

# Zen Buddhist Temple • Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom

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Dear Friends,

Warm autumnal greetings from the Temple at this time of our annual fundraising appeal.

Local and world conditions are very challenging, media puts this right in front of us, tears often stream down my face – refugees, hospitals bombed, climate change issues, waste, poverty, war, gun violence and more. You have probably felt this pain as well. And yet, even with so much suffering wherever we look, we find beauty and the kindness of others. How can we hold it all in our hearts and minds and live fully in each moment, embracing what is?

Our temple is a light to provide support, guidance, and practice in the midst of this precious, messy life. Will you please help us to raise \$20,000 to keep our light bright and strong?

**\$ 10,000** To add to our ongoing savings for an ecologically sound project that would give us more space. We are making the best of current space as a concrete plan is developed.

**\$ 2,000** To add to our scholarship fund for dedicated students, peace campers and others in need of financial support

**\$ 8,000** For Temple upkeep & maintenance: a water heater, roof repairs, electrical work

Our sangha is a vibrant group of people of increasing diversity which offers Buddhist training and service to our local community and beyond.

• **We provide residential space** for those interested in full time Buddhist practice or who wish to experience our Visitors' Program. We offer our Maitreya Buddhist Seminary, Dharma Guardian and Dharma Worker **programs to train sangha leaders for the future**. Members participate in morning, noon, and evening meditation practice throughout the week.

• **We offer a Zenfamilies program** with services and classes for children of all ages and their parents including special sessions for middle-schoolers and teens. We conduct an annual six day family oriented **Peace Camp** attended by 100 or more campers. Throughout the year we **lead meditation courses, retreats, yoga classes and weekly public services on Sundays**. We conduct services and meditation instruction in **Michigan prisons** and offer the opportunity for those incarcerated to formally become Buddhist.

• **Our volunteers very skillfully guide** all of these programs as well as serve on our Advisory Council, help with maintenance, the garden, greet at Sunday services, organize our lectures series, workshops, & yoga, and administer special groups like our Aging, Death, and Dying group and our current Fall Practice period.

• **As one of five temples in our Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom** we support the purchase, renovation, expansion of all of our temples.

As challenge prevails, as spunky purple asters fade and bow, and we begin our weatherizing process to keep winter utility bills lower, I ask for your generous financial support for expansion, scholarships, and building maintenance.

Together we have this precious opportunity to help our Temple. By virtue of your generosity may the buddhadharma prevail and serve. All donations are tax-deductible.

Gratefully, with a deep bow,

Haju Sunim