

# 2017

## Annual Report



# Buddhist Global Relief

*Compassion in Action*

**Cover photo (clockwise from top left):**

**Arts Creation Foundation for Children, Food Aid program in Haiti;**

**Helen Keller International, Improving Nutritional Outcomes among Children in Côte d'Ivoire;**

**Bodhicitta Foundation, Girls Hostel and Women's Job Training/Community Centre in Nagpur, India;**

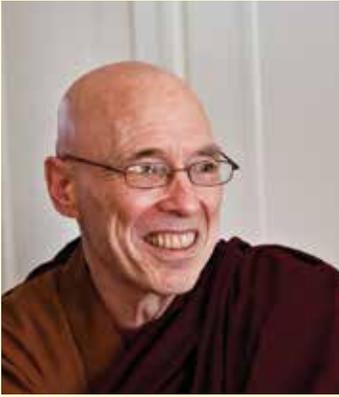
**Lotus Outreach, GATE Rice Support in Cambodia**



# Contents

<b>MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>OUR PROJECTS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CAMBODIA</b> <i>Increasing Food Security in Rural Cambodia</i>	<b>6</b>
<b>HAITI</b> <i>Growing Healthy Children and Strong Families in Jacmel, Haiti</i>	<b>8</b>
<b>INDIA</b> <i>A Hostel for Change-Makers in Nagpur, India</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>NICARAGUA</b> <i>Empowering Girls to Follow Their Dreams in Nicaragua</i>	<b>12</b>
<b>SUDAN</b> <i>Helping Displaced Families in South Darfur Place Roots</i>	<b>14</b>
<b>OTHER PROJECTS IN BRIEF</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>WALKS TO FEED THE HUNGRY</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>CONCERT TO FEED THE HUNGRY</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>PARTNERSHIPS FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>ANNUAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>HOW YOU CAN HELP</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>32</b>

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



**Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi**

BGR began in 2008 with a gathering of a group of idealistic Buddhists who felt compelled to address the suffering that haunted the lives of millions of people around the world. After a period of reflection, we defined our mission as combating chronic hunger and malnutrition, which we saw as a deep stain on the soul of humanity. In a world of vast wealth and technological power, it seemed unconscionable that we could allow close to a billion people to go to bed hungry each day and that millions each year would die an early death due merely to lack of adequate nutrition. Global hunger, the experts say, is not inevitable but can be licked. To solve it, however, calls for compassion and commitment on the part of those who live in relative security and affluence.

This year Buddhist Global Relief celebrated its tenth anniversary, a major milestone. Over the years, we have steadily grown into a stable relief organization presently making an impact through 35 projects in countries ranging from Mongolia to Nicaragua and the U.S. itself. The growth of BGR over the past decade has only been possible through the dedicated efforts of many people, almost all contributing on a voluntary basis. These include our staff, our Board of Directors, and many volunteers who either help in a regular role or assist at special events, such as our nation-wide “Walk to Feed the Hungry” and our springtime “Concert to Feed the Hungry.”

Most of all, however, the success of BGR has been due to you, our donors, for it is your donations that empower our projects. We thus invite you to look through this annual report and rejoice in all that you have made possible. Rejoice in seeing that, through your generosity, poor girls and boys from remote villages and urban slums are going to school and eagerly pursuing an education. Rejoice to see that women are feeding their families. Rejoice to see that farmers are being trained in more sustainable methods of agriculture. And rejoice in the realization that your generosity is rescuing thousands of people from persistent illness and early death and leading them to a brighter future.

With blessings,



Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Tom Spies**

Dear Supporters, Partners, and Friends,

Thank you for making 2017 a fruitful year of compassionate action at Buddhist Global Relief. Through the continued generosity of our supporters, this year saw the donation levels to BGR continue their steady annual growth, breaking the \$600,000 mark. We were able to maintain annual funding levels to our existing long-term hunger relief projects, expand the number and scope of these projects, and provide emergency grants to large relief organizations when climate or conflict related disaster events occurred worldwide.

In 2017 BGR supported over thirty long-term hunger relief projects in fifteen countries, the details of which can be found later in this report. Two new project partners this year are engaged in:

- Direct food aid, educational support, wellness training, and community garden instruction to poverty-stricken children and their parents in Haiti.
- Educational support for underprivileged girls and women in Nicaragua.

In the fundraising area, BGR once again held *Walk to Feed the Hungry* events in ten cities across the US, as well as one city in the UK, raising over \$100,000 towards our cause. Our annual *Concert to Feed the Hungry* was held in NYC and, as in past years, was an uplifting evening of beautiful world music in support of BGR. In the area of outreach and communications, we continue to publish our quarterly newsletter, *Helping Hands*, make semi-weekly inspirational and informational posts on Facebook, and maintain our BGR blog. Also this year we welcomed our new local outreach affiliate, *Compassion NYC* ([www.compassionnyc.org](http://www.compassionnyc.org)) which takes the ideals of BGR and applies and focuses them at the local level in the New York City area. We are sincerely grateful to all of our fundraising and outreach volunteers for giving their time and effort to help ensure BGR's success.

Looking to next year we anticipate a consistent steady rate of growth in donation support, achieved through continuation of our existing fundraising and outreach programs and the addition of new types of outreach efforts. We expect to repeat or increase our existing level of annual funding to our partners in the field, and we will look for opportunities to expand our reach in providing long-term hunger relief.

Thank you once again to all of BGR's donors, volunteers, partners, and staff. Your generosity and kindness is humbling, and is making the world a better place for many that were once in despair.

Tom Spies

Executive Director



# Ethiopia

Cameroon

Bangladesh

Côte d'Ivoire

Vietnam

Detroit

India

Santa Clara County

Sri Lanka

Nicaragua  
Bronx

New York City

Cambodia  
Haiti

## VISION

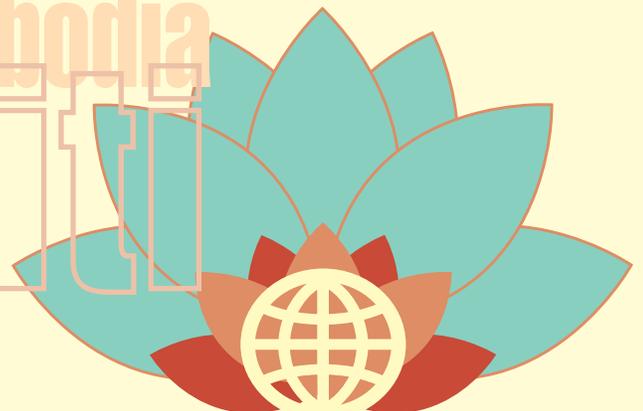
We are inspired by the vision of a world in which debilitating poverty has finally been banished; a world in which all can avail themselves of the basic material supports of a meaningful life—food, clothing, housing, and health care; a world in which everyone can achieve a satisfactory level of education 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 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.





