

BOULDER-LHASA SISTER CITY PROJECT

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Lhungtse's Checkup & Medicine 17-25 October 2021

In 2013, BLSCP raised \$19,000 to fund brain surgery for Lhungtse, whose eyesight was destroyed 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 eight years, BLSCP has funded her expenses for medical checkups and medicines. Here's the calendar of events for 2021:

- 10-17 Tenpa drove Lhungtse & her mother (Ama la) from their home in Yajiang to Chengdu.
- 10-18 Lhungtse was examined by Dr. Zeng. A CT brain scan was scheduled for 10-21 after 5:00 PM.
- 10-19 Lhungtse fasted before her blood was drawn during the morning.
- 10-20 Dr. Zeng examined the blood test results and reported that they were good.
- 10-21 Lhungtse's CT brain scan was performed.
- 10-22 Lhungtse's CT brain scan results became available after Dr. Zeng's (Friday) work day.
- 10-25 Dr. Zeng met mid-day with Lhungtse, Ama la, & Tenpa and reported good CT brain scan results.
After reaching Kangding at night, Tenpa returned Lhungtse & Ama la home on 10-26 mid-day.

Dr. Zeng said that Lhungtse 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 return after one year for another checkup if no new medical issues arise.



Ama la & Lhungtse



Lhungtse in her Chengdu hotel room,
talking to a relative

Tenpa and I were very disappointed with the long, unexpected waiting times for getting the CT brain scan and the results. So we have developed an alternative plan for 2022: have the CT brain scan and blood tests performed at Ya'an Municipal People's Hospital on the road from Yajiang to Chengdu and then take the test results to Chengdu for a meeting with Dr. Zeng. Tenpa and Ama la each have very positive experiences with this hospital, where the test results are available within 24 hours. Dr. Zeng concurs with this plan, which should shorten the total trip duration to five days.

- Thanks to 23 compassionate donors, we raised \$4,522.
- The total expenses were 28,641.7 RMB, which is equivalent to \$4,473 (6.4039 RMB/\$).
- The expenses were greater than estimated because the trip required two extra days.
- Tenpa tried his very best to shorten the waiting times for the CT brain scan and the results.
- Tenpa waived the expenses for the 10th day (10-26), for the benefit of BLSCP.
- Tenpa did an excellent job of arranging and managing Lhungtse's checkup.
- BLSCP transferred 14,000 RMB to Tenpa on 10-16 and the balance to him on 11-01.
- BLSCP will hold a balance of \$49 for Lhungtse's future medical expenses.
- The spreadsheet below itemizes the actual 2021 expenses:

Actual Costs for Lhungtse's Checkup & Medicine - October 2021			
	Item	Cost	Total
Travel	Vehicle	1,200 RMB/day	1,200*9=10,800 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*8=4,000 RMB
	Meals	400 RMB/day	400*9=3,600 RMB
	Guide fees	500 RMB/day	500*9=4,500 RMB
Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital	CT scan, blood tests, etc.		497.58 RMB
Pharmacy	Oxcarbazepine (12 cartons)		1,902.6 RMB
	Oxcarbazepine (future)	193.5 RMB/carton	193.5*12=2,322 RMB
	Clonazepam		119.52 RMB
Total			28,641.7 RMB