

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

Annual Report 2009





MISSION STATEMENT

The International Campaign for Tibet works to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet.

ICT:

- monitors and reports on human rights, environmental and socioeconomic conditions in Tibet;
- advocates for Tibetans imprisoned for their political or religious beliefs;
- works with governments to develop policies and programs to help Tibetans;
- secures humanitarian and development assistance for Tibetans;
- mobilizes individuals and the international community to take action on behalf of Tibetans; and
- promotes self-determination for the Tibetan people through negotiations between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama.

Founded in 1988, ICT is a nonprofit membership organization with offices in Washington D.C., Amsterdam, Berlin, and Brussels, and field offices in Dharamsala and Kathmandu.

Cover and above photos: Niki Taxidis



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As a staff, we put considerable preparation into the 2009 annual report because we want to ensure our partners and investors are provided with solid information about the International Campaign for Tibet's financial status. The annual report is also an opportunity for our monitoring, advocacy and Chinese outreach teams to describe ICT's accomplishments in 2009 and, by doing so, share some of what compels us to work for the Tibetan cause.

Looking back at what has been happening inside Tibet in 2009, a clear sense of defiance emerges from the Tibetans, matched with an equally clear and deliberate "strike hard" policy from Chinese government authorities against their many forms of protest and attempts at free expression. In Lhasa, where demonstrations erupted in 2008 before spreading across Tibet, the new year began with a call to arms in the form of a government-written editorial in the official *Tibet Daily*. "Firmly crush the savage aggression of the Dalai clique, defeat separatism, and wage people's war to maintain stability!" This editorial energized us as the year began, providing more tangible evidence that Tibet remains a concern of the Chinese and our work as part of the "Dalai clique" is as important as ever.

ICT resolved to do our very best to keep Tibet in the news, and our monitoring and communications were in overdrive for much of the year. Using their output, the ICT advocacy team engaged our supporters, the media, and government officials in translating solid information into political and programmatic assistance for Tibetans. Time and time again, the Chinese government's use of harsh measures against individual Tibetans compelled us and the international

community to take action for Tibet. From the arrest of high-profile Tibetans to the protests of Tibetan school children, from the Chinese-imposed "serf emancipation day" and the surrounding of Tsendrok Monastery by the People's Armed Police to one young monk's self-immolation, the news from Tibet was difficult to witness.

Then, as a year of sadness and turmoil approached its end, His Holiness visited Washington, D.C. and presented the ICT Light of Truth Award to two recipients — the late Julia Taft, who had represented American diplomacy on behalf of Tibet at its most sincere and honorable state, and Wang Lixiong, the Chinese writer and co-author of "*Twelve Suggestions for Handling the Tibetan Situation*," a petition calling on the Chinese authorities to show wisdom in Tibet. Beholding His Holiness and Wang, both insisting that offering criticism to the Chinese government is not anti-China but pro-justice, we all were inspired to look ahead at what might someday be a genuine camaraderie between Tibetans and Chinese.

I thank all those who have heeded our call for justice in 2009, and I ask you to look ahead with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and ICT toward a more hopeful time for Tibet.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Markey
President



Speaker Pelosi delivering remarks during a reception following Tibet Lobby Day. Bottom left: ICT President Mary Beth Markey, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ngawang Sangdrol, and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi gather during Tibet Lobby Day. Bottom right: Rep. Patrick Kennedy and a Tibetan constituent meet on Lobby Day.

WORKING WITH GOVERNMENTS

Government advocacy remains a core program for ICT. In 2009, ICT expanded on its record of success in securing political and programmatic support for Tibet, even in the face of a concerted Chinese campaign to pressure governments to step away from the Tibet issue. Through regular contact and special briefings, ICT seized every opportunity to provide background, news and analysis on Tibetan issues to government policymakers. ICT was responsible for these key advances in 2009:

- Organized meetings in the U.S. Congress for the Dalai Lama during his October visit to Washington, D.C., including with the Speaker of the House, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, new Senators and congressional panels focusing on human rights and U.S.-China relations;
- Co-organized the first Tibet Lobby Day in Washington, which brought Tibetan-Americans and Tibet supporters from across the United States to lobby Congress for Tibet, and to demonstrate the emergence of the Tibetan-American community as a political constituency;
- Helped secure \$2 million in U.S. government funding to revitalize the Tibetan refugee settlements in India and