## BGR 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.



# CAMBODIA



*Mrs. Nol now has enough rice for her family this year and additional income from her new vegetable garden.*





In Cambodia, 80% of the country's population relies on agricultural production, primarily rain-fed farming. Women are responsible for much of this farming, but are often excluded from the decision-making process. Climate change-related weather patterns and gender inequality threaten food security. Since 2011, Rachana and Buddhist Global Relief have partnered to deal with this problem. In 2017, Rachana's work focused on teaching 1,065 farmers (two-thirds of them women) agricultural techniques that will increase their annual incomes and food security.

Like many agricultural sustainability projects, this project relied

on the System of Rice Intensification, SRI, which promotes low-input rice farming that produces higher yields. Teaching SRI involves setting up demo fields, inviting farmers to assist, and then supporting them as they try on their own. In addition to setting up demo fields, this project taught farmers more climate change-resilient farming techniques for vegetables and cash crops, including how to collect and conserve water. The project worked with 458 households and 300 students in three schools.

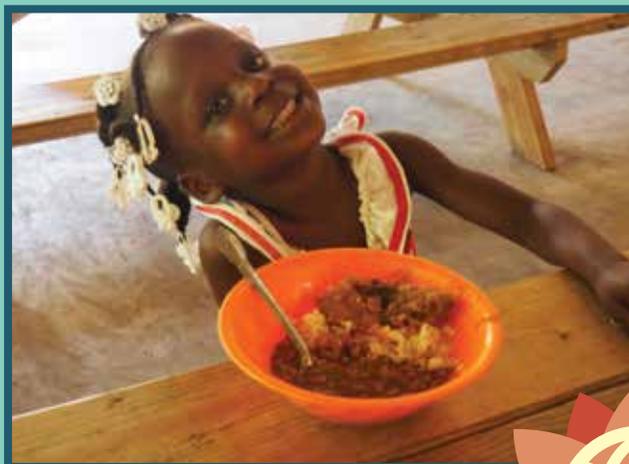
Mr. Long Suy, village chief of Krasang village, states that 30% of the households in his village now have personal vegetable gardens, and about a third of those

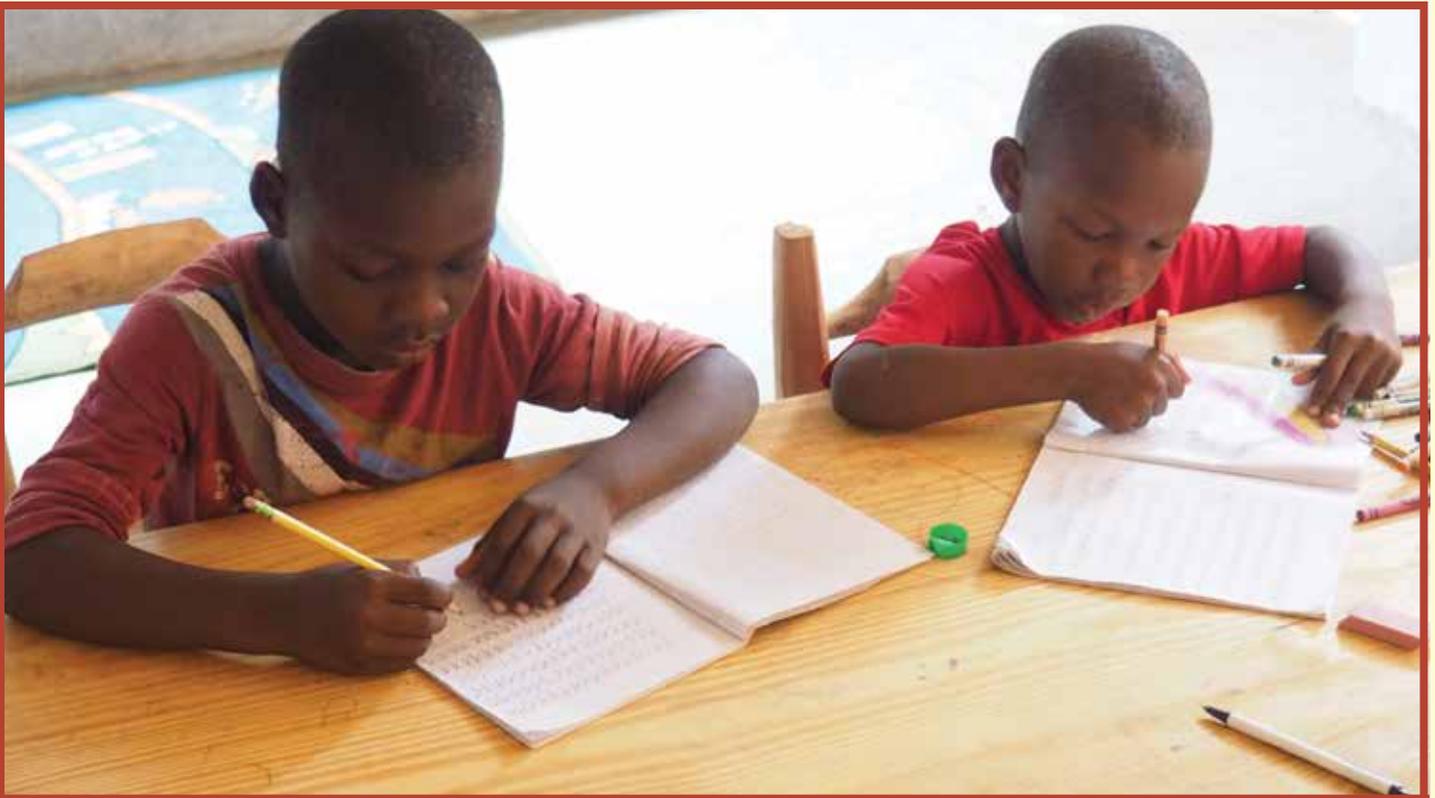
households have made enough to sell surplus vegetables for additional income. Mrs. Moe Nol, mother to six children, participated in this project because she found she was only able to produce between nine and ten months' worth of food on her family farm. She learned SRI and did well in applying the techniques, for which reason Rachana selected her rice field to be a demo field. By following SRI methods, her family now has enough food because of the superior harvest over conventional methods. Her family also has a home vegetable garden that was used to cultivate vegetables for family consumption and for sale, increasing the family income.

