



One
Buddha
is not
enough



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR Denise Nguyen, True Moon Lamp



Many teachings from the Buddha begin with “I heard these words one time when the Buddha was staying at the Anathapindika Monastery in the Jeta Grove, near Shravasti.”

We can trace the origins of this monastery back to a man named Sudatta, a wealthy merchant and philanthropist who was inspired to build the refuge for the Buddha after hearing him teach. Sudatta also looked after the well-being of the monastics by arranging for their daily meals and medical care when needed. His charitable efforts extended to caring for orphans and the destitute, earning him the name Anathapindika, which means “the one who cares for the poor and abandoned.”

Reflecting on the events of 2015, I know the spirit of Anathapindika is very much alive and strong in our community. I see his spirit at each of our monasteries, lovingly supported by you, our wonderful donors. The sisters at Deer Park Monastery now have shelter, like the Buddha did in Jeta Grove, thanks to your donations to complete the nunnery. You looked after the well-being of Thay not only by generously donating to support his recovery but also by continuing his teachings in each of your mindful breaths and steps.

Giving (dana) is an essential Buddhist practice. It is about generosity and openness, our capacity to embrace others

with compassion and love. Dana doesn't only mean making a financial gift. We can give the gift of our calm, concentrated presence to help someone who is fearful. We can offer our time and energy to help the homeless or work to address climate change. When we truly see ourselves as others and others as ourselves, we naturally want to do everything we can to secure their happiness and well-being, knowing it also contributes to our own.

Like Anathapindika, who received much satisfaction and happiness from his practice of giving, I hope you also realize great joy knowing your donations benefit so many people to transform their suffering and embrace peace.

My deep bows and gratitude to you, our dear Anathapindikas, for all your loving support of Thay and our beloved community.

A lotus for you,

Denise Nguyen
True Moon Lamp

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CO-CHAIR

On a recent Sunday, we celebrated Vesak in the ancient oak grove that was used as an outdoor meditation hall in the early days of Deer Park Monastery.

Over five hundred friends – ranging from three years old to over ninety – gathered to bathe the baby Buddha and to affirm their own capacity to wake up, as well as our capacity as a fourfold community to be a force for healing and transformation in our world. How moving it is to see how well mindfulness practice has rooted and blossomed in North America.

At this moment in our individual and collective history, our society has the greatest need for individuals and communities who are dedicated to collective awakening and to bringing the healing tools of mindfulness to our world.

One of the many reasons that I, and the monastic community, are excited about the work of the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation, is that the Foundation provides a concrete way both to build fourfold community and to bring these teachings to our society.

We are making a difference. You are making a difference, and your presence means so much to our monastic community.

Thank you for being part of our Foundation family!



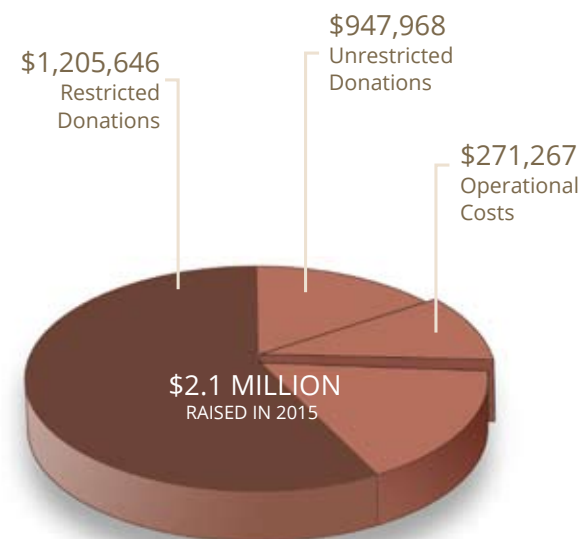
With a grateful heart and bright smile,

Thich Phap Hai

Thich Phap Hai

Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation Co-Chair

YOUR 2015 GIFTS AT WORK



Donations to the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation are a direct extension of your personal commitment to the transformation of suffering and the realization of peace. Many Foundation members – like you – offer general support gifts, which are used for community priorities determined by the UBC Board. These general support (unrestricted) funds are crucial because they provide the Foundation with the ability to meet the community's highest priority needs. Members like you also make restricted gifts to Foundation projects and programs. In 2015, you lovingly provided a total of \$2.1 million in support – \$1,205,646 in restricted and \$947,968 in unrestricted funding.

