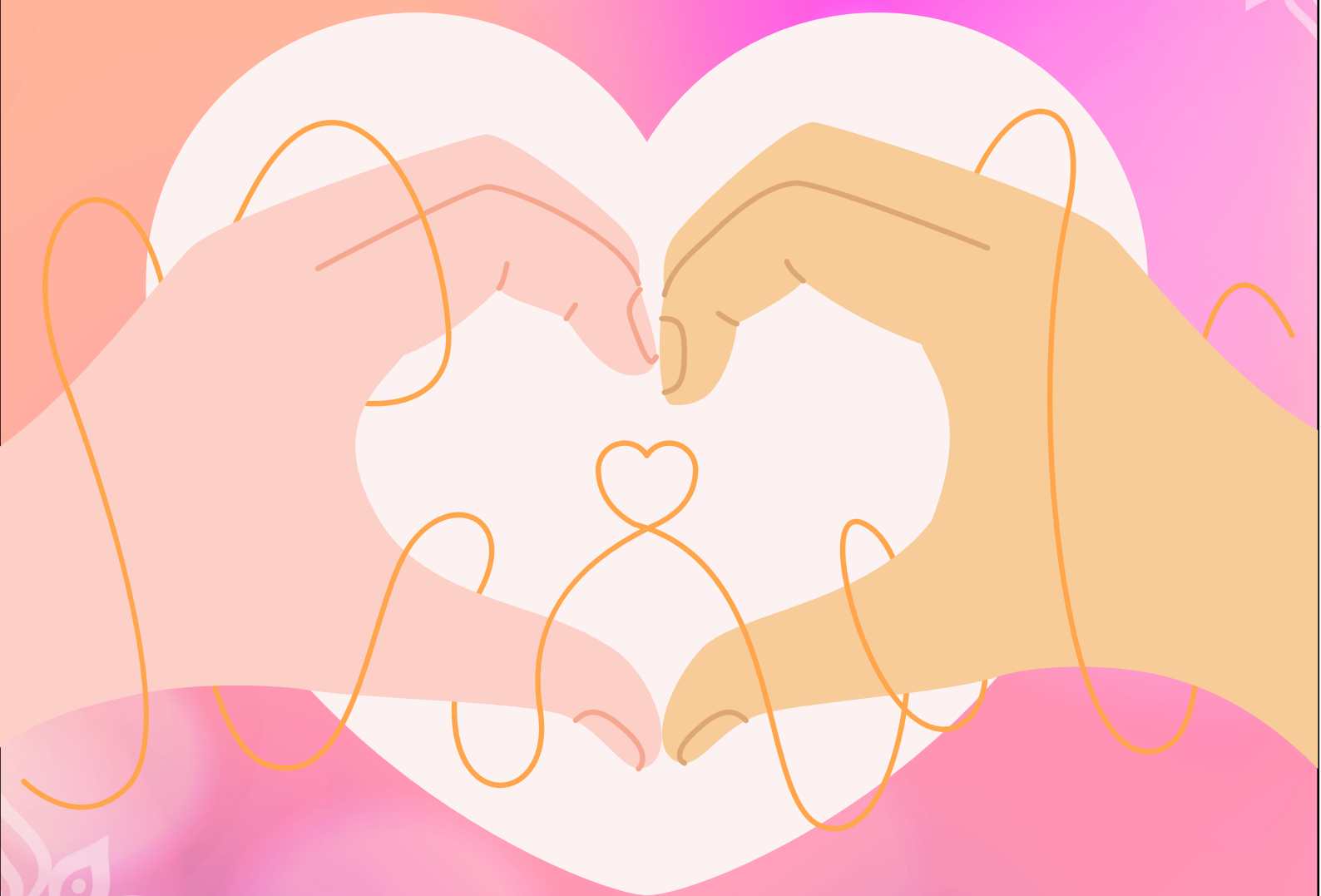




新加坡大乘禅寺
THEKCHEN CHOLING
SINGAPORE

2023 Impact Report



*Connecting All
with Divine Hearts*

Vision, Mission & Values

Vision

**Connecting All with
Divine Hearts**

Mission

**Empowering All to have
Meaningful Lives**

Core Values

**Loving Kindness.
Respect. Service**

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Overview of Thekchen Choling

Highlights

1999

Our first Dharma Centre was opened and hosted our first students at Thong Soon Road.



2001

Thekchen Choling (Singapore) was formally registered as a society.



2002

Singapore's Largest Mani Wheel upon consecration.



2005

First Unveiling of Largest Applique Thangka Of Lord Shakyamuni Buddha.



2006

Thekchen Choling (Singapore) relocated to Beatty Lane.



2007

Project Maude - thereafter the birth of Besar Project and Love Connect, a collaboration with Jalan Besar Citizens' Consultative Committee.



2008

Free TCM Consultation to help financially challenged sick beneficiaries.



2010

Thekchen Choling Education Bursary Award was established.



2011

First Unveiling of Largest Guru Rinpoche Thangka in Asia.



2020

1st Ever Virtual Great Thekchen Vesak Monlam Celebration via Facebook.