# HAITI



*Because BGR funds were used on essentials, the foundation was able to hire three new teachers and build a library, four classrooms, a kitchen, and a dining area.*





Since 2010, the Haiti-based Joan Rose Foundation has provided an education, clothing, food, medicine and support to 120 vulnerable Haitian children, six days a week at their center in Jacmel. In 2016, in the wake of a financial hardship, BGR awarded a grant to the foundation that allowed them to continue their daily meal program, encourage healthy eating habits and good hygiene, and strengthen community participation.

The foundation reported that the grant allowed them to continue to provide two meals a day per child, as well as hold a number of free clinics on nutrition, hand-washing, and gardening. In addition, the foundation started

a garden, which provided nutritious produce for the children's lunches such as spinach, plantains, cassava, and sweet potatoes, and inspired many families to start their own gardens.

The foundation also reported that this money allowed them to grow. Because BGR funds were used on these essentials, the foundation was able to hire three new teachers and build a library, four classrooms, a kitchen, and a dining area.

The grant allowed the foundation to accept new children to the school. Two of these children are Kenny and Ronny, who had never attended school.

They spent the first six months of 2016 learning how to hold a

pencil, trace, write numbers and their names, identify colors and shapes, and other basic skills.

Denise, a single mother of three children, was a critic of the original plan for the community garden, convincing the foundation to instead provide plots of land to each family. Once the foundation agreed to this set-up, Denise was the first community member to get her plot started. She and her two sons are growing beans, corn, plantains, and squash. Despite the resistance to the original form of the project, several savvy community members like Denise helped their neighbors with their gardens.

A HOSTEL FOR CHANGE-MAKERS IN NAGPUR, INDIA

# INDIA



*"It is the first time I have ever felt safe or loved in my life."*





**T**he Bodhicitta Foundation, spearheaded by the Australian Buddhist nun Ayya Yeshe, is dedicated to empowering women and girls from the backward slums and villages of India. At the Bodhicitta Foundation, a woman can receive an education, job training, housing, food and medical treatment for herself and her children, library services, legal advice, counseling, and, perhaps most importantly, a social network of other like-minded women. Three educational centers offer tutoring to 90 school-age children in reading, writing, and mathematics, and a food program provides 6,000 meals a year to children in need.

Buddhist Global Relief and the Bodhicitta Foundation have a longstanding partnership. In 2017, BGR provided partial funding for a hostel to house 30

vulnerable yet high-achieving girls from the poorest sections of Indian society. Besides housing, the girls receive tuition assistance, food, transportation, books, and security. Social workers provide job training, legal and financial education, and instruction in subjects including public speaking, self-defense, and English. The girls, in turn, have pledged to return to their villages to complete 500 hours of social work and help 300 women over two years. “These girls were desperate cases rescued from train stations, brothels, and situations of child labor,” writes Ayya Yeshe. “We now have 25 change-makers!”

One of these girls is Deepti, 24, a young woman who lived at the Bodhicitta Foundation as she completed her master’s degree. “I found the environment in the girls’ home so loving and sup-

portive,” she says. “It meant a great deal to me because I am an orphan.” Her job as a science teacher at a government college saved her from a forced marriage. On Sunday, Deepti feeds ten girls at the home and helps them study. She started a sewing class for twenty women that meets four times a week. Eventually, she dreams of starting a school for poor girls.

Mansi, 15, would like to be a psychologist or social worker. Mansi fled her father, who abused and murdered her mother, then married a woman who turned Mansi into a domestic slave. “I am a child,” she says, “but I never had a childhood.” Now Mansi lives at the Bodhicitta Foundation. She says, “It is the first time I have ever felt safe or loved in my life.”

EMPOWERING GIRLS TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS IN NICARAGUA

# NICARAGUA



*“I am lucky I was chosen to be sponsored by a special organization called Buddhist Global Relief.”*





In Nicaragua, many poor families keep their daughters home from school, which robs them of economic opportunities and places them at an increased risk for abuse, rape, and childhood pregnancy. In 2017, Buddhist Global Relief partnered with North Country Mission of Hope to sponsor the education of 112 girls, six of whom are attending college. This funding included a uniform, shoes, socks, underwear, a backpack, school supplies, feminine hygiene kits, physical exams, and parasite medicine.

Carol Herring, board member and grant writer for Mission of

Hope, holds two meetings each year to hand out uniforms and supplies to each girl. She writes: “The girls are so appreciative and treasure the gift of an education.”

Carol brings motivational speakers to these meetings, but she also encourages each girl to speak to the group about their dreams for the future. First-grader Cefora Maria Soza wants to be an architect. She has three siblings who do not attend school. “I am lucky,” she says, “I was chosen to be sponsored by a special organization called Buddhist Global Relief.” Sixth grader Genesis Fonseca Hernandez wants to be an engineer. “My family is

low income,” she says, “and does not have money to buy the uniform and shoes for school. With my sponsorship I also received a backpack and school supplies. I have to walk a long way to school so a backpack helps me.”

Iris de Carmen Murillo Fuentes, abandoned by her parents and raised in an orphanage, never thought she would get to go to college, but then, she says, “God provided. I received a scholarship from your organization.” Iris wants to teach children with disabilities and someday, “finally have a place of my own to live. Thank you for helping me.”

# SUDAN



*Arbab's family has enough food to last them through the next harvest season, and they even have groundnuts to sell for cash to fulfill other needs.*





In Sudan, much of the rural population has been displaced due to many years of conflict, forcing them to live on humanitarian aid. Those returning home to farm face a different challenge: unpredictable weather due to climate change. In 2016, Buddhist Global Relief awarded a grant to Oxfam America to address food insecurity in Belail, South Darfur, by supplying farmers with materials and training them in climate-change resistant farming techniques.

