



2004年慶祝懷少節

2004 Cherishing Youth Day Celebration

每年敬老與懷少這兩項特別的慶祝活動，是為推動家庭和睦、社會善良和世界和平。在懷少節時青少年一同聚會慶祝，

Honoring Elders Day and Cherishing Youth Day are two special events celebrated every year. The goal is to promote a harmonious family, a wholesome society and a peaceful world. During Cherishing Youth Day, children and youth gather to celebrate together. It's also a way to remind children that they are our future and they hold a special role within the family, society and the world.

金佛寺—美食、鮮飲、文藝

今年金佛寺的懷少節在四月四日舉行，為了增添佳慶的意義，我們加上製作美食「供養三寶」的主題。

40人的製作群包括學生、老師、佛青會與義工，年齡由5歲兒童到成人；共分八組，包辦墨西哥捲餅、壽司、春捲、披薩和餅乾。上供之後午齋，法師開示，並播放介紹2003-2004年金佛寺育良小學影片。

今年齋堂裡，還特設一個鮮飲小站，小朋友點飲料，老師和義工在櫃檯後立即製作新鮮的果汁雪泥和泡沫奶茶。此外還設有迷你畫廊，來展示學生的繪畫作品。午餐後，家長、學生、老師、佛青和義工共同清理學校。

學生有機會親自為父母做食物，這無疑是他們最開心的一天；對大多數的家長而言，則是意外地吃到自己孩子喜孜孜所做的食品。老師、佛青同學和義工則渡過歡樂而勞累的一天，儘管如此，大家仍相約明年的懷少節再聚！

Gold Buddha Monastery—Gourmet Food • Juice Stand • Art Exhibit

This year, Cherishing Youth Day at Gold Buddha Monastery was held on April 4, 2004. To add more meaning to the event, our theme was to “Make Offerings to the Triple Jewel.” We made foods to offer to the Triple Jewel. Forty people ranging from five-year-olds to adults, including students, teachers, DRBY members and volunteers, made food. There were eight groups in total, two groups making the burritos, two groups making sushi, two groups making spring rolls, one group making pizza and one group making cookies.

After the Meal Offering Ceremony, a Dharma Master gave a brief talk. During lunchtime, we also played a five minute movie introducing the 2003-2004 Gold Buddha Monastery Instilling Goodness School.

To make the event more enjoyable for the youngsters, a little juice stand was set up. Children placed their order, while a few teachers and volunteers were behind the bar making juice slush and bubble tea.

In addition, a mini-gallery was set up where the works of the students were displayed. At the end of the lunch, parents, students, teachers, DRBY members, and volunteers, all helped out in cleaning the school.

To the students, it was one of the enjoyable things they've done, since they got to make food for their mom and dad. To the parents, most of them were surprised that their children could make food and they were quite pleased. And to the teachers, DRBY members and volunteers, it was one of the most exhausting yet enjoyable day. We

look forward to next year's Cherishing Youth Day!





秉承上宣下化老和尚所倡導的尊老愛幼的傳統，華嚴精舍繼去冬慶祝敬老節後，又於今春四月十一日邀請所在地區的青少年朋友一起慶祝懷少節。這是自華嚴精舍新道場落成後所慶祝的第一個懷少節。

。有近百名青少年朋友和他們的家人歡聚一堂，度過了一個愉快而有意義的週日。

上午九時整，小朋友們和所有來賓在法師的帶領下，普佛祈福，意為讓青少年朋友們從小就能在佛光的沐浴下，植菩提種子於他們的幼小的心靈。隨後華嚴中文學校的同學們上供于佛前以報佛恩，再叩頭父母以謝父母恩。一曲英文合唱的法界大學校歌拉開了表演節目的序幕。不論是楞嚴咒的背誦，還是傳統的民俗舞蹈，或是樂器合奏與自彈自唱，都為大家帶來了開懷的笑聲。華嚴中文學校的舞獅隊更是把表演推向了高潮。演出的壓軸戲是黃老居士的保留節目--山東快書，使大家再一次欣賞到此一傳統的中國曲藝形式。

豐盛健康的素齋過後，多彩有趣的園遊會吸引了小朋友們的極大興趣。從草編到木刻，從書法到繪畫，從獨特的中國結到活潑的捏麵人，使小朋友們流連忘返，不僅觀賞，更鼓起勇氣，自己動手嘗試。一件件小藝術品不斷地從小朋友們的手中造出來，雖然難脫稚嫩，卻也生動有趣。

