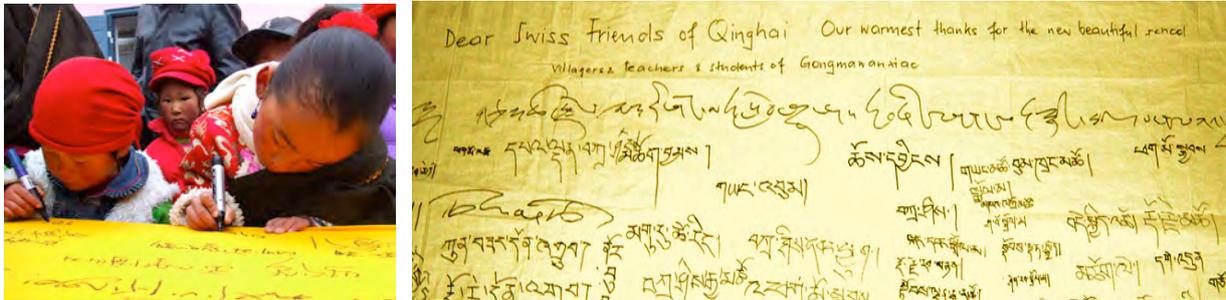


Dear donors

This is to also express once again our warmest thanks for the continued and generous support you lend so kindly to the schools built through the foundation *Amici di Qinghai*. Furthermore, we would like to inform you about our activities in the last twelve months and the plans for 2009.

As we all know, most endeavors worth doing are to be done in a teamwork. Your schools are no exception. You as donors, the local partners and a few people in between are of equal importance for the final results. If anybody in the chain is missing, the continuation of building primary schools in Qinghai's remote areas would be at risk.



There is not one single school where the children are not genuinely grateful from the bottom of their heart for the new building that protects them from the harsh nature. You helped realizing something that really matters to the people concerned. A new building, often the only solid construction in the village, means much improved learning conditions and attracts qualified teachers (because they get a one room living quarter, a luxury in the region). Attending classes regularly helps the children to get a better understanding of the fast changes that are taking place all over China and that are reaching also the remote areas of Qinghai. Solid education enables them coping emotionally with such an evolution and avoiding to become culturally uprooted.

The Governor and Party Secretary of Qinghai, too, have expressed their high appreciation of your generosity in a reception for the *Amici di Qinghai* on December 5 in the province's capital. The monks of the *Gerongte* Temple and of *Gasari* organized Long Life Ceremonies on May 17 and September 19 for all the donors and their families.



## 1. 2008 (December 17, 2007\* to December 31, 2008)

Your generous donations in the last business year enabled the *Amici di Qinghai* to select, finance, supervise and inaugurate the construction of seven new primary schools in Qinghai, including the extension (dormitory) of Nisantang.

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\* Date of registration of the foundation *Amici di Qinghai* in the commercial register of Switzerland

**Nisantang III (Zeku):** To meet the demand of the fast growing number of students, The *Swiss Friends* and the *Swiss Society Beijing SSB* financed a two storey dormitory with a surface of 400 m<sup>2</sup> and 20 rooms, while the district Government sponsored a canteen. The now significantly enlarged school complex of Nisantang (Tobgen in Tibetan) will be able to receive up to 300 students. The school is being called “jewel” of Zeku, because of its modern buildings, modern equipment (PCs) and excellent performance (top five of the region’s primary schools).



**Saiwang (Zeku):** The new two floor school is the sole solid material building in this vast nomad place. Up to 70 students will soon attend classes from an area up to 15 km from the school. The old school will be transformed into living quarters for the teachers by the district authorities. Nomads, teachers and students are very proud of their new school and expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Firmenich family of Geneva. The outside paint will be made in late spring next year, when the weather will allow to do so. The temperature went down to a “cool” minus 10° in the afternoon of the opening day.



**Yanglai (Jianzha):** The budget has been fully covered by the Zurich-based auditing company Treureva. Villagers, students, teachers and authorities expressed their deep gratitude for the construction of this solid two storey building, which is the first kind of such a quality in the village and its surroundings. The TREUREVA school has hence solved the village’s bottleneck in education, as the new building can easily receive up to 100 students in the years to come.



**Laiyü** (Jianzha): Three young people from Zurich-Switzerland pledged to mobilize money to finance the construction of a new school building for the almost 50 children in Laiyü, a mountain farmers' village located at 3200 m on a small plateau overlooking the valley of the Jinjiang river. The solid new building makes a real difference for the children, and moreover motivates the district Government to address the water scarcity problem of Laiyü. No surprise that the whole village expressed deepest gratitude on the opening day in early December to the donors for their heartfelt compassion.



