

December 17, 2004

Dear Kapadia Education Foundation Board Member:

Happy Holidays! It has been a few months since we have communicated as a board, although I have talked to each of you about the Foundation individually over those months. Given below is an update and some exciting news:

Here's the update on our sponsored students:

Like Moon:

Steve Glick and Diana Felber are going to the Far East next week to watch their son Gabriel get married in Japan. Realizing how close Japan is to Vietnam, they have decided to tour Vietnam and if possible, visit their student, Like Moon, in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Over the past 18 months, Diana has been sponsoring Like Moon with the fees for tuition, room and board. Diana and Like Moon have both been rewarded by the close relationship that has developed between them, through the highs and lows of Like Moon's college career to date. Just as important as Diana's \$500/year support is the constant encouragement she gives Like Moon. I have read some of their emails to each other and it shows that mentoring is a critical part of the sponsorship. If they do get a chance to visit with Like Moon, Steve and Diana will have exceeded all expectations I could have had from a sponsor. I'm sure Steve and Diana will have some wonderful stories to tell us, and I'll be sure to include them in our next communication, and on the website. On behalf of the entire board I wish Steve and Diana a great trip and congratulations on the marriage of their son.

Tung:

Tung is alive and well and living in HCM City. After graduating from college 18 months ago, Tung has found a job working for a company making rubber balls and other toys. He keeps busy playing soccer and dreaming about getting a masters degree when he can afford it. Knowing English and French is a very big asset for Tung, and he hopes that as Vietnam gets more incorporated in international trade, his language skills will help his career. Tung sends me an email monthly, always thanking the Foundation for the great start to his career.

Miheer:

Miheer, as you know, is not only a graduate but also on the board. After going back to Mumbai, Miheer studied for several months for his entrance exams for graduate school. He scored an astonishing 97.3% in the exam, and was one of only 17 students (out of 6,000 applicants) selected by the famous Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Mumbai. Miheer hopes to graduate in 2006 with a Masters Degree in Engineering Design. Great job, Miheer!

Now here's the exciting news:

We have two new student candidates! Dan Cohen has been discussing the Foundation with people in the Tibetan community in the US, and to the Office of Tibet in New York in particular. Last week, the Office of Tibet forwarded two applications for sponsorship. The applicants are both young women, refugees from Tibet living in Dharamsala, India, and are already enrolled in college programs in Delhi.

Chemi Wangmo is 20 years old and has been studying to be a teacher at the Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, for the past year. She wants to be a journalist someday so that she can, in her words, "hope to do something for my country and my fellow Tibetan brothers & sisters". Chemi was matched with sponsors from Ojai, CA. They are Joan Peters and her husband, Peter Pacell. Joan is a professor of English at Cal State, and Peter is a renown economist and former journalist. I have copies of the application forms from Dan Cohen, via the Office of Tibet, which I will scan and email to all of you within the next week, for your review. I will also send a brief bio of Joan and Peter. If you have any objections or suggestions, please let me know; if not, I will welcome Joan and Peter as our newest sponsors by January 1, 2005.

The other Tibetan student is Tenzin Yangzom. She is 19 years old, also living in Dharamsala, and has also started her college career last year. She attends the Miranda House College, University of Delhi, and is studying to be a teacher so that she can go back to the school that educated her in Dharamsala. We do not have a sponsor selected yet for Tenzin, so if you know any potential candidates, please let me know.

I will visit Dharamsala and/or Delhi in February, 2005 (Maybe with Miheer) to see how both our new students are doing.

I want to thank Dan Cohen for finding us Chemi and Tenzin, two deserving student candidates. If any of you have ideas about how we can get more student candidates or sponsors, please let me know. We have friends actively looking in Thailand, Tanzania, India and Vietnam; but it would be great to see more developing countries represented,

and it is always better if we know someone who we can trust who knows someone they that can trust to find suitable student candidates. I also want to thank Hank Bonney for keeping the website updated and posting the case studies for Like Moon and Tung. If you haven't been to the website recently, visit it at www.kapadiaef.org.