時間悄悄地過去了，懷少節的慶祝活動在小朋友們的歡歌笑語中圓滿結束了。

般若觀音聖寺—遊戲•籃賽

懷少節在四月十八日舉行，上午7:25大眾雲集，在法師、老師和學生代表致詞後，節目立即展開。今年策劃人決定不用傳統舞台式慶祝，取而代之的是，小學生在自己班級玩遊戲，大學生在戶外比賽籃球。

在老師看顧下，由負責的年輕人帶動各種遊戲，教室內頓時歡聲雷動。

戶外的籃球賽，則由賣力起勁的兩隊籃友奮戰不懈。學生今天免於週日學，而盡情

Avatamsaka Vihara—Bowling • Performances • Garden Party

In continuing the tradition of honoring elders and cherishing youth established by the Venerable Master, the Avatamsaka Vihara invited local youth to celebrate Cherishing Youth Day together on April 11th this spring. This was the first-ever Cherishing Youth Day hosted by the Avatamsaka Vihara since its relocation. Nearly a hundred young people and their parents gathered to spend an entertaining yet meaningful day together.

At 9:00 a.m., a Dharma Master led the children and guests in bowing to the Buddhas for blessings. Our young friends were thus exposed to the Buddha's light and planted the seeds of Bodhi. After that, the children from the Chinese School made offerings to the Buddha to repay the Buddha's kindness, and bowed to their parents to repay their parents' kindness.

The program started off with the singing of the Dharma Realm Buddhist University's anthem. Whether it was the memorization of the *Shurangama Sutra*, or a cultural folk dance, or a musical performance, all brought joyful laughter to people's faces.

A dazzling performance given by the Avatamsaka Chinese School's Lion Dance Troupe was the highlight for the day. The best program was Elder Layman Huang's storytelling accompanied by rhythmic taps of bamboo clappers.

After a delicious and healthy vegetarian meal, children were drawn to an amusing garden party. There was straw weaving, wood carving, calligraphy, painting, Chinese knots, and kneading dough. All these activities made the kids reluctant to leave.

They not only wanted to watch these activities, but they also summoned up their courage to try them out themselves. Numerous art projects sprang up from their hands, and even though they may have been awkward, they were also fun and lively.

Time slipped by silently, and Cherishing Youth Day ended with the laughter and celebration of the children.

Prajna Guanyin Sagely Monastery—Games • Basketball Matches

On Sunday, April 18, Cherishing Youth Day was held at Prajna Guanyin Sagely Monastery in Kuala Lumpur. This time round, it was decided that we move away from the traditional concert style of celebrations. Instead, the younger students played games in their respective classes, while the older ones held basketball matches in the open spaces.

Activities proceeded immediately after a round of speeches by Dharma Masters, Teachers and Student Representatives in the Buddha Hall after an assembly at 7:25 a.m. Loud whoops and gales of laughter



享受著每一刻。

10:30一切活動暫告一段落，大家準備上供，並享受豐富的午餐。香積組準備了一頓小朋友們的最愛大餐款待。

餐後遊樂

繼續到1:30，冷飲供應大受歡迎，每人來上數杯。享用後，小朋友大排長龍進教室領禮物--恤衫和短褲，更不能忘的是巧克力糖。

時間飛逝，轉眼就是該回家的時候，小朋友依序邁步往家長等候區，他們迫不及待地想向父母展示，不斷地揮舞著高舉在手的禮物。



萬佛聖城—慶祝青春時光

萬佛聖城於四月二十三日慶祝懷少節，今年主題為「珍惜地球與所有生命」。瑜伽鎮來參加的學校，也提供了多種文化的精彩節目。

當天的序幕，是由男校的舞龍舞獅展開，接著是中國歌唱，如何用華語打招呼，扇舞，匈牙利芭蕾舞曲，非洲鼓及舞蹈，還有荷蘭矮人舞，許多來賓都紛紛上場參加。

恆實法師為年輕人唱幾首歌曲，其中有首介紹觀音菩薩的「她帶領我」很感人。上午的節目在恆聰法師帶動兒童做有趣的運動中結束。

僧眾到場做臨齋儀，開始進餐，欣賞表演太鼓，歌唱，短劇，包括女校話劇社演出

rocked the Dharma classes as the assigned youth leader led their charges through the organised games with the respective class teachers overseeing the activities.

