

# Buddhist Global Relief



**2015** Annual Report

New York City

Cover photo: *Art Creation  
Foundation for Children:  
After school food and education  
for children in Haiti*

Cameroon

Detroit

Bangladesh

Ethiopia

Jamaica

Sri Lanka

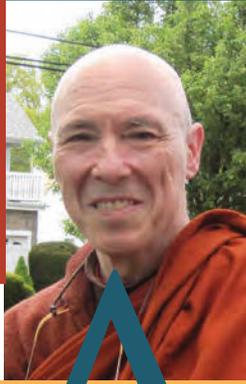


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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

VEN. BHIKKHU  
BODHI



**A**lthough this report covers fiscal year 2014–15, I write to inform our supporters about a major change in BGR’s organizational structure that took place this past July (2016). Over our life span of eight years, Buddhist Global Relief has grown at a pace that none of us could have foreseen when we started in June 2008. Along with our growth, however, has come an increase in the workload borne by our executive team, particularly our long-term Executive Director, Kim Behan, whose dedication and compassion have propelled BGR to its present level of success.

In April 2016, the Board decided to split the management of BGR’s operations into two positions: an Executive Director and a Director of Programs. Kim has decided to become Director of Programs, which accords best with her interests. The position of Executive Director has passed to Tom Spies, our long-time Treasurer, and the post of Treasurer to our Vice-Chair, David Braughton, who will serve in both capacities.

A Certified Public Accountant, Tom recently retired from his professional career, which allows him to work for BGR almost full time. As ED, Tom will oversee general administration apart from the projects. Since Tom still needs an income to support his family, BGR has offered him a modest salary—the only paid position on our team.

The formal transition to the new executive structure took place on July 1, 2016, the first day of our 2016–17 fiscal year. I am confident that this new arrangement will enable us to more effectively pursue our mission and facilitate our future growth.

Over the years BGR has filled a unique niche in the field of Engaged Buddhism, putting “conscientious compassion” into effect on a truly global scale. All these achievements have been made possible through the dedication of our Board, staff, advisers, and volunteer team members, and the generosity of our supporters, whose donations we treat with the utmost respect and gratitude. We hope you will continue to support us in the same spirit of solidarity as in the past, enabling BGR to continue giving people on the edge of despair opportunities for a life of meaning and dignity.

With blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bhikkhu Bodhi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

T O M S P I E S



When I became Treasurer of Buddhist Global Relief back in 2008, its operations were fairly simple. In that first year, BGR raised approximately \$70,000 in donations, mostly through word of mouth. Since that first year, BGR's operations have matured and become more complex. For example, now BGR:

- runs an annual “Walk to Feed the Hungry,” usually in ten cities across the U.S., as well as in England, and a “Concert to Feed the Hungry”
- participates in the Combined Federal Campaign, the official workplace giving campaign for employees of the U.S. Federal Government
- maintains a website, social media network, and a quarterly newsletter to stay in communication with our donors, partners, and volunteers.

Moreover, we have grown! In fiscal year 2015, the period covered by this report, our revenues totaled \$547,300 as compared to \$390,804 in FY 2014. Our expenditures totaled \$478,863 of which \$430,990, or 90%, were allocated to direct programs. Our administrative ratio was 3%, and another 7% was devoted to fundraising and promotion. We sponsored thirty-four projects aimed at hunger relief, emergency relief, sustainable agriculture, women's livelihood, and education of children, especially girls. We are sincerely grateful to our donors, whose generosity has made this development possible.

Due to BGR's increased complexity and related administrative load, the leadership of BGR decided to hire me as a dedicated Executive Director to help ensure its smooth operation and continued steady growth, and to build on the success we achieved under my predecessor, Kim Behan. I bring with me over thirty years of experience in the finance and accounting field, with the last twelve years working as the CFO and Administrator of a 50-employee human resource outsourcing company.

I am blessed to be able to continue working with such a talented board of directors and group of volunteers, and to be associated with an organization that strives to make a difference in the lives of those in such need— an organization that also enables board, staff, volunteers, donors, and project partners to practice compassion-in-action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Spies". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and 'S'.

Tom Spies  
Executive Director

# OUR VISION AND MISSION

## VISION

We are inspired by the vision of a world in which debilitating poverty has finally been banished; a world in which all can avail themselves of the basic material supports of a meaningful life—food, clothing, housing, and health care; a world in which everyone can achieve a satisfactory level of education and freely pursue that which gives their life value and purpose; a world in which all people dwell in peace and harmony with one another and with the natural environment.

## MISSION

Our mission is to combat chronic hunger and malnutrition. Bearing in mind the Buddha's statements that "hunger is the worst kind of illness" and "the gift of food is the gift of life," we sponsor projects that promote hunger relief for poor communities around the world. We pursue our mission by:

- providing direct food aid to people afflicted by hunger and malnutrition
- helping to develop better long-term methods of sustainable food production and management appropriate to the cultures and traditions of the beneficiaries
- promoting the education of girls and women, so essential in the struggle against poverty and malnutrition
- giving women an opportunity to start right livelihood projects to support their families.

We also seek to raise awareness of global hunger and advocate for an international food system that exemplifies social justice and conduces to ecological sustainability.



*Bangladesh*

*Haiti*

**Jamaica**

**Vietnam**

**Jamaica**

*Cote d'Ivoire*

*Ethiopia*

*India*

*Indonesia*

*Kenya*

*Madagascar*

*Mali*

*Mozambique*

*Nigeria*

*Rwanda*

## OUR PROJECTS

BGR projects are designed to address chronic hunger and malnutrition, to promote greater food productivity at the grass-roots level, and to tackle the root causes of food insecurity. We partner with organizations already operating on the ground, with whom we formulate and implement our projects. These organizations include major international relief agencies, such as Helen Keller International and Oxfam, and smaller or emerging agencies which have a more local focus or address specific needs, such as Lotus Outreach International in Cambodia and the What If? Foundation in Haiti.

Buddhism teaches that hunger is a source of acute pain and a barrier to spiritual growth. BGR seeks to remove that barrier and thereby give others the chance to live healthy lives of dignity and purpose. Recognizing that all human beings share a common desire for happiness, we lend a helping hand to our unseen brothers and sisters across the globe, enabling them to fulfill great dreams and tap unrealized potential.



