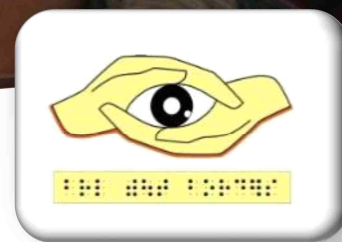


# Braille Without Borders

## Quarterly newsletter 3 -2016



Autumn has arrived and therefore it is time for the third quarterly newsletter. Gyendsen, Nyima, Adrun and Mike have shared an overview of the highlights of the Braille Without Borders projects in Lhasa and Shigatse. On behalf of all our students and colleagues, we say thank you to everyone for your continuous support!

### Lhasa

#### New student

In the middle of July, we received a new student from Damshong, his name is Kalsang Tashi and he is a partially sighted. Kalsang Tashi is seven years old, but he is not capable to do any of the daily works. He even can't speak properly and he has a strange behaviour such as eating grass / rubbish, do not like use toilet and etc problem. After one Month intensive training, he has got better a little bit and now at least he is capable to eat by himself and can use Toilet, not eating rubbish any more. We are still keeping on insist to train him further, none of the staff has given-up to train him despite that this is quite challenging. Now almost three Months of training and he can speak like a two years old baby. We do not want send him back home, because we are afraid his family members will exclude him and he will be completely outcasted.

#### Medical support

Tsering Dondup is now 17 years old and he is from Chamdu. This year, the doctor has examined a foot deformity and he will need to get an operation as soon as possible. Otherwise, it may harm to his burden of the spine, and even cause paralysis. Therefore, we have raised sufficient funds so that he can be operated in Chengdu. He will be leaving to the hospital in Chengdu on the 23rd of September. Tsering Dondup said "I am lucky to be in the BWB school, I know that my family can do nothing for my life, especially in terms of educating and giving treatment for my feet. I am so much grateful to have the chance to treat my feet problem this year, otherwise I'll be double handicapped. Thank you for BWB having me here and I will work hard on studying."

#### Summer Holiday

The school had summer vacation during the August. Five students who don't have a family or for whom traveling back and forth to home was too far have stayed back at the school. Kalsang Tashi was one of them.



Migma and Denchu working on Braille Book Production



Sonam and his blind band

Migma with Braille Book

Sung Drolma

### Farm, Shigatse

We welcomed the 11th Panchen Lama's mother. She toured our project and donated a very generous cache of food supplies. This being our won harvest season and with her 'over-the-top' donation we shall definitely survive the winter, and beyond, well fed.

Panden joined us this quarter to learn Braille. He is a very successful Shigatse high school graduate but has recently begun losing his eyesight. His dream is to study medicine. A medical college in mainland China has agreed to admit him providing he proves able to take notes and study using Braille digital systems. Our staff - and students - have been surprised at how quickly he has learned to type and read Braille.

Wangla is from our very own village here in Tibet and a graduate of BWB's integration program. He has begun his university studies this quarter at the University of Tibet, Lhasa. He is seen here at his home with his mother, father and Adron, our center administrator, just prior to beginning his university studies.

Sung Droma, seen here with a gift of two 'heavy duty' sewing machines, is also the proud recipient of a business license, granted by the local government to handicapped entrepreneurs that also features tax exemptions.

Migma, another graduate of the BWB Integration program, now works in the Braille Book production component. Denchu helps him create a file of the government primary school Chinese text book which he has since printed out in Braille and distributed to our primary school integration students. Denchu by the way is also a BWB graduate currently studying in the local government high school and volunteers at our center during her holidays.

Sonam is our blind musical director and computer expert. He regularly practices with the blind band, 'just jamming. They have been invited to perform in Shanghai at the end of this quarter.



In case your Tibetan and Chinese is a bit rusty the logo reads 'Tse Sem Metok' which means Flower of Compassion. It is the logo for a co-op that BWB Vocational has been involved in establishing, for all and any handicapped entrepreneurs in the Shigatse Prefecture area. It too has government backing and has begun acquiring production materials at low cost for local handicapped entrepreneurs like our own Sung Droma,

above. It also assists with marketing and providing business skills training. TSM, for example, helped Sung Droma, and her BWB component, attend a ten day international trade expo in Lhasa recently.

May your harvests be bountiful and your winter warm.  
BWB Vocational Center, Belshung, Tibet.