2021

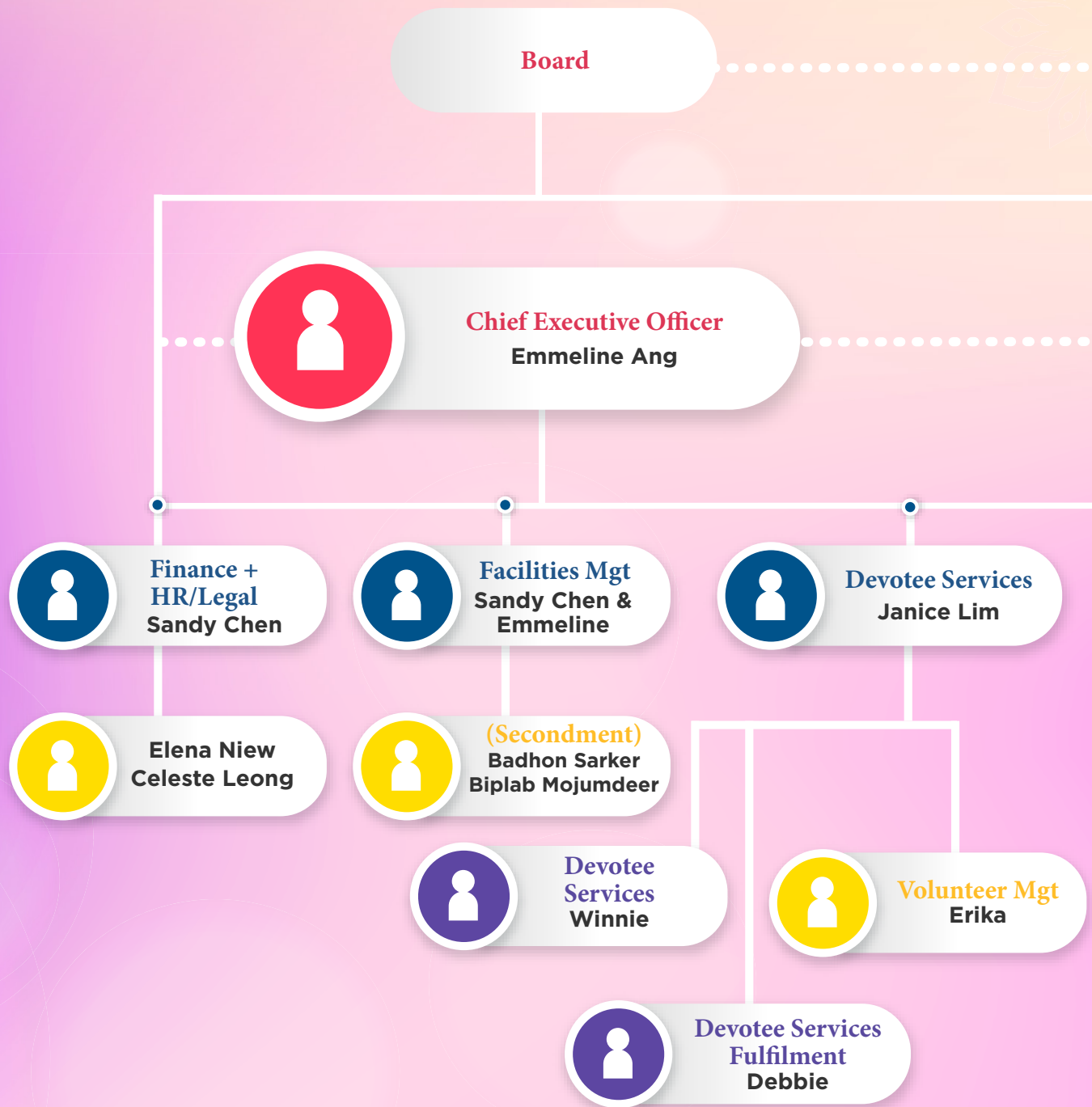
Changed our status from a Society to Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). Fully registered charity with Ministry of Community, Culture and Youth (MCCY) and named as Thekchen Choling Singapore Ltd.

2022

Hosted our 1st ever animal blessings and prayer ceremony.



Organisational Structure



● **Manager**

● **Team Lead**

● **Executive**

● **“Labrang” International Relations**
Lim Huijun

● **Internal Audit**

● **Donorship Services & Outreach**

● **Dharma Propagation**
Sherry Lim

● **Comms and Engagement**
Wong Wai Foong

● **Cecilia Soh**

● **Kelly Chen**

● **Donor Mgt & Outreach**
Janice Lim

● **Relationship Mgt & Outreach**
Ng Yi Zhen

As of 31 December 2023

Charity Information

Thekchen Choling Singapore Ltd (“TCSL”) was incorporated under the Companies Act, Cap 50 on 13 February 2020 and is a public company limited by guarantee. TCSL is a registered Charity under the Charities Act (Chapter 37) since 26 July 2021, governed by its own Company’s Constitution.

Unique Registration Number (UEN)

202005191K

Bankers

DBS, UOB, CIMB, Maybank

Registered Address

2 Beatty Lane Singapore 209945

Company Secretary

Tan Cheng Kiong,
CK Tan Law Corporation

Website

www.thekchencholing.org

Members of TCSL

Lee Kwong Wai Felix
Ang Su Ee Emmeline
Ebrahim Taiyeb Mama
Chiang Li Ling Denise

Auditor

RSM Chio Lim LLP

Objects of Charity

1. To promote the practice of the Buddha Dharma, and more particularly Mahayana Buddhism, as a way of life through the provision of teachings, courses, rituals, events, and other related activities.
2. To support the community in the practice of the Buddha Dharma and Mahayana Buddhism.
3. To provide social support for the benefit of the community at large through various initiatives and programs for the improvement of health, education, and social needs.

Board of Directors



**Joanne
Hau Siang Kee**
Director, Microsoft
Regional Sales Pte Ltd

Designation
Chairman

Date of Appointment
24 February 2020



**Chiang Li Ling
Denise**

Business Operations
Manager for Financial
Services, Cisco Systems
(USA) Pte Ltd

Designation
Member

Date of Appointment
13 February 2020



**Eileen
Koh Ngia Lin**

Customer Operations
OtC Lead, Shell Eastern
Trading Pte Ltd

Designation
Member

Date of Appointment
22 October 2020

**Ebrahim Taiyeb
Mama**

Audit Manager, Infineum
Singapore Pte Ltd

Designation
Member

Date of Appointment
13 February 2020

Message from Chairman



Tashi Delek everyone! Greetings and I hope this message finds you in good health and in the best of all conditions.

As I reflect on 2023, I find that it has been a year of many events – some hectic, some cheerful, some challenging, some painful...in fact some will say, that's life! We all face such events at every stage of our lives. Personally, I faced the reality of impermanence at work, in friendships, health, and even down to each breath I take. All these events remind me to smile and cherish all the good and extend a helping hand whenever possible.

If I pause and look at Thekchen Choling Singapore, the activities Team Thekchen's leaders, staff and volunteers curated and are still curating to support the community we have created and are part of, I am truly humbled.