GIVING CAMBODIAN GIRLS AND WOMEN THE MEANS TO STAY IN SCHOOL

# CAMBODIA





*A GATEways scholarship is currently allowing Yann Sinath to seek a law degree, which she hopes to use one day to advocate for poor and vulnerable people.*

Lotus Outreach and Buddhist Global Relief share a belief in the vital role of a woman's education in lifting her family and community out of poverty. Since 2009, BGR has been helping Lotus Outreach fulfill that belief in Cambodia, where girls who lack an education are especially vulnerable to exploitation, in many cases involving sexual servitude and slave labor.

In 2004, Lotus Outreach partnered with the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC) to identify girls at a high risk for dropping out of school due to their economic circumstances. Together, they developed the Girls' Access to Education (GATE) scholarship program to provide these students with money, supplies, transportation, and housing necessary to stay in school. Starting in 2009, BGR joined in this effort,

providing a monthly ration of rice to each beneficiary family so that the family will be food secure and would not force their daughters to drop out of school and go to work.

The GATE program was so successful that 70% of its first graduating class was accepted to tertiary education programs—an unheard of rate in a country where only 2% of its women have college degrees. This prompted Lotus Outreach to develop the GATEways program, which provides scholarships to GATE graduates who would like to attend college. In 2015, BGR provided 10 full scholarships and holistic support to GATEways scholars. The scholarships covered the girls' tuition fees, stipends, food and housing costs, textbooks, and basic school supplies over a twelve-month period. Lotus Outreach expects to

see over 100 GATEways college graduates between 2013 and 2017. These educated women will be new leaders in Cambodia's recovering educated class.

GATE graduate Yann Sinath, the daughter of a widowed, debt-ridden mother, initially planned on migrating to Thailand for work, but her high final exam grades opened doors to a brighter future. A GATEways scholarship is currently allowing her to seek a law degree, which she hopes to use one day to advocate for poor and vulnerable people. She and another GATEways scholar, Timeng Sievmey, now work part-time at the CWCC. "I'm really happy to work as a community organizer for CWCC," Sievmey said, "because I can transfer my knowledge of society's problems to the children and villagers."



BATTLING CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE HIMALAYAS, ONE WOMAN AT A TIME

# INDIA



*The core of the project was the formation of women's farmers associations, where women meet and learn new farming techniques.*



On the mountainous farms of the Indian state of Uttarakhand in the lower Himalayas, a family's survival depends on its ability to adapt to increasingly erratic weather patterns. About 90% of agricultural lands in Uttarakhand are fed by rain and are thus highly vulnerable to climate change. This has posed a major threat to agriculture in the region, where 78% of its population depends on agriculture for income. Women play a crucial role in hill agriculture, as they undertake up to 90% of the total work in agriculture and animal care. The decline in productivity due to climate change and degradation of natural resources has affected the food security of women the most.

From 2012 to 2014, Buddhist Global Relief partnered with Oxfam India on a 3-year project that equipped women in thirteen villages in Uttarakhand to fight along the front lines of climate change. The core of the project was the formation of women's farmers associations, where women meet and learn new farming techniques like the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and System of Wheat Intensification (SWI). These techniques enable farmers to produce more crops with less labor, fewer inputs, and less expenditures. The result has been a 40% yield increase in rice and a 30% yield increase in wheat. These increases not only result in more food for

their families, but also more income. With the extra money, families feel less pressure to keep their children home from school.

Before Oxfam came to her village, farmer Sarita Devi and her husband were unable to support their family. Sarita was among the first to adopt SRI and SWI. That season, she enjoyed a higher yield and more income, but she didn't stop there. She held demonstrations in her field and persuaded twelve other women in the Gewali village to adopt sustainable farming practices. Oxfam India reports that "Sarita Devi is an inspiration to all!"



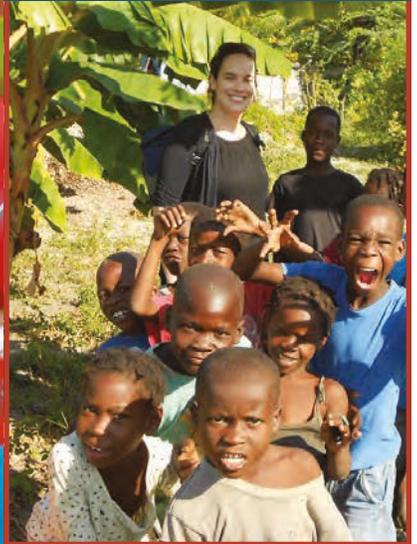
PROVIDING FOOD FOR DECADES WITH A SINGLE TREE

# JAMAICA & HAITI





*The 610 breadfruit trees planted with funds from BGR will provide food for 2,440 people for decades.*



Trees That Feed believes that a single tree can change lives. They are putting that belief to practice in the Caribbean, where rural farmers struggle to make a living. In 2014, BGR provided a grant that allowed Trees That Feed to plant a total of 610 trees. Half were sent to schools across Jamaica as part of TTF's partnership with the Jamaican government to plant breadfruit trees in each of the country's 3,000 schools. The other 305 trees were delivered to family farmers in Haiti, chosen for their level of food insecurity, farming knowledge, and location.

The tree playing the star role in schoolyards and family farms is the breadfruit tree. Breadfruit trees

have been cultivated in the Caribbean for more than 200 years. A single tree can produce between 200-300 fruits per year. The fruits, the size of a basketball, are rich in vitamins and proteins. Each fruit provides enough for a meal for a family of five. Even though the fruit only remains fresh for three days, when dried and processed into flour, the shelf-life is three years. Breadfruit flour makes delicious porridges, baked goods, chips, pies, and fritters.

These trees won't just feed families— they provide a sustainable source of income for a lifetime. Trees That Feed's mission is to "leave behind independent farmers,

co-operatives, and commercially successful operations." Each tree comes with a processing kit and training on how to best care for the tree and utilize it to produce food and a lasting profit. Harvesting breadfruit requires less labor than traditional crops and produces carbon sequestration sinks, which are ideal for understory crops.

TTF hopes to propagate breadfruit throughout Jamaica and Haiti, which will reduce their reliance on imported food and address deforestation and low agricultural productivity. They estimate that the 610 breadfruit trees planted with funds from BGR will provide food for 2,440 people for decades.



