



THICH NHAT HANH FOUNDATION

planting seeds of Compassion

FOUNDATION 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

In the Buddhist teaching known as the threefold emptiness, we learn that there is no separation between the giver, the gift, and the receiver. The Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation is honored to support the practice of generosity – the first of the six paramitas, or perfections, that define our path. Through giving and sharing, we recognize our interconnectedness and see that everything is giving, everything is receiving.

Peace in You, Peace in the World

The greatest gift we can offer to anyone is the gift of Dharma, the gift of transforming suffering. You bring this gift to others every day with your practice – a kind word to your neighbor, a bowl of food on your porch for a homeless cat, a smile and helping hand for the food market worker who dropped your bag of groceries. By giving this gift to yourself first – reading, studying, and practicing mindful living – you are bringing more peace and freedom into your life, and your compassionate and loving heart is easing suffering and bringing happiness to others.

The Foundation is the designated fundraising arm of the *Unified Buddhist Church, Inc.*, the U.S. nonprofit organization formed by Thày in the mid eighties to bring a beautiful new way of being to the West. Thày offered us the practice of sitting, walking, and eating mindfully to help us arrive in the here and now. Since then, the practice of mindfulness has continued to sprout seeds of compassion throughout North America. Today, there are three U.S. practice centers in the Plum Village tradition, over 350 Sanghas, and hundreds of annual retreats, teaching tours, and public Day of Mindfulness events in cities from New York City to Los Angeles.

The Foundation offers giving opportunities for lay practitioners, such as monthly giving programs, bequests, capital campaigns, and *Monastic Trust Fund* support. With an all-volunteer board and two staff members, the Foundation provides essential administrative operations and fundraising support for our four-fold Sangha so that our community's monastic and lay Dharma teachers have more time for their beautiful practice, and to bring their beautiful practice to many more.

Continuation Fund

Since its inception, the Foundation has encouraged lay practitioners to join the *Continuation Fund* – a monthly gift pledge program to ensure ongoing, stable support for our community. **As we began 2014, 1,174 Bodhisattvas were active monthly pledge donors, and working joyfully together, they raised \$416,531 – the single largest source of Foundation contributions in 2013.** Over 30% of our donors are monthly donors – far above the national average of 5% for nonprofit organizations – which demonstrates the love and commitment to Thày and his worldwide efforts to transform suffering into understanding.

Bequest Gifts

“Late last year I was getting ready for an extended trip and decided to set up a trust for my business and also revise my will. Thày’s message has had such a profound impact on my life and the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation is providing much needed resources to leverage his teachings, so I named them as a beneficiary in my will.” – Spence Davis

In 2013, 7 new Bodhisattvas offered a legacy of love to Thich Nhat Hanh by including a gift to the Foundation in their estate plans.

Monastic Trust Fund

The *Monastic Trust Fund* is an endowment fund for the ongoing care and well-being our beloved monastic community. Only the interest from the fund is used to support our Monastic Brothers and Sisters each year, so your gifts to the *Monastic Trust Fund* live on forever. **In 2013, you provided \$98,568 for the fund, which, combined with a generous 2:1 matching gift challenge offered by a member of our community, yielded a total of \$295,703 for the Monastic Trust Fund.**

In 2013, your support of our community raised \$1,010,480!

2,941 members of our community gave gifts in 2013. Since its beginning, 4,016 practitioners have supported the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation with an offering of Dana.

General support gifts provided to the Foundation are allocated as follows:

20% Blue Cliff Monastery

20% Deer Park Monastery

20% Magnolia Grove Monastery

20% Plum Village Monastery

10% Dharma Education and Outreach Programs

10% International Humanitarian Relief

A portion of year-end gifts donated in 2013 were disbursed in January, 2014.

The Fruits of Your Compassion Supporting our North America Practice Centers

Every year, thousands of people visit our three North American practice centers and often it is their first introduction to the art of mindful living. A day visit, or an extended stay at a monastery, can help us slow down and find a sense of spaciousness inside. We learn how much happiness we can bring to ourselves, and others, when we speak mindfully and listen with compassion.

Maintaining and developing our practice centers is a constant labor of love, and **in 2013, your gifts to the capital campaigns at each practice center provided \$555,174 in essential financial support to renovate visitor dormitories at Blue Cliff, begin work on the Deer Park Nunnery Project, and complete the construction of the new meditation hall at Magnolia Grove.**

Blue Cliff Monastery (NY)

Your gifts are helping renovate the Golden Lotus, the oldest building on the Blue Cliff property and badly in need of repair in order to be able to offer year-round dormitory space for guests. This needed renovation created an opportunity to create the first wheelchair accessible dorm rooms, as well as wheelchair accessible bathrooms. Phase I of this project has been completed, adding a new boiler and hot water heater, as well as new roof, windows and doors, and beginning work on essential electrical and plumbing improvements. Upon completion, this building will add up to 30 new beds available to guests for year-round use, and offer the first wheelchair accessible accommodations at Blue Cliff.



