



# Sachen Foundation



*2021 Annual Report*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings to you, I hope this annual report finds you and your family well. As the world continues to be affected by the pandemic, we are grateful for the availability of effective vaccines in many countries, the emergence of milder variants of SARS-CoV-2, and the accessibility of technology to help us adapt to the changes of an ever-interconnected and fast-changing world.

At Sachen Foundation, we focused on developing an online Dharma curriculum in 2021, to make it easier to share Dharma with Dharma centers and the public. Thanks to our team of dedicated volunteers and participating overseas Sakya Centers, we rolled out the first video teaching series of “A Garland of Jewels” by His Holiness the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin Ratna Vajra Rinpoche, through Sachen Foundation’s “Thus Have I Heard” program. The vision of the “Thus Have I Heard” program is to develop a systematic Dharma education curriculum, taught by His Holiness the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin, and make it available to the public in different languages. “A Garland of Jewels” is the first of these teaching series and has subtitles in English, Chinese, German, Dutch, and French. It is currently available to the public

on Sachen Foundation’s Teachable platform.

In 2021, Sachen Foundation also soft-launched the *Early Elementary Children’s Dharma Curriculum* to select Dharma centers and Dharma friends, with the main purpose of gathering feedback and incorporating it into the website and content. The following year, on March 26, 2022, as we celebrated the birth anniversary of Sakya Pandita—a formidable scholar and forefather of the Sakya tradition—Sachen Foundation formally launched the first of our Children’s Dharma Education Curriculum courses—the Early Elementary Dharma Program for kindergarten through elementary-aged students. The curriculum has age-appropriate content focusing on Buddhist values, explores themes in everyday life, and includes prayers and meditation practice in each lesson’s framework. It gives students a beginning understanding of mindfulness and Buddhist practice. The Early Elementary Dharma Program is the first of three new modules being developed by Sachen Foundation’s Children’s Dharma Education Curriculum team. The team is currently working on an Upper Elementary Dharma Program, and the Young Adult Dharma Program will be forthcoming.

As the world continues to evolve with the advancement of technology in how we do things and access information, Sachen Foundation continues to look for ways to make Dharma education accessible to people who are seeking it. Another immediate objective is to connect to people who might find Dharma education helpful and answer their questions or provide

the tools to tame emotions or anxieties during this challenging time.

I am grateful for the continued financial support of our encouraging donors and the dedication of Sachen Foundation's team of volunteers. As always, we are open to hearing your suggestions and feedback.

With Gratitude in the Dharma,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Silvia Yueh', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Silvia Yueh  
President of Sachen Foundation



# MONASTIC SUPPORT

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

**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, transmissions, and guidance. To ensure the future of monasticism, Sachen Foundation has created the Sachen Fund to support the education of these precious monks and nuns.

## **Institutional Support**

Sachen Foundation awarded \$65,198 in education grants to four monastic institutions: Sakya Centre, Sakya Nunnery, Kalimpong Sakya Monastery, and Pema Ts'al Sakya Monastic Institute. These grants benefited 475 monks and 41 nuns. The grants helped to ensure the financial stability of these monastic institutions: to retain qualified full-time teachers, establish a new computer lab, and allow students to continue their studies without additional disruption from the ongoing pandemic.

Similar to the previous year, 2021 was marked by heightened uncertainty as waves of COVID swept across the globe. The Delta variant of COVID-19 hit India in late

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## Monastic Support Highlights

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1,386

monks provided  
religious & secular  
educational support.



159

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



\$203,198

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

April 2021 and lasted for more than three months. While most of the grantee institutions were closed to the public, the Delta wave severely impacted the resident students and staff at Sakya Centre. More than half of Sakya Centre contracted the virus in May, and all classes and activities were suspended as a result. Sadly, there was one fatal outcome—a senior monk who held major teaching responsibilities in the education department. He contracted COVID-19 and passed away from the side effects.