In the first six months of the project, 500 farmers received handtools and drought-tolerant seeds such as sorghum and millet. Oxfam then trained 200 farmers in rainwater harvesting

and 260 farmers in vegetable cultivation.

Adam Abdulla Arbab was one of those farmers. Arbab, his wife, and their six children were displaced due to conflict in 2014 and lived in a camp for a decade, entirely dependent on humanitarian food aid. Even though they were able to supplement their income with daily labor, they were struggling to meet their family's basic needs. In 2013, the World Food Programme cut food aid to displacement camps in half, so Arbab and his wife made a risky decision — they returned to their home village to attempt to cultivate crops. The family was continuing to struggle when Oxfam arrived in 2016 and

selected Arbab's village as one of its areas of operation.

Using seeds provided through this grant, Arbab happily reported a harvest of two sacks of millet, 1.5 sacks of sorghum, and 2.5 sacks of groundnuts. Arbab's family has enough food to last them through the next harvest season, and they even have groundnuts to sell for cash.

Security improved in Darfur in 2017, influencing more displaced families to return to farming. Oxfam reported that due to these positive changes and a favorable exchange rate, an estimated 3,800 people — 1,300 more than the original projection — will benefit from the project by the end of the year.

## Other Projects in Brief



### *Arts Creation Foundation for Children (ACFFC):*

#### FOOD AID PROGRAM IN HAITI

The afternoon feeding program of this arts education nonprofit provides hot, nutritious meals, six days a week, to 60 children in need in Jacmel. On Saturdays and during the summer, breakfast is also served. The feeding program enables many children to attend school who previously spent their days begging for food or seeking other ways to feed themselves.



### *Asociación Grupo de Trabajo:*

#### YOUNG WOMEN'S RIGHT LIVELIHOOD AND EMPOWERMENT IN PERU

One hundred domestic workers, more than half of whom are single mothers, participated in twelve hours of training and individual counseling to improve their knowledge of their rights and ability to negotiate for better working conditions, salary, and benefits. Of 100 participants, 85 were placed in stable jobs with good working conditions and a fair salary.



### *Bangladesh Buddhist Missionary Society:*

#### FOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR ORPHANS IN BANGLADESH

A BGR-funded program fed 52 orphan children, ages 6 to 17, at the Orphans Home Complex in Betagi, in the Chittagong Hills region. Under the leadership of Ven. Jivanananda Mahathero, BBMS has provided food, health care, and other humanitarian assistance to the needy since 1977.



### *CENCUDER:* FOOD AID PROGRAM IN CAMEROON

The Ebase-Bajoh primary school in southwest Cameroon serves village children whose parents cannot afford to send them to government schools in town. This program fed 95 hungry children at the village school, 55 of whom are girls. In addition to providing needed nutrition, the program led to increased access to education and decreased dropout rates, especially among female students.



### *Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR):* PROVIDING EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TO GIRLS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN SRI LANKA

In a country where young women face rates of unemployment nearly twice that of their male counterparts, this project gives women a foothold in the labor market by providing funds for their education in high-growth, high-earning fields such as information technology and civil engineering. Sixty-nine young women from low-income families received scholarships this year. The project also leads gender awareness education programs for both male and female students.



***Ecology Action:*** IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION THROUGH BIOINTENSIVE SUSTAINABLE MINI-FARMING IN KENYA AND MALAWI

The GROW BIOINTENSIVE method of sustainable agriculture increases crop yields while reducing use of water and commercial fertilizer. This grant trained 1,200 farmers, including 786 women and 125 youths, in eight communities in Kenya, and 2,075 farmers, including 1,000 women and 250 youths, in Malawi. The trainings aim to increase food security and income among participating farmers.



***Helen Keller International:*** IMPROVING NUTRITIONAL OUTCOMES AMONG CHILDREN IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

In the Korhogo Health District in northern Côte d'Ivoire, more than 40 percent of children experience malnutrition so severe as to stunt their growth. In its three-year term, this project — funded entirely by BGR— provided nutrition education and services to 77,000 expectant and nursing mothers and their children. The grant also provided nutrition counseling training to local health officers, an intervention expected to indirectly reach more than 34,000 mothers and their children.



***Helen Keller International:*** IMPROVING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION IN KENYA

In the first year of a three-year grant, HKI carried out an in-depth analysis of performance and service availability among county health management teams in Kakamega County. The next two years of the grant will implement interventions in maternal, neo-natal, and child health and nutrition. The program, which is fully funded by BGR, is projected to serve 255,000 direct and 380,000 indirect beneficiaries.



***Helen Keller International:*** EXPANDING HOUSEHOLD FOOD PRODUCTION IN VIETNAM

Focusing on women and children under the age of 2, this program distributed seeds and seedlings, ducklings, and chicks to 100 households in the rural, mountainous Phu Yen district in northwest Vietnam. The program also supported training on maternal and child nutrition; livestock, vegetable, and mushroom cultivation; and household economic management and entrepreneurship.



***International Cooperation Center:*** TRAINING IN SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR FARMERS IN VIETNAM

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) achieves increased yields via methods that include fertilization with compost and other organic materials; the planting of fewer seeds, cultivated according to precise recommendations; frequent weeding; and reduced water use. A BGR grant trained more than 200 farmers in SRI cultivation practices via the creation of three large-scale collective fields in the Phu Binh district of northern Vietnam's Thai Nguyen province.



**Jamyang Foundation:** SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM FOR MARMA SCHOOLGIRLS IN BANGLADESH

Visakha Girls' School serves 125 students ages 5 to 13, mostly from Buddhist families in the minority Marma community, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. A BGR grant funded a daily hot lunch for the girls, many of whom are internally displaced refugees. The lunch program ensures that the children have sufficient nutrition to focus on their studies, supports their health and well-being, and encourages impoverished parents to send their girls to school.



**Keep Growing Detroit:** GARDEN RESOURCE PROGRAM IN DETROIT

Hundreds of Detroit residents supported by Keep Growing Detroit this year harvested 343,425 pounds of nutritious food from 1,446 family and community gardens. In a city where many residents' only grocery options are convenience stores and gas stations, this grant supported seed and seedling distribution, monthly community work days, and training in soil building, water conservation, and other gardening techniques.



