

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Another year has passed, and the Benchen Free Medical Foundation has now been in existence for 21 years.

The purpose of the association is, as is well known, to raise funds for the free healthcare and medication that is offered to all who visit the Benchen Free Medical Clinic.

The clinics are situated next to the Benchen Monastery in the Kathmandu Valley. In addition to caring for the residents of the monastery, the clinics are open to local people from all over who all receive free treatment and medication.

**The dental clinic** was founded by the Polish dentist Woitek. During several years, a number of Polish dentists took turns giving treatments a couple of months a year. Later on, the dental clinic was taken over by the Italian foundation Medici per la pace, who sponsored it until November 2016, when we took over the financing.

Karma Dolma, a dentist educated in Poland, now works at the clinic five mornings per week the whole year round together with her dentist's assistant Saru. Two afternoons a week they also work at other monasteries with their portable dental equipment. One of their main concerns is to teach children about dental hygiene. The dental X-ray machine that was obtained by the clinic in 2017 has proved immensely useful in making diagnosis and ensuring effective treatment.

**The funds** contributed by us in 2018 have been spent on appliances and salaries for the dental clinic and vaccine for the residents of the monastery. In addition to this, a great deal of in-patient care at local hospitals, including medical examinations and surgical procedures, has put a strain on our budget during the past year.

**The medical clinic** is visited by about 30 patients daily. The clinic also has a branch office in Parphing, a small town situated some 40 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu, where Dr. Tsering has surgery twice a week, attending to a large number of patients. And on the United Nations International Children's Day, he gives free medical care to the street children of Kathmandu, in cooperation with other non-governmental organizations.

The specialist physician works at the clinic once a week, where he treats, or makes referrals for, patients with more complicated needs. Our contributions to the clinic has made it possible for patients with special needs to receive medical care at other health institutions, such as medical examinations, surgical procedures and in-patient care.

**The X-ray clinic** is attended by a qualified radiologist twice a week.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you so much for your support, hoping that you will continue to be part of our effort.

All contributions are paid in full to the Benchen Free Medical Clinic.

Dr. Tsering and the staff at the clinics send you their warmest regards, and so do we.

The Board of Benchen Free Medical Foundation Denmark:

Kjeld Christensen, Chairman

Karen Foged Christensen, Deputy Chairman

Grethe Poulsen, Treasurer

Lisbeth Lundbye, Secretary