After the outbreak ran its course, Sakya Centre managed to resume classes in August, where the students continued with their studies and activities. On August 17, the Annual Vajrakilaya Grand Puja was initiated with ground blessing rituals along with the Vajrakilaya Root Cham performance. This year's puja was a historic milestone for the Sakyapa lineage, as Her Eminence Jetsunma Kunga Thinley Palter, the eldest daughter of His Holiness the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin, was the first female of the Sakya Order to have participated in the Root Cham. She performed alongside her Father and the monks of Sakya Centre, with His Holiness the

Sakya Gongma Trichen Rinpoche presiding over the puja.

The grant recipients used most of the grant money towards paying teachers' salaries and providing food and basic necessities for the students. However, at Pema Ts'al Sakya Monastic Institute in Nepal, the majority of their grant was used to create a new computer lab so that the college-level students could learn Tibetan language typing, for writing their own compositions and for other



publication purposes, like inputting rare Buddhist texts. Ten new Dell laptops, a photocopier, and a projector were purchased for the lab.

Before the 2021 grant from Sachen Foundation, the students at Pema Ts'al did not have any computer classes to attend, and only a few had prior knowledge of how to type in Tibetan. Now, computer classes have been scheduled three times a week, with each class lasting a





total of 45 minutes. In addition to Tibetan typing, the students are also being taught basic computer skills and are making great progress. Furthermore, the lab is being used for receiving online Buddhist teachings, initiations, and attending online classes from spiritual and non-spiritual gurus.

As the world learns to live with COVID, monastic institutions are also adapting. Until in-person gatherings with outside visitors are able to safely resume, technology is helping to bridge the gap with online teachings, transmissions, and initiations. More computer skills are being integrated into the curriculum. The Sachen Foundation grants continued to help provide a quality Dharma education fit for today's changing world.

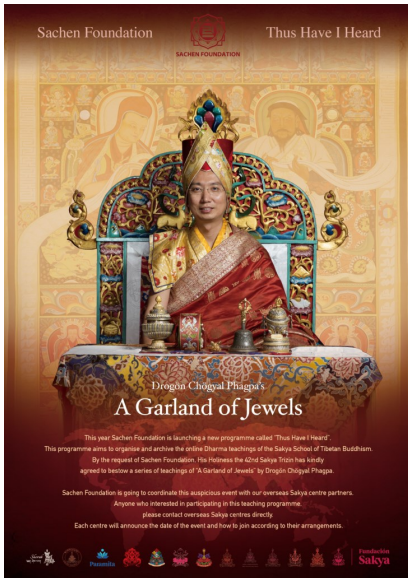


Smile  
happy looks good

WORKWEAR  
GARY JONES CO  
Leather Goods  
19  
MFG  
STANFORD

# PUBLICATION & EDUCATION

*Transforming lives through Dharma  
education and publication.*



Sachen Foundation believes in making the Dharma accessible to all, especially through online media, which allows students from around the world to instantly share and access the Buddha's teachings. This year was especially exciting for online dharma curriculum development, particularly for Sachen Foundation's *Thus Have I Heard* series and the launch of the *Early Elementary*

*Dharma Program* by the foundation's Children's Dharma Education Program team.

## Thus Have I Heard

*A Garland of Jewels* by Chögyal Phagpa with commentary by His Holiness the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin was published online, in its entirety, for students unable to attend a hosted teaching with one of our partner dharma centers. Thanks to the dedication of various translators the teachings have now been subtitled in Chinese, French, German, and Dutch, with more languages on the way! New teachings are coming

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## Publication & Educational Highlights

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58

Publications and/or  
articles sponsored,  
printed, and/or  
published.



54

Online teachings,  
lectures, & study  
courses published.



\$686,254

granted to supporting  
Dharma publications  
& education.

soon and we can't wait to share with you of what is to come.