**Lotus Outreach International:** RICE SUPPORT IN CAMBODIA

A direct response to the interconnected problems of hunger and limited access to education for young women in rural Cambodia, the Rice Support program distributes dry rice directly to female students enrolled in LOI's education programs. The rice provided needed nutrition to 224 girls and their families, and in so doing gave families the food security they need in order to send their daughters to school.



**Lotus Outreach International:** UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN CAMBODIA

Fewer than 15 percent of women in Cambodia continue their education past high school. A BGR grant fully funded a year of university education for sixteen young women. The scholarship included the students' tuition, fees, textbooks, housing, and a monthly allowance. The grant also provided administrative and material support for the new CATALYST program, which provides scholarships for university and vocational education to young women in Cambodia.



**Moanoghar:** CONSTRUCTION OF A CHILDREN'S DORMITORY IN BANGLADESH

Founded in 1974 by Buddhist monks, Moanoghar provides education and shelter to children in need in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of southeast Bangladesh. A grant from BGR supported construction of a dormitory to replace a dilapidated building at the Moanoghar school. The new dormitory, called Shanti Bhavan (House of Peace), will house 120 boys (the girls already have a solid dormitory).



**Oxfam America:** PROMOTION OF THE SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION IN HAITI

Working in the Artibonite Valley, this project trained farmers in System of Rice Intensification (SRI) methods, repaired roads and irrigation infrastructure, and facilitated connections between farmer groups and governmental resources. The use of SRI methods doubled rice yields, on average, and reduced farmers' costs in purchases of seeds and chemical fertilizers.



***Oxfam India:*** PROSPERITY THROUGH RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD IN INDIA

With a focus on community-led knowledge-sharing, support, and collective organizing, this project served 798 women farmers in Uttar Pradesh’s Lakhimpur Kheri district through creation of a women farmers’ federation, training in climate resilient agriculture practices, and other material and educational support. In a region where few women own land or have access to credit, more than a third of participating women farmers reported income increases.



***Reciprocity Foundation:*** VEGETARIAN FOOD PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS YOUTH IN NEW YORK CITY

As part of its work supporting homeless, foster, incarcerated, and transgender youth in New York City, the Reciprocity Foundation provided healthy vegetarian meals and cooking and nutrition education to homeless youth at train and bus stations as well as at partner sites. The foundation also expanded its Urban Food Project, bringing homeless youth to upstate retreats to learn about planting, harvesting, and preparing fresh, healthy food.



***Red Cross of Vietnam:*** HOSPITAL MEALS PROGRAM IN VIETNAM

In Vietnam, patients and their families often struggle to pay for hospital-provided meals, an added expense on top of the medical costs of a patient’s care. This program provided more than 500 vegetarian meals each day to 200 patients at the Da Khoa Huyen Tam Binh hospital. A BGR grant funded approximately 75 percent of the hospital food budget, or nearly 142,000 meals over the course of the year.



***Red Cross of Vietnam:*** EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN VIETNAM

This program provides scholarships to more than 700 primary, middle, and high school students from low-income families, helping these children escape the cycle of poverty. The grant paid for enrollment fees, school uniforms, books, and other educational materials for the children.



***Trees That Feed Foundation:*** SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM IN HAITI AND JAMAICA

The school feeding program provided breadfruit-flour porridge meals to 925 children in five schools in Haiti and five in Jamaica. The porridge ingredients are sourced from local smallholder farmers, who are paid at rates above local market value.



***What If? Foundation:*** START-UP COSTS FOR A NEW SCHOOL IN HAITI

The Father Jeri School opened its doors in September 2016 and in its inaugural year provided a quality education to 188 impoverished children in the Ti Plas Kazo neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. A BGR grant funded critical start-up costs for the school in its first year.



***What If? Foundation:*** LAMANJAY COMMUNITY FOOD PROGRAM IN HAITI

This program provides what is often the only meal of the day for children and community members in Ti Plas Kazo. The Father Jeri School program serves more than 300 meals a day to schoolchildren; the community program serves between 400 and 500 meals each weekday; and the family program feeds another 150 to 200 people, many of whom travel from as far as 30 miles away to participate.

## WALKS TO FEED THE HUNGRY

The Walks to Feed the Hungry are BGR's primary fundraising and publicity events, and are also a wonderful opportunity to share the joy that comes from practicing generosity. Participants in the 2016 Walks raised over \$125,000 for projects supported by BGR.

People in almost every continent are benefitting from the generosity and good will of Walk participants. Farmers in Kenya and Sudan, girls in Cambodia and Sri Lanka, children in Haiti, India and Malawi, and people in many other countries have received assistance with food, education, and technical support. These projects truly mean the difference between a short and brutal life and one filled with hope and possibilities.

In this fiscal year, walks in Houston TX, Los Angeles CA, Milford MI, New York NY, Philadelphia PA, San Francisco CA, San Jose CA, Seattle WA, St. Louis MO, Surrey UK, and Willington CT were attended by hundreds of walkers, while the Solidarity Walk in Nagpur, India shared the word about BGR and the projects we support.

It is with immense gratitude that we acknowledge the contributions of the many who attended, donated, and volunteered their time and energy to the walks. May the merits of your offerings fill the world with the joy of giving!



SAN JOSE, CA



NAGPUR, INDIA



LOS ANGELES, CA



**NEW YORK, NY**



**SURREY, UK**



**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**



**PHILADELPHIA, PA**



**SEATTLE, WA**



**HOUSTON, TX**



**MILFORD, MI**



**ST. LOUIS, MO**



**WILLINGTON, CT**

## CONCERT TO FEED THE HUNGRY



Slavic  
Soul  
Party



Arturo O'Farrill  
and ensemble



Arta Jekabsonsone  
and ensemble



Innov Gnawa



On June 17, 2017, the sixth annual Concert to Feed The Hungry lifted our spirits with sounds from around the world. The Middle Collegiate Church in lower Manhattan, the venue for this year, has a national presence in both the arts and in social justice activism.