The reason for this is that I have witnessed how all this hard work has touched lives and given everyone a chance to reinvent and repivot their choices towards being a beneficial being for others. This is

especially so when I learnt my 9-year-old goddaughter Beatrice, who attends Dharma Junior, made the choice not to be lazy and was resolved to do better academically so that she and her sister might enjoy more game time at home. Another example of a successful programme is when I see the teenage youths of temple having more opportunities to step up as caring leaders to guide the younger ones. Their bright smiles also bring me joy. My adult dharma brothers and sisters look more upbeat, and have improved family and work relationships.

These are the result of the choices they all made after experiencing the Buddhadharmā in action led by Team Thekchen, guided by Singha Rinpoche and Khandro Lhamo (Emmeline Ang). The programmes focus on the fundamentals of looking after one's mental wellbeing which will lead us to a caring, sharing and loving community.

As a Buddhist, these foundations will then prepare us for our next life while also ensuring that we can leave something behind. But how we want to leave a legacy and what we want to do now to pass down the values we hold dear to the next generations all starts with us and our choices.

Let us evolve and work together to pass down the values that will lead to a more compassionate, loving and wise community. Thekchen Choling will continue to be the anchor for generations to come, co-existing with all regardless of race, religion and beliefs.

This idea of leaving a legacy came about after Singha Rinpoche's teachings on Ullambana Day which left a deep imprint in my mind. We are what our elders taught us. We learned through their examples of speech, action and thoughts. We are the outcome of what our ancestors have passed down to us through the generations. We will be others' ancestors soon too. What will we be passing down?

We are all part of our community at large and every single person matters. Let us evolve and work together to pass down the values that will lead to a more compassionate, loving and wise community. Thekchen Choling will continue to be the anchor for generations to come, co-existing with all regardless of race, religion and beliefs.

As such, it is important that the structure of the temple residing at 2 Beatty Lane, Singapore, is repaired and refreshed so that it is to serve all and be the legacy we leave behind. This structure houses Team Thekchen's activities, hopes and dreams. It enables us to carry out our mission of Empowering All to Have a Meaningful Life! We are walking a journey together as we cultivate the Buddhadharma, and we welcome all to join us in making a difference for ourselves and others.

Thank you all in Team Thekchen - staff, volunteers, and devotees - for the dedication, care, joy and love extended to anyone and everyone who steps into Thekchen Choling, be it in Singapore, Kota Tinggi, Melaka or Syracuse. And to our friends and followers online on Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram, we feel your presence!

Let us all journey on together to leave behind a legacy!

With hands folded in respect

Joanne Hau
Chairman

Message from CEO



Dear friends,

I hope this message finds you well, and that your life is filled with serenity and love.

As we reflect on the year 2023 and look forward to the new year, my heart is filled with immense gratitude and a profound sense of purpose. Our spiritual home, Thekchen Choling Singapore, has always stood as a sanctuary of peace and compassion, a place where people from all walks of life can find solace, guidance, and transformation.

This year, our theme, “Thekchen Heartbeat,” resonates with the very essence of our spiritual home. It embodies the spirit that binds us together, connecting each and every one of our hearts with the divine love for all Gurus and Buddhas.

This rhythmic connection transcends time and space, echoing Buddha’s timeless teachings of wisdom, compassion, and mindfulness.

Our mission and vision has remained steadfast - to ‘Empower All Beings to Lead Meaningful Lives’ and to ‘Connect All with Divine Hearts’. In the pursuit of this noble mission, we have consistently sought to make a positive impact on our community in as many ways as possible. I am extremely grateful that you have been an integral part of this journey with us.

As we step into the new year, I extend to you a heartfelt invitation to join us in a remarkable endeavour, one filled with promise and purpose. Our theme, “Thekchen Heartbeat,” goes beyond words; it is a call to action, an invitation to you to unite with us in building a legacy of Dharma that will echo through the passage of time and resonate for generations to come.

A physical temple is a sacred space that houses holy objects, showing us the very embodiment of Enlightenment. These objects possess the extraordinary power to inspire practitioners, awaken our minds, and purify the obscurations that hinder our path to Enlightenment. They are not mere symbols; they are the wellsprings of merits, the profound causes that guide us toward ultimate awakening.

Our temple at 2 Beatty Lane, is more than a place of worship; it is a living testament to the teachings of Buddhism.

Our theme, “Thekchen Heartbeat,” goes beyond words; it is a call to action, an invitation to you to unite with us in building a legacy of Dharma that will echo through the passage of time and resonate for generations to come.

So, let us breathe life into these teachings by living them in our daily lives.

Let us collectively construct and present our temple as a precious gift of Dharma to future generations.

Let us be fully present, immersed in each precious moment.

Let us extend boundless compassion to all, recognising the interconnectedness of all beings.

Let us embrace change and impermanence not as adversaries but as opportunities for growth and renewal.

Let us nurture the spirit of gratitude and selflessness, for it is in giving that we receive the greatest treasures of the heart.

Let us share our blessings with others, lighting the way for those who seek guidance on this path of enlightenment. In the spirit of Thekchen Choling Singapore, let us unite and act together. Let us build this legacy of dharma, ensuring that the heartbeat of Thekchen Choling resounds through time, touching countless lives and illuminating the path to Enlightenment.

