

# The Mountain Hermitage



P.O. Box 807 - Ranchos de Taos, NM - 87557  
575-758-0633 - [hermitage@mountainhermitage.org](mailto:hermitage@mountainhermitage.org) - [www.mountainhermitage.org](http://www.mountainhermitage.org)

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*Rejoicing, he/she distributes gifts,*

*And proclaims, 'Give, give.'*

*-- The Buddha*

Dear Friend in the Dharma,

Even in the toughest times, we at *The Mountain Hermitage* have many reasons to rejoice – and the sangha of steadfast *Hermitage* friends like you have added immeasurably to that joy. You have stood by us through thick and thin as we have worked together to distribute the gift of the Dharma to yogis of all ages and from all walks of life.

As we approach the beginning of our seventh year with energy and optimism, we know that you will do all that you can to help again or for the first time, rejoicing with us through the lives of the many yogis your donation will serve through their retreat experiences in the year ahead.

The verse from the Buddha continues, “*For that is his/her thundering/Like the sky when it rains. That shower of merit, so vast/Will pour down on the giver.*”

Now is the time to give -- and in that “*thundering,*” stand rejoicing in the vast shower of merit that pours down on all givers. Your philanthropic gift is critical to laying the financial foundation we must have to offer two *Hermitage* retreats in the year ahead.

We will need \$14,000 in charitable donations to continue our scholarship aid at the current levels – *scholarship aid that makes the retreat experience possible for so many who would otherwise not be able to attend ---* and to support modest expenses for general operations.

**On behalf of the yogis we will serve in the year ahead, I strongly encourage you to support *The Mountain Hermitage* with a generous, tax-deductible, year-end donation of \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100 – or whatever amount you feel you can share.**

❖ Your charitable donation will support yogis attending the new November 6-12, 2011 *Four Noble Truths Study Retreat* with Venerable Dhammadinna at San Geronimo Lodge in Taos, NM.

❖ Yogis attending the *One-Month Hermitage Retreat* from April 3-May 1, 2011, which I will co-teach with Sayadaw Vivekananda at San Geronimo Lodge will benefit from *every dollar you are able to give*. In 2009 nine yogis out of our full house of 22 attending this retreat were recipients of substantial scholarship funding.

❖ Your donation will also provide for modest stipends for *Hermitage* teachers and staff – every year, thanks to your help, we are able to invite gifted teachers and retreat staff to bring the Dharma to retreat participants.

Year after year, we accomplish more than we might ever expect on lean (and ever leaner) budgets, relying both on the expertise and dedication of a committed Board and *Hermitage* staff, and the strong support of our devoted friends.

And as we rejoice in letters like these from grateful attending yogis, we share that joy with you:

*“Because of this rare opportunity to sustain practice in a supportive environment,” wrote a yogi, “my practice was rejuvenated. I feel inspired by a deeper understanding of some of the truths of the Buddha, both because I was able to hear something new in the Dharma talks, and to actively and experientially come to know these truths during the course of my practice.”*

*“I am filled with a sense of joy and delight and amazement that such good fortune could be part of my life,” wrote another. “The time at the Retreat went by quickly, each day revealing some new aspect of clinging to ‘I, Me and Mine’ and allowing the graceful release of that habitual clinging.”*

***Rejuvenation ... inspiration ... deep understanding ... joy and delight ... graceful release ...*** such rich and wonderful gifts you will help bring to the world through your own generous giving!

Please choose one of the suggested donation amounts on the enclosed *Mountain Hermitage Donor Reply* -- or another amount – inspired by the knowledge that each dollar you give will bring us closer to meeting the challenges of our seventh *Mountain Hermitage* year.

Then return the *Donor Reply* with your check or money order in the envelope provided. If you choose to give by credit card, please go to our website at [www.mountainhermitage.org](http://www.mountainhermitage.org) and click on the *How You Can Help* menu item.

You will be able to offer a gift through your credit card via *The Network for Good*, which offers options for supporting our scholarship fund, teacher fund, and general operating costs on a one time or monthly giving basis.

On behalf of the Board and those we serve, please heed the words of the Buddha, and take this opportunity for rejoicing in an act of generous giving that will indeed help change the world. Thank you for all you do, may the joys of giving be returned to you many times over in the unfolding New Year.

With metta,



Marcia Rose

Guiding Teacher, *The Mountain Hermitage*

P.S. Please enjoy our *Mountain Hermitage 2010 Review and News* at [www.mountainhermitage.org](http://www.mountainhermitage.org). The *Review and News* is yet another way we are able, with your help, to offer the gift of the Dharma to so many searching for truth in our beautiful and troubled world.