The 2017 concert featured a particularly diverse program of renowned artists. The Grammy Award-winning pianist and composer Arturo O'Farrill brought his ensemble, and New York's premier Moroccan traditional ensemble Innov Gnawa performed selections from the deep spiritual tradition of North Africa. Slavic Soul Party conjured a compelling mix of Balkan, Roma (Gypsy), soul and jazz influences that has made them one New York's most beloved brass bands, and the jazz saxophonist and National Endowment for the Arts "Jazz Master" David Liebman played selections from his varied career. Finally, the concert also featured rising star jazz vocalist Arta Jekabsonsone, who joined us via our developing partnership with The New School's School of Jazz.

We at BGR express our thanks to these compassionate artists, and to those performed in years past. We express our gratitude also to the many volunteers who share their talents and time to ensure the success of this yearly concert event.

The concert produced by BGR is just one way to celebrate the fruits of compassionate action; it is also a reminder that the struggle continues. Perhaps now more than ever we can remember our common bond of humanity and ethical responsibility to each other, even – perhaps especially – to those we do not know personally.

## Buddhist Global Relief through CFC # 74375

### CFC Location

Central Alabama CFC  
Tennessee Valley CFC  
Heart of Alabama CFC  
Alaska CFC  
Arizona CFC  
CFC of Greater Arkansas  
CFC of Greater SoCal  
SoCal CFC  
CFC Norcal  
Rocky Mountain CFC  
Northwest Florida CFC  
NE Florida/SE Georgia Regional CFC  
Atlantic Coast CFC  
Florida Panhandle CFC  
Suncoast CFC  
Greater Atlanta - Athens CFC  
Central Savannah River Area CFC  
Middle Georgia Area CFC  
Hawaii-Pacific Area CFC  
Midwest CFC  
Illowa Bi-State CFC  
Indiana, Kentucky & Southwestern Ohio CFC  
Fort Polk -Central Louisiana CFC  
Chesapeake Bay Area CFC  
CFC of Eastern Massachusetts  
CFC of Connecticut & Western Massachusetts  
Heartland CFC  
Gateway CFC  
Montana CFC  
Northern New England CFC  
Desert Southwest CFC  
CFC of New York City  
Hudson Valley CFC  
Long Island CFC  
CFC of Western North Carolina  
Cherry Point CFC  
Southeastern North Carolina CFC  
North Coast Ohio CFC  
Central Oklahoma CFC  
Eastern Pennsylvania & South Jersey CFC  
Coastal Carolina CFC  
Palmetto State CFC  
Western South Dakota CFC  
Smoky Mountain Region CFC  
San Antonio Area CFC  
Intermountain CFC  
Virginia Peninsula CFC  
South Hampton Roads CFC  
Potomac CFC  
King County CFC  
CFC of North Puget Sound  
Eastern Panhandle CFC  
CFC of the National Capital Area  
Overseas CFC



Once again this year, BGR participated in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the official workplace giving program for US federal government employees. Participation in the CFC is open to non-profit organizations that have undergone a stringent application process and have demonstrated a high level of fiscal transparency and accountability. We are honored to be once again accepted as a participating organization in the CFC, and are thankful to the Board and staff members of BGR for maintaining our high standards of practice.

We wish to express our deep gratitude to the many federal employees who have donated a portion of their paychecks to help the less fortunate and further BGR's mission! If you are a US federal employee we hope you will consider contributing during this coming campaign through our CFC #74375, and spread the word to your colleagues, family and friends at work.

We have listed the different CFC locations that contributed to BGR in the time period covered by this report in the sidebar. We thank them all for their support, and hope that we can add more CFC locations to the list this year, and into the future.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

### ART CREATION FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

Serving children and families in need in Jacmel, Haiti, its 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.”

### ASOCIACIÓN GRUPO DE TRABAJO REDES

This Peruvian group helps women in low-paying jobs improve their skills, raises awareness of women’s rights to decent pay and working conditions, and advocates for the removal of children from the domestic labor market.

### BANGLADESH BUDDHIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Ven. Jivanananda Mahathero founded the Society in 1977 as a nonsectarian, non-communal nongovernmental organization focused on dispensing humanitarian services especially to orphans, widows, and other people in need.

### BODHICITTA FOUNDATION

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

### CENCUDER CAMEROON

This organization seeks to help rural youths and women improve their lives through education and training in life and vocational skills.

### CENTRE FOR WOMEN’S RESEARCH

This nonprofit nongovernmental organization, founded in 1984, helps 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 a small-scale agricultural system, Grow Biointensive, which increases crop yields and conserves resources as it helps people meet the basic need of feeding themselves.

### HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL

Helen Keller International, one of the world’s oldest nonprofits, 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 collaborative projects, including research on poverty reduction and crop and animal production biotechnology.

### JAMYANG FOUNDATION

This Foundation supports innovative educational projects for indigenous girls and women in the Indian Himalayas and the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, combining general education for the modern world with traditional Buddhist wisdom and practice.

### JOAN ROSE FOUNDATION

The Joan Rose Foundation’s mission is to serve impoverished children and their families by providing food, education, clothing, medicine, love, and support.

### KEEP GROWING DETROIT

Founded to promote food sovereignty in Detroit by supporting residents in growing the fruits and vegetables consumed in the city, KGD teaches gardening, cultivates a network of gardeners, and invests in the development of community leaders and food entrepreneurs.

### LOTUS OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL

Lotus Outreach International is dedicated to improving 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 children in the region. More than 1,400 students are currently studying at Moanoghar.



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 2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017), our ninth year of service, BGR continued its steady annual growth in donation volume. Our revenues totaled \$637,337 as compared to \$589,288 in fiscal year 2016, an increase of 8%. Our expenditures totaled \$698,463 of which \$600,668, or 86%, were allocated to direct programs. Our administrative ratio was 5%, and another 9% was devoted to fundraising and promotion. Our administrative and fundraising expense levels experienced a significant increase this year due to the necessity of hiring a dedicated Executive Director at a \$30,000 annual stipend to run the day-to-day operations of the organization. As we continue steady growth in revenues each year, and a corresponding growth in direct program expenditures, we expect the administrative and fundraising percentages to steadily drop, as these costs will remain relatively fixed.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support!