Thank you for being an integral part of this remarkable journey. May our collective efforts bring forth peace, compassion, and wisdom to all sentient beings.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Emmeline Ang

Chief Executive Officer



2023



Year in Review

2023 at a Glance



29,981
People impacted



Close to
7 Million
Mantras accumulated
through group
recitations



255
volunteers
engaged &
empowered

Over
10,078
volunteer hours
accumulated



19
Charities
supported
for social
outreach



Nearly
\$201,000
Donated for
social outreach



229
 Teachings & classes
 conducted for
 children, youths
 & adults

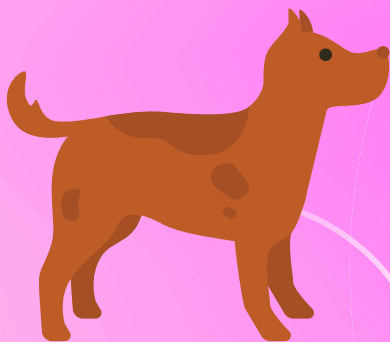


More than
2.2 Million
 Individuals/
 families-in-need
 benefitted

1,276
 Sanghas
 supported



\$192,000
 Donated to
 support Sangha



5,632
 Animals saved
 & blessed

8
 Events
 organised



1,008
 Pujas conducted
 & dedicated



Summary of Financial Performance

Total Incoming Resources

\$4,602,000

Unrestricted Fund



\$724,000

Restricted Fund



Total Resources Expended

\$3,504,000

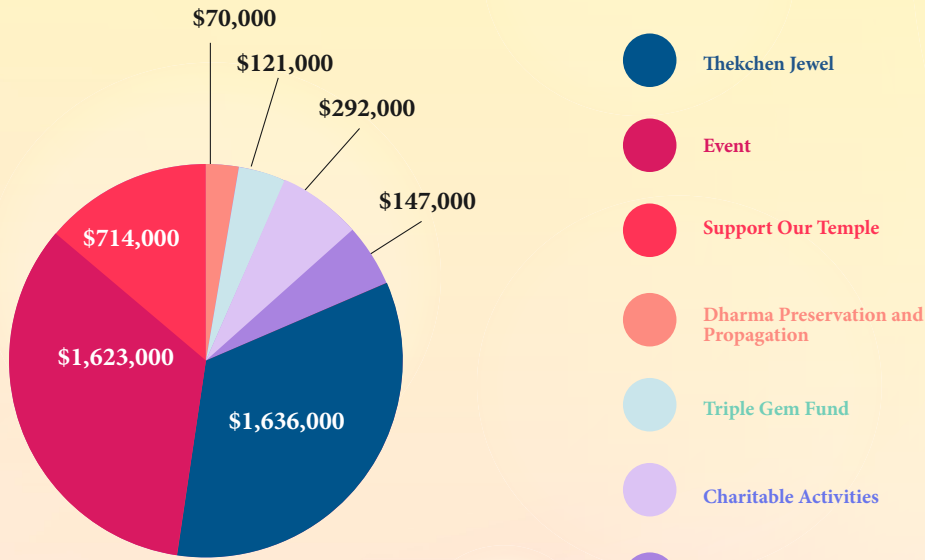
Unrestricted Fund



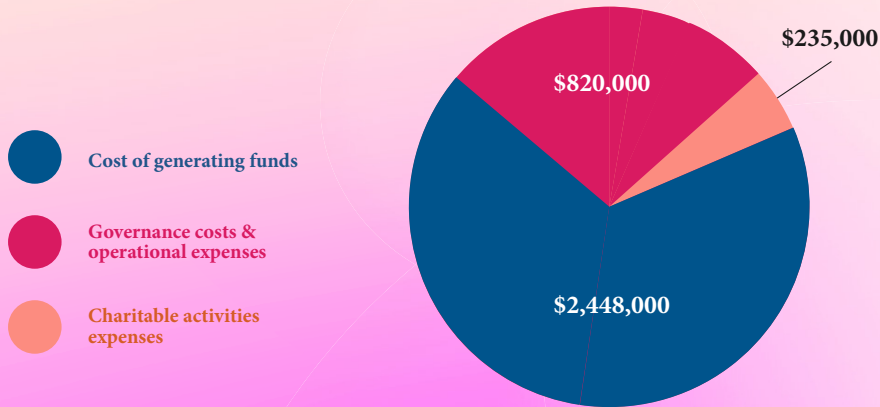
\$91,000

Restricted Fund





Unrestricted Funds Incoming Resources: \$4,602,000



Unrestricted Resources Expended: \$3,504,000

During the financial year, total incoming resources for unrestricted fund increased by 12%, primarily due to higher donations and offerings. Total resources expended for unrestricted fund rose by 7%, in line with the boost in incoming resources for unrestricted fund.

During the financial year, there was a significant increase in incoming resources for restricted fund, due to promotional efforts leading to increased donations to the Vajraland Fund for the Temple Expansion (Addition and Alteration) project. However, total resources expended from restricted fund decreased, as no further payment was made to the contractor while design work is still being finalised.

Purpose of Charitable Assets Held

Property at 2 Beatty Lane Singapore 209945. This property houses the Temple Building occupied by the charity where all principal activities are being held. For more information on the charity's charitable assets, please refer to Note 11 (page 17) of the Charity's Financial Statements.

*Please refer to our Financial Report 2023.





*From our
Hearts to you*

Great Festivals

Chinese New Year

With pandemic restrictions lifted, we joyfully ushered in the New Year of the Water Rabbit with Dragon and Lion Dances. A huge turnout attended our 2-night 2023 Outlook Dialogue with Singha Rinpoche and Fengshui Master Sherwin Tng, making it a truly beneficial session. Look out for more future collaborations!



Vesak Day

In line with our Vesak theme of celebrating Buddha's universal love for all beings, we expanded our blessings to as many animals as possible - including horses from the Riding for the Disabled Association Singapore. Animal Blessing Night featured Animal Communication, Bathing Buddha with Pets, and Paw Art, with a huge turnout on Vesak Eve!

Our Vesak Day family carnival was in full swing, sharing Buddha's love through fun, laughter, heartfelt prayers, and the annual unveiling of our wish-fulfilling Shakyamuni Buddha thangka. A joyful celebration of unity and compassion!





Qing Ming Festival

Qing Ming Festival is a deeply rooted tradition where devotees come together to honour the dearly departed and those karmically linked to us. We dedicated tablets with names of loved ones, and our resident Sangha conducted extensive prayers and bountiful food offerings for all.

Grand Guru Bumtsog Ceremony

2023 was the first year the annual Grand Guru Bumtsog Ceremony was held overseas at Thekchen Choling Melaka. With 100 on-site and 24 online participants joined by Shelkar Cheode Ganden Legshedling, we auspiciously completed 107,840 Tsog prayer recitations.

Aligning with our vision to “Connect All with Divine Hearts”, we distributed 150 Tsog offerings, comprising food essentials to individuals and families in Melaka, Malaysia, alongside Datok Lwee Wan Tiong and Happy Charity Association. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all sponsors and participants for enabling us to benefit so many others!



