

Sravasti Abbey

A Buddhist Monastic Community



Coming to fruition . . .

Creating Peace in a Chaotic World



ANNUAL REPORT

2009

"As Lama Yeshe used to tell us, a monastery is not yours; it belongs to everyone, because its purpose is to benefit all living beings. I want to welcome you all to your home here at Sravasti Abbey."

- Ven. Bhikshuni Thubten Chodron



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Sharing the Dharma in 2009



Teachings from guest masters are a rich supplement to the on-going teachings by Ven. Chodron. Geshe Lhundup Sopa was among our guest teachers in 2009.



Our mission is to nurture a flourishing monastic community, where learning and practicing Buddha's ancient teachings cultivate peace in the hearts of the residents, visitors, and the world. Practicing and sharing the Dharma is what Sravasti Abbey is all about, and we increased our programs in 2009.



"It is rare to find people in their twenties practicing the Dharma," Jennifer Clifford wrote after attending the Abbey's 5th annual Young Adult Week. "I wanted to find friends that had questions and struggles similar to mine. The Abbey's program was the best and possibly the only way to have this connection."

Dianne Pratt became Ven. Thubten Jigme, the Abbey's sixth monastic resident.



Dharma outreach included producing a set of ten DVDs with Ven. Chodron's talks for free distribution to prisons. Prison Chaplain David Sherman wrote, "It is not often that the community takes time to remember the people locked behind metal doors who are truly trying to make up for their mistakes."

To our knowledge there is no other program like the Abbey's 3-week Exploring Monastic Life program, which includes rarely-offered teachings on monastic discipline.



September
26,
2009

Gotami House Consecration



We celebrated the effort of more than one thousand benefactors, volunteers, and workers when we opened Gotami House, the new nuns' residence. Gotami House and its related infrastructure are the largest material achievement to date in fulfilling the Abbey's mission to support a thriving monastic community.

Our Step Towards Peace building project isn't finished, however. We will complete the two-room retreat cabin for guest teachers and retreatants in 2010.



Here's what **Abbess Bhikshuni Thubten Chodron** said on the consecration day . . .

The existence of a monastic community is important. A monastery or abbey is a physical place conducive to training your mind in the Buddha's teachings. It is a place where Buddha images and Dharma texts abide. But more than that, it's the focal point for a living tradition with people who are studying the teachings, putting them into practice, and sharing them with others.

A monastery is a place where you can go for consistent Dharma teachings, where you can meditate and practice over a long period of time so that you can gain deep understanding and realizations. It's a place that you can think of when you're not here and be happy that it exists.

A Step Towards Peace

Building a home for the Sangha to sustain the Dharma

We receive letters from people all over the world who are so excited about Gotami House and what we're doing. They feel wonderful knowing there's a place where people are training in ethical conduct, meditating on love and compassion, and caring for the environment.

People come here to learn the Buddha's teachings, to do retreat, to receive spiritual counseling, and to be in nature. Our planet needs places like this.

Direct costs 2007 - 2009

Kitchen Remodel	19,034
Retreat Cabin	26,670
Infrastructure (water system, septic, road , & power)	224,392
Monastic residence	469,449
	\$739,545

Costs do not include Abbey volunteer personnel, admin, or fundraising expenses which have been absorbed into general operating costs.



Additional Highlights of 2009



Teachings and retreats included *Mind Training Like Rays of the Sun* streamed live each week, daily teachings on a variety of Lamrim topics, a *Heart Sutra* weekend teaching, a week-long retreat with teachings on *108 Verses in Praise of Great Compassion*, Geshe Sopa's teachings on *Guide to a Bodhisattva's Way of Life* and other guest teachings, weekend meditation retreats, and a three-month Tara retreat. All retreats and teachings were open to the public.

In addition to teaching at the Abbey, Ven. Chodron gave teachings, public talks, and led retreats in Singapore, Mexico, India, and many cities across the US.

Abbey monastics shared the Dharma locally and further afield through prison visits, Dharma talks, and on-going classes in towns and cities in Idaho, Washington, Oklahoma, and Singapore.



Guest teachers and visiting monastics included Khensur Wangdak Rinpoche, Geshe Lhundup Sopa, Ven. Minjia Shi, Geshe Thupten Phelgye, Ven. Hong Zen, Ven. Jendy Shih, Ven. Jessie Shih, Ven. Jencha, Ven. Tien Chang, Ven. Jenru, and Dr. Jeffrey Hopkins.

Ven. Chodron presented a paper on "Buddhist Education for Nuns in Western Countries" at a conference on Sangha education organized by Luminary Temple in Taiwan.



The Abbey continued our commitment to interfaith exchange by participating in local interfaith events. Ven. Chodron also co-led an interfaith retreat in Wisconsin.

Abbey residents and volunteers continued to steward the Abbey's forest, protecting it from fire and disease by thinning overcrowded stands of trees.

Generosity supports the Abbey's monastic community; the monastics, in turn, delight in giving the Dharma freely.

2009

An Economy of Generosity



The Abbey functions as a community. Residents, guests, and volunteers join together to support the residential and outreach programs. Professional services such as accounting, web design and maintenance, and bookkeeping are all done by volunteers. All food and many supplies are offered by kind donors. There is no charge for visiting the Abbey or for attending teachings; guests make offerings as they are able.

In this way, supporting the Abbey supports the Dharma, and everyone involved creates the causes for happiness now and in the future.

Sravasti Abbey Statement of Activity Year ended December 31, 2009

Income

General donations & other income	236,843
Capital campaign contributions	140,472
Total Income	\$377,315

Use of Resources

Monastic program	31,543
Monastery facilities	55,189
Monastic requisites	11,897
Admin, PR, Inviting Generosity	15,708
Total operating costs	114,337
Building project costs	181,646
Total expenditures	\$295,983

The Abbey retains reserve funds to support the future growth of the monastic community and the facility.

Statement of Financial Position Year ended December 31, 2009

ASSETS

Cash & cash equivalents	790,080
Receivables	2,073
Total current assets	\$792,153
Property & equipment	
Land	255,000
Buildings	824,446
Buildings (construction in process)	26,670
Roads and infrastructure	224,392
Equmt, vehicles, & furnishings	21,112
Accumulated depreciation	(90,520)
Total property & equipment	\$1,261,100
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,053,253

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities	0
Net Assets	
Net Assets (unrestricted)	1,966,592
Net assets (temporarily restricted)	
Monastic program	22,385
Monastic requisites	32,526
Capital campaign	31,750
Total temporarily restricted	86,661
Total Net Assets	\$2,053,253
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$2,053,253



Benefactors

2009



We are grateful to the more than 900 individuals and organizations who made offerings to support the monastic community and the flourishing of the Buddha's teachings in 2009. By your generosity, may compassion and the realization of interdependence grow, bringing peace to our chaotic world.

A-B Adam & Cat Wilson, Adeline Lim, Adriana Cavina, Agnes Lee, Aik Sai Goh, Aisha Cissna, Alana Clampitt, Alanda Wraye, Alaya Griffith, Alejandro Garzon, Alice Peterson, Alicia Blanco, Aline Lesage, Alison Cunningham, Alison Wong, Aloysius Ho, Allan Fix, Alex Noden, Amber Lessard, American Evergreen Buddhist Association Chi-Yuan Temple, A'moz Concept Pte Ltd,

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Friends of Sravasti Abbey Singapore organized two sets of teachings in 2009. Their strong support for the Dharma and the Abbey includes benefacting the library for Gotami House.

2009 benefactors came from 25 countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, & USA



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