

BOULDER-LHASA SISTER CITY PROJECT

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Lhungtse's Checkup & Medicine 26-30 October 2023

In 2013, BLSCP raised \$19,000 to fund brain surgery for Lhungtse, whose eyesight was destroyed in 2005 at age 11 by neurocysticercosis (NCC), a parasitic brain disease. The brain surgery did not restore any of her eyesight but did relieve many of her other symptoms. For the past ten years, BLSCP has funded her expenses for medical checkups and medicines. Here's the timeline of events for 2023:

- 10-26 Tenpa drove Lhungtse & her mother (Ama la) from their home in Yajiang to Chengdu.
- 10-27 Lhungtse fasted before her blood was drawn during the morning. Then Lhungtse's MRI brain scan was performed. Lhungtse's blood test results were received later.
- 10-28 & 29 Lhungtse's MRI brain scan results were received. Ama la shopped for items that are either more expensive or unavailable in Yajiang or Kangding.
- 10-30 **Dr. Zeng met in the afternoon with Lhungtse, Ama la, & Tenpa and reported good MRI brain scan and blood test results.** Tenpa returned Lhungtse & Ama la to their home in the evening.

Dr. Zeng provided this prognosis: (1) **Lhungtse's condition is stable**, (2) she should continue taking the same doses of her two anti-epileptic medicines (Oxcarbazepine: one 300-mg tablet, three times each day; and Clonazepam: 1 mg each night before bedtime), and (3) she should return after one year for another checkup if no new medical issues arise.

For Lhungtse's medical tests, Tenpa again chose AVIC 363 Hospital in the Wuhou District, where Chengdu's main Tibetan population is located. The waiting times there for the test results are reasonable. While in Chengdu, Lhungtse, Ama la, & Tenpa were able to enjoy some restaurant foods that are not available in their hometown areas.



On October 29, Dr. Li Tiaoying treated Lhungtse, Ama la, & Tenpa to dinner. In 2010, Dr. Li diagnosed Lhungtse to have neurocysticercosis (NCC).



On October 30, Dr. Zeng examined Lhungtse in her office at Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital.



A family montage of Ama la, Lhungtse (taken in 2013), and Lhungtse's brother, Khulu

- Thanks to 14 different compassionate donors, we were able to pay for all of the expenses, which totaled 19,332.6 RMB. This amount is equivalent to \$2,644.68 at our exchange rate of 7.31 RMB/\$.
- Tenpa did an excellent job of arranging and managing Lhungtse's checkup.
- The spreadsheet below itemizes the actual 2023 expenses:

Actual Costs for Lhungtse's Checkup & Medicine - October 2023			
	Item	Cost	Total
Travel	Vehicle	1,200 RMB/day	1,200*5=6,000 RMB
	Petrol	300 RMB/fill	300*2=600 RMB
	Toll fees	150 RMB/toll	150*2=300 RMB
	Hotels	250 RMB/room/night	250*2*4=2,000 RMB
	Meals	400 RMB/day	400*5=2,000 RMB
	Guide fees	500 RMB/day	500*5=2,500 RMB
AVIC 363 Hospital	MRI scan, blood tests, etc.		1,055.4 RMB
Pharmacy	Oxcarbazepine (7 cartons)	158 RMB/carton	158*7=1,106 RMB
	Oxcarbazepine (future)		3,556.2 RMB
	Clonazepam (7 cartons)	10.04 RMB/carton	10.04*7=70.28 RMB
	Clonazepam (future)		144.72 RMB
Total			19,332.6 RMB