The \$947,968 you provided in general support (unrestricted) funding was disbursed based on the following formula determined by the UBC Board: 20% for each of the four practice centers (Plum Village, our root monastery in France; and Blue Cliff Monastery, Deer Park Monastery, and Magnolia Grove Monastery in the United States), 10% for humanitarian relief efforts, and 10% for Dharma education and outreach. In addition to supporting multiple practice centers and programs, your general support (unrestricted) gifts covered the Foundation's operational expenses. In 2015, those operational expenses were \$271,267.

Your 2015 gifts to the Foundation supported: multiple Dharma education and outreach projects; humanitarian aid to school children, teachers, and the elderly in Vietnam; the Monastic Trust Fund; and renovation/construction projects at each practice center. Your specially designated (restricted) gifts, along with a set percentage of your general support (unrestricted) gifts, planted many seeds of compassion and made a positive difference in thousands of people's lives.

A deep bow of gratitude to you for continuing Thay's work and watering seeds of mindfulness and peace in many communities in 2015.



Dharma education and outreach projects included Wake Up mindfulness tours for young people, online Dharma resources and film projects, sangha (community) building initiatives, and public Days of Mindfulness. Your loving support provided \$123,317 to sustain current initiatives, launch new projects, and expand efforts to bring the practice to many more people.



Blue Cliff Monastery in Pine Bush, New York, was in dire need of winterizing its historic Golden Lotus dormitory building and making it wheelchair accessible. You helped complete this project in 2015. It is now well insulated, has heat for year-round use, and is completely wheelchair accessible.

Your gifts totaling \$231,391 not only completed the Golden Lotus dormitory project but also sustained the entire monastery, keeping it open and operational.



The Monastic Trust Fund is a Unified Buddhist Church (UBC) endowment created to ensure the care and continuation of our beloved monastic community long into the future. You lovingly gave \$44,296 in restricted gifts to make this possible.



Plum Village Monastery in France, home to over 200 monastics, was built in 1982. Your gifts of \$112,842 made possible some of the much-needed and long overdue renovations to the center's facilities.



Your loving gifts of \$125,765 to Magnolia Grove Monastery in Batesville, Mississippi, supported two critical and ongoing construction projects: the building of a residence hall for the monastic brothers, and the renovation of the women's guest house for lay practitioners. Both of these projects support the establishment of a solid community of practice at Magnolia Grove.

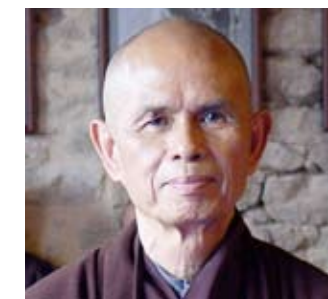


Your loving gifts of \$132,159 for Deer Park Monastery in Escondido, California, were graciously received. A portion went towards the general operations of the practice center, and the other portion helped to complete construction of the nunnery. Your specially

designated, restricted gifts in the amount of \$298,989 went directly to the nunnery building project in 2015. (See our article on the project for an update as of June 2016.)



International humanitarian relief efforts aid victims of poverty in Vietnam by helping build schools, feed school-age children, and support the elderly. You lovingly provided \$80,025 to help take care of our precious brothers and sisters in Vietnam through the Love and Understanding Program.



In 2015, you so generously and lovingly gave \$595,222 to pay for Thay's hospitalization and rehabilitative care. In addition, many of you sent your heartfelt wishes and prayers for his healing.

PROGRAM FUNDING MAP 2015

Through your generosity, the Foundation's Dharma Education and Outreach Program was able to offer grant funding to our community for Days of Mindfulness, workshops, retreats, films, and monastic teaching tours to help share Thay's teachings and mindfulness trainings worldwide.

The Dharma was taught on topics such as protecting Mother Earth, social justice, peace and reconciliation, and sangha building. People of all ages and backgrounds were nourished, including communities of color and Wake Up young adults.



FRANCE



CANADA



COLOMBIA



Bogotá | Colombia Mindfulness Tour in Colombia

Your donations helped sponsor a monastic teaching tour in Colombia that reached over 1,400 people of all ages and backgrounds. Students, teachers, activists, peace workers, and businesspeople benefited from the events, which included a retreat, two workshops, and three Dharma talks. The tour strengthened and inspired the Bogotá Sangha to keep practicing as a collective group and helped practitioners in the cities of Pereira and Medellin to build and develop sanghas. In Bogotá, there are now three sanghas that meet every week to practice.



