

Build a House

During one of our trips to a village in Kabe-sa, Punakha, VAST came across a family living in a dilapidated hut. Ap Khen and his wife have 4 children between the ages of 4 and 13. The father is currently recovering from Hansen's disease. The mother is living with a terminal burn injury. The family lives on a very small land holding and is solely dependent on forest products and crop sharing for subsistence. With their limited means, they have not been able to send any of the children to school. The family is now one of the beneficiaries of our Rice Project.

Inspired by this meeting, VAST decided to launch a Build-A-House community programme. Ap Khen and his family are the first recipients of this programme.

Build-a-house project is a special project designed and implemented by VAST Bhutan. The mission is to re-educate our young members in a rural setting, and help them get a better understanding of life outside Thimphu. This project will hopefully make our young members realize their potential and importance in our society, and change their attitude towards human suffering.

This will also help them develop a deeper sense of volunteerism, and inculcate the desire to help the needy truly from the heart.



The Build a House Project would not have been realized without the support and generosity from the following donors and volunteers.

Monetary donors

- HRH Ashi Kesang Wangmo Wangchuck - Nu 50,000
- Ms Lisa Napoli USA - \$ 1455 X 47.56 - Nu 69,199.80
- Mr Sangay Wangchuk WAB - Nu 14000
- Li-Ping, Singapore - Nu 7200
- Cindy Singapore - Nu 9000
- Peter Ng, Singapore S \$50/
- Li-ping S \$100/-
- Cindy Ding S \$100/-
- Chua shop fong S \$50/-
- Teng Qianxi S \$50/-
- Leow Soo Leng S \$100/-
- Ong Zhun Yong S \$50/-
- Lam Choy Har S \$50/-
- Goh Ah Heng S \$30/-
- Nicolas Poh S \$50/-
- Yeok Ying S \$50/-
- Aili Teo S \$50/-
- Yap Soo Tin S \$50/-
- Diana Fan S \$50/-
- Amy S \$50/-
- Ivan and Anna S \$50/-
- Jacq S \$50/-
- Tammy S \$100/-
- Jaslyn S \$50/-
- ZhiQiang S \$50/-
- Audrey Poon S \$50/-
- Rose Lee S \$50/-
- Bee Pheng S \$50/-
- Agnes S \$50/-
- Ivy Neo S \$70/-
- Yap Hwee Hoon S \$100/-
- Tan Lay Keng S \$200/-
- Kok Tiong Yun S \$300/-
- Lily, USA - Nu 2500
- Tsering Dolma, USA - \$ 121.25 X 47.56 - Nu 5766.65
- Dillu Giri, Thimphu - Nu 5000
- Phub and Laurance, Thimphu - Nu.1000
- Lopen Lungten, Thimphu - Nu.1000
- Aku and Tshering Om, Thimphu - Nu 1100
- Asha Kama, Thimphu - Nu 3800
- Yannick, Thimphu - Nu 2000
- Tsoki Tenzin and friends, Thimphu - Nu 5025
- Sangay Wangchuks Guest \$ 25 X 47.56 - Nu 1189
- Gunter and Ellen - Nu 5000

Nu - 65600

Total -----
- Nu 2,48,440.45



Donation in Kinds

Ama Bidha and Apa Dorji, Kabisa - Old Windows

Nima Seldon, Thimphu - Old Windows and Doors

Thinley and Karma Yangzom, Thimphu - Old Planks and Cloth

Karma Doma Tshering, Thimphu - Clothes and Utensils

List of Volunteers

Apa Dorji and Ama Bidha, Kabisa

Li-Ping and Cindy, Singapore

Kuenga Zam, VAST Bhutan

Gelay Jamtsho, VAST Bhutan

Rajesh Gurung, VAST Bhutan

Aku Sonam, VAST Bhutan

Tenzin Norbu, VAST Bhutan

Sangay Dorji, VAST Bhutan

Pema Tshering, VAST Bhutan

Sonam Wangchuk, VAST Bhutan

Dorji Wangchuk, VAST Bhutan

Pasang Tobgay, VAST Bhutan

Asha Kama, VAST Bhutan

Garab Dorji, Motithang



Follow up on the Project

Due to the Monsoon some materials are still stuck in Thimphu. The additional work i.e Toilet and the kitchen will be carried out by VAST young volunteers in the fall or this winter.

VAST Bhutan committee members have decided to raise more funds to add to the remaining amount to build a house for Aum Zam and family in Thammi Damchu by the male river valley, Punakha.

Aum Zam's case is even more desperate than Ap Khen's of Kabjisa. She's a single mother raising three children on her own. The eldest girl, Sonam, is mute. She also supports an elderly mother who is suffering from stomach cancer and requires constant attention.

Zam is the only family member capable of doing any work. She struggles daily to keep her family fed which amounts to begging or borrowing from neighbors.

Their only shelter is on the verge of collapse. When it rains the leaks are numerous and there's not a dry spot in the hut. The family resorts to huddling under a plastic sheet to stay dry.

Aum Zam is among six families who received four bags of rice (200kgs) each to tide them through the toughest months in the year. This gift of rice came all the way from Japan donated by Ms. Akiko Ueda.

Next year VAST is hoping to set up the third rice bank for these families through Breaking the Poverty Cycle Project.

“Be part of these projects by donating what ever you can”



Accounts

Expenses incurred for the project " Build a house"

1) Payment made for purchase of materials (Bills/cash memos recorded)

- CGI Sheet and Roofing accessories dated 28/04/09	- 21450
- Nails -vide cm 2707 and cm 3076 16/05/09	- 650
- Food item(Rice/oil) vide cm 1475 and 751/1/05/09	- 4295
- Dry meat and dry fish without cash memos 1/05/09	- 3500

	29,895

2) Payment made for transportation of materials and volunteers.Bills/cash memos recorded

- Fuel for Haice (bus contributed by Asha)	- 2577
- Transportation of CGI and materials from Thimphu to Kabjisa	- 4500
- Transportation of CGI sheet from P/ling to Thimphu	- 850
- Transportation of Stone to the site	- 1800
- Transportaion of CGI sheet and old Timbers to the site	- 750
- Transportation of Timber to site	- 1200

	11,677

3) Payment made for skilled and unskilled Labour Day to Day attendence maintained

- Ap Parop carpenter (29 days @ 300)	- 8700
- Ap Sherma stone Manson (12 days @ 250)	- 3000
- Unskilled Labour (For Total 221 days @200)	- 44200
- Unskilled Labour (For Total 137 days @150)	- 20550
- Timber sizing/ dressing contract for	- 8000
- Overall supervision to Tan Tshering Head Carpenter	- 15000

	99450

Grand Total - 1,41,022

Accounts submitted by Asha Kama