Great Festivals

Ullambana Festival

On Buddha's Joyful Day, many devotees gathered to make offerings to the Guru and Sangha. Generous offerings and virtuous deeds on this day bring vast merits to parents and ancestors and invoke blessings for our nation, the world and all beings.

Through the "Grand Auspicious Ullambana Offering", meals and daily necessities were offered to more than 200 Venerables from Thekchen Choling Singapore, Shelkar Cheode Ganden Legshedling, Namgyal Jyangchub Choeling, and Chuwar Gadhen Drophen Ling Monasteries in Nepal.



Grand Sanctification Ceremony of Cundi

As advised by H.E. Jhado Rinpoche, Lhamo Cundi is the patron deity of Thekchen Choling, with an esoteric lineage transmitted to our Spiritual Director, Singha Rinpoche. This year, our Guru Singha Rinpoche bestowed the special opportunity of Lhamo Cundi's initiation, bringing immense blessings through this precious unbroken lineage practice.

From 20 to 22 October, devotees worldwide came together for Cundi's Grand Sanctification Ceremony, reciting Lhamo Cundi's mantra continuously. We rejoice in reporting a grand total of 1,471,873 Cundi mantra recitations for the event!

Healing Festival

This year's Vaidurya Healing Festival had many participants actively engaging in a 49-day long Medicine Buddha practice. Participants fervently prayed for the healing of Mother Earth, with a special focus on pacifying natural disasters worldwide. Together, we amassed a total of 199,009 Seven Medicine Buddha Mantras! We rejoice in all the participants' efforts and their merits! The community was also given the opportunity to delve into the wisdom of Tibetan healing and participate in rewilding efforts, all dedicated to the healing of our inner and outer worlds.



Dharma Propagation



Dharma Junior

20 thematic lessons were conducted and tailored to 4 age groups (58 children), accompanied by games to foster relationships between children, teachers and parents. Activities organised include rock climbing which taught courage, teamwork and overcoming fears while having fun together. A workshop was also organised where the children arranged flowers while the parents wrote love letters to their children, deepening bonds and connections. Our Dharma Junior program also celebrated its 15th anniversary this year!



Dharma Youth

In line with the SAIL programme, Youth Leagues planned 20 heartwarming experiential learning sessions for 30 youths during their weekly Saturday meetups and camps.

One highlight was the 3D1N Camp Inside Out: Quest for Happiness, where the youths learned the Four Noble Truths through activities. This year's '24-hour with Us' orientation included bonding games and a memorable night walk to Old Changi Hospital with Rinpoche.

On Vesak Day, the youths took charge of a food stall and the info booth. Some partook in a surprise musical performance showcasing their blossoming confidence and camaraderie.



Dharma Adult

We expanded our dharma-sharing efforts with more classes this year, including Tibetan Instrument, Chinese Chanting, and Water Bowl Practice sessions. These dedicated hearts put their lessons into practice for monthly Guru Puja and Chinese chanting during Qing Ming and Ullambana. We also welcomed diverse visiting groups, such as the American Women's Association, Mangala Vihara temple, and youths from the German European School, through temple tours to learn about Vajrayana Buddhism.



Dharma Programmes

In 2023, 89 Dharma Teachings and classes were held for adults by Singha Rinpoche, Geshe Jigme, Geshe Kangyur, Ani Chodron, Ani Dechen, and Dharma brothers Dorje Tenzin and Keith Cheung. Kyabje Jhado Rinpoche visited and led a fire puja, teachings, and initiations during Chinese New Year. In October, Kuntse Rinpoche visited to give teachings on Jetsun Milarepa's life and performed Tara and Chabtrul Cleansing pujas.

Social Outreach

Supporting Our Community – Local

On 14 January 2023, 1,000 elderly gathered at Kampong Glam Community Club to receive heartfelt holiday gifts, including two oranges, love letter biscuits, and a red Hong Bao packet. This joyous event was made even more special by the personal touch of Mayor Denise Phua and Singha Rinpoche, who walked to each seated participant to present these tokens of love. A total of \$20,000 in red packets were distributed, creating a memorable and meaningful occasion for all.



Education Bursaries

\$24,000 in education bursaries was awarded to 40 students in need through our Education Bursary Awards with the support of the Kampong Glam Grassroots Organisations and Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)'s Bursary Grant II. As Singapore's fourth autonomous university and a leading institution for engineering degrees, SUTD offers us the opportunity to engage with youths interested in volunteering their skills in Analytics, AI, and more. We are proud to show our love and commitment to the community, supporting the educational aspirations of our nation's future leaders and empowering students to pursue their educational dreams.



Compassionate Support

\$65,000 was awarded to five organisations—Geylang East Home for the Aged, Metta Hospice, Cheng Hong Welfare Service Society, HCA Hospice Care, and Singapore Cancer Society – Hospice—benefiting over 6,000 individuals. Thekchen Choling places great importance on people having a dignified passing during their end-of-life memorial services. This initiative supports essential care, and continuous emotional and spiritual support for end-of-life patients, as well as offering pro bono funeral and bereavement services regardless of race or religion. Ensuring dignity in death and reassurance that afterlife rites will be respectfully managed.



Photo by Cheng Hong Welfare Service Society

Social Outreach



Medical Care

Being able to live a healthy life is key to unlocking our happiness and potential to benefit more sentient beings. Thekchen Choling supported local health programs by donating \$25,000 to Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital and Metta Healthcare services, for their dedication to supporting people's healthcare. This contribution benefitted over 1,500 patients, reinforcing our commitment to healthcare and enhancing the well-being of our community.



Supporting Our Community – Global

\$5,000 was raised to support the Singapore Red Cross Society's international humanitarian aid. The aid given by the Singapore Red Cross benefitted 1.75 million people across 14 countries in 2023, providing basic needs like shelter, food, water, psychological support, and medical care and equipment to the affected people.