Deer Park Monastery (CA)

Your gifts are helping manifest Deer Park's current priority project – building a nunnery to provide a healthy, comfortable living environment for the nuns of Clarity Hamlet. The new nunnery is a straw-bale, highly energy efficient design by the famed ecological architectural firm of Hubbell and Hubbell. The new nunnery will consist of four buildings and will house 40 nuns, living quarters for Thich Nhat Hanh (Thầy) when he is at Deer Park, and open up more housing for families and women to stay and practice at Deer Park. Approximately \$750,000 has been raised on the \$2 million goal enabling Phase I of the project to begin in 2014.

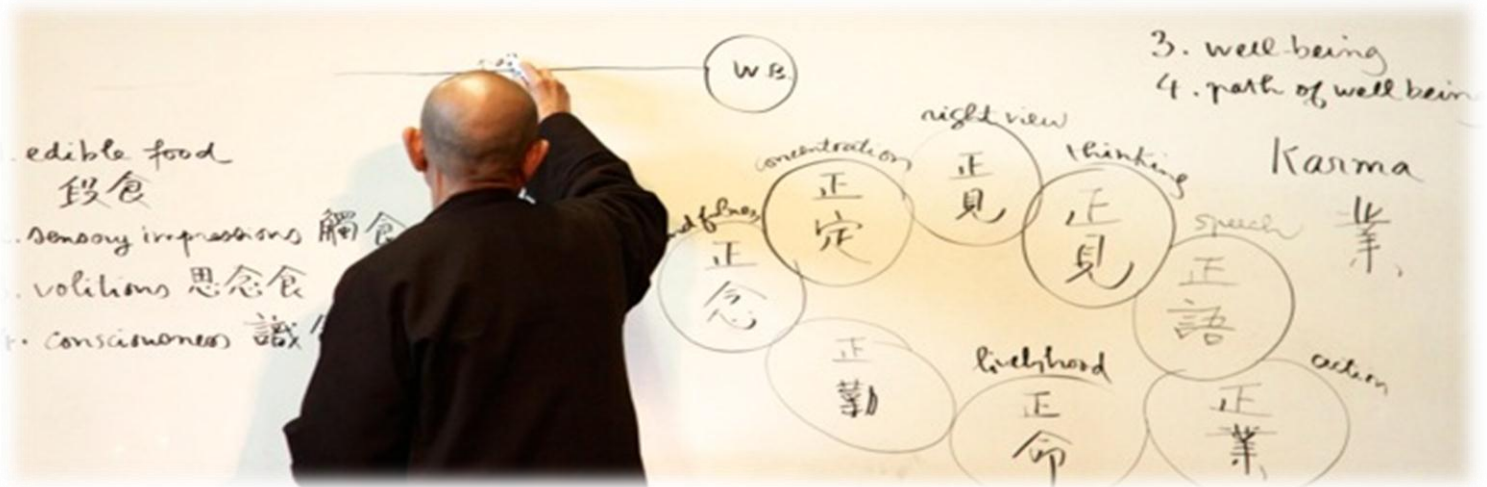


Magnolia Grove Monastery (MS)

Your gifts helped build the new meditation hall at our newest North American monastery. Magnolia Grove aspired to have the project completed by the time Thầy returned during his 2013 North American Tour – and they have succeeded! Magnolia Grove is now the site of the largest North American Meditation Hall in our tradition, a cherished offering that is allowing over 1,000 people to experience the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha, together. Thầy has named it the *Rising Tide Meditation Hall*.



For more information on our Practice Centers including visiting, upcoming retreats, Days of Mindfulness events, and current building needs, please visit our website: ThichNhatHanhFoundation.org



Dharma Sharing Programs

The Buddha offered us the teachings of awakening. Your practice of generosity offers the awakened heart of loving kindness and compassion to others through the many ways our community shares the practice of living fully in the present moment. **Your gifts provided \$49,900 for Dharma education and outreach efforts including:**

Sangha Building Fund

Your gifts provided sponsorship funding for six public Day of Mindfulness events organized by local sanghas this year. From British Columbia to Arkansas, people joined together to practice sitting and walking meditation, mindful eating, and loving speech. For many, it was their first introduction to Thây's teachings and practice. The Sangha Building Project Fund also sent dozens of "Sangha in a Box" resource kits (with instructional books, CD, DVD, Sangha Handbook, and other materials) to help new developing sanghas.

Wake Up Tours & Wake Up Schools

Your gifts supported general Wake Up travel and coordination costs, and sponsorship of the 5-Day Pacific Northwest Wake Up Retreat. Wake Up tours bring the practice of mindfulness to young adults as Wake Up tour teams consisting of monastics and lay practitioners travel to school campuses and colleges to host Days of Mindfulness, "flash mob" public meditations, and public talks which are free and accessible to all. Your gifts also provided financial assistance to hire a coordinator for Wake Up Schools, an initiative to provide support and resources for school teachers and administrators working to bring mindfulness teachings into schools.

Walk With Me Film

Your gifts provided program funding support for the film for "Walk With Me," an inspirational cinematic feature film that follows Thây and his monastics during their travels in North America, the UK and Plum Village in France, giving the viewer a unique insight into the experience of living mindfully.

Your 2013 gifts to the Foundation also provided:

- \$35,376 for the Love & Understanding program, which provides food for hungry children, builds schools, and supports parents in rural villages in Vietnam and Thailand.
- \$49,900 for international Humanitarian Relief for countries devastated by natural disasters, war, and poverty.
- \$105,845 for Plum Village, our root monastery in France, and home of our beloved teacher.

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