Nepal, as well as nearly \$16 million in humanitarian assistance for Tibetan refugees in India and Nepal, economic development inside Tibet, scholarships and cultural and educational exchanges for Tibetans, and funding for the State Department's Office of the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues;

- Worked to put Tibet on the agenda of the incoming Obama Administration, including urging the appointment of a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, recommending questions posed to key State Department nominees, and updating new White House and State Department officials on the Dalai Lama's 'Middle Way' approach for a negotiated solution;
- Co-organized the Fifth World Parliamentary Convention on Tibet, which brought together lawmakers to coordinate approaches on the Tibet issue and approve a Declaration with an action plan for Tibet; and
- Promoted multilateral approaches on Tibetan issues and provided coordinated briefings to government officials prior to key meetings and visits to China and Tibet by heads of state, foreign ministers, parliamentarians and others in government.





Tibetan protestors being forcibly detained following a demonstration in Kathmandu on October 1, 2009, the anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party's ascendency to power in China.

PROTECTING AND ASSISTING REFUGEES

Increased security along the Tibet-Nepal border and across Tibet following demonstrations that erupted in Lhasa in 2008 led to a reduction in the number of Tibetan refugees safely reaching the Tibetan refugee transit center in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 2009. Concurrent with the crackdown inside Tibet, the Chinese government has increased its influence in Nepal through various inducements and stepped up pressure on the Nepalese government to adopt policies on Tibetans that serve Beijing's interests. As a result, Tibetans living in Nepal and refugees in transit are increasingly vulnerable.

ICT's work on the protection of Tibetans in Nepal is vital, and sometimes urgent, both in the field and in national capitals from Berlin to Washington, D.C. In 2009, our diligent work on these important human rights and humanitarian issues included:

- Building relationships with key foreign embassy officials and the UNHCR in Kathmandu, effectively supporting oversight of the Tibetan refugee situation and high-level emergency response as required;
 - Working with Nepalese civil society and media to help shape public opinion towards a more tolerant and rights-based approach on issues impacting Tibetan refugees; and
 - Obtaining and interpreting data, images, and critical perspectives that make possible uninterrupted news reports from Tibet including the compelling stories of individuals who take great risk for freedom so that policymakers around the world are well-informed and can act accordingly.
- Securing U.S. funding for humanitarian assistance that significantly supports both long-staying and new refugees from Tibet and keeps open the reception centers along their route;



Officers harshly detaining a Tibetan protestor following a demonstration in Kathmandu on October 1, 2009.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The security crackdown imposed by Chinese authorities across Tibet produced what the UN Committee Against Torture described as a “deepened climate of fear.” However, it significantly failed to silence Tibetans from expressing dissent in protests, or through the written word in powerful blogs, unauthorized publications and songs.

In 2009, China sought to enforce an information blackout and to prevent any news about the situation in Tibet from reaching the outside world. In response, ICT redoubled its efforts to report on the reality of what is happening in Tibet. Based on up-to-date information and in-depth analysis, ICT provided briefings for governments and international agencies on human rights abuses in Tibet.

Our Tibetan field team in India and Nepal work in difficult and demanding circumstances and, despite the high emotional costs of the work, they are tireless in their endeavors to provide real-time information — whether it is details of a protest in a monastery or the disappearance of a Tibetan writer from his university.

Monitoring the cases of Tibetan political prisoners throughout the year, ICT provides details of their arrests, torture, and imprisonment to those who are in a position to advocate on their behalf and help protect them.

With regard to the dialogue between envoys of the Dalai Lama and Chinese officials, we have promoted an action plan that would, as a first priority, support tangible improvements on the ground for Tibetans and promote further engagement between all stakeholders to find a non-violent negotiated solution for Tibet.