Out in the open spaces, the youths took the challenge of the basketball matches with the vigor and enthusiasm of Michael Jordon and the Chicago Bulls. Today, the students were freed from normal Sunday lessons and they were all bent on relishing every second of it.

At ten-thirty, all activities came to a halt, as they prepared for the Meal Offering Ceremony followed by a scrumptious lunch. The kitchen volunteers prepared a feast of vegetarian kebabs, fried noodles, rice and sandwiches as well as huge platters of cakes, cookies and fruits, all of which were eaten with delight.

After lunch, games resumed until 1:30 p.m. Then everyone trooped out for cool refreshments. They greeted the drinks with glee and helped themselves to several cups each!

When they had their fill, they made a bee-line for their classrooms to receive their gift pack, which included a T-shirt and shorts, and a chocolate bar.

The day came to a close all too soon, and the students filed out to the waiting area where their parents had gathered. Waving their gift packs above their heads, the younger students surged towards the waiting group of parents to show them their presents.



Celebrating the Youth at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas celebrated Cherishing Youth Day on Friday, April 23rd. This year's theme was "Cherishing the Earth and All Life." Local schools from Ukiah joined us in celebrating this multicultural event.

The day started off with a lion and dragon dance performed by the Boys' School. The morning program also included Chinese songs, Chinese greetings, a Fan Dance, Hungarian ballet, African drumming and dance, and a Dutch Dwarf Dance that the audience was invited to join in.

DM Heng Sure shared some songs with the youth of Ukiah. One particularly moving song called "She Carries Me" was about Guanyin Bodhisattva. To conclude the morning, DM Heng Tsung led the kids in several fun exercises.

The assembly arrived and led the meal offering. Then as the audience enjoyed a tasty lunch, they listened to Taiko drumming and more songs and watched several skits, including one on "The Life of the



「佛陀的一生」，培德男女校等三個國樂社分別演出。

節目的尾聲是大家期待已久的男校舞獅，一紅一金的雙獅跳上6尺高的柱子或索線。當男同學隨著鑼鼓聲的節奏在柱子間跳上跳下時，很多觀眾或屏息或驚呼，扣人心弦的表演結束後，很多小孩衝到毛茸茸的獅子旁摸它，又鑽到布裏面，想要鑽到獅頭裡面呢！這些孩子為獅子興奮之情真是不可思議。我們贈送到場的每所學校一隻中國小獅子頭。懷少節的來賓看完各種表演，帶著微笑與記憶離去。

Buddha” performed by the Girls’ School. The three Chinese Orchestra groups from the Developing Virtue School played several pieces with traditional Chinese instruments.

The program concluded with the long-awaited lion dance by the Boys’ School. They had two lions - one red and the other one gold - jump on 6-foot tall poles and tight wire. Many in the audience held their breath as the boys jumped from pole to pole to the rhythm of the drum and gong. When the performance was over, many of the children rushed over to the furry lions to touch them and try to go under the cloth and into the lions’ heads! It was amazing to see the children so excited by the lions. Each school was presented with a gift of a miniature Chinese lion’s head. The participants in this Cherishing Youth Day left with smiles and memories of the different performances.



金法寺—紐奧良的第一屆懷少節

五月二十三日金法寺在慶祝佛陀聖誕這天同時舉辦第一屆的懷少節。

早晨7:00開始，首先由法師開示兩項儀式的關係--一者在洗滌身心，返回清淨本源；一者在珍惜年少時的清淨自性。

兒童觀賞一齣木偶劇「青蛙與兒童」告訴他們要對動物有愛心，闡揚一個男孩對貧盲的父母盡孝道的故事。

兒童們作遊戲，即興歌唱，最後人人有獎，玩得樂陶陶！

The First Cherishing Youth Day at Gold Dharma Monastery in New Orleans

Gold Dharma Monastery’s first Cherishing Youth Celebration was held in conjunction with the Buddha’s Birthday Celebration on May 23, 2004. The program started at 7:00 in the morning. A Dharma Master talked about the connection between the two celebrations—one of cleansing the mind to return to purity and the other of cherishing the pure nature of youth. The children were entertained with a puppet show called “The Frog and the Child” that taught compassion for animals. A story about a filial boy and his poor, blind parents was told in Mandarin and Cantonese. The children also had great fun playing a game with jellybeans. A boy was given a chance to sing impromptu and he did it with flair. At the end of the day, each child was given a small gift.