Deming | WA Pacific Northwest Wake Up Retreat

"Connecting to Our Ancestors, Responding to Our Deepest Calling"

 "It was with your support that I was able to attend my first Wake Up retreat. In my life there have been moments of love and moments of intense heartbreak, moments of bliss and moments of despair. In these moments of profound joy and sorrow, I struggled to be in the present moment, to be aware and accepting of my emotions and the conditions around me. Since the retreat I have felt a transformation happening deep within me. I feel more emotionally intertwined with my Bellingham Sangha. I am finding the will to be softer to myself, and I am once again opening my eyes to see the beauty all around me. Because of my Wake Up Sangha and the retreat, I am learning to listen to and to trust the truth within me. My meaning and purpose as a being is becoming clearer and I am repaving the path to self-care, a path that involves loving others as myself. I give thanks infinitely." – Shannon Bachtel



Brooklyn | NY Mindfulness Events for People of Color

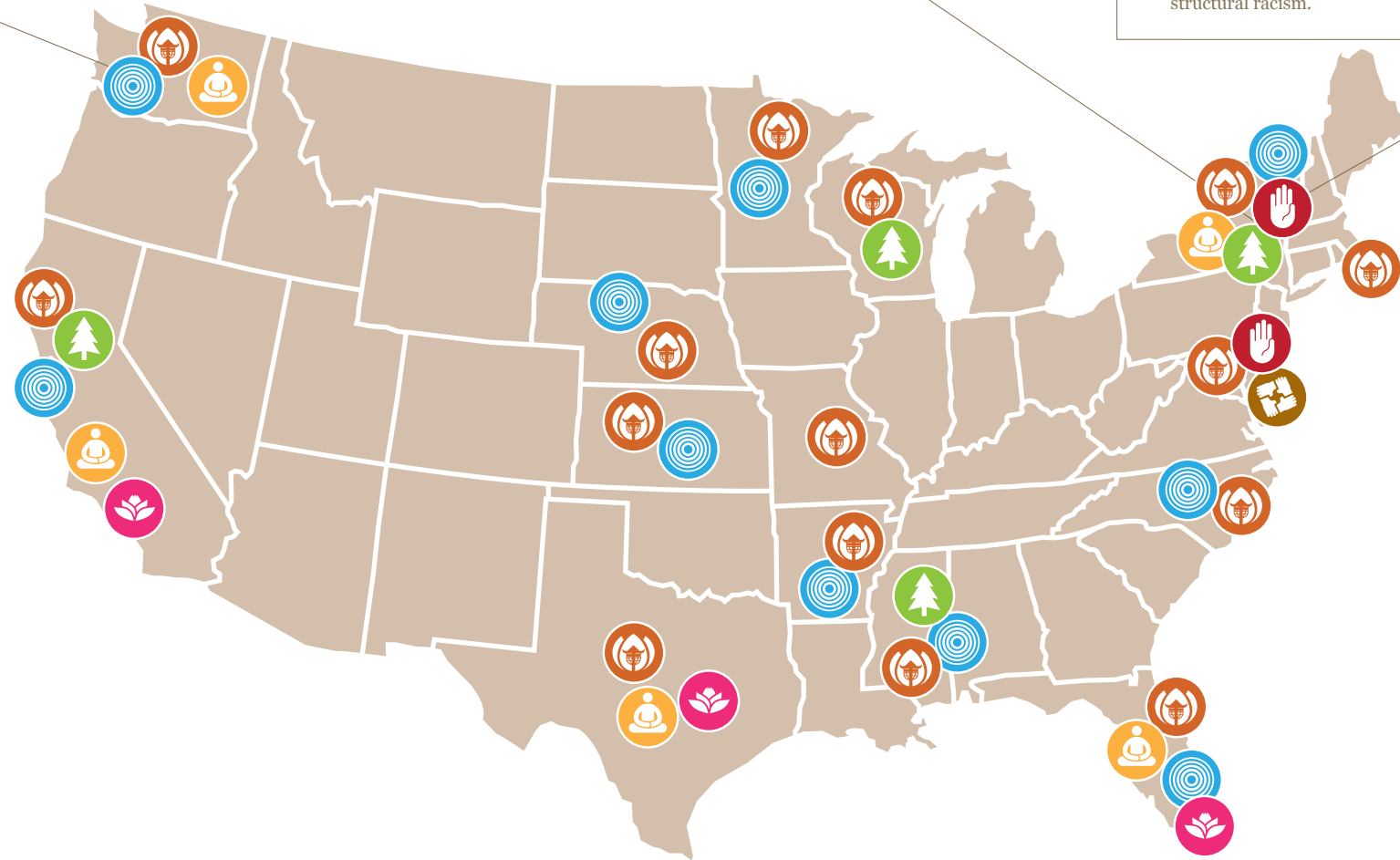
The Love Circle Sangha (LCS) Mahasangha Events Program supports wholesome understanding of the lived experience and Dharma practice of people of color (POC), specifically within the context of practicing mindfulness and understanding. Funds to LCS helped realize multiple events in 2015, including a Day of Mindfulness for POC change-makers on the topic of Right View; a POC weekend retreat at Blue Cliff Monastery; and talks, workshops, and panel discussions to foster embodied mindfulness practice for self-care. Attendees included front-liners and organizers working at the intersections of health/well-being, indigenous and Earth-based knowledge systems, and social justice; POC Buddhists practicing in various lineages; and the general public and those with limited exposure to Buddhist teachings or practice.