In October 2009, ICT worked to assure that Tibetan voices were heard at the world’s biggest literary trade event, the Frankfurt International Bookfair, where the Chinese government was the guest of honor. ICT hosted a reading of Tibetan writings that are banned in Beijing. We published a ground-breaking collection of poetry and prose by Tibetans, including imprisoned writers, about the political situation in Tibet.



Tibetans gathered in Kathmandu on October 26, 2009 to demonstrate against the execution of four Tibetans in connection with the Lhasa protest of March 14, 2008.

BUILDING SUPPORT IN EUROPE

ICT–Europe

In 2009, ICT-Europe worked in Brussels and various European capitals to secure a coherent strategy for Tibet on the continent, including these efforts:

- Made substantial contributions in support of European Parliament conferences on Tibet and continued to produce *Tibet Brief* for European policy makers to facilitate communication and coordination of political activities for Tibet among European parliamentarians;
- Hosted a delegation of parliamentarians from the Assembly of Tibetan People’s Deputies in meetings with government officials in various European capitals;
- Co-organized with Tibetan Parliament in Exile the 5th World Parliamentarian Conference on Tibet;
- Collaborated with Tibet organizations for the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to The Netherlands and organized all of His Holiness’ political meetings;
- Participated in the UN Human Rights Council sessions and took a primary role in overseeing ICT’s submissions to the UN Universal Period Review of China. Worked closely with Amnesty International, Human Rights in China, Human Rights Watch and Tibetan Centre for Human Rights;
- Launched a political prisoners campaign with special focus on Dhondup Wangchen to coincide with the first anniversary of the March 2008 protests in Tibet;
- Launched a new Dutch language website;

- Co-hosted Tibetan Youth Leadership training for young Tibetan students from various schools and universities in India;
- Collaborated with Chinese human rights defenders and artists to produce an exhibition on Tibet;
- Inspired popular support for Tibet in Europe and increased ICT-Europe’s active paying membership in The Netherlands to 45,000; and
- Celebrated ICT-Europe’s 10th anniversary and hosted the first reunion of the singing nuns from the Drapchi prison.

BUILDING SUPPORT IN GERMANY

ICT–Germany

In 2009, ICT continued to build strong support for Tibet in Germany. The Berlin office successfully launched a number of initiatives in the political arena and gained public attention for the Tibet issue in Germany.

A highlight of its work was ICT-Germany’s presence at the International Frankfurt Bookfair in October. With the guest of honor being the People’s Republic of China, ICT put Tibet prominently on the agenda of the fair. Together with its supporter, German actor Hannes Jaenicke, ICT-Germany held “*The Forbidden Reading — Tibetan Political Literature*” at the fairgrounds, gaining significant public attention at the bookfair and in the media. Together with other ICT offices, ICT-Germany



His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing the 5th World Parliamentarian Conference on Tibet.



ICT's new publication, Like Gold That Fears No Fire, was released at the Frankfurt Bookfair in October 2009 despite moves by the Chinese Government, Guest of Honor at the event, to block dissident voices.

released “*Like Gold That Fears No Fire*”, a collection of Tibetan writings that was met with acclaim.

Following in the footsteps of 2008, the ICT project for the TCV-school in Suja, near Dharamsala in Northern India, saw much progress — including the construction of a new health center, dormitory and staff quarters. The project, which is planned to reach completion in 2013, also includes the construction of additional new housing, various infrastructure improvements and new facilities for children.

Additional ICT-Germany projects of significance included asking German parties running for re-election in the 2009 general elections for their support for Tibet and submitting “*Election Benchmarks for Tibet*” to all relevant German parties. The office also launched “*Missing Voices*”, a website voicing support of Tibetan political prisoners.