法界印經會浴佛節暨懷少節記實

—培植未來佛的日子

五月二十三日是法界的大日子，法會開始，悠揚的梵唄聲，整齊的隊伍，加上大

The Buddha’s Birthday and Cherishing Youth Day at DRBBDS —A Day to Develop Future Buddhas



眾莊嚴的唱誦聲，如此的氣氛，令在場的每一位與會者無不攝住心念，虔誠一致的為今天的浴佛儀式祝禱。一、願祈求世界和平、人心祥和。二、願六大宗旨（不爭、不貪、不求、不自私、不自利、不打妄語）成為普天下眾生的教育之本。三、願來參加法會的每一位信眾早成佛道。

法師說：「浴佛節和懷少節之所以訂在一起舉辦，是希望每一個小朋友都是佛教裏的新生命和新希望。」沒錯！不止是小朋友，在場的每一位也都代表著佛教的生命及未來。而法師這一句話，不但為今天做了最好的開場，同時也為懷少節下了最佳的註解。

切壽糕時，發現法師身旁站了一位慈祥的老先生，他是誰呢？後來才知道是林佛先老居士，聽說年齡已高達九十六歲，最有意思的是，他是在佛誕前一天出生，所以叫佛先，而他也是上人的老弟子喔！

好戲開鑼了！英文朗誦、武術表演、鋼琴演奏，沒有一樣難得倒他們，哇！現在的小朋友真是聰明，而且多才多藝，看著他們認真的表情、動作，除了自歎不如外，同時也為他們多日來的努力與家長的配合讚歎。

終於輪到佛青會表演了，一群業餘的演員，藉著「小儂求學記」的演出，告訴小朋友，作弊是不好的行為，同時也必須付出代價的。活動接近尾聲，一切圓滿順利劃下句點。看到小朋友們天真開心的模樣，相信為這場活動準備的義工們一定都會相當欣慰。

金聖寺—精心策劃，寓教於樂的慶典

一身淺藍色的T恤、深藍色的短褲，



May 23 was a big day for DRBBDS, when the ceremony began, the atmosphere resonated with pure chanting. This majestic and unified sound of the great assembly helped focus and calm everyone's mind. Sincerely we prayed together in the Bathing the Buddha Ceremony (1) for world peace and harmony in people's hearts, (2) for the Six Guidelines (no fighting, no greed, no seeking, no selfishness, no seeking of personal benefits and no lying) to serve as the basis for the education of all beings, (3) for every participant in the ceremony to realize Buddhahood soon.

A Dharma Master said, "The reason why Bathing the Buddha Day and Cherishing Youth Day are celebrated simultaneously is that we hope every child will have a new life and be a new hope in Buddhism." That's right! Not only children but everyone in the audience represents the life and future of Buddhism. This remarkable opening statement would be a perfect explanation for the occasion of Cherishing Youth Day.

Elder Upasaka Lin Fo-Hsien ("Before Buddha") who is 96 cut the cake. His name comes from the fact that he was born the day before the Buddha's Birthday.

The wonderful program started with English recitation, performances of martial arts and piano playing. Nothing was impossible for the talented children. Looking at their sincere expression and beautiful movements, you could tell they were well prepared and supported by their parents.

Finally, it was time for Dharma Realm Buddhist Youth (DRBY) to take their turn. The amateur actors performed "Little Yao Goes to School" to convey the message that cheating is bad and brings negative consequences.

All the voluntary workers felt greatly pleased to see the children's innocent and joyful appearances. The smoothness and perfection marked the end of the activities.

Gold Sage Monastery—Watering the Roots of Wisdom through Fun and Educational Activities

He wore a light blue T-shirt and navy blue shorts, had a few strands of





豎著幾根短短的頭髮，這個真人尺寸、模樣可愛的保麗龍娃娃，是佛學班的小朋友特別為今年懷少節設計出來的，大家共同給他起個名字叫「Good Root!」。Good Root和每位小朋友一樣，按捺著期待的心情，盼望四月廿五日快點到來。

終於這一天來臨了！一早Good Root就在佛殿裏，迎接每位小朋友陸續地到來。九點整，各地來的小朋友在認識過三位親切幽默的主持人後，隨即一同觀賞「優波離出家」的佛教卡通；卡通結束後的有獎問答，在主持人的導引下，小朋友均暢所欲言地說出自己的感想。

