



**SACHEN FOUNDATION**

2019

ANNUAL REPORT





## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Dharma Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of Sachen Foundation I would like to convey to you *tashi delek* and warm greetings.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for your continued support of Sachen Foundation. With your generosity and continued support, we have successfully met our 2019 goals. Furthermore, I'm delighted to report that all the activities of Sachen Foundation are progressing splendidly.

In the past year, we have increased the Sachen Fund thereby assisting us to continue implementing our important works, aspirations, and expanding our pool of beneficiaries. In addition, we have launched the Sachen Archive Initiative, an archive arm of the foundation charged with preserving and archiving the precious teachings and translations of prayers, *sadhanas*, etc. in multiple languages within our lineage. I continue to be proud of the accomplishments under the leadership of Sachen Foundation, through whose efforts have helped over 500 monks and nuns gain access to a Dharmic and secular education.

We cherish your generosity—from which none of this could be possible—and look forward to expanding the successes of our shared vision in the future.

May the blessings of our Root Guru and Triple Gem always be with you and with those both near and far.

Ratna Vajra Sakya  
The 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin  
Chairman of Sachen Foundation



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I reflect back on 2019, different emotions flow through my heart. Who would have thought 2020 to be such a tumultuous year: starting with the global pandemic, then the explosion of unrest and conflict as a result of racial and economic inequality, and now unimaginable destruction caused by fires and floods resulting from the climate change. The quarantine this year really helped me to reflect and bring perspective towards gratitude, collective karma, and individual obligations.

I am grateful for all the collective efforts and activities we were able to carry out in 2019. We continue to learn and grow as a small and young foundation team. In 2019, our main focus was to grow the unrestricted Sachen Fund to two million dollars as seed money to provide stability in distributing future annual grants. In 2019, a donor advised charity fund generously offered to match dollar-for-dollar all 2019 donations to Sachen Foundation up to one million dollars! Thanks to the momentum generated by this very charitable matching grant challenge, Dharma friends and organizations from 14 different countries and 16 different U.S. states responded with generous donations to help us maximize

this matching grant. Our team members also had the opportunity to follow His Holiness the 42nd Sakya Trizin on His 2019 tour from New York, to Minnesota, and finally, for some, to Taiwan. This provided members a unique opportunity to receive not only Dharma teachings, but also to promote Sachen Foundation, assist in fundraising activities, and attend the annual board meeting.

Accountability to our donors as to how Sachen Foundation manages donations, gives grants in accordance with Sachen Foundations' missions, and how grantees use Sachen Foundation grants according to the grant agreements are of utmost importance to us. In February 2020, we engaged Isabel Pedrosa of Gesar Capital Management to manage the unrestricted Sachen Fund accordant with Sachen Foundation's investment policy. Ms. Pedrosa has many years of experience managing funds for Buddhist foundations and we have established a wonderful working relationship. We also engaged a reputable independent certified public accounting firm for our first audit of Sachen Foundation's 2019 financial statements – the results are included in this annual report. Annually, Sachen Foundation's Grants Committee conduct a thorough internal audit for adequacy and grant compliance based on the grantees' submitted grant reports. For a small team, it's a challenge to have division of responsibilities for internal control comparable to a big organization; but, we try our best to have at least three team members working together to provide oversight in our banking, investment, accounting, and granting procedures.

In 2020, during quarantine, we also turned our Sachen Foundation activities inwards. We established Sachen Archive Initiative, working collectively with our Sakya Family of centers and organizations to archive precious teachings and translations of both Sutrayana and Vajrayana. We already started making available openly and freely a library of Mahayana teachings and prayer books on Sachen Foundation's website. In the future, we hope to make available to Sakya Centers and affiliated translators Vajrayana texts and materials to aid in the preparation of empowerments and translation endeavors.

This summer, we took advantage of summer break for teachers and assembled the Children's Dharma Education Curriculum team. Looking at the increasing challenges, conflicts, and uncertainties domestically and globally, we feel obligated to the next generation to pass on the teachings of Dharma to promote individual ethics, social emotional learning, critical thinking, and to cultivate empathy, loving kindness, and compassion. The team started drafting lesson plans for ages 5-8 years old that focus on developing understanding of virtuous actions from body, speech, and mind for oneself and others. His Holiness the 42nd Sakya Trizin also advised the team on the importance of incorporating interdependence of one's actions and the environment from the Buddha's teachings into the Children's Dharma Education Curriculum. There is still a lot of work to be done to make this online curriculum available for Buddhist centers, teachers, and parents, but we had a wonderful and auspicious start this summer!

