

# Spring Newsletter 2014

## Come Join Us! "Make a Splash"

### Bringing Running Water to a School on the Tibetan Plateau— A Critical Step for a Critical Cause

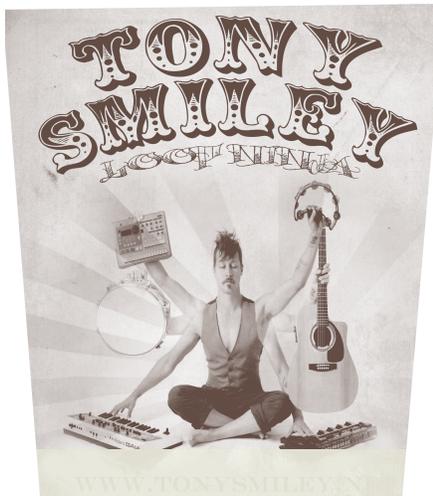
Clean running water is a necessity of life that most of us take for granted. For children living on the Tibetan plateau, it represents a luxury.

Together, we can bring this basic amenity to children studying in Kham in northern Tibet. Education at Elevation will be hosting the **"Make a Splash"** event on **May 17th, 2014**. With entertainment provided by Tony Smiley, the lead musician of "Loop Ninja," a feast of Indo-Tibetan cuisine, and an auction of exquisite blown glass, jewelry, and artwork, Make a Splash promises to be an entertaining evening that will help to raise funds for the High-Elevation Water Project, which will make a real difference in the lives of young students.

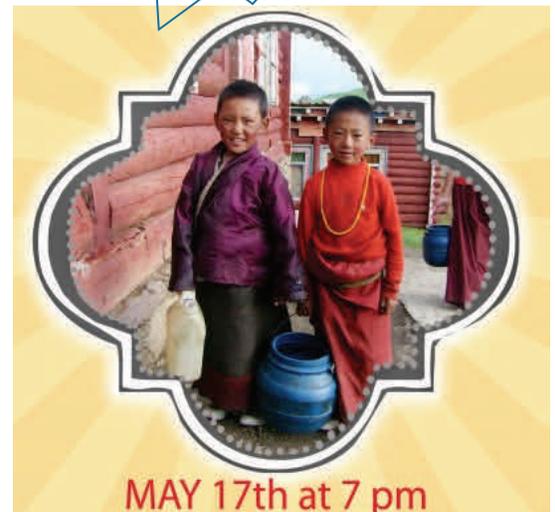
Be sure to visit the website below for more details or to purchase tickets:

[educationatelevation.org/2014/03/26/make-a-splash-event/](http://educationatelevation.org/2014/03/26/make-a-splash-event/)

**Date/Time:** May 17, Saturday 7pm  
**Venue:** OmCulture, 2210 N Pacific St, Seattle



Get a splash card for FREE drink if buy ticket before 5/17



MAY 17th at 7 pm

### Who and What at the event?

- Entertainment by NW artist [Tony Smiley](#)
- Glass Arts by NW glass artists [Robert G. Burch](#), Jon Harvey
- Special Tibetan-India dinner from [Everest Kitchen](#)
- Mouth watering desserts from [Sweet Crumbs Bakery](#)

Education  Elevation

## Attendees Share Their Experience

"At the art auction sponsored by Education at Elevation, I purchased a beautiful black and white photograph of an old Tibetan woman. Her face is weathered by age and by the harsh conditions in which she lives, and the lines in her face are deeply etched. This photograph is a daily notice to me of the tenacity and resilience of the human spirit. I appreciate this reminder of the privileged life I lead, and seeing her picture connects me to her and increases my awareness of the difficult conditions experienced by most of my human family."

*Christine, Seattle*

I think i have been to 4 of your fundraisers and I just love them. They are relaxed, fun affairs in a lovely setting with such nice and fun people.

I always love to hear the story of how your organization began and how Sonam Rinpoche traveled so far and was so dedicated to help all the children back home.

I enjoy meeting new people and having interesting conversations. Of course the lovely, meaningful Tibetan things to bid on are fun, too.

This organization is run very well, you are so sincere and doing something very important. Please keep telling us about it and thank you for the chance to help out. I love to hear your updates.

*Ann, Seattle*

*We read about the event in our neighbor blog two years ago and have been supporters since. Knowing nothing about the organization, we left understanding more about the needs of Tibetan students and got to know the great people behind this small but mighty cause. Plus, we had fun at the auction and went home with mementos of a great and meaningful, evening.*

*Soek, Seattle*

# The High-Elevation Water Project

Imagine the challenges of living without water. Disease, thirst, and hardship are the everyday companions of a lack of running water. Together, we at E@E are working to bring the fruits of years of research to the children and families living on the Tibetan plateau.

## The Problem

Located at an elevation of 14,000 feet, the school experiences harsh conditions in the winter months. In winter, partly exposed pipes freeze and all water must be hand-carried from a smaller spring that is half a mile from the school. Carrying water in subfreezing, uphill, and snowy conditions is strenuous and time-consuming, putting great physical strain on young students. This detracts from their studies and jeopardizes their health.

In winter, the water supply is very limited at the school. Of particular concern is the lack of hygiene that results from a lack of water: respiratory illnesses, such as colds and flu, and gastrointestinal diseases are rampant.

## The Solution

The first step is to bring water to the school without risking the well-being of students and teachers, and to provide it in sufficient quantity. Once this has been done, teachers can begin to promote the importance of regular hand-washing, which will greatly reduce the spread of illness. It will also allow for better cleaning of the school and appropriate removal of waste.