Additionally, \$15,000 was donated to the Poh Teck Tung Foundation in Thailand, benefitting over 500,000 individuals, aiding disaster relief efforts, medical care in remote areas, and poverty alleviation projects. These contributions supported disaster rescue and forensic work, provided essential medical care and equipment, and empowered low-income women, single mothers, and caregivers.

These efforts underscore our commitment to global humanitarian aid, fostering resilience and hope among diverse communities.

Together, we are making a profound impact on countless lives worldwide.



Photos by Singapore Red Cross and Poh Teck Tung Foundation (Thailand)





Animal Welfare Initiatives

As part of our focus on creating a nation of boundless love for all beings, Thekchen Choling is passionate about actively supporting animal welfare. In addition to our renowned Animal Blessing Night, held on the Eve of Vesak Day on 1 June 2023, we brought our resident Sangha to bless the majestic therapy horses at Riding with the Disabled Association Singapore (RDA). The year 2023 saw over a thousand animals being blessed individually.



Through our Animal Welfare Fund, we donated \$8,000 to RDA, Save Our Street Dogs (SOSD), and Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES), which saved and improved the lives of 600 animals.



Social Outreach

Environmental Stewardship

As Mother Earth is important to the well-being of all beings, Thekchen Choling greatly upholds the causes that benefit our natural environment. In conjunction with our Vaidurya Healing Festival, we participated in a re-wilding project with the Nature Society (Singapore) to establish flora and fauna along Singapore's rail corridor and promote wildlife biodiversity. Our members participated hands-on in removing elephant grass and shrubs to prepare the land for future tree-planting efforts.

Through fundraising and donations, we raised \$10,000 for the Nature Society (Singapore) and NParks' Plant-A-Tree programme to support their work towards these causes.

Additionally, \$5,000 was contributed towards NParks' new Plant-A-Coral, Seed-A-Reef initiative to support sea habitat enhancement and coral restoration efforts.

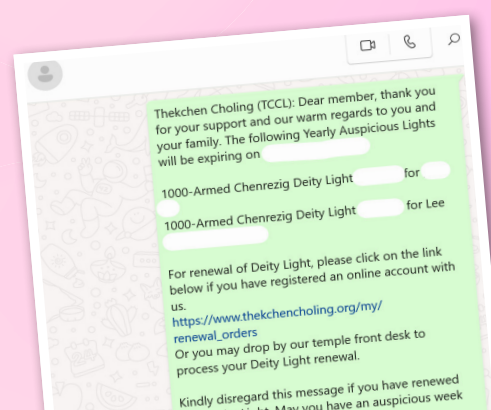


Photo by NParks



Eco-Friendly Efforts

Thekchen Choling is dedicated to sustainability through various eco-friendly initiatives. By digitalising renewal reminders, we reduced paper usage by over 90%, from over 2,000 printed letters to just 240 within a year. We also actively encourage our devotees to opt for emailed receipts. Additionally, food offerings to deities from our temple prayers and rituals are distributed to the public, significantly reducing food wastage and promoting mindful consumption.



Beneficiaries We Support

Singapore

Kampong Glam Community Club

Thekchen Choling Singapore Education Bursary Awards 2023

Save Our Street Dogs - Singapore (SOSD)

Natural Society (Singapore)

Riding for the Disabled Association of Singapore (RDA)

Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES)

National Parks Board Garden City Fund

Singapore Red Cross Society

Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital

Geylang East Home for the Aged

Cheng Hong Welfare Service Society

HCA Hospice Care

Singapore Cancer Society Hospice Care

Metta Welfare Association Healthcare Services

Metta Hospice Care

Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)

International

Sera Jey Tsawa Khangtsen

Nepal Buddhist Gelug Association

Poh Teck Tung Foundation (Thailand)





*The Heart of Thokchen
Choling*

Gratitude to Volunteers

The Heart of Our Temple: Our Volunteers

The success of Thekchen Choling Singapore can be attributed to the support and dedication of our incredible volunteers who devote time, energy, and skills to serve, and breathe life into our temple and its myriad activities. Together with our sangha and staff, our volunteers form the heart and soul of Team Thekchen, embodying our mission to Connect All with Divine Hearts.

The collective effort of our volunteers is nothing short of inspirational. In 2023, a remarkable 255 volunteers contributed an astounding 10,078.5 hours to our temple by supporting our frontline or backend services for many temple events and dharma programs, which have seen vibrant participation and overwhelming turnouts especially during Chinese New Year and Animal Blessing Night. Additionally, our volunteers have also played a pivotal role in our Temple Expansion Fund Raising initiatives, ensuring that we can continue to grow and offer our services to an expanding community. Our belief that Team Thekchen is fundamentally about the people coming together to transform, make decisions, and illuminate in harmony and compassion has never been more evident than in the past year.

We recognised the importance of our volunteers and organised volunteer appreciation events such as our Mid-Autumn Sonata, whereby Volunteer Awards were given out and all came together to relax, mingle, and celebrate under a moonlit night by Kallang River. More training sessions were also held to enhance our volunteers' understanding and capabilities, enabling them to contribute more effectively to our temple's activities. Nourishing meals were provided during their service hours, ensuring that our volunteers were well taken care of while they give their best to our community.



A Heartfelt Thank You

To our volunteers, we extend our deepest gratitude for being the pillars of our temple community. Thekchen Choling Singapore looks forward to continuing this journey of fulfilment together, nurturing our community and spreading the light of dharma and compassion across Singapore and beyond.



“I love the temple community and the warmth that is always present no matter how difficult things may be. I also enjoy the fun that we share together. Thank you TCCL for the love!”

Leong Jia En

“I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing temple community. Your warmth, kindness, and acceptance have created a safe space for me to learn and grow. Thank you for being my spiritual family and making me feel welcome and loved for me and my family.”

Aloysius Lim & Yvonne Yeo

“Thank you everyone for being present in every event conducted by Temple. Contributing to the positive vibe, family like and safe environment to rejoice in.”

**Thubten Pema Easwari
Thamilselvam**

Gratitude to Donors & Sponsors

United in Generosity, Empowering Lives Together

We are immensely fortunate to have donors and sponsors from all walks of life who believe in our mission to empower everyone with meaningful lives. Each and every one uniquely contributes to this noble cause, embodying the spirit of generosity and compassion that fuels our work.