### Children's Dharma Education Curriculum

On the auspicious birth of the great Sakya scholar and master Sakya Pandita, Sachen Foundation officially launched the first of our Children's Dharma Education Curriculum courses: the Early Elementary Dharma Program! Under the direction of His Holiness the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin, Sachen Foundation is working to build an online digital platform where all children have the tools to live a happy and purposeful life and as compassionate and responsible citizens in this evolving and interconnected world.

The Early Elementary Dharma Program is the first of three Children's Dharma Education Curriculums, with an Upper Elementary Dharma Program and Young Adult Dharma Program forthcoming. The purpose of the Early Elementary Dharma Program is to provide kindergarten through elementary-aged students with age-appropriate content focusing on Buddhist values, which will contribute to the child's growth as both a healthy

individual and community member. While much of the lesson content explores themes in everyday life, the inclusion of prayers and meditation practice in each lesson's framework gives students a beginning understanding of mindfulness and Buddhist practice.



We designed the program as a supplemental resource for Dharma centers, educational organizations, or any members of the public interested in providing a Dharma Education to children. Guided by the belief that every human being has unlimited potential, Dharma Education teaches the skills and

mindsets rooted in Buddha's teaching, "Perform every possible virtuous deed, refrain from non-virtuous deeds, and tame one's mind."

These precious teachings are available free of charge on Teachable, a user-friendly online educational platform the Foundation is using to bring Dharma courses directly to you. If you haven't already, [sign up today](#) and have access to Dharma programs designed for self-paced use at your convenience. Enjoy your learning!



# ARCHIVING FOR THE FUTURE

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

**A**rchiving, translating, and publishing the holy Dharma is the Sachen Archive Initiative's lifeblood with a focus on the publication of prayers, practice texts, and commentaries. Our niche contribution towards the preservation and distribution of the Buddhadharma and our unique Sakya-pa tradition, in particular, are paramount.

By the recitation of prayers we accumulate merit and generate the aspiration to achieve the excellent qualities of awakening, thereby planting the seeds of future attainment. In order to actualize what we have learned and contemplated it is essential for us to practice the authentic teachings. By studying the commentaries of learned masters the prayers we recite become more clear and profound; and, like a lamp dispels the darkness, similarly, they clear away doubt, enhance our learning, and improve our practice. This particular void in the current translation, publication, and scholarship of these texts propels us into action.

The efforts of Sachen Archive Initiative and the foundation's grant-making activities are dedicated to preserving and making accessible these precious resources

through both traditional and modern mediums. Continue reading below for more information!

### Institutional Grants

Sachen Foundation awarded a grant to The Sakya Tradition, a volunteer-based non-profit dedicated to archiving, translating, and promoting the teachings of contemporary Sakya masters—with emphasis on those teachings by their Holinesses the 41<sup>st</sup> Sakya Trichen and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin. The grant helped sponsor a long-term, multi-phased project, with the purpose of collecting the teachings in audio, video, and written formats in multiple languages; digitization of cassettes and video tapes; and the development of a comprehensive online catalog.

Project funding helps support collecting materials for the digital publication, archiving, and promotion of The Sakya Tradition. All of the teachings are made freely available for online viewing and download at [sakyatradition.org](http://sakyatradition.org).

A new grant in 2021 was awarded to The Amazing Treasury Translation Project to support the English

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## Sachen Archive Initiative Highlights

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199

Unique Mahayana texts published in the SAI Archive.



800+

Vajrayana sadhanas and commentarial texts cataloged.




\$13,772

Granted/commissioned in support of the preservation and archival of the precious Dharma.

*All figures are cumulative per annum (2018-2021)*





translation of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Tibetan text, *The Amazing Precious Treasury Fulfilling all Wishes*, by Jamgön Amé Zhab Ngawang Kunga Sönam (1597-1660). This complicated text describes major religious and intellectual movements that helped shape not only the Sakya lineage, but also Tibetan Buddhism in general. Of the five chapters in the text, the team is translating chapters 1 to 3, and part of chapter 4, which will be published as Volume 1 of a two-volume series.