FRESH FOOD IN DETROIT'S FOOD DESERT

# UNITED STATES





*In an area we might call a “food desert,” Keep Growing Detroit’s efforts are oases of support.*

Buying your family groceries at a gas station isn’t ideal, but for many families in Detroit, it’s a necessity. In a city where more than one in ten of its citizens are unemployed, it’s no surprise that 20% of the population lacks the steady income and means to obtain fresh, nutritious foods.

In 2015, Buddhist Global Relief provided a grant to further the mission of Keep Growing Detroit: to create a “food-sovereign” city where urban farmers grow fruits and vegetables in their backyards and build connected, supportive communities. KGD accomplishes this goal through gardening and leadership education, supply distribution, and the establishment of community-supported gardens that

supply produce for predominantly low-income families.

Since 2004, over 290 graduates of the Keep Growing Detroit program have not only established successful gardens, but have taken on roles as teachers, leaders, and mentors in their neighborhoods. Their “Grow Something!” outreach campaign targeted Detroiters interested in health and fitness, hoping to convince them to start a container garden, and their “On Demand” programs brought gardening lessons to seniors, students, and church-goers who might have difficulty finding transportation to on-site classes. The “Good Food Blocks” program involved KGD representatives going door-to-door to sell neighbors on the idea

of community gardening. In 2014, Detroit saw the addition of 516 new gardens thanks to these efforts.

KGD also sponsors a class on the fundamentals of urban beekeeping. Since 2007, the program has trained over 150 individuals who are currently caring for more than 60 hives.

KGD staff reports that on the average weekday, its office doors are always swinging open. A gardener might be seeking a trellis net, inquiring about garden design, or stopping by to pick up educational resources from a class they couldn’t attend. In an area we might call a “food desert,” Keep Growing Detroit’s efforts are oases of support.



SUSTAINABLY FARMING A LOCAL DELICACY IN VIETNAM

# VIETNAM





*Farmer Duong Thi Thanh says she is proud to grow this traditional sticky rice that her ancestors grew. “It is sticky, has a good smell, and is delicious,” she says. Now that they are using SRI, she says, the quality of their rice is getting better and better.*



Phu Binh District in Vietnam is the primary rice and produce provider for Thai Nguyen City. The population of the city and its suburbs has grown, and with it the demand for food has also increased. This should be good news for the three-quarters of Phu Binh’s citizens who work on farms, but the local economy is still sluggish, and due to poor farming practices, farmers still struggle to turn a profit.

In 2014, BGR awarded a grant to the International Cooperation Center (ICC) to teach Phu Binh’s farmers how to farm sustainably,

responsibly, and profitably. Beneficiaries were first trained to use the System of Rice Intensification, a growing technique that decreases inputs and increases yields. They were then instructed how to use it in cultivating their local specialty, Thau Dau sticky rice. Beneficiaries were provided with a vacuum packing machine and trained on how to process and promote the rice. As part of their promotion program, they participated in a sticky rice festival run by a local temple. The media, local authorities, and the community attended. It even attracted guests

from abroad, which generated demand for the delicacy. Farmers using SRI on the Thau Dau sticky rice saw a yield increase of 13-20%. As beneficiaries were taught to produce a higher quality rice, they were able to sell it for a higher price and increase their profits.

Farmer Duong Thi Thanh says she is proud to grow this traditional sticky rice that her ancestors grew. “It is sticky, has a good smell, and is delicious,” she says. Now that they are using SRI, she says, the quality of their rice is getting better and better.

## OTHER PROJECTS IN BRIEF



### *Art Creation Foundation for Children: After school food and education for children in Haiti*

The Art Creation Foundation for Children (ACFFC) feeds over 100 children. The grant from BGR allowed ACFFC to provide 12 consistent and healthy meals to the children each week, helping families stay together and keep their children in school. The children responded by paying more attention in school and thinking about their studies rather than where their next meal would come from.



### *Bangladesh Buddhist Missionary Society: Food support for orphans in Bangladesh*

The Orphan's Home Complex, located at Betagi in the rural Chittagong Hills region, the poorest region of Bangladesh, is a boarding school that serves many needy children. This BGR grant provided healthy balanced meals and snacks for 54 orphans at the school. Children who had been destitute are now thriving and attending school, making up for lost time quickly as they enjoy a stable and life-affirming environment.



### *Bodhicitta Foundation: Girls' hostel and women's job training center in India*

This is the second year of a three-year partnership between BGR and the Bodhicitta Foundation designed to create a girls' hostel for 30 girls aged 10-20 in Nagpur, India. Girls went to school and lived in the hostel where they enjoyed counseling, leadership training and recreational activities.

The girls are very happy and motivated, growing in confidence as their health improves and they gain the skills they need to help their communities.



### *CENWOR: Education and training for girls from low-income families in Sri Lanka*

The Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) aims to promote gender equality and empower women. BGR sponsored a project that provided 35 girls with skills training in information technology (IT), drafting, graphic design, and pattern-making, offering qualified girls access to upward career mobility they lacked before. In addition, 5 younger out-of-school children were supported in age-appropriate schooling, with continuous monitoring to ensure they did not drop out again due to family problems.



### *CENCUDER Cameroon: Food and education for children in Cameroon*

Funding from BGR provided kitchen equipment and food for poor and disadvantaged children attending Ebase-Bajoh community primary school. The food program increased attendance, with some of the children who did not like to go to school now being the first to arrive! The feeding program has also improved the children's health, reducing the effects of diseases like Kwashiorkor, and raised academic performance by approximately 60%.



### ***Ecology Action: Sustainable mini-farming in Malawi***

In Malawi, BGR has helped Ecology Action begin to spread an organic farming method called Grow Biointensive that increases the diversity and quantity of household food. Master trainers have begun intensive hands-on work with farmers who learned better methods of soil preparation as well as other farming tasks. The trainees believe they have gained an expanded understanding of agriculture and what can be done with a small amount of land.



### ***Helen Keller International: Making Markets Work for Women in Bangladesh***

BGR partnered with Helen Keller International to improve the food security for 75 extremely poor indigenous households in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. In its third and final year, the project focused on training in food production techniques, nutrition, food storage, and marketing. Five community marketing groups for women were formed so participants could work together to process and sell their products. Participants learned to use supply and demand information, better utilize their land, and negotiate more effectively with local vendors and community leaders.