ICT—Brussels

ICT-Brussels has actively lobbied the European Commission, the EU Council, and members of the European Parliament where the Tibet Intergroup was successfully re-established. Highlights of their work included:

- Regular missions in European capitals, in particular in the country holding the Presidency of the EU, in order to meet with diplomats, members of the Parliament and Tibet Intergroup members, NGOs, media and Tibet Support Groups (Paris, Stockholm, Prague, etc.);
- Active media work with press conferences held in Brussels and Prague and publication of several op-ed pieces and letters of opinion (*Le Soir, European Voice, Euractiv*);

- Written and oral statements given at the hearing of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament in December;
- Preparation for and participation in an official mission of the European Economic and Social Committee to Dharamsala in October;
- Release and distribution of a Policy Paper on Tibet and EU-China relations (“*11th EU-China Summit — A Revived EU Policy on Tibet*”);
- Participation as speakers and observers at many conferences, workshops, and roundtables on China-Tibet relations and human rights issues;
- Written and oral inputs (including a list of political prisoners) given to EU Presidency and European Commission in the framework of two EU-China Human Rights Dialogue and Legal Seminars;
- Co-organization of the annual March 10th demonstrations across Europe; and
- Successful launch of a French version of ICT’s website (www.savetibet.fr).

REACHING OUT TO CHINESE COMMUNITIES

ICT's Chinese Outreach Program continued to build awareness of Tibetan issues in the Chinese community, particularly among scholars in China. It is designed to build understanding and trust between Tibetans and Chinese, and to explore future relationships between the peoples. We work on achieving these objectives by publishing a journal in Chinese on Tibet; running a Chinese language website; organizing discussions and face-to-face meetings between Tibetans and Chinese; organizing meetings between the Dalai Lama and Chinese scholars, etc.

Our activities during 2009 have concretely contributed to expanding and strengthening the public discourse in China about Tibet. In 2009, we:

- Provided support to the Tibetan Government-in-Exile in the Tibetan-Chinese dialogue process through Special Envoy Lodi Gyari;
- Presented the International Campaign for Tibet's Light of Truth award to Chinese writer Wang Lixiong during His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visit to Washington, D.C. This was yet another step toward strengthening the Chinese intellectual circle's interest in and positive view on the issue of Tibet;
- Organized meetings in India between the Dalai Lama, Tibetan officials and select groups of Chinese, including Chinese scholars associated with think tanks and universities in China and the United States. This is part of a continuing program to enhance Tibetan-Chinese dialogue at a higher level;
- Published a Chinese language newsletter, *Liaowang Xizang*, distributed to Chinese academics, activists and officials in China and Tibet as well as to Chinese-speaking scholars and individuals around the world;
- Organized a monthly lecture series at our Washington, D.C. headquarters on Tibetan issues. Panel experts included a variety of Tibetan and Chinese scholars; and
- Sent targeted e-mails into China and Tibet, and encouraged popular debate on websites in China.



The Tesi Environmental Awareness Movement used their 2009 Rowell Fund Grant to pay for an environmental forum among the Tibetan Buddhist community in exile. During this forum, the monastic community learned new methods of environmental conservation.

EMPOWERING TIBETANS

ICT partners with current and future Tibetan leaders through numerous programs and initiatives such as discussion forums and the Rowell Fund for Tibet.

In 2009, the Rowell Fund for Tibet awarded \$42,000 in grant money to fund various grassroots organizations and projects supporting the Tibetans in Tibet and in exile. With a focus on education, the environment and conservation within the Tibetan community, the selected projects are based in India, Nepal and Tibet. The Rowell Fund Advisory Board determines the grantees each year and this year distributed awards ranging from \$1,500 to \$6,750. Some of the projects included the following:

- Tenzin Yangchen's work with the Tibet Oral History Project to record and translate the personal histories of Tibetan elders in Tibetan settlements. (\$6,570) www.tibetoralhistory.org;
- Yosay Wangdi's academic research project constructing a portrait of early Tibetans on the Himalayan frontier. (\$3,150);
- Ju Amnyi Trulchung Rinpoche's art and cultural education project for Tibetan nomads. (\$5,715) www.vistaproject.org; and
- Tsering Yangkey's work with the Tesi Environmental Awareness Movement to set up 50 monastery Eco-TEAMS. (\$6,750) www.ecotibet.org.



*His Holiness presents Wang Lixiong
with the 2009 Light of Truth Award.*

THE LIGHT OF TRUTH AWARDS

His Holiness the Dalai Lama presented the 2009 Light of Truth Awards on behalf of the International Campaign for Tibet to the late Julia Taft and Wang Lixiong at a moving ceremony on October 7, 2009. Each year, since 1996, ICT has bestowed the award upon individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the public understanding of Tibet and the plight of the Tibetan people. Award recipients are selected by the Board of Directors of the International Campaign for Tibet.