Translating this important text will allow the global community of practitioners to benefit from the precious knowledge contained within. Also, through thorough annotations, references, and other notes, the translation will help researchers and students of Buddhist culture and history find additional information about the early centuries of the Sakya tradition, its founders, and influential lamas of the lineage.

The translated manuscript is scheduled to be completed in July 2022 and will be published by Wisdom Publications. More information on this important and exciting translation will be shared with our supporters and friends in the coming weeks.

### **Sachen Archive Initiative**

The Sachen Archive Initiative (SAI) is committed to helping connect practitioners and students with Sakya affiliated resources and the translated prayers, texts, etc. associated with our lineage. In 2021 our

team completed its phase 1 goal which was to build the foundation, organization, and initial catalog of the Mahayana archive. Though we will continue to research, collect, and expand the archive we have shifted our focus to phase 2 and 3. Phase 2 is the commissioning of previous untranslated liturgical texts, paramitayana rituals, etc. associated with our Sakya tradition. In this cycle we commissioned 12 original translations over half of which we anticipate to be published periodically throughout 2022. SAI anticipates commissioning an additional cohort of 6+ translations for the current cycle with publications scheduled for 2023.

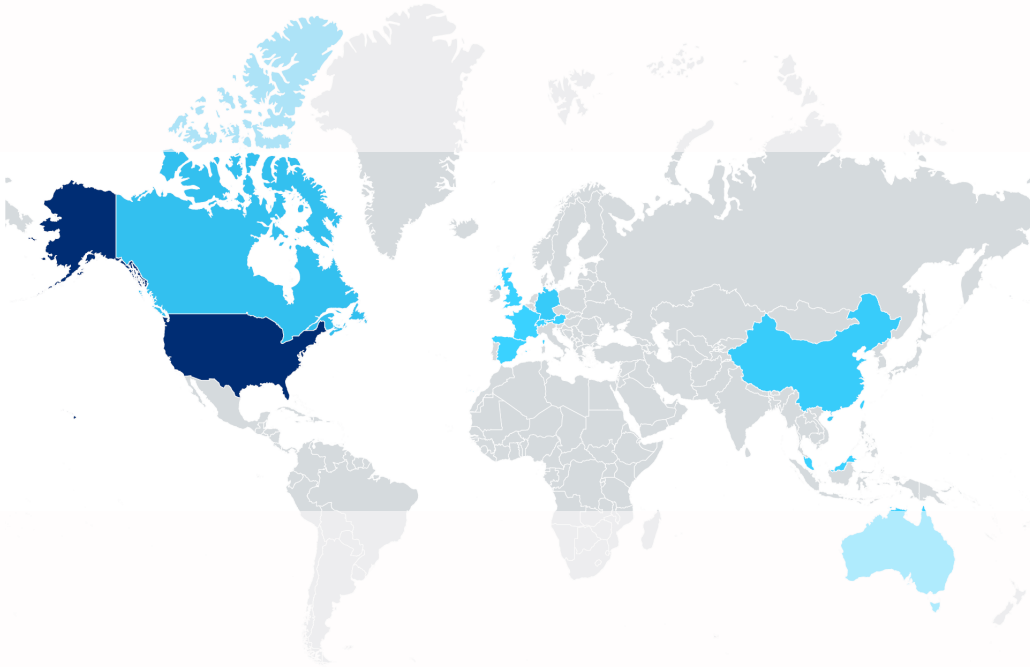
Last year we wrote briefly regarding our aspirations to establish a Vajrayana archive for centers and translators to assist our dharma friends around the globe in the preparation of empowerments, initiations, and new sadhana translations. This endeavor comprises our phase 3. Though we have a plethora of texts at our disposal we face a surmountable archival and technological challenge to make this readily available to Sakya institutions and translators. We are pleased to accept this challenge and look forward to establishing a beta environment in the coming year.