## Statement of Activities

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

### REVENUE

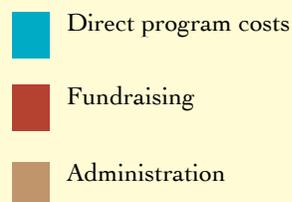
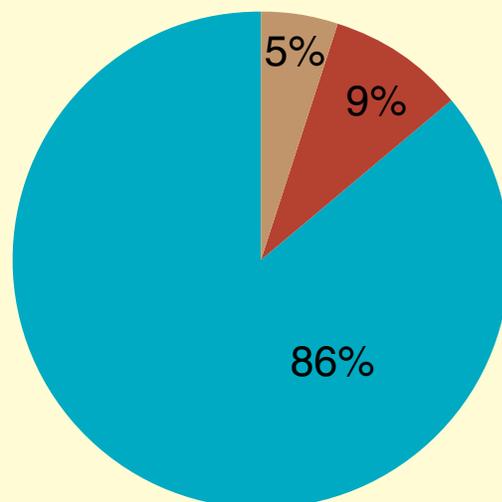
Revenue	
Individual & Business Contributions	\$ 540,623
Non-Profit Organization Contributions	32,698
Foundation Grants	60,952
Donated Goods & Services	2,911
Investment Income (Loss)	153
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 637,337</u>

### EXPENDITURES

Direct Program Costs	\$ 600,668
Administration	34,606
Fundraising	<u>63,189</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>698,463</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ (61,126)</u>

Administration as a % of total revenue= 5.43%

### Expenses by Category



## Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2017

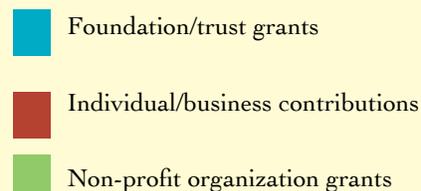
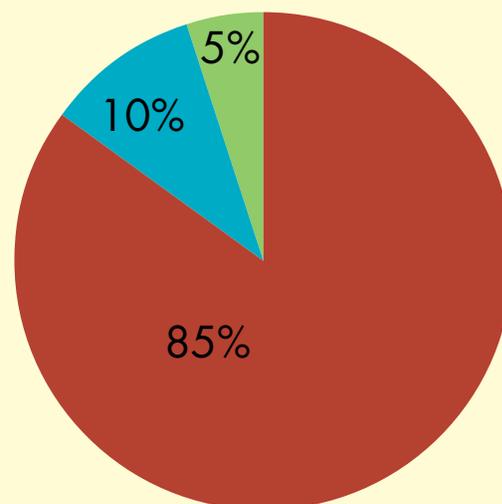
### ASSETS

Assets	
Cash	
Checking	\$ 20,529
Money Market	<u>52,418</u>
Total Cash	<u>72,947</u>
Accounts Receivable	3,640
Other Current Assets	<u>1,881</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 78,468</u>

### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities	
Grants Payable	\$ 82,150
Accounts Payable	<u>7,262</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>89,412</u>
Fund Balances	
Fund Balance Jul 1, 2016	50,182
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(61,126)</u>
Fund Balance Jun 30, 2017	<u>(10,944)</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$ 78,468</u>

### Revenue by Source



# ANNUAL SUPPORT

Buddhist Global Relief would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support and partnership during the 2016 fiscal year, July 2016 - June 2017. 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

Lydia K. and James  
Y. H. Chao

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

Yin Shun Foundation  
Patrick Okell

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

Buddhist Churches of America  
Bhikkhu Bodhi  
Robert Brown  
Julia Peiju Riao  
Shoyo Taniguchi



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

Amitabha Buddhist  
Society of USA  
Tan Teo Charitable  
Foundation  
Unified Korean Buddhist  
Association  
Virginia Wellington Cabot  
Foundation  
Alireza & Farzaneh Azadan  
Eleanor Heath  
Shin Kwan Park  
Carolyn Redfield  
Joy L Robinson  
Janice Sheppard

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

The Ayudar Foundation  
New York Insight Meditation  
Center  
Rice University  
Lynn & John Kelly  
Gail Zivin  
Paul Schlaud  
Fang Hang  
Khanh Nguyen  
George Clapp  
Christopher Konczyk  
Sharon Salzberg  
Gavin Towler  
Meichu Chen  
Yuan-Chen Hsu  
Pushkor Mukerji  
Alison Zhou

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

Andrews Foundation  
Buddhist Peaceful  
Enlightenment  
Buffalo Mindfulness  
Community Dharma Leaders  
5 Teachers  
Compassion Cultivation  
Foundation

Inteplast Group Corporation  
Nathan Dale Robnett Special  
Needs Trust  
New Buddha Way  
Open Door Sangha  
Samaritan Medical Center  
Sanghapala Foundation  
Stull Family Foundation  
Triple Gem Buddhist  
Foundation  
John Auron  
Annie Teng & Sokol Braha  
David & Elizabeth S.  
Braughton  
Anna Buschmann  
Paul Cain  
Po-Hui Chang  
Li-hsiang Cheng  
Carolyn Chew  
Carol Corey  
Dane Fredenburg  
Peggy Ingram



Jon Kabat-Zinn  
 Eleanor and Kaushik Katari  
 Janet King  
 Stuart Krohn  
 Dung Le  
 Mary MacGregor  
 Adrian Magno  
 Kathleen Miller  
 Jimmy Nguyen  
 Edward Haertel and  
 Andrew M. Oman  
 Dennis Otoole  
 Marguerite Robert  
 Michael Roehm  
 Dennis G. Shaw  
 Mridula Singh  
 Ram Sistla  
 Frank & Maria Todaro  
 Julie Wagner  
 Hsien T. & Chia L. Wang  
 Siu Man Wong  
 Taihua Kathy Yen &  
 Nelson Wu  
 Guiyu T. Zhou

**\$500 to \$999**

Bodhi Tree Construction  
 Cambridge Insight  
 Meditation Center  
 Chung Tai Zen Center  
 of Sunnyvale  
 Compassionate Service  
 Society - South  
 Dharma Merchant Services  
 Heartwood Refuge  
 Karuna Buddhist Vihara  
 Mettaphoric Direction  
 Ring To Perfection  
 Sati Yoga  
 Sravasti Abbey  
 Victor P. & Roberta K.R.  
 Bradford Charitable Gift  
 Fund  
 Guy & Sally Armstrong  
 James & Jane Baraz