### ***Helen Keller International: Enhanced Homestead Food Production in Côte D'Ivoire***

Chronic malnutrition affects 33% of children under the age of five in Côte d'Ivoire. The third year of this three-year project helped women farmers establish and manage a sustainable garden in Bouaké. Women gained education and experience in handling major crop diseases with extracts of locally grown plants, and participated in the establishment of a well with a water pump to assist in irrigation. By improving the yields of their land, the women are gaining the respect and support of their communities.



### ***Jamyang Foundation: School lunches at Yasodhara Girls' School in Bangladesh***

In one of the poorest and most remote parts of the world, BGR funding supported a school lunch program at Yasodhara Girls' School in the Marma community of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. This grant covered the costs of cooking equipment, a cook, and school lunches. The 106 girls at the school have appreciated the improved meals and their health has improved substantially. They are better able to focus on their studies and their performance at school has noticeably improved, as have their interpersonal relationships.



### ***Lotus Outreach International: Non-Formal Education in Cambodia***

The reign of the Khmer Rouge still haunts Cambodia, where uneducated women have very few economic opportunities and are often lured into the dangerous sex trade. With BGR's support, Lotus Outreach began the Non-Formal Education (NFE) program that has taught over 100 people vocational, basic literacy, and life skills that have enabled them to improve their lives and the lives of their families. Young women are now starting their own small businesses or getting better jobs with their new skills, gaining independence and dignity in the process.



### ***Moanogbar: Support for homeless children's school in Bangladesh***

Moanoghar is a shelter and school for poor homeless children of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. BGR sponsored a three-year project to generate income to maintain the institution and support the children being schooled there. In the final year, scholarships provided food, educational materials and health care to 20 students. A computer lab was set up at the school, and 48 students received training in basic computing and internet skills. In addition, a reforestation project has put the school on a path to economic sustainability.



### ***Oxfam America: Promotion of the System of Crop Intensification in Ethiopia***

BGR completed a two-year partnership with Oxfam America on a project to improve food production by teaching farmers to apply the System of Crop Intensification (SCI) in the Meki-Ziway area of Ethiopia. Using workshops and field demonstrations, farmers have learned the importance of using the right kind of seeds, fertilizers, pest control and watering schedules to minimize costs and maximize yields. SCI methods have significantly reduced costs, increasing the productivity and food security of nearly 200 smallholder farmers.



### ***Oxfam America: System of Rice Intensification in Haiti***

In a partnership with BGR, Oxfam America and its local partners trained 245 farmers in the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), rehabilitated irrigation systems, improved rice processing, and established a rotating credit fund to provide access to low-interest loans. Yields increased from an average of 4.4 to 5.5 tons per hectare, and costs went down because of more efficient use of seed stocks.



### ***Rachana: System of Rice Intensification in Cambodia***

With BGR support, the Cambodian organization Rachana trained smallholder farmers from poor communities in SRI methods to improve their yields. Workshops, field demonstrations, and other techniques have enabled farmers to raise surpluses to sell, substantially boosting family incomes for over a thousand villagers. The project has also helped farmers to diversify their crops, raising vegetables in addition to rice and making their farms more resilient in the face of climate change.



### ***Reciprocity Foundation: Urban food project in USA***

With a grant from BGR, the Reciprocity Foundation has offered 42 homeless shelter residents in New York the chance to grow and harvest their own gardens and learn to cook healthy vegetarian meals. Participants even grew herbs and vegetables in their rooms! They enjoyed learning about a new way of eating that leaves them energized and happy, feeling better than ever about their own potential for growth and positive change.



### ***Shambala Foundation: Books, clothes, shoes and school supplies for rural orphans in China***

In the mountainous Qinghai Province of China, 25-40% of students drop out before the ninth grade. With BGR support, the Shambala Foundation provided 100 students with materials that allowed them to stay in school. The project also gave extra books to promote literacy in the home, as well as advice, support and training to the students' families. The materials and support have helped the families take the possibility of education for their children more seriously, with attendance rates going up to 96%.



### *Red Cross: Hospital meals program in Vietnam*

In Vietnam, the price of a hospital stay does not include food, and poor families find themselves unable to provide for the needs of their hospitalized relatives. For six years, the Red Cross, the local government and BGR have partnered to provide free meals to poor patients in the Tam Binh district's only hospital. Volunteers cooked the meals, based on rice, seasonal produce and tofu. BGR funding provided approximately 160 meals daily, helping the most vulnerable patients get better.



### *Red Cross: Scholarships for children in Vietnam*

Poverty in rural districts of Vietnam like Cam Duong and Tam Binh has prevented many children from attending school. In 2015, BGR funding provided Red Cross Education Scholarships for children in these school districts, enabling 486 children from the poorest families to attend primary, middle, and high school. The children were selected on the basis of need, academic achievement, teacher recommendations, and conduct. They were so happy to be able to continue their education in spite of their poverty!



### *Urban Rebuilding Initiative: Urban community food project in the USA*

Designed to address issues of food insecurity and economic disparity in the Bronx, this project trained at-risk youth and formerly incarcerated men to convert urban spaces into food production sites. BGR funds supported the cultivation of almost 900 pounds of vegetables, provided internships for 13 high school seniors from Manhattan Comprehensive School, and helped distribute food at three farmers markets. This provided opportunities for the students to learn about food production and distribution while helping their neighbors eat more healthy food.



### *Valley Verde: Gardens for low-income families in the USA*

Working in the notoriously expensive Silicon Valley, this Valley Verde project trained 57 low-income people in gardening techniques and provided them with kits that included raised beds, compost, drip irrigation systems, and organic seedlings. The project helped the gardeners reduce expenses on food while improving the nutritional content of their meals. In addition to enjoying delicious home-grown tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables, participants reported feeling less stressed and more engaged in their communities.



### *What If? Foundation: Meals for hungry kids in Haiti*

The What If? Foundation, working with the Ti Plas Kazo community of Port-au-Prince, provided hot, nutritious meals to over a thousand children each weekday. Most of the children still lived in nearby tents, but other children walked miles to attend. For most of these children, the food they received at the Lamanjay Food Program was their only meal of the day. During the worst food crisis in 15 years, BGR funding sponsored 29,000 meals, ensuring consistent food availability to the poorest residents of the capital.



### *What If? Foundation: Helping kids in Haiti go to school*

A generation of Haitians is at risk of not having the basic knowledge and skills to succeed in the labor force and contribute to the development of their country. The What If? Foundation's Scholarship Program supports students from the time they enter school to graduation. BGR provided scholarships for 38 elementary students and 30 high school students. The children are full of plans for a hopeful future, thanks to the generosity of donors who have made it possible for them to dream big!