In 2009, we honored the late Julia Taft, Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the U.S. State Department in 1999 and an ICT Board Member from 2002 to 2008. Her award was accepted by her husband, William H. Taft IV.

A Light of Truth Award was also presented to Wang Lixiong, a Chinese writer who co-authored and disseminated a petition calling on Chinese authorities to exercise restraint and caution in their response to the wave of protests that swept Tibet in March 2008. He received the award on behalf of all of the signatories to the petition *“Twelve Suggestions for Handling the Tibetan Situation.”*

Also speaking during the ceremony were ICT Board Chair Richard Gere, U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, former U.S. Ambassador to China Winston Lord and former Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues Paula Dobriansky. More than 600 attended the award ceremony, held at the Harman Center for the Arts near Chinatown in Washington, D.C.

ICT would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who made the 2009 Light of Truth Awards possible:

The Arbolito Foundation
Blum Family Foundation
Nancy B. Black
Nadia T. and Maral Caverner
Sandra Esner
Michelle and John Fager
Richard L. Friedman
Olivia Hansen
Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation
Algienne Amrita
Betty and Gary Butterfield
Michelle De Cou-Landberg and Erik Landberg
Michael Klein
Joel McCleary
Nina and Steve Schroeder
Mal Warwick Associates





ICT Director of Communications, Kate Saunders, and former political prisoner Ngawang Sangdrol attend an international press briefing.

COMMUNICATIONS

Tibet led the global news agenda in the weeks and months following the March protests of 2008. While it was more challenging in 2009 to focus news coverage on the crackdown and continuing dissent, our reports were consistently at the forefront of global coverage on Tibet.

While China stepped up measures to block information flow, ICT redoubled its monitoring and reporting work to ensure that the reality of what happened inside Tibet was known so the global community could act.

In 2009, the ICT communications and research team:

- Produced a steady stream of news reports and analyses about protests, arrests, disappearances and continued defiance of Tibetans — often breaking exclusive stories and adding crucial details and nuances to other stories;
- Published a detailed overview of the turbulent political situation in Tibet and its implications one year since the Spring 2008 protests, including analysis on how Chinese policies have provoked the very despair and opposition among Tibetans feared by the Chinese state in its quest for “political stability,” and suggesting specific solutions;
- Highlighted the events and statements surrounding the 50th anniversary of the Lhasa uprising in March and the Dalai Lama’s flight into exile — and provided rebuttal to Chinese propaganda efforts to rewrite this history as liberation rather than occupation;
- Made headlines in Hong Kong when Chinese authorities attempted to block an ICT briefing about Tibet at the Foreign Correspondents Club;

- Published the first English translations of remarkable new writing by Tibetans inside Tibet — banned by the Chinese government;
- Provided a new space for debate on ICT’s redesigned website with an ICT blog, attracting news and views from staff, guest bloggers and experts from the Tibet movement worldwide;
- Created new awareness of the insecure situation of Tibetans in Nepal through the publication of two authoritative reports;
- Produced timely analysis to amplify our advocacy work in Europe and EU institutions and counter increasingly aggressive diplomacy by Beijing;
- Guided news coverage and opened up new audiences through opinion pieces in various European languages throughout Europe and Asia; and
- Created and developed a detailed list of Tibetans detained and sentenced since the spring of 2008.

More than 279,000 people visited www.savetibet.org in 2009 and more than 62,000 people received our regular email updates, event invitations and news on Tibet throughout the year.



IN MEMORIAM

Geshe Tsultim Gyeltsen

ICT founder, Board Member and spiritual director of Thubten Dhargye Ling in Long Beach, California passed away on February 13, 2009 at the age of 85.