Now go explore the archive and resources at the [Sachen Archive Initiative](#) and don't forget to [sign-up for our newsletter](#) to keep informed of new translations and publications coming soon.

# INVESTMENTS & FINANCIALS

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2021 continued to be a challenging year for many of our friends and grantees around the world. In spite of economies reopening around the world, hardships endured due to the emergence of variants and the uncertainties they presented. Nonetheless, the work of the Sachen Foundation continued thanks to the commitment and selfless generosity of our donors and team members.



Though our external fundraising activities remained inert, the foundation proved resilient in the capacity to offer grants and develop new programs, translations, and teachings.

## Contributions

Compared to the previous year, the foundation continued to see a decrease in total dollar donations as a result of the emergence of COVID-19 variants and the continued uncertainty in economic environments. Although total donor contributions decreased, the overall frequency of donations increased by 23% year-over-year (YOY). In addition, the foundation's returning donor rate increased by 31% with 64% of our donors classified as annual recurring. In light of the continued global circumstances and uncertainties that persisted in 2021, the Foundation is proud of these statistics and is deeply grateful for the continuing support, encouragement, and diversity of our donors.

## Other Grants

The balance of the Board Restricted Funds was completely distributed in 2021. Following the recommendation of Her Eminence Sakya Jetsun Chimey Luding Rinpoche, one grant was given to Sakya Dechen Ling, and another to the Jetsun Sakya Foundation as an endowment for buildings or activities related to Buddhist Dharma education.

## Investment Summary

2021 was a year of economic recovery and healthy stock market gains. The U.S. economy's ability to adapt to the pandemic, the rollout of vaccines, the passing of additional fiscal stimulus, and easy monetary policy all supported strong U.S. equity returns. Overseas equity markets lagged well behind the U.S. largely due to limited economic stimulus and greater supply and demand dislocations.

The bond market, however, for the first time in many years

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## Donation & Financial Highlights

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\$41

The average 2021  
charitable giving  
amount per donation.



98.1%

program efficiency —  
~98¢ of every dollar  
spent goes to our  
charitable programs.



\$1,017,995

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

*Distributed funds are  
cumulative (2018-2021)*

had a negative total return because of fears of inflation pushing the U.S. Federal Reserve to taper down bond-buying and increase short-term interest rates. In 2021 consumer demand strengthened much faster than the supply of goods or the labor pool which resulted in a substantial uptick in inflation.

The Foundation's actively managed investment portfolio increased from \$2.2 million to \$2.5 million during calendar year 2021. The growth resulted from positive investment returns and an additional \$100,000 of donation funds added to the investment portfolio. The total portfolio returned 9% in 2021 with equities up 18%, options 8%, and bonds 0.7%. As of December 31, 2021, the portfolio asset allocation included 33% in fixed income, 46% in equities, and 21% in cash.

The Foundation's focus will remain on long-term investments in high-quality companies within a diversified portfolio. With markets expected to experience periods of elevated volatility in 2022, we need to remain disciplined and patient. Further, we continue to see enduring benefits of

diversification and flexibility. In that regard, having some cash reserve in the portfolio will help control volatility in the portfolio while also allowing us to take advantage of investment opportunities.

### **Financial Review & Grantee Audits**

In line with the Board's commitment towards transparency, an independent financial review was conducted by Smith, Schafer & Associates, Ltd for the 2021 fiscal year. Per the reviews, the accountants concluded that they "are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

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

The trust of our donors is the cornerstone governing Sachen Foundation's belief in financial transparency and accountability. The work committed behind the scenes ensures the financial health and integrity of the foundation. To that end, we will continue honoring our fiduciary responsibility and diligent efforts in ensuring the financial success of the foundation.

# 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 2021 were \$268,589. Total expenditures including grants to charities were \$735,518. Net assets as of December 31, 2021 were \$2,738,047.