# THE BGR WALKS

The Walks to Feed the Hungry are BGR's primary fundraising and publicity events. Although sometimes we feel that we cannot make a difference in a world of so much suffering, by joining forces with others in a simple walk we are taking small steps to help many people throughout the world.

In this fiscal year, walks in Ann Arbor MI, Houston TX, New York NY, San Francisco CA, San Jose CA, Santa Monica CA, Seattle WA, St. Louis MO, Surrey UK, Tampa Bay FL and Willington CT raised over \$140,000 for projects supported by BGR from Detroit to Bangladesh!

Solidarity Walks in Nagpur, India and Banteay Meanchey Cambodia shared the word about BGR and the projects we support in their communities. They encourage us with their enthusiasm and gratitude.

To the many who attended, donated, and most of all to those who volunteered their time and energy to the walks, thank you! May the merits of your offerings fill the world with the joy of giving!

ANN ARBOR, MI



HOUSTON, TX



NAGPUR INDIA



NEW YORK, NY



TAMPA BAY, FL



SAN FRANCISCO, CA



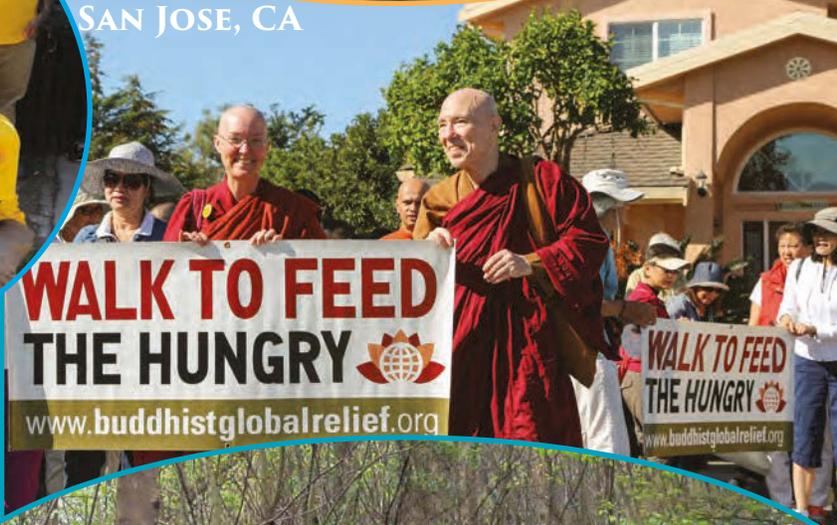
WILLINGTON, CT



SAN JOSE, CA



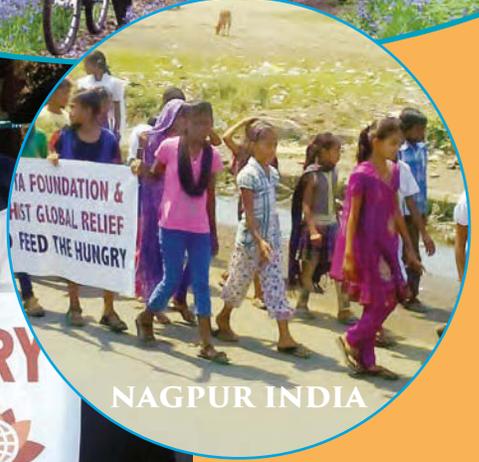
ST. LOUIS, MO



SURREY, UK



SEATTLE, WA

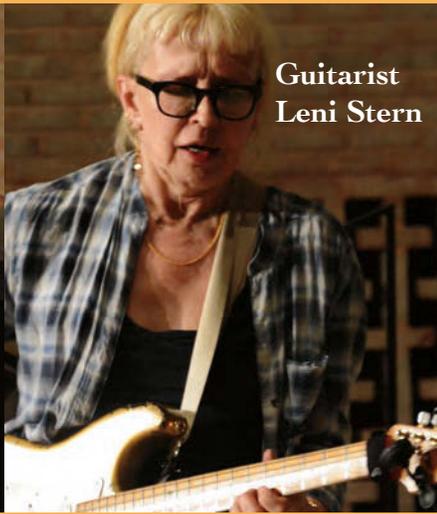


NAGPUR INDIA

# THE BGR CONCERT TO FEED THE HUNGRY



Bassist Amanda Ruzzo,  
embracing Mayor Nken-  
fack of Fongo-Tongo  
(Cameroon)



Guitarist  
Leni Stern



Percussionists Winard Harper,  
Alioune Faye (L-R)



Bassist  
Larry Grenadier



Pianist  
Migiwa Miyajima

Buddhist Global Relief's fourth annual Concert to Feed the Hungry was held on International Jazz Day 2015 at the Interchurch Center, located in Harlem. The all-star lineup included leading jazz artists such as singer/songwriter Rebecca Martin, jazz and blues vocalist Sandra Reaves-Phillips, organist Akiko Tsuruga, guitarist Leni Stern, and percussionist Alioune Faye. Also present were members of the international "Mayors for Peace" initiative, whose signatories pledge to end nuclear proliferation and to take action on behalf of the world's most vulnerable populations.

This year's partner organizations were Jazzmobile and The New Heritage Theatre Group, both leaders in the local and international arts community since the 1960s. Through this concert, BGR was able to broaden its message of compassionate action to include a wider coalition of artists and music fans eager to join this fight to help those in need. We look forward to enjoying this powerful and uplifting evening of music to benefit the work of BGR for many years to come!

# COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN



Buddhist Global Relief through CFC # 74375



- ALASKA CFC
- ARIZONA CFC
- ATLANTIC COAST CFC
- CENTRAL ALABAMA CFC
- CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CFC
- CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA CFC
- CHERRY POINT CFC
- CHESAPEAKE BAY AREA CFC
- COASTAL CAROLINA CFC
- COLUMBUS/FT. BENNING REGIONAL CFC
- CONNECTICUT & WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CFC
- DESERT SOUTHWEST CFC
- EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CFC
- EASTERN PANHANDLE CFC
- EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA & SOUTH JERSEY CFC
- FLORIDA PANHANDLE CFC
- FORT POLK/CENTRAL LOUISIANA CFC
- GATEWAY CFC
- GREATER ARKANSAS CFC
- GREATER ATLANTA/ATHENS CFC
- GREATER SOCAL CFC
- HAWAII/PACIFIC AREA CFC
- HEART OF ALABAMA CFC
- HEARTLAND CFC
- HUDSON VALLEY CFC
- ILLOWA BI-STATE CFC
- INDIANA, KENTUCKY & SOUTHWESTERN OHIO CFC
- INTERMOUNTAIN CFC

For three years BGR has participated in the Combined Federal Campaign, the only authorized workplace giving program for US federal government employees. Non-profits are allowed to apply for participation if they demonstrate a high level of fiscal transparency and accountability. We are proud that BGR was once again accepted for participation in the CFC, and grateful to the many federal employees who dedicated a portion of their paychecks to helping the less fortunate!

We have been working with Charities Without Borders since 2014 to increase our visibility in federal workplaces. We hope you will contribute to BGR through CFC # 74375 if you are a federal employee, and also please let all your friends and family know about this important fundraising opportunity.

We have listed CFC organizations that contributed to BGR in the time period covered by this report in the sidebar. We thank them for their support, and hope that other CFC organizations will also contribute to us in the future.

# PARTNERSHIPS FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## ART CREATION FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

ACFFC focuses on the town of Jacmel, Haiti. Their mission is “to build a passionate community of future leaders, visionaries and dynamic thinkers who are empowered to better their lives and their world through the arts and education.”

## BANGLADESH BUDDHIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Ven. Jivanananda Mahathera founded BBMS in 1977 as a non-sectarian, non-communal, non-governmental organization, focused on dispensing humanitarian services especially to helpless orphans, distressed widows, and other indigent men and women.

## BODHICITTA FOUNDATION

The Bodhicitta Foundation, founded in 2003 by the Australian Buddhist nun, Bhikkhuni Yeshe, provides counseling, education, and women’s empowerment to the Dalit community in Nagpur, India.

## CENCUDER CAMEROON

CENCUDER seeks to “enable rural youths and women to acquire survival skills in order to secure a better future for themselves through education and training in life and vocational skills.”

## CENWOR

CENWOR (Centre for Women’s Research) is a non-profit NGO founded in 1984, dedicated to helping Sri Lankan women realize their full potential and achieve equality in all spheres of life.

## ECOLOGY ACTION

Ecology Action of the Mid-Peninsula for 40 years has promoted an elegant, small-scale agricultural system, Grow Biointensive, which produces high yields, conserves resources, and meets the basic need of people to feed themselves.

## HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL

Helen Keller International, one of the world’s oldest non-profits, works in countries throughout the world to prevent blindness and reduce malnutrition.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CENTER

The International Cooperation Center of Thai Nguyen University in Vietnam was founded to encourage international cooperation projects, including research on poverty reduction and crop and animal production biotechnology.

## KEEP GROWING DETROIT

KGD promotes food sovereignty in Detroit so city residents will grow the majority of fruits and vegetables consumed. KGD teaches gardening, cultivates a network of gardeners, and invests in the growth of community leaders and food entrepreneurs.

## LOTUS OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL

Lotus Outreach International is dedicated to ensuring the education, health, and safety of at-risk and exploited women and children in the developing world, especially Cambodia and India.

## MOANOUGHAR

Moanoghar’s mission is to support a secure future for the marginalized communities of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh by providing free or highly subsidized education to the region’s children. More than 1,400 students are currently studying at Moanoghar.

## OXFAM AMERICA

One of the 17 members of the Oxfam confederation, Oxfam America works to “right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, and injustice” with innovative projects, social justice campaigns, and public education in more than 90 countries.

## OXFAM INDIA

Oxfam India is a fully independent Indian organization fighting poverty and injustice and creating a more equal, just, and sustainable world.

## LOCATIONS OF OUR PROJECTS



### RACHANA

Rachana is a Cambodian non-governmental organization that has been promoting health care and ecologically sustainable agriculture among rural populations in Cambodia since 1994.

### RECIPROCITY FOUNDATION

RF's Holistic Center for Homeless Youth in New York offers counseling, vocational training and college preparatory coaching, meditation, yoga, and retreats. The Center initiated a visionary vegetarian meal program to address student hunger for wholesome food, community and dialogue.

### SHAMBALA FOUNDATION

The Shambala Foundation is dedicated to alleviating poverty in Asia by developing community-based, long-term solutions promoting education for disadvantaged communities. Their Orphanage Without Walls supports 650 orphans and their foster families with educational, social, and financial assistance.

### TREES THAT FEED

The Trees That Feed Foundation promotes the planting of high-yield fruit trees. They develop local markets and assist subsistence farmers to transform their fields into agro-forests, planting shade-tolerant trees under the canopies of larger, fruit-bearing trees.

### URBAN REBUILDING INITIATIVE

The Urban Rebuilding Initiative addresses issues of food insecurity, physical fitness, and economic disparity in the Bronx, New York. The project trains at-risk youth, young adults, and formerly incarcerated men to convert urban spaces into food production sites.

### VALLEY VERDE

Valley Verde's aim is to increase self-sufficiency and healthy eating through development of organic gardening skills and leadership of low-income immigrants and people of color across Santa Clara County, California.

### VIETNAM RED CROSS

The Vietnam Red Cross, founded in 1946, serves those affected by poverty and provides health care, emergency assistance, and humanitarian relief for the ill and victims of war and natural disasters.

### WHAT IF? FOUNDATION

The What If? Foundation works with Haitian partners to provide much-needed food and educational opportunities to impoverished children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

# ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

*Buddhist Global Relief is deeply committed to providing relief to the poor and needy throughout the world. To that end, we seek to use our resources with utmost efficiency in order to provide as much assistance as possible for our projects.*

*During the fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015), our seventh year of service, BGR experienced exceptional growth in donations. Our revenues totaled \$547,300 as compared to \$390,804 in fiscal year 2014, an increase of 40%. Our expenditures totaled \$478,863 of which \$430,990, or 90%, were allocated to direct programs. Our administrative ratio was 3%, and another 7% was devoted to fundraising and promotion. A large portion of the administrative expenses incurred during this fiscal year were spent in securing an independent auditor's report for BGR from German, Vreeland & Associates, LLP, which enabled BGR to participate in various combined giving organizations, including the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC is the world's largest annual workplace charity campaign, with pledges made by US federal employees.*