To close, I want to express my gratitude for the guidance of His Holiness the 42nd Sakya Trizin, the supportive teamwork of our all-volunteer team, and the encouragement and aspirations of our generous donors. I'm very humbled to play a role in bringing these collective aspirations and efforts together for the continued growth of the Sachen Foundation in fulfilling its missions of supporting Dharma Education, publication, and archiving.

Silvia Yueh

President of Sachen Foundation







# MONASTIC SUPPORT



*Sachen Foundation works with Sakya monasteries in India & abroad to empower and improve the lives of monks and nuns through the power of education.*



**Upper Photo:** Young monks at Kalimpong Sakya Monastery **Middle Photo:** Sakya Nuns in puja; **Bottom Photo:** Kalimpong Monastery Class II students doing classwork.

**M**onastics devote their lives to upholding the noble teachings of the Lord Buddha through study, contemplation, and performing rituals. The monastic community also plays a vital role for the lay Buddhist community and general public by providing teachings, transmission, and guidance. To ensure the future of monasticism, Sachen Foundation has created the Sachen Fund to support the education of monks and nuns.

## Institutional Support

Sachen Foundation awarded \$68,000 in educational grants to four monastic institutions—Sakya Centre Education Department, Sakya Nunnery, Sakya Academy and Kalimpong Sakya Monastery—which benefitted 446 monks and 41 nuns.

## Monastic Support Highlights



446

monks provided  
religious & secular  
educational support.



41

nuns provided  
modern & traditional  
educational support to  
help in their Dharma  
studies & practice.



\$68,000

put towards  
supporting the  
education and well-  
being of the Sangha.

Most grant recipients utilized the grant money towards the hiring of school teachers in order to improve the quality and breadth of education. The traditional monastic institutions taught rituals and/or Buddhist philosophy to those entering the monasteries and nunneries. In this present day where technology and society have evolved a great deal, the monastic institutions also need to revamp their curriculum, incorporating additional subjects to better educate the monastics to ensure they stay relevant to the modern societies.

An example is the Kalimpong Sakya Monastery. Since its inception, parents and guardians have brought boys to the monastery to be enrolled as novice monks. Currently the monastery has around 110 student monks—96 monk students are in Sapan School and 14 monk students are in the monastery's Shedra program.

The Sapan School teaches Buddhist ritual education and basic education with regular school subjects including English, Tibetan language studies, Mathematics, Science and Buddhist studies. The basic education complements the ritual learning so that

the monks could relate to the secular population in order to help the lay devotees. The Shedra program teaches on foundational and higher Buddhist philosophy to monks so that their Buddhist training is grounded in logic and reasoning.

Director Ven. Sonam Tashi expressed:

*“Through the support of Sachen Foundation, we can witness many difference in our monastery. Some students like Kunga Wangchen (class 8) and Ngawang Lodro (class 8) presented great speeches during the speech competition on last day of our summer retreat. Such activities were not known to our monastery before until we recruited and started formal education. We think these training are especially beneficial to building oratorical skills and confidence in our young monks as they will be the next generation of Dharma teachers and leaders who will provide support and guidance to the lay devotees.*

*Also we are able to start computer classes. We are also glad to keep fresh and friendly environment through help of good teachers like keeping our surrounding clean with waste management methods and teaching healthy games to young monks.”*

We are happy to see the educational reforms at these institutions which will result in better trained monastics and ensure that the Buddha Dharma will thrive in the future for a long time to come.

# Melody of Dharma

✧ What is the Sakya Tradition?  
A teaching by H.H. Gongma Trichen Rinpoche

✧ Remembering Great Masters –  
Guru Rinpoche

✧ The Holy Lamdre in Walden, NY

✧ 26<sup>th</sup> Sakya Monlam in Bodh  
Gaya



*A Publication of the Office of Sakya Dolma Phodrang  
Dedicated to the Dharma Activities of*

**HIS HOLINESS SAKYA GONGMA TRICHEN RINPOCHE  
AND HIS NOBLE FAMILY**

# EDUCATION & PUBLICATION



*Transforming lives through Dharma  
education and publication.*



Dharma materials for children and youth



**Photo:** *Dharma sprouts*, a 2019 beneficiary of the Sachen Foundation.

In order to nurture and develop the next generation of Buddhists, it is vital to provide children with a basic Buddhist education. Sachen Foundation supports the development of children's curriculum and lesson plans that Buddhist centers, schools, and parents can use. Additionally, we believe in making the dharma accessible to all especially through electronic mediums, that is why the foundation continues to support various publication projects aligned with His Holiness' vision. Furthermore, Sachen Foundation anticipates in the future to help practitioners through various means of support in the form of scholarships for aspiring and future translators, retreatants, and students engaged in advanced Buddhist studies.