Joanne Barraclough  
 Daniel Bernstein  
 Catherine Brousseau  
 Michele Byman  
 Joshua Capitanio  
 Michael Chang  
 Kristofer Charlton-Ouw  
 Celia Pi-Yin Chen  
 Helen Cheng  
 Kathy Cheng  
 Jyoti Chhabria  
 Hei Chiu  
 Ching-Huan Chu  
 Bruce J. Dalrymple  
 Courtney Dukelow  
 Andrew Charles Dwyer  
 Sascha Elsing  
 Jonas Eriksson  
 Dale Farris  
 Chee Sheng Fong  
 Chris Gilbreth  
 Dennis Golobitsh  
 Ruthe Hay  
 Janet Heck  
 Gail Inaba  
 Manus J-Cheng  
 Judy Jeng  
 Lois Jones  
 N. Jones

Joanna Karp  
 Abolghasem Khademolreza  
 Doug C. & Lee A. Ko  
 Alexander Koch  
 Mary Ann Koch  
 Budi Satria Kompoi  
 Shweta Kunwar  
 Teck Lee  
 Xiaoping Lin  
 Martin Mantalvanos  
 Edward Martin  
 Alison McLean  
 Phuong L. Nguyen  
 Patrick Norwil & Sharon  
 Cohen  
 Krista O'Donnell  
 Gyalten Palmo  
 Giacomo F. C. Pozzer  
 Mitchell Ratner

Deena & Matthew Scherer  
 Gerald Schulz  
 Walter Schwidetzky  
 Alan Seiden  
 Rakhel Shapiro  
 Phoebe Signer  
 Karl Singler  
 Thomas Spies  
 Hong Lye Tan  
 Steven Tanksley  
 Lee Wen Teh  
 Heather Teves  
 Camie S. Vo  
 Frances Wey  
 Bill Williams  
 Janice Willis  
 Lisa & Robert Wong  
 Suresh Yadav  
 Hau Hon Yin

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



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.





### 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>

# LEADERSHIP, FISCAL YEAR 2017

## Board of Directors

**Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi,**  
Chairperson

**W. David Braughton,**  
Vice-Chairperson and  
Treasurer

**Marcie Barth,**  
Secretary

**Ayya Santussika**

**Dan Blake**

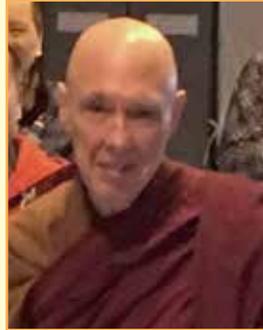
**George Clapp**

**Charles Elliott**

**Patricia Price**

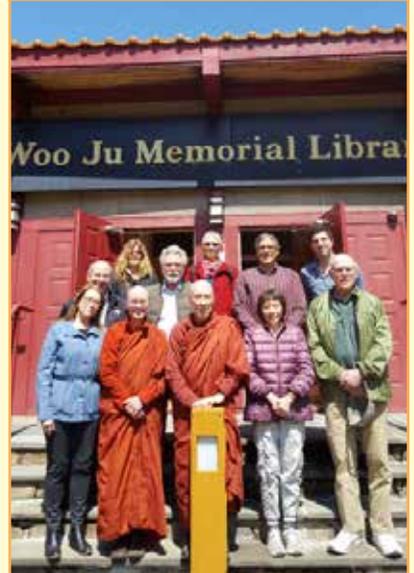
**Michael Roehm**

**Sylvie Sun**



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

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



## Directors

**Tom Spies,** Executive Director

**Kim Behan,** Director of Programs

**Carla Prater,** Assistant Director

## Council of Advisers

**Rev. Joan Hogetsu Hoeberichts**  
Abbot, Heart Circle Sangha, Ridgewood, NJ

**Ven. Bhikkhu Buddhakkhita**  
Founder, Uganda Buddhist Center

**Ven. Heng Sure**  
President, Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, Berkeley, CA

**Ven. Thich Tri Hoang**  
Abbot, Chua Phap Nguyen, Pearland, TX

**Andrew Harvey**  
Spiritual teacher and author, Founder, Institute of Sacred Activism

**David Loy**  
Author and Zen teacher, Boulder, CO

**Gil Fronsdal**  
Founder, Insight Meditation Center, Redwood City, CA

**Sharon Salzberg**  
Author and meditation teacher, Insight Meditation New York

**Jan Willis**  
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

## **Credits:**

Editor: Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi

Managing Editor: Kim Behan

Writers: Jennifer Russ, Tricia Brick,  
Carla Prater, Dan Blake

Financial Statements: Tom Spies

Annual Support: Carla Prater, Johnny  
& Sandy Wong, Tom Spies

Graphic Design: Valeria Clark  
([www.valeriackdesign.com](http://www.valeriackdesign.com))

## **Photo Credits:**

pp 6-7: CAMBODIA, SRI training  
for poor farmers in rural areas of  
Cambodia, RACHANA

pp 8-9: HAITI, Support of children's  
Food Aid and Education, Joan Rose  
Foundation

pp 10-11: INDIA, Girls Hostel and  
Women's Job Training/Community  
Centre, Bodhicitta Foundation

pp 12-13: NICARAGUA, Education  
of girls and young women, North  
Country Mission of Hope

pp 14-15: SUDAN, Household  
backyard gardens in the Darfur  
region, Oxfam America

pp 28-29: Annual Support: Bodhicitta  
Foundation, Girls Hostel and  
Women's Job Training/Community  
Centre in India; Joan Rose  
Foundation, Support of  
Children's Food Aid and Education  
in Haiti

pp 28-29: How You Can Help:  
CENCUDER Cameroon, Food Aid  
program for Children in Cameroon;  
Joan Rose Foundation, Support of  
Children's Food Aid and Education  
in Haiti



*To BGR Team Members*

*A very special thank you to our tireless volunteers, whose enthusiasm,  
hard work, and support allows us to continue our important work.*



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

**1-888-852-7579**  
**[www.buddhistglobalrelief.org](http://www.buddhistglobalrelief.org)**

*“In giving food, one gives five things to the recipients: one gives life, beauty, happiness, strength and mental clarity. In giving these five things, one in turn partakes of life, beauty, happiness, strength and mental clarity, whether in this world or in the heavenly realm.”*

**—Anguttara Nikaya**