BUDDHIST GLOBAL RELIEF

## Statement of Activities

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

### REVENUE

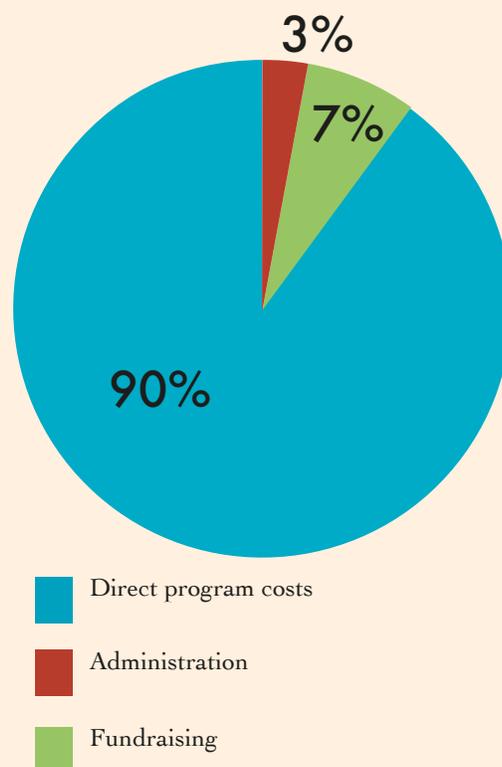
Revenue	
Individual & Business Contributions	\$ 448,756
Non-Profit Organization Contributions	16,792
Foundation Grants	77,535
Donated Goods & Services	3,957
Investment Income	260
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 547,300</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Expenditures	
Direct Program Costs	\$430,990
Administration	16,713
Fundraising	31,160
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>478,863</b>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 68,437

Administration as a % of total revenue= 3.05%

### Expenses by Category



## Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2015

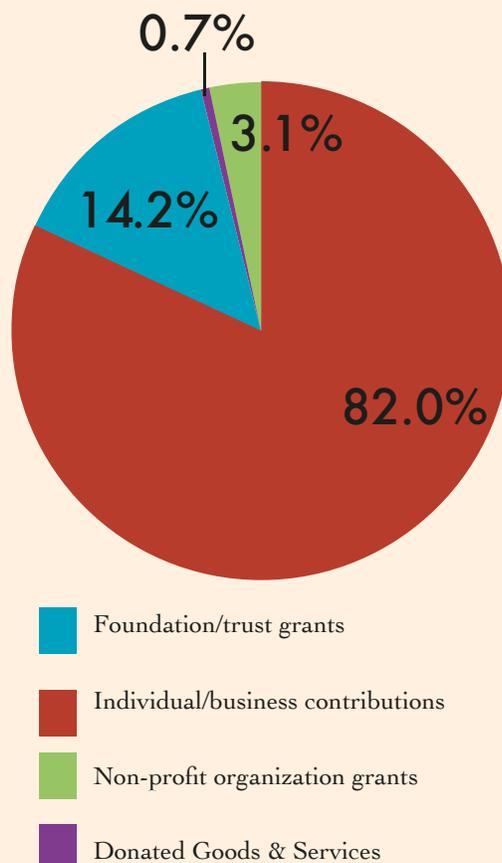
### ASSETS

Assets	
Cash	
Checking	\$ 56,494
Money Market	98,622
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>155,116</b>
Deposits and Advances	3,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$158,116</b>

### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,564
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,564</b>
Fund Balances	
Fund Balance July 1, 2014	86,115
Surplus (Deficit)	68,437
<b>Fund Balance June 30, 2015</b>	<b>154,552</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 158,116</b>

### Revenue by Source



# ANNUAL SUPPORT

Buddhist Global Relief would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support and partnership during the 2015 fiscal year, July 2014 - June 2015. Your generous donations during this year have allowed Buddhist Global Relief to expand our range of projects, thereby providing relief for more people who are afflicted by poverty, hunger and malnutrition. We owe heartfelt thanks to our friends listed on these pages and to many others we do not have the space to include here. Together, you provide the support that enables us to serve people living in poverty. We are grateful for your generosity.

Each donor is important to us. If your name is not listed correctly, please accept our apologies and notify BGR by calling us toll free at 1-888-852-7579, or email us at [info@buddhistglobalrelief.org](mailto:info@buddhistglobalrelief.org).

## \$100,000 or above

Chao Family Foundation

## \$30,000 to \$39,999

Yin Shun Foundation

## \$20,000 to \$29,999

Allen Fu

Patrick Okell

## \$10,000 to \$19,999

Eleanor & Kaushik Katari

Shoyo Taniguchi

## \$5,000 to \$9,999

Ayudar Foundation

## \$2,500 to \$4,999

Amitabha Buddhist Society  
of USA

Buddhist Association of the  
United States

Annie Michelle C. Tang &  
Sokol Braha

Thomas Brocher

Mohammed Hameed

Eleanor Heath

Renier Hofman

Chin F. Lee

Pushkor Mukerji

Khanh Nguyen

Mahendra Sagar

Paul Schlaud



Gavin Towler

Gail Zivin

## \$1,000 to \$2,499

Buddhist Council of Greater  
St. Louis

Buddhist Peaceful  
Enlightenment Inc.

Compassion Cultivation  
Foundation

Impact Assets

Sanghapala Foundation

Schwab Charitable Fund

The Stull Family Foundation

Brian Barry

Bhikkhu Bodhi

David Braughton

Paul Cain

Pohui Chang

Li-hsiang Cheng

Teo Cheong

Jyoti Chhabria

Yiu On Chu

George Clapp

Edwin Dominguez

Andhao T. Duong

Dennis Golobitsh

Edward H. & Andrew M.  
Haertel & Oman

Janet Hintermann

Alicia Hu

Jonathan W. Jarvis

Dane Jones

Myla & Jon Kabat-Zinn

Lynn & John Kelly

Shaw-Hwa Kiang

Shweta Kunwar

Li Ching Lin

Hsin Hui Lin

Mary MacGregor

Kathleen Miller

VJ & Shantha Mohan

Jimmy Nguyen

Thi Cam Van Nguyen

Gretchen Oelhaf

Dennis O'Toole

Paul Parsowith



Julia P. Riao  
Michael Roehm  
Robert F. Ross  
Dennis Shaw  
Duy Truong  
Julie Wagner  
NingYang Wang  
Frances Wey  
Siu Wong  
Taihua Kathy Yen Wu

