

November 2016

Dear Friend in the Dharma,

We are a family of deeply caring friends in the Dharma for whom generosity, kindness, friendship, love and sacrifice come as naturally to us as breathing. We know that even the smallest actions of our daily lives can combine to create wellbeing, joy and fellowship.

We have experienced this time and time again, in good times and bad, in times of ease and also of great challenge. *Just as with her own life a mother shields from hurt her child, her only child*, we do not hesitate to give generously of ourselves that others may find refuge in the Dharma.

That deeply rooted commitment to carrying the joy of the Dharma into the world is embedded in our mission. For thirteen years, we have made it a central tenet of our practice to serve seekers without the resources to afford even the lowest cost of a *Mountain Hermitage* retreat.

Time and again, we ask you, who share the fruits of our practice with us, to help. And time and again you do.

Recently, a young American man who is currently living in a Buddhist Monastery in India came to us deeply eager to attend a *Mountain Hermitage* Retreat. We knew it would be a stretch, but we came together – our dedicated and resourceful Board, our small and tireless staff, and friends in the Dharma like you – and we found a way to make it possible.

That young man represents dozens of Retreat applicants we serve, one by one, through the dailiness of our work here at *The Hermitage*. That day-by-day work keeps us true to our mission to

serve the underserved and the needy with a heartfelt emphasis on a broad diversity of retreatants.

As always we do at year's end, we turn to you for the financial support we must

have to energetically carry our mission forward into the unfolding year of *Mountain Hermitage* retreat offerings. We are as fierce about keeping our costs low, as we are to our serving those seekers who call on our *Hermitage* community for help.

We estimate our general funding needs at \$20,000 to cover our modest administrative expenses, stipends for our dedicated teachers, and scholarship funding to serve as many needy people as we can –and of course the more the better.

There are as many reasons that people are drawn to the Dharma, as there are personal stories, and we at *The Mountain Hermitage* are deeply privileged to share these journeys with all who come to us, and to share the deep satisfaction of service with all of you.

We go the extra mile. We look out for one another. We at *The Hermitage* are deeply honored to be part of this dynamic, caring fellowship of friends, as we are honored to welcome you to the next year of what began as a simple, powerful vision, and has since become a wonderful reality.

I offer you my deepest gratitude for all you have done to see *The Hermitage* through our many years of challenge and steady progress. May the joys of bringing the Dharma into the world come to you and those you love in the year ahead.

With metta,

Marcia Rose – Founder and Guiding Teacher

P.S. I know you will deeply appreciate this wise and heartfelt counsel from the great American writer James Baldwin:

*The moment we cease to hold each other,
the moment we break faith with one another,
the sea engulfs us and the lights go out.*

Again, on behalf of all we will serve together in the year ahead, thank you for all you are and all you do.

And please note that the Hermitage continues to offer a short Dharma article in the e-flyers we send out every month. If you wish to receive these mailings, you can sign up for our mailing list by clicking on “Join Our Mailing List” on the left-hand side of this website. It’s a good way to stay updated on our retreat offerings as well as receiving a monthly “nugget” of Dharma inspiration. You can also be in touch by visiting our Facebook page.