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## Publication & Educational Highlights

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16

book publications  
sponsored, edited,  
printed, and/or  
distributed.



26

articles of dharma  
sponsored &  
published.



\$23,663

put towards  
supporting Dharma  
publications.

*All figures are cumulative  
per annum(2018-2019)*

## Dharma Sprouts

Tsechen Kunchab Ling launched the Dharma Sprouts website which allows parents and teachers to easily find Dharma materials for children and youth. In this day and age, the messages contained in these materials not only provide the Buddhist perspective, which can influence a young person's development, but they can also help children and teens deal with psychological and social problems, such as anxiety and accepting change in their lives.

Dharma Sprouts indexes and catalogs a variety of English and Chinese Dharma materials, including books, songs, videos, and apps. Go to [www.dharmasprouts.org](http://www.dharmasprouts.org) to begin your search and discover great Dharma content for your children!

## Publications and Distributions

Sharing the dharma and the sage teachings of our holy Sakya masters with students around the world is paramount to our vision. Whether it be through articles via Melody of Dharma magazine or through books published by Sakya temples Sachen Foundation is ready to assist. As Julia L., one of Sachen Foundation's recurring donors, expressed



regarding our publication efforts,

*'[Sachen Foundation] is doing a wonderful job serving as a platform for those who would like to know more about the practices of Tibetan Buddhism.'*

In 2019 grants were provided for the printing and distribution of booklets of the teachings of His Holiness the 41<sup>st</sup> Sakya Trichen, to disciples from around the world. During the June 2019 Vajrapani and Vajrayogini teachings at Tsechen Kunchab Ling, thirteen booklets by His Holiness the 41<sup>st</sup> Sakya Trichen and two booklets by His Holiness the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin were distributed to 245 students traveling from 23 different countries. Furthermore, these and other booklets by the Sakya Masters are available to download online, free of charge via the Tsechen Kunchab Ling website: [www.sakyatemple.org/online-teachings-search/](http://www.sakyatemple.org/online-teachings-search/)

Over 12 existing Tsechen Kunchab Ling titles were distributed under the grant such as: *Buddhist Ethics; The Four Noble Truths; Great Sakya Women; Preliminary Practices and Their Importance; Principles of Tantra; Stages of Bardo; The Value of Retreat; Basic Teachings of the Sakya Tradition; Sakya Lineage in Historical Context; Finding Happiness in Difficult Times; and Buddhism and Family.*

Along with three new titles edited, printed, and distributed: *Global Ecology; Overcoming Anger & Obstacles; and Meditating in the City.*

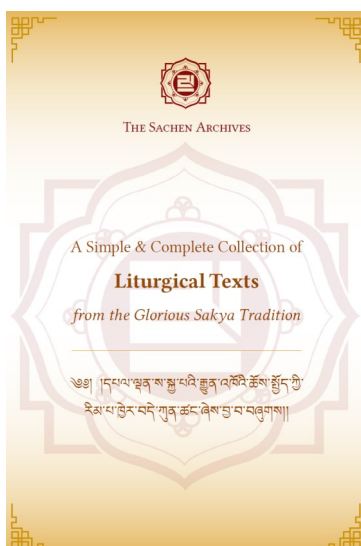
As well as His Holiness the 41<sup>st</sup> Sakya Trichen's new book published by Wisdom Publication, *Freeing the Heart & Mind Part II: Chogyal Phagpa on the Buddhist Path.*



# PRESERVATION



*Sachen Foundation is committed to the archiving,  
publishing, and translation of Sakya teachings, prayers,  
and practice texts for future generations.*



**Photo:** Sachen Foundation prayer book cover page.

The precious teachings of the Lord Buddha, various Sakya masters, and masters of different traditions are the authentic sources of Dharma that we rely on. It is the wish of His Holiness the 42nd Sakya Trizin to collect, preserve, translate, and publish many of the rare texts that are in danger of being lost. This supports lay practitioners and centers through the publication of practice texts and teachings. It also preserves for future generations, the teachings of contemporary masters in different types of media.