Everyone is a donor and sponsor to us, giving in different ways that are equally valued. Generosity comes in many forms: some participate in our monthly Ashoka Pillar Funds program, while others sponsor items and events. Many provide outright donations, and some extend their support by recommending friends to join our cause. Every effort counts, and we are deeply grateful for the big hearts and generosity that sustain our temple's vision and mission.

The Ashoka Pillars Fund program, now in its second year, is more than a monthly contribution initiative to support future generations with the gift of Dharma. It is a comprehensive service that offers our donors and devotees opportunities to make dedications and accumulate merits through monthly pujas, such as the Incense & Medicine Buddha Puja, Lhamo Khangso Tsok Puja, light offerings, and more. Fostering this deep sense of community and shared purpose.



Thanks to your donations, our temple is able to:

1. Make Dharma accessible to many people, both physically and virtually, through teachings, classes, prayer texts, and books.
2. Provide vital support and enhance the mental well-being of our devotees and the broader community through pujas, consultations with Rinpoche, retreats, events, and prayer sessions.
3. Support local and global communities, including animals, through direct donations to charities, education bursary awards, tree planting initiatives, animal blessings, and more.

With heartfelt prayers and dedications, we pray for all auspicious conditions to ripen for everyone. Your continued support ensures that our mission thrives, touching lives and spreading the teachings of Dharma far and wide. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.

“Thanks to the Buddhadharma, I have had many wonderful experiences of transformation in my life. I have learnt to incorporate values of love and compassion into my life. I have also used these values to guide me when giving back to society. By contributing, it is a form of support for the temple’s outreach and propagation of Buddhism which is extremely important to me.”

“Not all of us have the financial means to donate, so giving time and energy is also a way to donate. Volunteering is a great way to support the temple and give back to the community. By helping the temple, you can help yourselves and your loved ones too!”

- Teo Jiarong, an Ashoka Pillars Fund contributor







Corporate Governance

Operation Reviews & Corporate

Role of the Governing Board

The Board's role is to provide strategic direction and oversight of TCSL's programmes and objectives and to steer the charity towards fulfilling its vision and mission through good governance.

The Roles and Responsibilities of the Board

- Approve and periodically review a strategic plan for the charity to ensure that the activities are in line with its objectives
- Approve budget for the financial year and monitor expenditure against budget to ensure that the charity remains solvent, that there are adequate resources to sustain the charity's operations and that these are effectively and efficiently managed
- Ensure charitable funds and assets are used reasonably, and only for the furtherance of the charity's objects
- Regularly monitor the progress of the charity's programmes and activities

Term Limit of Board

- To enable succession planning and steady renewal in the spirit of sustainability of the charity, Board Members are appointed for a 3-year term, but shall submit themselves for re-nomination and reappointment, at least once every three years with the approval of the members of the Board.
- The Chairman of the Board shall serve for a continuous period of not more than six (6) years but shall be eligible for re-appointment after the lapse of 1 year.
- The Chairman of the Finance Committee shall serve for a continuous period of not more than 4 years but shall be eligible for re-appointment after the lapse of 2 years. No Board member shall hold such office for a continuous period of more than nine (9) years at any one time but shall be eligible for re-appointment after the lapse of one (1) year.

Board Meetings and Attendance

- A total of six (6) Board meetings and one (1) AGM were held during the financial year.
- The following sets out the individual Board member's attendance at the meetings.

**Joanne
Hau Siang Kee**

**Attendance
6/6**

**Ebrahim
Taiyeb Mama**

**Attendance
6/6**

**Chiang Li Ling
Denise**

**Attendance
6/6**

**Eileen
Koh Ngia Lin**

**Attendance
6/6**

Disclosure of Remuneration and Benefits received by Board Members

No Board members are remunerated for their Board services in the financial year.

Sub-Committee	Terms of Reference
<p>Audit & Risk Committee</p> <p>Chairman Ebrahim Mama</p> <p>Members George Zhang</p>	<p>The Audit & Risk Committee facilitates external and internal audit of the charity by reviewing the audit plans and reports to the external auditors and consider the effectiveness of the actions taken by management on the auditors' recommendations, as well as analyses and address any risks that are associated with the key processes. It is responsible to oversee regulatory compliance and serve as a channel for whistleblowers.</p> <p>We started to review the revised charity code of governance to define a gap assessment together with completion of the risk management plan.</p> <p>During the year, Whistleblowing policy as well as Anti-Money Laundering & Terrorism Financing policies were drafted and approved by the Board.</p> <p>A PDPA compliance self-assessment was completed to evaluate compliance and identify areas for improvement</p> <p>We reviewed and updated the Audit & Risk Committee terms of reference in FY2023.</p> <p>These activities are expected to continue into the following year.</p>
<p>Finance Committee</p> <p>Chairman Chiang Li Ling Denise</p> <p>Members Hau Siang Kee Eileen Koh</p>	<p>The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the charity's financial performance and annual budget. It ensures regular and accurate monitoring and accountability for funds, reviews the level of reserves and disclosure in Annual Report and finance reports.</p> <p>During FY2023, the Committee continued to rebalance the top 3 revenue drivers, by growing cash donations through recurring donations. It also recommended to continue place structured time deposits, which provided higher interest rates for fixed deposits.</p> <p>Finance Committee Terms of Reference are reviewed and updated in FY2023.</p>