接下來的節目，可說是上午活動的重頭「戲」。今年金聖寺佛學班首次與柏林根道場HQ的佛學班合作，共同演出Shel Silverstein的同名原著“A Giving Tree”。當全身插滿樹葉、扮演大樹的老師走進舞台時，小朋友興奮地直問主持人：「為什麼樹會走路？」這個故事就在這群年輕老師的創意發揮下，成功地讓小朋友感受到什麼是真正「無私的奉獻」。

另一齣描述孫悟空的「美猴王」，是Cupertino一所中文學校師生帶來的表演。加上栩栩如生的道具和逗趣可愛的戲服，許多小朋友都說：「今天我最喜歡看的節目，就是「『美猴王』！」

早上除了戲劇表演外，還有金聖寺佛學班的合唱及音樂演奏。HQ小朋友表演的打坐及伸展操，也讓許多人耳目一新。

十一點半結束了上供儀式後，熱鬧的戶外活動正式登場。不同於往年的是，今年午齋採園遊會的方式供應；七個攤位提供了各式中西小吃，每個小朋友都愛極了

hair, and was the same height as a little boy. This was a styrofoam figure of a boy especially created by the Gold Sage Monastery Sunday School students for Cherishing Youth Day. They named the boy Good Root! Good Root and the other kids waited patiently for the arrival of April 25th - this year's Cherishing Youth Day.

The special day finally arrived. Good Root was placed in the Buddha Hall to welcome the children. At 9 a.m. sharp, all the participants were introduced to the three hosts of the day. They then watched a Buddhist cartoon titled “Upali Leaves Home”. After watching the cartoon, the children participated in a Q&A session and shared their thoughts on the cartoon with everyone.

The next event was one of the highlights on this special day. It was the first time that the students and teachers of the Gold Sage Monastery and Burlingame HQ Monastery worked together to perform a play adapted from the book *A Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. When the teacher who acted as a tree came on stage, the kids asked in amazement: “How can a tree walk?” The message of the story was clearly seen during the play, allowing the youngsters to realize that the Giving Tree represents the selfless and giving spirit of nature.

Next was the highly anticipated performance of “The Journey to the West” by the students of the Cupertino Chinese School. The talented actors and actresses with their colorful wardrobe and props lived up to expectations, much to the delight of the audience. Many kids later said that this play was their favorite event of the day.

Besides the drama performances, there were also singing and musical instrument performances by the Gold Sage Monastery Sunday School students. Another new addition to this year's program was the meditation performance given by the students of the Burlingame HQ Monastery.

At about 11:30, after the meal offering ceremony, the participants slowly made their way out of the Buddha Hall for lunch. Lunch was served buffet style this year. There were seven food stalls serving a variety of Eastern and Western vegetarian cuisine.

The busiest stall of all was the one serving shaved-ice with syrup due to the warm weather that day.

Another new addition this year was the opening game for the outdoor activities that was designed to foster a closer relationship between the parents and their children. There were also ten other games carefully de-





這樣的素食。其中的刨冰，更在太陽公公熱情地邀請下，成為當天人氣最旺的攤位。

接著一場溫馨熱鬧的親子接力賽，揭開了團康遊戲的序幕。今年設計的十個遊戲攤位中，特別加入一個叫「一歸〇」的遊戲，小朋友必須結上雙跏趺，坐滿三分鐘才能得分。出乎意料的是，這個鬧中取靜的打坐遊戲，竟吸引了眾多的目光--原來是遊戲開始後，有三個小朋友持續坐了四十五分鐘，都不肯放下腿，無論旁邊的大哥哥如何逗他們，也始終如如不動，最後主持人只好宣佈三人同獲冠軍。這場精采的打坐比賽，就在大家熱烈的掌聲中圓滿結束。

懷少節的活動不僅熱鬧緊湊，而且藉著這種寓教於樂的設計，孩子們的身心都獲得健康的舒展。在這一整天的時間裏，沒有電動玩具、沒有流行音樂，也沒有麥當勞的漢堡炸雞，小朋友一樣過得快樂充實，更有意義的是，他們純潔的心性都得到了良善的啟蒙與滋潤。