**Larde** (Jianzha): Located on the highlands south of the city of Jianzha, at 3100 m above sea level, the Rotary Foundation Dübendorf-Switzerland financed the replacement of an old, wooden building in poor shape by a modern solid one floor brick building. While the inside of the new school has been fully completed, the paint on the outside will be done in next spring to be ready for the formal opening by Rotary. The villagers and students feel deeply grateful to the donors for the significant change produced by this new building.



**Zehagong** (Jianzha): More than 80 students were waiting for the opening day on November 19, to move the desks, chairs and other equipment from the old shabby classrooms to the new two storey solid brick building. Village elders, students and the whole population of Zehagong celebrated the opening with great genuine pleasure and deep gratitude to the two donors, Mrs and Mr Bruno Stillhard of St. Gall in Switzerland. The old classrooms will be renovated later by the local Government and transformed into living quarters for the teachers.



**Rencai** (Jianzha): the new two storey school building in a very remote area south of the city of Jianzha at 3000 m above sea level has been fully financed by Markus Schmid and his sister, and was built in memory of his late mother Maria Schmid. Both the educational authorities and the villagers remain deeply grateful for this school which would not have seen its day anytime soon without this donation, because of the very remote location and the extremely harsh climate.



## 2. Calendar year 2009

The prospects for the next business year are encouraging again. The money for additional four schools to be built and at least one to be renovated in 2009 (Yegongduo) has already been formally pledged by donors.

**Shenaihe** (Jianzha): The Shenaihe school is located in a very remote area, far south of the district city of Jianzha at an altitude of 3200 m above sea, It receives around 50 students from the neighboring mountain farming community. Mrs & Mr Vögtli and their four sons visited the project in October 2008 and pledged to fully finance the construction of a new solid brick building replacing the shabby old school built in 1987.



**Nuoriguo** or Maixiuzheng in Chinese (Zeku): is at 30 km north of the district city of Zeku at an altitude of 3800 m. Mr. Grieder, after a visit on site in July, pledged to finance half of the school together with his family, thus allowing to replace the two tents by a new solid two floor building, while the local Government will finance the transformation of the old buildings into dormitories/living quarters for the teachers. The children of the nomads will, hence, see their opportunities to regularly attend classes in much improved conditions, even in winter time with often outside temperature of minus 30°C.



**Nandang and Eshida** (Jianzha): both primary schools are located half an hour's drive from the district city of Jianzha, and offer primary education to 30 to 50 students each. Both buildings 'were built in the late 1990s and need to be replaced, as they are too small and in too poor a condition to be renovated. For Nandang a sole sponsor has already given its basic agreement to finance the project and for Eshida the prospects to win a major sponsor are positive.

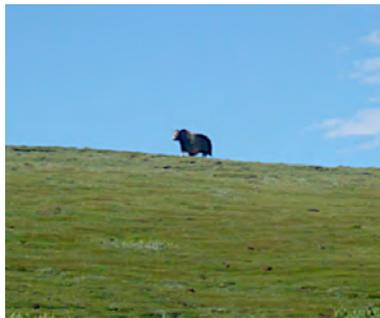


**Yegongduo (Zeka):** Dr. Barbara and Werner Lamparter-Herzog who had financed the first three classrooms of Yegongduo in memory of her late mother “Sigi Schnyder” pledged to finance an additional house to provide adequate living quarters for the numerous teachers of the school complex for nomad children in the region.



**A happy and healthy 2009 to you and all your beloved ones!**

As the year nears its end, we would like to seize the opportunity and convey our warmest personal wishes for a Merry Christmas and for another happy, healthy and prosperous 2008, to you and all your beloved ones. May the forthcoming year of the good-natured ox bring you continued good health, profound peace in your heart and a generous portion of personal true happiness !



I am adding hereafter a few photos of students taken at your schools during 2008. I trust that the children, women and men, with their kind eyes and refreshing smile, will find their way into your hearts. Perhaps the one or the other portrait may encourage you to learn more about these people, whose eyes reflect the powerful energy that comes with the sunshine of the Qinghai highlands. In spite of the often harsh climate and a merciless nature, they show self-fulfillment and are at peace with themselves and their surroundings.



Dear donors

Please accept my sincerest thanks for your valuable continued support, without which the foundation would not be able to select, finance, supervise the construction of seven schools in Qinghai

Yours very gratefully

For the *Amici di Qinghai*  
(*Friends of Qinghai*)

Erwin and Yolanda Schurtenberger