## Sachen Archive Initiative

In early 2019 His Holiness authorized the creation of an archiving and textual preservation

arm within Sachen Foundation with a special emphasis on preserving/archiving translated texts affiliated with Sakya Order. Additionally, it was at this time that His Holiness sanctioned the creation of the prayer book '*A Simple & Complete Collection of Liturgical Texts From the Glorious Sakya Tradition*', which was published in June 2020.

Though not publicly launched in 2019, the members of the Sachen Archive Initiative (SAI) diligently worked behind the scenes in cataloging and reaching out to early participant centers for translated texts both new and old, in circulation, and those on the cusp of being lost. During this period they laid out the framework for the soon to be published prayer book.

Still in its infancy, SAI in collaboration with its network of Sakya temples, centers, and partners is working on preserving and archiving the precious teachings and translations of the Sutrayana and Vajrayana. For the benefit of practitioners non-Vajrayana related texts, practices, prayers, etc. will be made freely available for download.

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## Sachen Archive Initiative Highlights

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120

unique Mahayana  
texts published on the  
SAI website.



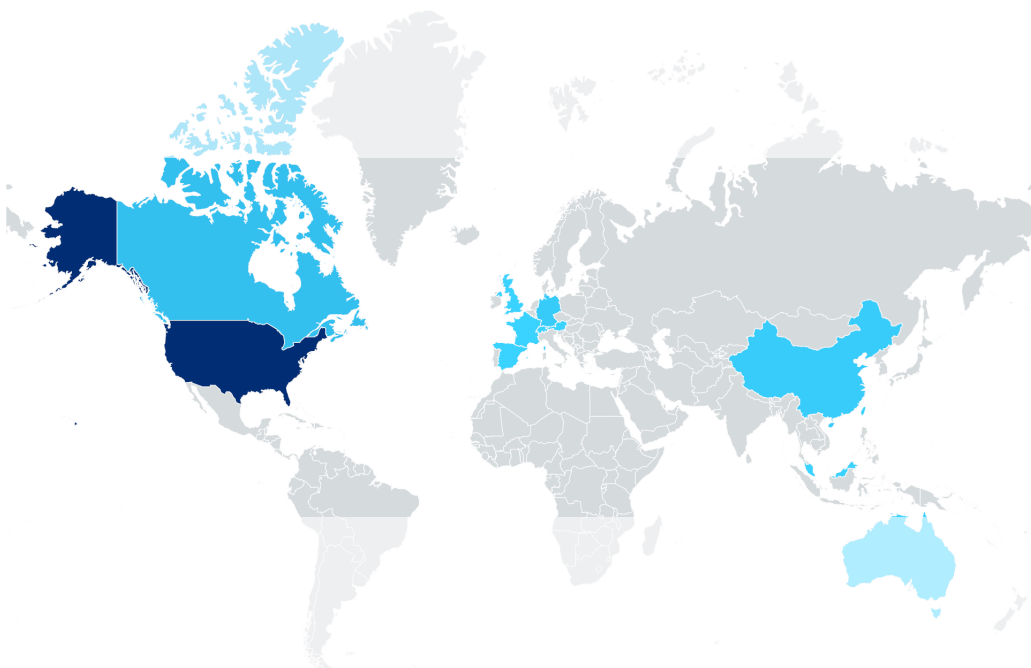
300+

Vajrayana sadhanas  
and commentarial  
texts cataloged.

# FINANCIALS



2019 was a productive year for Sachen Foundation. Five grantees were selected and provided funding for publication and educational support; donors and donations continued to increase from the prior year; the foundation oversaw two successful fundraisers in Taiwan and NY, USA; and the foundation was the beneficiary of a \$1 million-dollar matching grant!



