

Let all-embracing thoughts for all beings be yours.

– *The Metta Sutta*

November 2015

Dear Friend in the Dharma,

The Mountain Hermitage is facing a wonderful problem. Unlike many problems that reflect difficult circumstances, this one comes with the best possible news. What's more, it's a problem that offers a wonderful opportunity for you and all of our loyal *Mountain Hermitage* donors and friends.

As we continue to add retreat offerings, we continue to attract ever more retreatants to *The Mountain Hermitage* community. Each one comes with enthusiasm and deep dedication to the Dharma. And each one carries that enthusiasm and dedication to the wider world.

And so they come in greater numbers, of all ages and from all walks of life, warmly welcomed by *The Hermitage's* esteemed teachers and fellow retreatants. Many, as always, are in critical need of scholarship support, a central tenet of our mission since the launch of *The Hermitage* 12 years ago.

But there's a danger. The 2016 Scholarship Fund may well come up short for the first time in the many years of our continuing growth. If that happens, many deserving practitioners may be turned away from what many say has been a transforming experience in their lives.

Unfailingly, scholarship recipients offer heartfelt words of gratitude for a retreat experience that has returned insights and inspiration far beyond what they might ever have imagined. A yogi writes:

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.

Here is your opportunity to radiate your practice of giving into the lives of many worthy *Mountain Hermitage* scholarship applicants: Send a generous donation to *The 2016 Mountain Hermitage Scholarship Fund*.

Your generous gift of \$250, (our average Scholarship support) will subsidize scholarship aid for one retreatant. Your gift of \$500 will support two worthy retreatants. Double that amount to \$1,000 and four scholarship retreatants will join us for a *Mountain Hermitage* retreat in 2016.

Your donation to *The Mountain Hermitage 2016 Scholarship Fund* will be very good news indeed, building as it does on the good news of our robust growth over the years. With your help, we will continue to offer the Buddha's teachings to ever more spiritual seekers in their

search for truth and liberation, holding to our original vision to support underserved seekers in these continuing difficult times.

Already registrations and scholarship applications are flowing into *The Hermitage* office. Our 2016 retreats are filling up – our June Vipassana retreat with Sayadaw U Vivekananda already has a waiting list. Many applications for scholarship aid are already in our hands.

As your *all-embracing thoughts for all beings* extend to the many retreatants who will join us in the unfolding year, I offer you my deepest gratitude for all you have done to see *The Hermitage* through our many years of challenge and steady progress.

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 transforming our mission to reality in ever-expanding ways.

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. The website also offers a review of our successful 2015 retreats, including our first People of Color retreat.

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. We may be able to offer a PayPal option as well.

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
Founder and Guiding Teacher

P.S. In the Dhammapada, verse 188, the Buddha wrote: *Should a person do good, let him do it again and again. Let him find pleasure therein, for blissful is the accumulation of good.*

A deep bow to you as together we continue to offer our all-embracing thoughts for all beings in our beautiful world.