New York City | NY Where Spirit and Action Meet:

Continuing the Legacy of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

 Your donations helped bring inspiring panelists to New York City for this important, widely attended discussion on the interbeing of spirituality and action in the struggle for racial justice. Given the tragic events in 2015 in Baltimore, New York, Charleston, Ferguson, and elsewhere in the US, this event during the Miracle of Mindfulness Fall 2015 Monastic Tour encouraged attendees to look deeply and act compassionately to address America's deep-rooted habit of structural racism.



PROGRAM KEY

- MINDFULNESS TEACHING & TRAINING
- VIETNAMESE OUTREACH
- WAKE UP
- PROTECTING MOTHER EARTH
- PEOPLE OF COLOR
- SOCIAL JUSTICE
- PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
- SANGHA BUILDING
- EDUCATORS

Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation

PROGRAM FUNDING IN 2015, CONTINUED:

In the spring of 2015, your generosity and kindness were deeply felt and graciously received by an exceptional group of students at the City University of New York (CUNY). These students were enrolled in CUNY's Contemplative Law Program, a unique course of study intended to prepare lawyers for public interest careers while maintaining a deep commitment to engaged social action and social justice. Through your support, many students were able to receive scholarships to attend a retreat at Blue Cliff Monastery in order to learn mindfulness and take the practice into their careers. Students had this to say about their experience:

"It goes without saying that our time at Blue Cliff Monastery was a wonderful experience, especially for a group of stressed out law students, lawyers, and judges. Public interest law practice carries a lot of emotional, mental, and physical strain, and taking a break from carrying that 'baggage' was a

gift. I almost can't remember a time when I felt so free."

"Meditation is the perfect counterpart to the stressful law environment. At the retreat, I repeatedly heard from my peers, 'This was just what I needed.' For me, meditation at Blue Cliff was an opportunity to reincorporate peace and balance into my life."

"During my time at Blue Cliff, I experienced a living community dedicated to light-hearted mindfulness... Our own (CUNY) community blossomed into a wonderful wellness. Watching a group of lawyers and law students, who I know to be strivers, achievers, melt into Blue Cliff was quite remarkable... Since our experience at Blue Cliff, my practice has deepened. Advancing on the path, continuing to be more mindful, more kind, to hold myself more lightly, seems easier and more possible."

The students and faculty of the program have decided to make a mindfulness retreat at Blue Cliff Monastery an annual part of their program. We hope you will continue to make this possible in years to come through your support of the Dharma Education and Outreach Program. Together, we are creating a new generation of mindful lawyers! For more information about CUNY's Contemplative Law Program, please visit the website: www.law.cuny.edu



THE DEER PARK NUNNERY PROJECT

Complete and fully funded thanks to your generosity

their earth-friendly dwelling. Now the sun shines on four straw bale buildings where the sisters feel the love and support of the earth. We are very grateful to have been a part of this project, and to all of you who have shared your time, energy, and financial resources to complete this project. We bow to you and to the earth-friendly home you have created.

"The very first time I entered the building, tickles ran through my cells, awakening in them an ancient feeling of ease and familiarity: 'Yes, we know this,' they were saying, 'we've lived in places like that for the longest time... it's good to be home.'"

When I woke up after the first night sleeping in our new home, I felt it had been a long time since I felt so rested and joyful. And I went

from room to room to ask all the sisters how they slept! Everyone looked refreshed and so happy!

Going in and out every day, I still remember the many hands, hearts, minds, and souls that made this beautiful place a loving home for us to live in, working together to cut bales, putting them up, mixing the mud, leaving fingerprints and messages in our mud walls.

My heart is filled with deep gratitude and love and I promise that together we will continue to build and fill Clarity Hamlet with all our love, joyful sharing, and sisterhood so that it will be vibrant with life and laughter, solid and welcoming... a place of refuge for all."

