Tsum	1,503
Miscellaneous	1,456
Subtotal Other Charitable Projects	451,960
Total	2,156,833

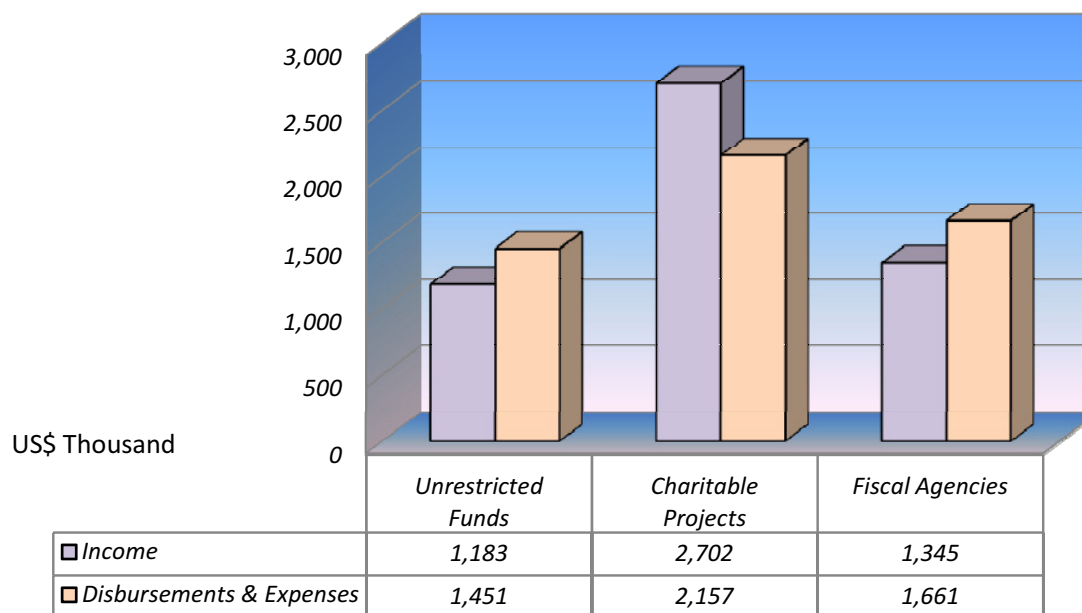


* Such as donations to: Rato Gompa, Dorje Chang Institute, Tsangpa Khantsen, Padmasambhava Project for peace and to support up to 11 sangha and ongoing offerings at Rinpoche's house.

More details about the disbursements of charitable project income can be found in the financial performance section of this report.

Summarized Income Statement		
FY 2008 (In US Dollars)	Income	Disbursements & Expenses
Unrestricted Funds	1,183	1,451
Charitable Projects	2,702	2,157
Fiscal Agencies	1,345	1,661
Totals	5,230	5,269

FY2008 – Financial Performance



The source of the figures presented in this report are the unaudited financial statements of FPMT Inc. for the year ending December 31, 2008.

As a general policy, the financial statements of FPMT Inc. are submitted by a voluntary audit. The audit for the fiscal year 2008 is pending at the time of preparation for this Annual Review. The Firm Respass and Respass, P.C. issued an independent auditor's report for financial statements of 2007 expressing an unqualified (clear) opinion.

A more detailed financial report can be found in our website.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

FPMT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Venerable Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche – Spiritual Director
Abbot Geshe Lama Lhundrup
Venerable Roger Kunsang
Venerable Pemba Sherpa
Karuna Cayton
Andrew Haynes
Peter Kedge
Tara Melwani
Timothy J. McNeill
Paula de Wijs Koolkin
Alison Murdoch



FPMT International Office staff

FPMT INTERNATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

CEO Ven. Roger Kunsang
Assistant to the CEO Ven. Holly Ansett

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Director of Finance / Chief Financial Officer Jose Carlos Alarcon
Administrator / Office Manager Ugyen Shola

CENTER SERVICES

Director Doris Low

EDUCATION SERVICES

Director Merry Colony
Editor & Education Materials Ven. Gyalten Mindrol

THE FOUNDATION STORE

Manager Dion Stepanski
Customer Service Samten Gorab
Foundation Store Assistant Noah Gunnell

MANDALA PUBLICATIONS

Managing Editor Carina Rumrill
Assistant Editor Michael Jolliffe
Membership Coordinator/Subscriptions
& Advertising Sandra Peterson

TECHNOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT

Director Cheryl Gipson
Donor Stewardship Manager Chuck Latimer
IT Coordinator Brad Ackroyd
Web Developer Adam Payne

THANK YOU!

International Office offers enormous gratitude to everyone who supported us in 2008. A list of all donors, who are too numerous to list in this report, can be found on our website. This truly is your FPMT. And we thank you for helping provide the tools and resources needed to build a compassionate world, from the inside out.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The programs of FPMT function solely because of the generosity of others, and there are limitless opportunities to offer support. From volunteering at your local FPMT center, to making our education programs accessible online through a direct donation to education, to enrolling in our Membership program, to assisting us at the International Office, your support allows us to continue. Please get in touch today. Your kindness means so much.

International Office would like to express our very deep gratitude for the help and inspiration given by all the centers, teachers, students, benefactors, and donors throughout 2008. We would especially like to recognize and thank those who volunteered at International Office in 2008: Denis Davis and Daryl Dunnigan for their help in the Foundation Store, the International Office building, and Education Services; Jimena Estrada for her generous help with Mandala, Mark Evans for transcribing for Education Services, Sharon Overbey for her help with the Foundation Store, Corrine Nakamura for her help with Foundation Membership design, and Amy Cayton for inspiring and teaching us during the Inner Job Description training.

Dedications at the pujas sponsored by Lama Zopa Rinpoche at the great monasteries are made especially for everyone benefiting the organization, in thanks for your kindness and generosity.

*May 2009 usher in an era of peace and loving kindness
in your home, your country, and the world.*



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