

The Mountain Hermitage



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*We experience joy in forming the intention to be generous.
We experience joy in the actual act of giving something.
And we experience joy in remembering the fact that we have given. –The Buddha*

November 1, 2019

Dear Friend in the Dharma,

The Mountain Hermitage means more to me than I might ever say. With the founding of *The Hermitage* sixteen years ago, we experienced both challenge and progress, which dovetailed in a remarkable way. Each challenge was met and transformed to opportunity, progress, and service to ever more retreatants. We began with just one month-long retreat in 2005, and today we offer up to six fully attended retreats each year.

Amazed, as we celebrate our sixteenth 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 magnificently beautiful and suffering world.

What will your gift help provide? Over the years, and through close to 60 amazing, beneficial and unique retreats our small retreat center has served about 900 retreatants – with approximately 300 of them receiving scholarship support. Not one of these meditation practitioners would have been able to attend a *Mountain Hermitage* retreat without the help of friends like you.

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

-- 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 possible for me to attend a Vipassana retreat with Sayadaw Vioekananda 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.

A scholarship recipient may be a worker whose own resources are scant, but who works for little or no pay on behalf of homeless children, or may be someone afflicted with a chronic

illness in great need of the spiritual renewal a *Mountain Hermitage* retreat offers. Or a scholarship recipient may be Buddhist nun or monk who lives with no personal funds who has requested to sit a *Mountain Hermitage* retreat — or is someone like you, who loves the Dharma and will carry its fruits into the world.

Please help us say *Yes, we can help!* just as soon as you can as time is always of the essence. Each tax-deductible dollar you give brings *The Mountain Hermitage* ever closer to transforming and enacting our mission in ever-expanding ways.

Simply 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 preview of our 2020 retreats.

You will also 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 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.

With metta,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marcia Rose

Founder and Guiding Teacher

*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 to those you love in the year ahead.*