

# BOULDER-LHASA SISTER CITY PROJECT

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## Donglang Family 2020

In 2017, BLSCP learned about a Tibetan family in Kham in need of assistance for two daughters. They live in Xiangyang Village, Donglang Township, Muli County, Liangshan Prefecture, (SW) Sichuan Province.

In 2017, BLSCP raised \$30,976 to provide an MRI brain scan for 56 Tibetan primary school students whose blood had tested positive for cysticercosis (potential parasitic brain cysts). This Student MRI Project was conducted in Xichang on 20-22 October 2017 in collaboration with Dr. Li Tiaoying, Sichuan Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Chengdu, to help the students from Shuiluo Township, Muli County. In addition to the 44 students who were available to be tested, we tested Lhosang Drolkar, a 19-year-old Tibetan woman from Donglang Township, whose blood had tested very positive for cysticercosis. Many years before she had lost the vision in her left eye and also started suffering from headaches.

Lhosang's MRI brain scan showed many cysts and severe hydrocephalus. **Dr. Li concluded that she urgently needed ventriculoperitoneal (VP) shunt brain surgery, the same surgery that BLSCP provided for Lhungtse in 2013.** The other BLSCP Directors agreed with my recommendation that we use our project surplus of \$9,707 toward the costs of the surgery. This surplus amount is similar to the total hospital costs for Lhungtse's surgery. Lhosang was admitted to Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital in Chengdu on 27 October 2017. On November 6, Lhosang's brain surgery was successfully performed by Lhungtse's neurosurgeon, Dr. Liao. Later we learned that the surgery had caused her headaches to disappear and improved the vision in her right eye enough that she could read again.

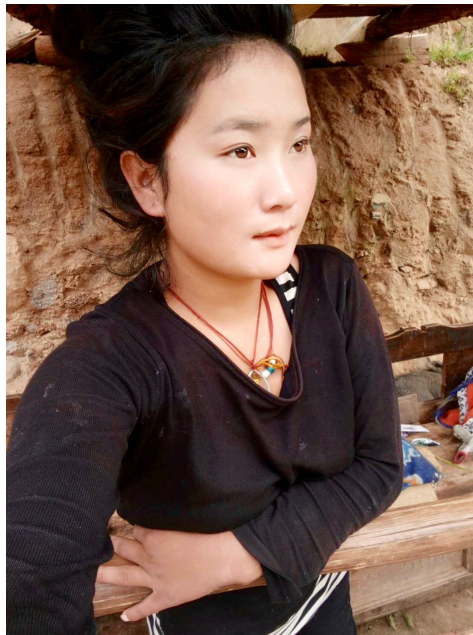


Lhosang Drolkar in 2016



Lhosang recovering from brain surgery

Lhosang's family could not afford the cost of her surgery because of expenses for **Lhosang's older sister, Tsering Youdon, who had become paralyzed below her waist in 2014.** Tsering had volunteered to help a neighbor construct a new building. Apparently during the construction of the foundation, soil collapsed onto her and caused a severe spinal injury.



**Tsering Youdon before her spinal injury**



**Tsering in 2019 receiving physical therapy from Mrs. Yang, Donglang Township Clinic**

In April 2018, BLSCP received a generous donation to be used for helping Tsering & her family. In early 2020, Dr. Li learned from Mrs. Yang, Donglang Township Clinic, that the family needed warm clothing for the cold winter temperatures. Then **the BLSCP donation supported the parents to shop for several items.** In October 2020, Dr. Li learned from Mrs. Yang that Tsering needed a new supply of a medicine that has successfully promoted healing of her very serious, long-term bedsores. Then **the BLSCP donation supported the purchase of five bottles of the medicine and ten packets of cotton swabs.**

Via WeChat and a translation service, I am able to communicate with Tsering from time to time. She recently informed me that the improvement in Lhosang's eyesight allows her to help her mother with various household chores.



**Parents of Lhosang & Tsering shopped for winter clothing in January 2020.**



**Tsering's bedsores medicine**



On October 30, Dr. Li informed me that she was traveling to Donglang Township to work on an outbreak of parasitic tapeworm diseases in the primary school. On November 7, she visited the home of the Donglang family and sent me the following photo. The baby is the 3-month-old daughter of Bima, the youngest daughter. Lhosang has not suffered from any seizures after her brain surgery in 2017. Tsering's wheelchair was a gift around two years ago from Dr. Li and Mr. Chen Xingwang, her technician. The family is happy and was very hospitable to Dr. Li.



**Donglang family (left to right): father, Bima, mother, Tsering (holding Bima's baby), Lhosang, mother's younger sister**

Bill Warnock, President  
14 November 2020