## Calendar Year 2021

Net Assets: \$2,738,047

### Support

Contributions	\$78,263	29%
Investments	\$190,326	71%

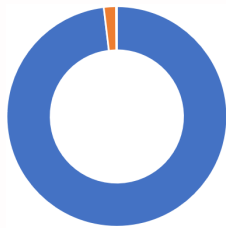
Total: \$268,589



### Contributions

NPO & CF	\$18,407	24%
Bus. & Ind.	\$59,856	76%

Total: \$78,263



### Functional Expenses

Programmatic	\$735,518	98%
G&A	\$13,454	2%
Fundraising	\$805	<1%

Total: \$749,777

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





# THANKING OUR GENEROUS DONORS



**T**o our friends and donors thank you! All the Dharma activities supported and accomplished by Sachen Foundation could not and cannot be completed without your generous support. Furthermore, we want to let you know that His Holiness the 42<sup>nd</sup> Sakya Trizin, Ratna Vajra Rinpoche had kindly arranged a special puja dedicated for all Sachen Foundation sponsors and supporters.

As we all know, in order to attain Buddhahood, one must complete both the accumulation of merit and wisdom. An offering to the Three Jewels with the right motivation is an excellent way to accumulate merits. Your donation creates opportunities to provide Dharma education to the monastic sangha and lay practitioners; grants to publish Dharma books and translate unique texts; and also, a means to accumulate great merits for oneself. Through such virtuous deeds, one accomplishes the two types of benefits for oneself and for others.

We are incredibly happy to have you accompany us on this path of noble activities. We hope we can continue to work together on preserving and passing on the Buddha's holy Dharma. With sincere gratitude, thank you, and may the blessings of the Guru and Triple Gem be with you now and always.

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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*

Stephanie Tan  
*Board Member*

Sissy Pi  
*Board Member*

Xiaoyang (Mandy) Zhang  
*Board Member*

Ngawang Jungney  
*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

Connie Kassor

### *Finance Planning and Investment Committee*

Silvia Yueh  
*Chair*

Stephanie Tan

Sissy Pi

***Donation Relations  
Committee***

Sissy Pi  
*Chair*

Ani Wangmo

***Communications  
Committee\****

Jamyang Losel  
*Chair*

Xiaoyang (Mandy) Zhang  
Linda Yeh

***Sachen Archive Initiative***

Jay Goldberg  
*Chair*

Jamyang Losel

Jin Yeo

Alvaro Pereto

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

Connie Kassor  
*Chair*

Christa Tinari

Sam Ryan

Tiffany Pi

Emily Yueh

Chandra Yueh

Kate Thomas

Tenzin Kalsang

***Website/Publications***

Xiaoyang (Mandy) Zhang  
*Coordinator*

***"Thus Have I Heard"***

Ngawang Jungney  
*Chair*

Linda Yeh

Discover more about our Board and Team Members by visiting our pages: [Board of Directors](#) & [Sachen Foundation Team](#).

# 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.

# 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://@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

Mandy Zhang

Linda Yeh

*Chair*

**With special assistance from:** Silvia Yueh, Judy Ma, Connie Kassor, and Stephanie Tan.

## **Photography Credits**

All photos are property of the Sachen Foundation unless otherwise noted. **Cover:** Yueh, Nathan; **Pg 1:** Courtesy of Pema Ts'al Monastic Institute; **Pgs 4-6:** Courtesy of Kalimpong Sakya Monastery; **Pg 10:** Delgado, Chris. 15 May 2017. *Pixabay*, <https://pixabay.com/photos/buddhism-religion-buddha-meditation-2314739/>; **Pg 13:** Mortel, Richard. '*Sakya Library*'. Flickr, [https://www.flickr.com/photos/prof\\_richard/41925221940/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/prof_richard/41925221940/). License: CC BY 2.0; **Pg 20:** Courtesy of Himalayan Art Resources, Item No. 50808, Collection: Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts; **Back:** Yueh, Nathan. '*Giving Water in Desert*'.



[WWW.SACHINFUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.SACHINFUNDATION.ORG)