



Celebrating NYEMA's 10th Anniversary

A Decade of Making a Difference

History of NYEMA

The story of NYEMA begins in Nangchen, eastern Tibet, in 1982, the year Lama Norlha Rinpoche was asked by the leaders of the monastery in which he received his own monastic training to help them rebuild. Korche, like many other monasteries, had been razed during the Cultural Revolution, and reconstructing it was insurmountably difficult without outside help. Lama Norlha Rinpoche made his first visit to Nangchen from his exile in the United States in 1984.

In the years since, he has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for Nangchen residents and to help them restore their cultural heritage. Between 1982 and 1995, he rebuilt Korche Monastery and established a monastery for nuns, a rarity in male-dominated Nangchen, at the sacred site of Kala Rongo. In 1996, Lama Norlha Rinpoche and another Nangchen native, Dr. Pema Dorje, obtained permission to establish a primary school for children who would otherwise have grown up illiterate.

Riding the tidal wave of these successes, Lama Norlha Rinpoche and Dr. Dorje together founded the Nangchen Yushu Educational and Medical Association (NYEMA), a non-profit organization with the mission of establishing schools and medical clinics in Nangchen, reviving its cultural and monastic legacy, and improving the standard of living in this impoverished region.

Since its founding 10 years ago, NYEMA has succeeded admirably in these goals, as the timeline on the following pages illustrates. The next phase of our work will be to help the institutions NYEMA has created to become self-sustaining.

Clearly, none of these remarkable accomplishments could have been achieved without the help of NYEMA's very generous supporters. Once again, on behalf of those people in Nangchen whom all of you are benefiting, "Thank you!"

The most important events leading up to the creation of NYEMA in 1997, listed here in chronological order, serve as testimony to the perseverance of the people of Nangchen, as well as to Lama Norlha Rinpoche's dedication to helping them. A great deal was accomplished in those 15 years:

- 1982** Lama Norlha Rinpoche is asked by leaders of Korche Monastery for assistance.
- 1983** Lama Norlha Rinpoche raises \$20,000 from generous donors to rebuild Korche Monastery.
- 1984** Lama Norlha Rinpoche makes first visit back to Nangchen since his exile.
First retreat begins at Korche Monastery since its rebuilding.
Rare statues of the masters of the Kagyu Golden Rosary Lineage are commissioned for Korche Monastery.
Sangye Tenzin Rinpoche, with Lama Norlha Rinpoche and 150 monks, perform one week of rituals and offerings to bless the land where Kala Rongo Monastery will be built.
- 1990** Kala Rongo Monastery for nuns is established and construction begins.
Korche Monastery's Lama Gyupa organization is founded, with government approval, to support advanced practice of Lamas who have finished three-year retreat.
- 1991** First three-year retreat begins at Kala Rongo – a great accomplishment for nuns in Tibet!
- 1996** Korche Monastery's monastic college is established.
Korche Monastery's second retreat facility is completed and retreat begins.
Lama Norlha Rinpoche and Dr. Pema Dorje obtain permission to establish Yonten Gatsal Ling Primary School.



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Timeline of Events and Accomplishments

1997



NYEMA Projects, Inc. is established.



Over the years, Korche Monastery has been rebuilt from rubble left after its destruction in the late 1950's to a thriving monastery with a monastic college and two three-year retreats.



Kala Rongo has developed into a flourishing monastery of several hundred nuns who have boundless energy for future projects.



17 medical clinics are developed and sponsored by NYEMA in remote areas.

1997



Yonten Gatsal Ling Primary School is established.



51 satellite schools are established by NYEMA Projects in its first few years of operation to teach basic literacy and math skills to nomadic children.

1998



Construction begins on the first of seven stupas to be built: three border stupas in Amdo, two at Kala Rongo, one at Korche and one in the city of Shornda.



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1999



Building of Korche's monastic college in progress.



NYEMA continues to improve Nangchen's basic health care through expanded support of 17 local primary care clinics and health care personnel.

2000



Building of Kala Rongo's monastic college begins.



A new retreat facility at Domka, a small, remote monastery that has been affiliated with Korche since its founding four centuries ago, is completed through the generosity of NYEMA Projects.

2001



40 nuns, all graduates of the first three-year retreat program at Kala Rongo, enter Kala Rongo's monastic college as its first class.



NYEMA continues to support Domka's monastic college.

2002



Solar panels are purchased and distributed to communities in six counties (Nangchen, Yushu and four other neighboring counties).



Solar and generator electricity powers Korche and Kala Rongo Monasteries.



As agreed, local authorities take over the operation of Yonten Gatsal Ling. Now the school is fully run by the government and it continues to be very successful.



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2002



Beginning of the Kala Rongo Medical Clinic.



NYEMA sponsors save many yaks from slaughter. These yaks are cared for by the nuns of Kala Rongo.