## Contributions

With donations from nearly 140 individuals from 14 different countries from around the world we are humbled by the continuing support, growth, and diversity of our donors. As one of our donors recently wrote to us expressing his gratitude



and rationale for donating to Sachen Foundation,

*I feel very fortunate to donate to Sachen Foundation and help them reach their goals. The operation of Sachen Foundation gives support to the monasteries and sangha members. As Buddhist we all know the benefit of making offerings and the accumulation of merits and I feel happy to be a donor of Sachen Foundation and urge all dharma friends to join this aspiration. We should treasure the chance that H.H. provides us to gain merits and dedicate those merits for all sentient beings to attain Buddhahood as soon as possible!"*

## Investment Strategy

The foundation's investment strategy is vital to the growth and success of the foundation to carry out its core objectives. In 2019 Sachen Foundation approved and hired Gesar Capital Management to manage its investment portfolio. Gesar Capital Management is a Registered Investment Advisor under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940 based in Los Angeles, California that assists private clients and foundations. The Foundation's Finance Planning and Investment Committee works closely with Gesar Capital Management to determine investment strategy for the portfolio.

Assets are invested in a manner consistent with guidelines set out by the Committee and reviewed by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Broad objectives of the Foundation include preserving capital with potential for capital growth that is moderate risk. Investments shall be diversified so as to minimize the risk of large losses.



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## Donation & Financial Highlights

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\$169

The average 2019 charitable giving amount per donor.



88.4%

program efficiency —  
88¢ of every dollar  
spent goes to our  
charitable programs.



\$144,303

of donations have  
been distributed to  
benefit the flourishing  
of the Buddhadharma.

*Distributed funds are  
cumulative (2018-2019)*

The long-term goal is to build an investment portfolio that will generate sufficient income to support the Foundation's grant-making activities.

### Financial and Grantee Audits

The board's vision to carry out a yearly financial audit materialized with the conclusion of the foundation's first ever financial audit in September 2020. The 2019 financial statement audit received an unqualified opinion and was conducted by Smith, Schafer & Associates, Ltd.

Additionally, each grantee was subjected to an internal audit & review by the Grant's Committee to ensure proper expenditure of funds received.

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Sachen Foundation believes the bedrock of our financial health and success lies in good governance, transparency, and the trust of our donors. We strive to honor these commitments and will continue working diligently to ensure the financial success of the foundation with the aim and aspiration to benefit as many lives as possible.

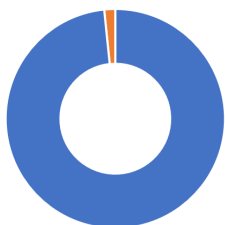
# SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Sachen Foundation operating funds originate from two revenue streams: contributions by donors and investment income. Total contributions and investment income for calendar year 2019 were \$2,000,598. Total expenditures including grants to charities were \$111,620. Net assets as of December 31, 2019 were \$2,974,666.

## Calendar Year 2019

Net Assets: \$2,974,666



## Support

Contributions	\$1,968,117	98%
Investments	\$32,481	2%

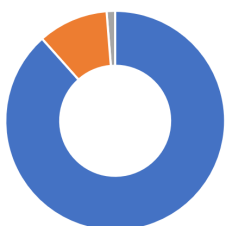
Total: \$2,000,598



## Contributions

NPO & CF	\$1,228,256	62%
Bus. & Ind.	\$739,861	38%

Total: \$1,968,117



## Functional Expenses

Programmatic	\$98,673	88%
G&A	\$11,547	10%
Fundraising	\$1,400	1%

Total: \$111,620

For the complete audited financial statements of the Sachen Foundation please contact [info@sachenfoundation.org](mailto:info@sachenfoundation.org).



## THANKING OUR GENEROUS DONORS



**T**hank you to all our supporters who donated to the Sachen Fund in 2019 and helped us meet the million-dollar matching fund challenge! Your donations have contributed towards the vision and the many projects supported by Sachen Foundation hence touching and improving the spiritual and material welfare of so many. At Sachen Foundation we believe no amount is too small, and every donation counts.

Sachen Foundation also extends its appreciation and gratitude to the **Pi family** for their continuous and generous support; including, their recommendation of the 1 million-dollar matching grant from **BNY Mellon Charitable Gift Fund**.

Please share the Foundation's information with your friends and family; together, we'll continue carrying out the wishes and collective aspirations of His Holiness the 42nd Sakya Trizin, the Sachen Foundation Team, and of generous donors like you to transform lives and communities through Dharma education and publication.

*Drops of water can accumulate into an ocean. . .*

*- His Holiness the 41<sup>st</sup> Sakya Trichen*

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For the privacy of our donors we have opted not to disclose individuals nor their respective contributions within this year's annual report.



