

The Mountain Hermitage



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Please Help Celebrate our Tenth Anniversary

Dear Friend in the Dharma,

The Mountain Hermitage means more to me than I might ever say. With the founding of *The Hermitage* ten years ago, we experienced both challenge and progress, which dovetailed in a remarkable way. Many challenges threatened the very life of our young organization. But each challenge was met and transformed to opportunity, progress, and service to ever more retreatants.

Amazed, as we celebrate our tenth year, I offer you abundant thanks for all we have accomplished together in fellowship and our powerful, shared purpose. *The Hermitage* thrives, strengthened in our mission and personal commitment to bringing the fruits of the dharma into this beautiful and suffering world.

We began with just one month-long retreat in 2005, and today we offer four fully attended retreats each year. As people carry the fruits of their *Mountain Hermitage* experience into the world, so those fruits are returned to us in the presence of every attending practitioner we are able to support with the lifeblood of scholarship aid.

On behalf of those we serve, I invite you to join your commitment with ours with a generous *Mountain Hermitage Tenth Anniversary* donation of \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100 – or whatever amount you feel you can share.

Your gift will help meet our \$25,000 funding goal for 2014. We will need at least that amount to continue our scholarship aid through 2014 at the current levels and to support modest expenses for general operations.

What will your gift help provide? Over the years, and through 28 amazing, beneficial and unique retreats our small retreat center has served more than 470 retreatants – 196 of them recipients of scholarship support.

Not one of these meditation practitioners, who have returned to the world to enact the Dharma through their own helping lives, would have been able to attend a *Mountain Hermitage* retreat without the help of friends like you.

As challenge and progress are seamlessly joined, so also are the two aspects of personal joy I've experienced as *The Hermitage's* founding and guiding teacher.

-- The first is joy in the manifestation of our original vision to support underserved Dharma students, held so close to the heart even through the toughest of times, a vision that became ever more critical as the country fell into economic crisis.

-- And the second is the joy of gratitude for your generous help – a joy that is deep and abiding, perhaps best expressed in the generous words of a *Mountain Hermitage* scholarship recipient:

Thank you for making it directly possible for me to attend a Vipassana retreat with Sayadaw U Vivekananda and Marcia Rose. The benefits of just one person's meditation practice radiate outward to an unimaginable extent. And all these benefits are part of the radiation of your practice of 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 tax-deductible dollar you give will bring us closer to meeting the challenges of our tenth anniversary *Mountain Hermitage* year.

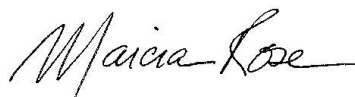
Then return the *Donor Reply* with your check or money order in the envelope provided. If you choose to give by credit card, please go to our website at www.mountainhermitage.org and click on the *How You Can Help* menu item.

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.

Keep in mind that the whole of your life is your practice. Let the innate qualities of love, compassion and wisdom naturally emerge and flourish, and joyfully nurture this natural process as you would a small and delicate seedling.

Thank you for quickly responding, and 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. *We are somehow mutually involved in the opening and softening of our hearts and the world, the scholarship recipient added. I hope giving funds for scholarships has brought you much joy!*

And I also hope, on behalf of the all Dharma students we serve together, that your *Mountain Hermitage Tenth Anniversary Gift* will bring you great joy, knowing as you and I do, that your gift will help bring much joy to others.