華嚴聖寺—親近三寶與歡度時光

華嚴聖寺在五月三十日慶祝懷少節，小朋友與連同家長將近120人出席，藉此機會讓大家親近三寶也歡度時光。當天最小的來賓是5月大的雙胞胎。

由熊貓卿卿在入口歡迎佳賓，給大家一個驚喜。不但小朋友愛抱牠，連奶奶都想一探究竟這是誰，來賓紛紛排隊等待與牠合影呢。

賴睿精湛的魔術表演，因為有職業水準的各種花招技巧，立刻吸引全場注意與歡迎，表演由半小時延長到四十分鐘。

上供後，午齋時司儀簡介懷少節的意義，並報告本寺建設計劃案，因為基礎堅固紮實，所以在現有結構上還可以加蓋三層樓。不久佛教學校即可成立，並且可容納更多人參加法會。

接著是演奏、歌唱、佛青會的話劇表演，與法師致詞。佐法師講他30年前在



signed to instill goodness and virtue in the minds of our young people. One of the new games was “One Returns to Zero,” which required participants to meditate in full lotus position for three minutes to get points that could be exchanged for prizes. Three children actually overcame the distraction of the crowd and noises around them and sat continuously for forty-five minutes without moving. Finally, to conclude the game, the supervisor of the game decided to announce that the three of them were co-winners. Everyone surrounded the winners and cheered for them as they left for the day.

The activities on Cherishing Youth Day were not only fun and exciting, but they allowed young people to spend a healthy day watering their roots of wisdom. A day without computer games, pop music, and fast food can be entertaining and meaningful when spent wisely!

Avatamsaka Monastery—Drawing Near the Triple Jewel and Having Fun

Avatamsaka Monastery in Calgary, Canada celebrated Cherishing Youth Day on May 30, 2004. About 120 young people and their friends attended the event, which gave them an opportunity to draw near the Triple Jewel and enjoy themselves. The youngest guests that day were two 5-month old twin brothers.

Chin Chin, a giant panda, welcomed everyone at the entrance. Not only did young people like to hug the panda, grandmas also drew near to find out who was inside the panda costume. People also lined up to take pictures with Chin Chin.

Magician Larry performed a magic show. The lively performance soon caught everyone's attention, and as a result the 30-minute show extended to 40 minutes.

After meal offering ceremony, during lunch the emcee explained the purpose of Cherishing Youth Day. He also discussed the expansion plans for Avatamsaka Monastery. Since a solid foundation has been laid, three more stories can be built on top of the existing structure. Soon a



聖城培德學校任校長的舊事，當時30個男學生來自各個不同國家，所以學校有如聯合國，但因為佛法教導平等，學生相處倒是相安無事。學校與法界佛教大學的課業都與寺廟的時間配合。

小朋友玩遊戲到下午3點，露著歡喜容光由父母帶回家。

regular Buddhist school will be opened, and the new facility will allow more people to participate Dharma events.

There followed instrumental music, songs, a play by DRBY, and talks by Dharma Masters. Dharma Master Heng Tso recalled how, thirty-some years ago when he was the principal of the Boys School at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, there were about thirty students from various countries, making the school a miniature United Nations. Since students learned the impartial spirit of Buddhism, they got along very well together. The schedules of the schools and Dharma Realm Buddhist University were integrated into the normal monastery schedule.

The children enjoyed games until 3:00 p.m., when they headed home with their parents, their faces filled with joy.

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看完懷少節報導，各位可知我們的各道場都努力以各種創意和熱烈的方式為兒童慶祝。在所有道場慶祝過懷少節之際，我們也要記得伊拉克和其他戰亂國家中的兒童，他們受饑餓之苦、備受虐待，未受教育。小小年紀或在街頭賣菜、擦皮鞋、作活維生，或沿街乞討。但願透過懷少的慶典，大眾的修行與功德迴向，普天下的兒童都能早日得到關懷並在安和的環境中成長。

As the reader can see, every monastery has creatively and through hard work found various ways to celebrate and cherish our young people. While all our branch monasteries have been celebrating Cherishing Youth Day, we should be mindful of the children in Iraq and other war-torn nations; of children who suffer from starvation, child abuse, and lack of education; of children who sell vegetables or polish shoes, or have to go begging in the streets to survive. Through our celebration of youth, as well as our cultivation and transference of merit, may every child in the world will be cherished and be able to grow up in a peaceful environment.