**\$500 to \$999**

Compassionate Service  
Society-South  
Embracing Simplicity  
Hermitage  
Fidelity Charitable Gift  
Fund First Giving  
Light of Buddhadharma  
Foundation International  
Morgan Stanley Employees  
RightBrainstorm  
Trans World Buddhist  
Association  
Taras Beyzyk  
Mark Bouzek  
Catherine Brousseau  
Krista M Burchill  
Joshua Capitanio  
See Chan  
Meichu Chen  
Chia-Hon &  
Ling-Chu Chien  
Jui Chang Chuang  
Patrick Norwil &  
Sharon Cohen  
Helen Colbeck  
Thuy Duong  
Dale Farris

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Fang Hang  
Helen Stephanie Mei In Ho  
Janet Heck  
Keng-Liang Huang  
Magnus Jaya  
Berget Jelane  
Lawrence H. &  
Marianne Jones  
Lois Jones  
Sally Kempton  
Matthew Konicki  
Connie Lin  
Hsiu Lin  
Huaimin Liu  
Steve Lue  
Thomas Moritz  
Tram Nguyen  
Ellen O'Sullivan  
Suki Park  
Carol Richey  
Jonathan Robbins  
Richard Rodriguez  
Dexiu Shi  
Ram Sistla  
Allentine Tanujaya  
Leslie Van  
Ruth Wang  
Thushari C. Wijesekera  
Lisa & Robert Wong  
William Wright  
Min-Wen Wu  
Alison Zhou



*Although we would certainly like to publicly thank everyone who donated to BGR, for reasons of space and cost in producing this report, we have to thank them with a general statement of gratitude for their generosity. May all those who contributed to our work, in any way and in any amount, reap an abundance of blessings. If we have inadvertently omitted anyone from the above list, we offer our sincere apologies.*

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## DONATIONS

Your donations feed children and send them to school, provide adults with the skills to improve their livelihoods, and help farmers improve their methods so they can better feed their families. Even small donations can change the world for impoverished families in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States. Together, your donations are achieving great things!

We welcome both one-time and recurring donations. BGR is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your gift is deductible to the full extent allowable under IRS regulations. There are many ways to donate.

### DONATE ON-LINE

Make a secure donation with your credit card via PayPal or Network for Good by selecting the "Donate" option on our website: [www.buddhistglobalrelief.org](http://www.buddhistglobalrelief.org).

### SEND A PERSONAL CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR MONEY ORDER

Please make your check payable to:  
Buddhist Global Relief  
2020 Route 301  
Carmel NY 10512

### MAKE A WIRE TRANSFER

A wire transfer of U.S. dollars can be made to BGR's bank account. For instructions, please call BGR's toll-free number, 1-888-852-7579.



BUDDHIST GLOBAL RELIEF



# OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP



## WALK WITH US

Hold a walk event, a day of mindfulness, a chant-in, a bike ride, or host your own special event to raise funds and share information about the work of BGR.

## COMPANY MATCHING GIFTS

Your employer may have a matching gift program that will double or triple your contribution. Obtain a matching gift form from your personnel office and send it with your tax-deductible contribution to Buddhist Global Relief, 2020 Route 301, Carmel NY 10512 USA.

## AMAZON SMILE

Shop through <https://smile.amazon.com> and log in, entering "Buddhist Global Relief" as your charity of choice. With every purchase you make, .5% will be donated to BGR.

## MAKE A TRIBUTE GIFT

You can donate on-line using "Network for Good" to honor a loved one or to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion.

## MAKE A CHARITABLE GIFT OF STOCKS OR BONDS

Making a gift of stocks or bonds may help reduce your taxes while generously supporting BGR's mission. For more information, please call BGR at 1-888-852-7579.

## VOLUNTEER

You can support the work of BGR by becoming a volunteer. BGR volunteers are located all over the world. Information on volunteer positions currently open is available on the BGR website.

## STAY CONNECTED

Join us on Facebook and Twitter



See our photo albums on Flickr



Watch us on YouTube

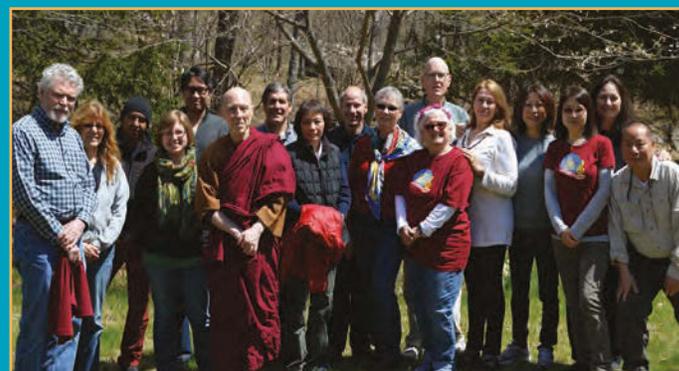
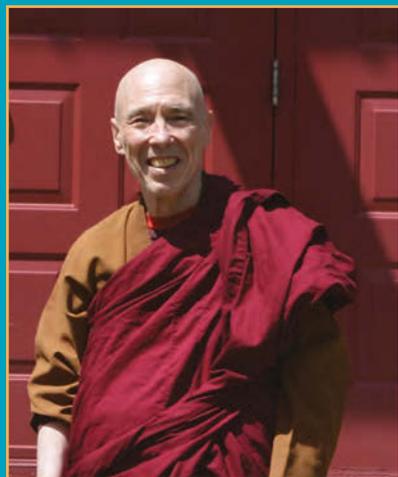


Check out our blog on WordPress  
<http://buddhistglobalrelief.me>

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**Buddhist Global Relief**  
2020 Route 301  
Carmel NY 10512  
USA

[www.buddhistglobalrelief.org](http://www.buddhistglobalrelief.org)

# n Cote d'Ivoire Cambodia

# Haiti

# India

# Vietnam

*To BGR Team Members A very special thank you to our tireless volunteers whose enthusiasm, hard work, and support allow us to continue our important work.*

## Credits

Editor: Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi  
Managing Editor: Kim Behan  
Writers: Jennifer Russ, Carla Prater  
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([www.valeriackdesign.com](http://www.valeriackdesign.com))  
Financial Statements: Tom Spies,  
Annual Support: Johnny & Sandy  
Wong, Carla Prater

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