Sister Mai Nghiem



MONASTIC HEALTH CARE A FOCUS IN 2016

Health care is a basic human need and right. Unfortunately, even with the Affordable Care Act, many of our US-based monastics are not able to enjoy health insurance coverage. This is primarily due to the lack of state options. In an effort to ensure that funds are dedicated for the health of our beloved monastic community, the Foundation has created a Monastic Health Care Fund.

The existing Monastic Trust Fund (MTF) currently supports monastics in Thailand and other developing areas. The new Monastic Health Care Fund is specifically to support health care costs for nearly 100 monastics in the United States.

This fund addresses a significant need for the

community. Our monastics have a very healthful and wholesome way of living. But one never knows when a baby rattlesnake may love a brother so much that he curls up in his shoe and – well, then we have an emergency!

As of January 2016, the Foundation is allocating 10% of general support gifts for US-based monastics' health care. We hope this will ensure that our beloved sisters and brothers have funds when the need arises.

We look forward to a day when all of our monastics have health insurance. Until then, we have a concrete and easy way to take care of their needs. They care for us; now we can care for them.

To learn more or to give directly to the Monastic Health Care Fund, please visit: www.thichnhatanhfoundation.org or email info@thichnhatanhfoundation.org

ANNOUNCING THE PLUM VILLAGE CEDAR SOCIETY: Legacy Giving for Our Beloved Community

One of the many wonderful insights we have learned from our teacher, Thay, is that a cloud never dies. When we think of our own transition, we have an opportunity to think about the legacy we want to leave. In addition to providing for our children and grandchildren, many of Thay's students have asked for a way to provide for our spiritual family as well. Responding to that request, the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation created the **Plum Village Cedar Society**.

When Thay was a young Dharma teacher in Vietnam in 1961, he trained 13 young people to help support and root the Buddha's teachings during the war. He called them the "thirteen cedars," choosing the cedar's strength and solidity for inspiration. They became a sangha, sharing a common vision and purpose with Thay to help others. Some are still with us

today, and we owe them such a debt of gratitude.

We can never repay Thay and our spiritual ancestors for all they have done for us. But we can make sure the message of compassion, understanding, and interbeing remains alive and accessible for all people far into the future. Ensuring the continuity of the Plum Village tradition can be part of our own legacy.

The Cedar Society is a path for practitioners to offer stable, long-term funding support for the Plum Village community through planned legacy gifts. From the 13 cedars, we hope to grow 1,300 cedars over the next few years.

Joining the Cedar Society is easy. For most people, it is a simple matter of adding a short paragraph, called a codicil, to an existing will. If you would like to become a cedar and help to continue the Plum Village community into the future, please contact: info@ThichNhatHanhFoundation.org or (760) 291-1003 ext 104.

Bowing to you, a cedar to be.



For over five years the Deer Park Nunnery project has received love and support from the community. Now we are very happy to share that the project is complete, and no further funding is needed.

During these years the monastic and lay community planned together, dreamed together, and carefully crafted a new home for the sisters. In December 2015, they moved into



Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation
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SUSTAINING MEMBER CIRCLE



planting
seeds
of
Compassion

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who joined the Thich Nhat Hanh Sustaining Member Circle in 2015. Your participation in the Sustaining Member Circle reflects your deep commitment to Thay's lifelong work to ease suffering and create peace. Your monthly gift provides consistent support the community needs to keep the practice centers open and to sustain mindfulness-based initiatives around the world.

Here is what a few practitioners shared about why they became members :

"It is very nourishing to me to give to the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation because I believe the contributions I make will be used mindfully to water seeds of understanding, love, and compassion. My life has been transformed by the mindfulness practice taught by Thay and the monastics, and I can think of no better way to reduce suffering and promote nonviolence and spread peace and joy than supporting the

work of sharing this practice with as many people as are open to it." – Carla Thomas

"I support the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation because of Thay's soul and the profound wisdom of his teachings. I first joined Thay on a 'Peace Walk,' a slow, deliberate-paced walk to heal the planet around MacArthur Park in Los Angeles almost a decade ago, and was so very blessed to walk within fifteen feet behind him, where his calm, grounded, and profound spirit radiated. I had never experienced anyone like him before. His teachings and spirit have carried me through life's most challenging times as I age and find the strength to complete a life's endeavor." – Ruth Lindeck Forman

If you would like to share your reason for joining the Thich Nhat Hanh Sustaining Member Circle, email us at:
info@ThichNhatHanhFoundation.org