2003



Classes for orphaned children from the local area begin in a classroom at Kala Rongo's monastic college.

2003



NYEMA, along with the Gracious Glory Buddhism Foundation and Water for Humanity, provide running water to Korche Monastery.



2004



Completion of five bridges at Korche provides easier access to the main road.



A primary school is established at Kala Rongo Monastery, giving local children an opportunity to learn Tibetan and Chinese languages and math.

2004



A new three-year retreat facility is constructed at Kala Rongo.



Improvements are made to Korche school, raising its status from satellite school to permanent primary school.



Fire devastates Kala Rongo Monastery. Rebuilding begins five months later through the generous support of NYEMA sponsors.



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2005



Kala Rongo receives official government permit confirming its legal status as a monastery for nuns.

2006



Doctors at Kala Rongo's women's clinic train nuns in basic evaluation and treatment of women's health problems.



Plans are underway to purchase Nyungne and Mahakala Houses in Shornda.



Korche shedra monks win the debate competition for Qinghai and Sechuan provinces (27 colleges) for the second consecutive year.

2007



The schools at Korche and Kala Rongo continue to flourish. Many Nangchen students have gone on to pursue higher education. Education officials are impressed by how well-trained and eager these students are, and how well they perform compared to their peers from other areas.



Three statues are purchased for Kala Rongo's shrine hall, the Guru Rinpoche Palace and the Nyungne House.



Construction of the Glorious Copper Colored Mountain Pureland Palace of Guru Rinpoche begins at Kala Rongo.

2007



Nyungne House in Shornda begins.



Construction of new shrine hall at Kala Rongo begins.



Only through the support of our donors has NYEMA been able to accomplish so much within a decade. Although many of our projects are now self-sustaining, others still require our assistance. Please help us to continue our work in Nangchen by supporting Korche and Kala Rongo Monasteries in their quest for self-determination, or by helping us to fund Korche and Kala Rongo schools. We are also in need of donations to keep the Kala Rongo medical clinic open and running smoothly. Once again, thank you for all you have done and continue to do for the people of Nangchen!

NYEMA Projects, Inc. . 247 Sheafe Road . Wappingers Falls, New York 12590 . USA
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NYEMA Projects, Inc. Donation Form

Through investing financial resources, educational or medical supplies, time or skills, you can help the people of Nangchen improve their standard of living and protect their unique cultural heritage. Less than 5% of funding provided by our donors goes to administrative overhead. On behalf of the people of Nangchen, we thank you for your interest in these initiatives.

I would like to contribute to the following:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NYEMA Projects (general) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monastic Initiative (general) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kala Rongo Monastery | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kala Rongo's Shrine Hall | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kala Rongo's Copper Palace | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kala Rongo 3-year Retreat | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kala Rongo Shedra (college) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nyungne House (general) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korche Monastery | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korche Shedra (college) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korche 3-year Retreats | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mahakala House (general) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Initiative (general) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korche School | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kala Rongo School | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Initiative (general) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Initiative (general) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Project | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Housing | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solar Power Project | \$ _____ |

Donation Subtotal: \$ _____

Sponsor practice at Kala Rongo's Nyungne House:

☐ Nyungne ☐ Amitabha

Duration: ☐ \$25 for 1 day ☐ \$50 for 2 days
 ☐ \$250 for 10 days ☐ \$700 for 1 month

Sponsor food at: ☐ Kala Rongo ☐ Korche

Select the meal(s) by circling the amount(s) below.

	Regular day	Chanting day
Tea	\$20	\$20
Lunch	\$100	\$120
All 3 meals	\$160	\$220

Donation Subtotal: \$ _____

Donation Grand Total: \$ _____

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of US law.

NYEMA Projects, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charity.

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Hong Kong SAR government registered charity.

To ensure proper handling, please complete the following:

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Special Instructions/Prayer Requests (if any): _____

Payment Options (Please print clearly.)

☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

In U.S. and all countries except Hong Kong:

Payable to **NYEMA Projects, Inc.** and send to:

NYEMA Projects, Inc., Attention: Donations
247 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590-1103 USA

In Hong Kong only:

Payable to **NYEMA (Hong Kong) Association Limited**. Send to:

A. Michael Bough, Bough & Co. Solicitors
Room 2407, 24th Floor, Nan Fung Tower
173 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong

For your convenience, NYEMA (Hong Kong) Association Limited donations can be wired directly to: DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (SWIFT: DHBKHKHH), A/C 788083955. Bank address: 16th Floor, The Centre, 99 Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong.

☐ Charge US \$ _____ to my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

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Sign: _____ Date: _____

Important note: For your protection, please **DO NOT** e-mail your credit card number. You may send this form by mail or fax to (845) 297-5761. Charges must be sent to NYEMA Projects in Wappingers Falls, New York.