**The Project** E@E has been involved in this project on an ongoing basis, teaming up in 2011 with a hydrologist sponsored by Living Earth Institute (LEI) to conduct a feasibility study for the development of a water system in the area. A second opinion drew upon local knowledge; an expert was recruited who had constructed a similar system at a town not far from the school's location.

After careful analysis of the research, it has been determined that 2300 feet of insulated pipe at a six-foot depth are required. As there is no electricity in the area, the system will depend upon gravity and other sustainable resources, such as solar energy.

Local experts and workers will be hired, improving not only the well-being of the school's students and teachers, but the financial resources of those in the impoverished surrounding community as well.

*Bringing water, health, and hope to the families of the Tibetan Plateau*

## Projected Costs

There are significant costs involved in a project of this scope.

Raw Materials	\$8,300
Excavation	\$6,400
Transportation	\$4,700
Engineering and Labour	\$1,200
Subtotal	\$20,600
Contingency Fund	\$3,090
Total Estimate	\$23,690

*Funds raised to date are \$12,500, or 50% of the total budget.*

*Your contributions make all the difference!*

*For more information, visit:*

[www.educationat-elevation.org/high-elevation-water-project/](http://www.educationat-elevation.org/high-elevation-water-project/)



## Our Very Own Wendy Wong Honored as an "Unsung Hero of Compassion"

On February 23rd, 2014, our own Wendy Wong was among fifty-one men and women from around the world to be honored as an "unsung hero of compassion."

"These individuals have been selected as representatives of the tens of thousands of people worldwide who quietly serve the disenfranchised and work to improve our communities through their personal efforts," comments Dick Grace, founder of Grace Family Foundation and board chair of **Wisdom in Action** the organization hosting the unique celebration at San Francisco at Ritz Carlton. "We don't see them or hear about them in the daily news, but they exemplify a humanism and heroism to which we must each aspire."

We're all extremely proud of Wendy, and we take inspiration from her drive to give back to the community. Her love and dedication provided the impetus for the creation of an organization that now provides education, clothing, food and shelter to so many young men and women.

A sincere congratulations, Wendy!



**Check out Wendy's story at:**

<http://newunsungheroes.org/2014-event/2014-unsung-heroes-of-compassion/wendy-wong/>

## Konga's Recovery!

We have wonderful news about Konga, a fifteen-year-old E@E graduate and volunteer. We now know that his leg can be saved from amputation. Konga had a fall in December 2013 which injured his foot. Due to lack of medical care and poor hygiene, his condition worsened, and after one month, he was told that he needed a leg amputation by five hospitals.

The costs for Konga's care have been very generously covered by the Sonam Rinpoche, his students, who donated money at the hospital in Chengdu. E@E has donated \$ 3,500 in March 2014. Konga has a few additional weeks of treatment to undergo, but the prognosis is very positive, and we're all so happy for him!



# 2013 Bake-Sale Drive a Sweet Success!



Together we raised \$10,832.00! We have surpassed our goal to provide food for eight months and new sleeping pads for each student and teacher. The kids are able to focus on their studies with full stomachs and clean, warm bedding to sleep on each night.

**Tashi Delek**, a Tibetan greeting from the kids that means “auspicious, well-being, and peace” (top characters). **Thank You** in Mandarin (bottom characters).

## ***Thank You From Our Hearts to Yours!***

Thank you to so many of you showing your generousities. Special Thank You to generous families of Ehrlich, Jobrack, Ng, Scott, Shieu and Wey families! Also big thank you also goes to Jenny for donating the Oolong teas from Taiwan, Ferocious Love ([www.ferociouslove.com](http://www.ferociouslove.com)) for making the silk infinity scarves, and the fifteen karma-cookie baking volunteers. Together we made a difference!



# A Look at February Highlights

## Meditation and Teaching of Vajrasattva

Tulku **Sonam Rinpoche**, E@E spiritual advisor was in Seattle for two weeks in February. Sonam Rinpoche, born in Tibet, was bestowed the title of *Khenpo*, which is similar to a doctorate in Buddhist philosophy. Sonam Rinpoche has been recognized as the reincarnation of Adzom Losel Rinpoche, a highly accomplished Nyingma Vajra master. We were very fortunate to have an opportunity, this past February, to study with Sonam Rinpoche. **Thank you Yoon and Kathy** for hosting the following events at **Yoon's Yoga!**



*By Sonam Rinpoche*

Meditation and Teaching of Vajrasattva on Feb 11, 2014

Blessing Puja on February 13, 2014

*Everyone can benefit from blessings and purification, and pujas are wonderful opportunities for us to create positive energy. We were honored to host Sonam Rinpoche, who performed a special Blessing Puja at Yoon's Yoga.*



## Spring Newsletter 2014

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Thank You so Much, team!

**Mission:** To provide a home and education opportunity for needy Tibetan children and seniors in Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (Eastern Tibet), China.

The project is initiated by **Sonam Rinpoche**, a native Tibetan, who was recognized as the reincarnation of Ahzom Losel Rinpoche by H.H. Dordrubchan Rinpoche.

Rinpoche has earned the title “Khenpo”, which is equivalent to a Ph. D in Buddhism, after 18 years of Buddhism philosophy studies in Tibet and India.

To read more on Sonam Rinpoche, the school progress or how you can help, please go to our web site

[www.educationatelevation.org](http://www.educationatelevation.org)

For questions, please email

[info@educationatelevation.org](mailto:info@educationatelevation.org)

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