Operation Reviews & Corporate

Sub-Committee	Terms of Reference
<p>Fundraising Committee</p> <p>Chairman Hau Siang Kee</p> <p>Members Vincent Kessler Serene Cheng</p>	<p>The Fundraising Committee has oversight of all the charity's fundraising activities, works with fundraising staff on the framework and plans on related efforts to raise funds yearly and for the next three years.</p> <p>The committee kick-started fund-raising efforts for the Temple Expansion project.</p> <p>Fundraising Committee Terms of Reference are reviewed and updated in FY2023.</p>
<p>Programmes & Services Committee</p> <p>Chairman Eileen Koh</p> <p>Members Hau Siang Kee Desmond Siak</p>	<p>The Programmes and Services Committee is to oversee new programme development, initiate and guide programme evaluations, as well as monitor and assess outcomes of existing programmes that are in line with the vision, mission and objectives of the charity. It is also responsible to guide development of service delivery mechanisms.</p> <p>During FY2023, the Committee continued to review and recommend improvements to the front desk operations, and more on-site programs to enhance devotees' experience, participation, and interaction.</p> <p>Additionally, the Committee conducted assessments of volunteers' experience through training workshops and garnered volunteers' expertise to co-create a Volunteer Framework for the charity that promotes its culture & values.</p> <p>Programmes & services Committee Terms of Reference is reviewed and updated in FY2023.</p>
<p>Human Resource & Nominations Committee</p> <p>Chairman Chiang Li Ling Denise</p> <p>Members Ebrahim Mama Hau Siang Kee Eileen Koh</p>	<p>The HR and Nominations Committee manages all appointments and reappointments of the Board, as well as reviews and endorses the remuneration policy of staff, the appointment and remuneration of key positions in the charity. It also acts as a grievance board for employee complaints.</p> <p>During FY2023, the HR Committee decided to join NTUC Union in order to receive more benefits from the Union program, such as training and grants.</p> <p>Board began deliberations on succession planning including transition for Finance role and potential expansion of involvement of volunteers into the sub-committees to serve as development for future Board members.</p>

Disclosure of Remuneration of Three Highest Paid Staff

Disclosure of annual remuneration of three highest paid staff who each receives more than \$100,000 in bands of \$100,000.

Remuneration Band	Number of Staff
Between \$100,000 to \$200,000	2

None of the Above Staff Serve in The Board of The Charity

Disclosure of the number of paid staff who are close members of the family of the Executive Head or Board members, who each receives remuneration exceeding \$50,000 during the year, in bands of \$100,000.

Remuneration Band	Number of Staff	Name of Executive Head or Board member with whom the staff is a close family member
Between \$250,000 to \$350,000	1	Emmeline Ang

Reserves Policy

- The charity has a reserve policy for long-term stability of the operations, and it ensures that there are sufficient resources to support the charity in the event of unforeseen circumstances. The maximum operating reserves shall be 2 years.
- The Board and Management regularly reviews the level of reserves that is required to ensure it is adequate for the charity to remain viable and solvent.

Charity's Reserves Position	Current Year	Previous Year
(A) General / Unrestricted Funds (Reserves)	\$8,654,000	\$7,317,000
Restricted / Endowment Funds VarjaLand (Building) Fund	\$4,393,000	\$3,963,000
(B) Annual Operating Expenditure	\$3,504,000	\$3,265,000
Ratio of Reserves [Formula of Reserve ratio = (A) Total unrestricted funds / (B) Annual operating expenditure]	2.47	2.24

Operation Reviews & Corporate

- The cumulative reserves may be held in fixed term bank deposits with financial institutions that are incorporated in Singapore. They should also be placed with banks offering competitive rates to maximise returns. Placement in fixed deposits are approved by the Board. Any proposed investments, other than placement in fixed deposits, shall be approved by the Board.

Reserves May Be Used To:

- Meet commitments when expenditure overruns or income is delayed
 - Begin new projects or activities that further the objectives of TCSL
 - Respond to an unexpected opportunity or community need
 - Respond to any unforeseen difficulties or crisis faced by TCSL
- For more information on the charity's reserves policy, please refer to Note 16 (page 19) of the charity's Financial Statements.

Purpose of Restricted Funds

- Vajraland (Building) Fund: This fund is for the purpose of maintenance, improvements, upgrading and redevelopment of building premises (Temple Building) occupied by the charity at 2 Beatty Lane Singapore 209945.
- The charity has disclosed its restricted funds in the Financial Statements. Please refer to Note 18 (page 20) of the Financial Statements for more information.

Conflict of Interest Policy

- All Board members and staff are required to comply with the charity's conflict of interest policy. The Board has put in place documented procedures for Board members and staff to declare actual or potential conflicts of interests on a regular and need-to basis. Board members also abstain and do not participate in decision making on matters where they have a conflict of interest.

The Year Ahead

Key Focus for 2024

- One key focus for 2024 will be our temple expansion project, a vital endeavour to ensure a lasting foundation for future generations. Built in the 1930s, the structure has undergone numerous repairs over the past two decades, but these are no longer sufficient to accommodate our growing community and organisation. This expansion is important for our historic temple building, a symbol of our mission, to continue serving as a beacon of inspiration and love for all beings, and a sanctuary for the preservation of Dharma.
- Something exciting albeit challenging is brewing for the years ahead. However, we will still preserve the focus of Thekchen Choling - People. We will continue to connect all with divine hearts, and invest in people on their capabilities and skills. Other avenues we are exploring and developing are:
 1. The use of technology to improve efficiency and the service experience for our devotees. We are looking to upgrade our current IT system to enhance the service experience for our devotees
 2. New ways of propagating the dharma and supporting our community
 3. The development of a Volunteer Framework and System to enable our volunteers to have a fulfilling volunteering experience with Thekchen Choling
 4. Full rebranding to a fresh look

Key Milestone Ahead


- One key milestone over the next two years would be the preparation to relocate the temple to a temporary place for the Additions and Alterations Works of the temple. We would like to assure everyone that we will continue to provide the same service standards for our operations and services of the temple during this relocation period. We will likely use the temporary relocation place for at least 2 years.
- Regarding the service that TCSL will provide, we will honour and continue to serve all those who use the temple's existing services like the Annual Deity Lights, Relic Hall tablets, Longevity tablets and Lights with Integrity. All these services and facilities will be shifted to the newly located temporary place and the staff will continue to attend to the devotees' needs. We hope that you continue to support and trust us during this relocation period. More information will be shared with everyone when more things are finalised.
- We seek your understanding and support during this relocation period. However, this is also an exciting time for everyone as this is a chance for all of us to put our hearts and efforts together to create the mandala of dharma for future generations. Helping to build holy objects is an opportunity to accumulate a vast amount of merit; what more needs be said when we are creating a mandala for all beings? Let us all co-create this mandala together through this meritorious opportunity!



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