

## FEATURED PROJECT

# The Sera Je Food Fund



Over 2,600 monks are supported by the Sera Je Food Fund. Sera Je monks now receive three quality meals a day.

*Now in its 18th year, this issue's Featured Project, the Sera Je Food Fund, is committed to offering free meals to all of the monks studying at Sera Je Monastery.*

*Taking responsibility for supporting these practitioners is extremely worthwhile because they are preserving and spreading the entire teaching of the Buddha.*

– LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE

Since its inception, the Sera Je Food Fund has provided over 10,000,000 free meals to monks studying at Sera Je Monastery. Three meals per day are offered to all 2,600 monks and breakfast is served daily to 500 young monks studying at the Sera Je School – additionally, three meals per day are offered to these

would be a food fund, whereby all monks at Sera Je Monastery could be offered quality meals for free. Out of his incredible compassion, Lama Zopa Rinpoche was not simply offering lunch on the day of Osel's entrance to the monastery but, without precedent, taking on the responsibility of providing meals to every monk at Sera Je for as long as they studied there.

*Offering food to the monks of Sera Je is a way of collecting unbelievable merit because all the monks are the pores of the guru. They are all disciples of the same guru – His Holiness the Dalai Lama. By offering to the pores of the guru one collects more merit than offering to Buddha, Dharma, Sangha and numberless holy objects.*

– LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE

young monks during holidays. It costs US\$270,000 per year to offer this incredible service.

The fund began in 1991 when Osel, the reincarnation of Lama Yeshe, entered Sera Je Monastery in southern India at age six. Although it is customary to make offerings to all the Sangha only on the day that a tulku officially enters the monastery, Lama Zopa Rinpoche wanted the offering to be of the greatest practical benefit to the monastery itself. After discussion with the abbot and resident high lamas, it was determined that the most beneficial offering

This takes the burden off the monks for having to provide for their own meals, and allows them more time and energy for their studies.

The fund is extremely important because Sera Je is the monastery from which most FPMT teachers and their teachers have been educated, so any support offered to the food fund directly helps preserve the Mahayana teachings and FPMT's precious lineage. ♦

To learn more about the Sera Je Food Fund, or to offer your support, please visit: [www.fpmt.org/projects/seraje](http://www.fpmt.org/projects/seraje) or contact Ven. Holly Ansett at [holly@fpmt.org](mailto:holly@fpmt.org)