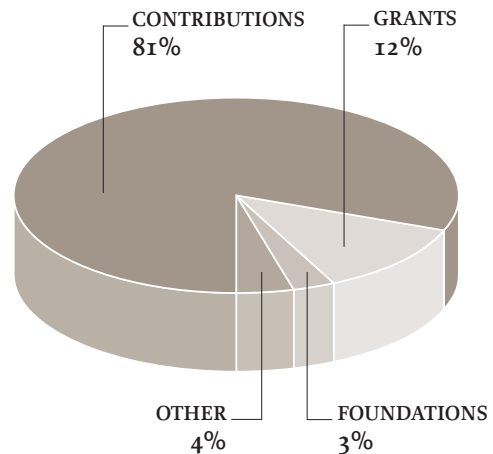
Venerable Geshe served on the ICT Board for 20 years, working with us for the day when all Tibetan Buddhists — within and outside their national borders — could practice their religion openly and freely. The ceremonies that occurred upon his death would have been impossible had this great teacher remained in Tibet — only in exile can Tibetans openly draw comfort, instruction and inspiration from their faith.

We will miss his great compassion, personal warmth and abiding wisdom — and note gratefully his honorable service to the International Campaign for Tibet and the people of Tibet.

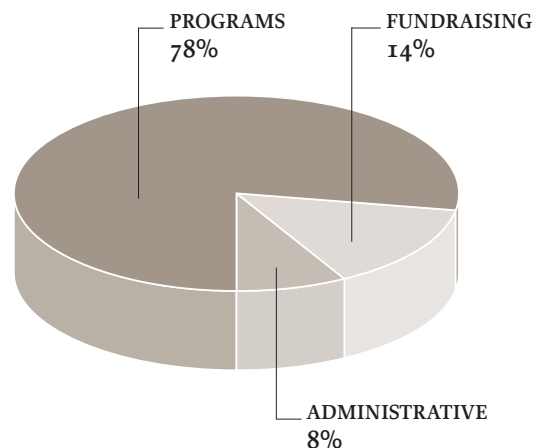
FINANCIAL CONDITION

In 2009, ICT received \$3,975,082 in revenue with expenses of \$4,200,605.

2009 REVENUE



2009 EXPENSES



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ended December 31, 2009

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$757,594
Accounts receivable	32,426
Contributions receivable	3,999
Grant receivable	9,000
Prepaid expenses	104,334
Total current assets	907,353

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET \$2,947,901

OTHER ASSETS

Investments	\$151,654
Deposit	360
Deferred Financing Costs	12,616
Total other assets	164,630

TOTAL ASSETS \$4,019,884

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$102,654
Grants payable	24,500
Amounts held for others	50,966
Note payable, current	–
Current portion of note payable	10,249
Total current liabilities	188,369

NOTE PAYABLE 288,729
Total liabilities 477,098

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted net assets	3,414,661
Temporarily restricted net assets	128,125
Total net assets	3,542,786

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$4,019,884

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended December 31, 2009

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions	\$3,220,435
Grants	462,970
Foundations	125,922
Investment income (loss)	24,052
Other income	114,975
Sales	26,728
Total support and revenue	\$3,975,082

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Human rights	\$1,001,223
Support for dialogue	651,934
Education and awareness	471,234
International operations	118,793
Campaigns	53,732
Government relations	347,177
Media and reporting	252,525
Chinese outreach	323,940
Refugees	55,150
Total program services	3,275,718

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Fundraising	605,858
General and administrative	319,029
Total supporting services	924,887

TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,200,605

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$(225,523)

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR \$3,768,309

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR \$3,542,786



THE MANDALA SOCIETY

The Mandala Society is a group of committed supporters of the International Campaign for Tibet who have included ICT in their legacy plans. Their gifts ensure that ICT will have the resources to promote a negotiated, peaceful resolution for Tibet and to fund programs that provide direct benefits to Tibetans year in and year out. And when Tibetans are afforded the human rights and democratic freedoms they deserve, planned gifts from Mandala Society members will allow ICT to help rebuild Tibet, foster new leadership, and act as a critical link to development and funding agencies. We give our thanks to those who took the generous step and joined the Mandala Society.

Diana Abrashkin, *Lincoln, MA*
John Ackerly and Nina Smith, *Takoma Park, MD*
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*Deceased

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