# SACHEN FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP



## Board of Directors

His Holiness the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin, Ratna Vajra Rinpoche  
*Chairman*

Her Eminence Sakya Jetsün Chimey Luding Rinpoche  
*Founder of Sakya Foundation*

Silvia Yueh  
*President & Acting Treasurer\**

Jay Goldberg  
*Vice President*

Anne Moore  
*Secretary*

Ani Wangmo  
*Board Member*

Connie Kassor  
*Board Member*

Jamyang Losel  
*Board Member*

Judy Ma  
*Board Member*

Laetitia Sonami  
*Board Member*

Ngawang Jungney  
*Board Member*

Sissy Pi  
*Board Member*

Stephanie Tan  
*Board Member*

## Sachen Foundation Teams

### ***Grants Committee***

His Holiness the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya  
Trizin, Ratna Vajra Rinpoche  
*Chair*

Anne Moore

Jin Yeo

Judy Ma

Silvia Yueh

### ***Finance Planning and Investment Committee***

Silvia Yueh  
*Chair*

Stephanie Tan

Sissy Pi

Howard Pi

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***Donation Relations  
Committee***

Sissy Pi  
*Chair*

Ani Wangmo

Ngawang Jungney

***Communications  
Committee\****

Jamyang Losel  
*Chair*

Ngawang Jungney

Mandy Zhang

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***Sachen Archive Initiative***

Jay Goldberg  
*Chair*

Jamyang Losel

Jin Yeo

Alvaro Pereto

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***Children's Dharma  
Education Curriculum***

Connie Kassor  
*Chair*

Ani Samten

Christa Tinari

Sam Ryan

Tiffany Pi

Emily Yueh

Chandra Yueh

Kate Thomas

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***Website/Publications***

Mandy Zhang  
*Coordinator*

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\*We thank former board member Vivian Ma, former Treasurer Vicky Tee, and former Communications Chair Judy Ma for their tenure in their respective positions and for their continued support.



## GLOSSARY & NOTES



**Contributions**—financial contributions from a. nonprofits including charity funds (i.e. NPO & CF); and b. individuals and businesses (i.e. Bus. & Ind.).

**Functional expenses**—expenses in the form of a. program services including grants to charities (i.e. Programmatic); b. General and administrative (i.e. G&A); and c. Fundraising.

**Unqualified opinion**—an independent auditor's judgment that a company's financial records and statements are fairly and appropriately presented.

**Donor-advised charitable fund**—a charitable giving account designed to invest, grow, and give assets to charities for meaningful and lasting impact.

**Note (1)**—All listed publications under the Tsechen Kunchab Ling grant are teachings by His Holiness the 41<sup>st</sup> Sakya Trichen with the exception of *Finding Happiness in Difficult Times* and *Buddhism and Family* which are teachings by His Holiness the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin.

# ABOUT THE SACHEN FOUNDATION



## **Mission Statement**

Preserving the Lord Buddha's Teachings through Studies, Practice & Education.

## **Vision**

Guided by the belief that every human life is precious with unlimited potential, Sachen Foundation works to support the collective aspirations of our spiritual teachers and generous donors, to help transform lives and communities through Dharma education and publication.

## **Connect with Sachen Foundation**

To learn more or to find out how you can support Sachen Foundation visit [SachenFoundation.org](http://SachenFoundation.org), follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SachenFoundation](https://facebook.com/SachenFoundation), Instagram at [@Sachen\\_Foundation](https://www.instagram.com/Sachen_Foundation), or email us at [info@sachenfoundation.org](mailto:info@sachenfoundation.org).

## **This report was produced by the Sachen Foundation Communications Committee**

Jamyang Losel  
*Chair*

Ngawang Jungney

Mandy Zhang

**With special assistance from:** Silvia Yueh, Judy Ma & Jin Yeoh

## **Photography Credits**

All photos are property of the Sachen Foundation unless otherwise noted. **Cover:** '*Annual Exam of Sakya Centre Monks*'; **Pg 1:** '*Kalimpong Sakya Monastery—Class VI*': Courtesy of Kalimpong Sakya Monastery; **Pg 5:** '*Melody of Dharma, Issue No. 18, Cover*': Courtesy of Melody of Dharma; **Pg 9:** '*Pechas*': Photography by Ani Jhampa Nyima; **Pg 12:** '*Sachen Foundation Donor Map*'; **Pg 16:** '*Vaishnavana (Buddhist Protector)—Guardian King*': Courtesy of Himalayan Art Resources, Item No. 24467, Private Collection; **Back:** '*Generous Hands*': Photography by Nathan Yueh



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