



DHARMA GATES

2021 Annual Report

Mission

Dharma Gates is a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to opening pathways into formal meditation practice for young adults.

We connect young practitioners to a variety of Buddhist teachers and practice centers, working to eliminate the conceptual, logistical, and financial barriers to practice.

We foster connections through which practitioners can cultivate compassion, resilience, and clarity to meet the unique challenges of our times.

A Note from the Leadership

Although the COVID-19 pandemic poses ongoing challenges, we are grateful that in the past year we were able to run a range of powerful in-person and online events, offer our advising service to many more people on a donation-basis, and begin creating Dharma Gates content to share on various media platforms.

This year, we also worked to build and deepen relationships with many Buddhist communities in the United States. We invited three new wonderful teachers to our monastic advisory board and began a series of conversations to determine appropriate ethical standards for Dharma Gates facilitators and consider our shared vision of Dharma Gates moving forward. We are grateful for their guidance and hope to continue building relationships in the years to come.

Our vision now is to make this project into a gift. A gift for Buddhism in the United States and a gift for those young people who are searching for communities and ways of being that support healing and liberation.

To do this, we will need to continue to slowly build and stabilize the organizational momentum we've already cultivated. And we need to do this while honoring our own callings towards retreat and monasticism. This will be challenging, but we are excited to move forward. We are grateful for your support in bringing this opportunity into being.

- Nicky Antonellis & Aaron Stryker



This Year by the Numbers



155 people impacted through online and in-person events programming

16 attendees at our week-long Summer Immersion Program in Enosburg Falls, VT

25 advising connections

Funding raised for supporting young people in their meditation practice:
\$66,747.87

Unique donors: **49**

Our Programs



Summer Immersion 2021

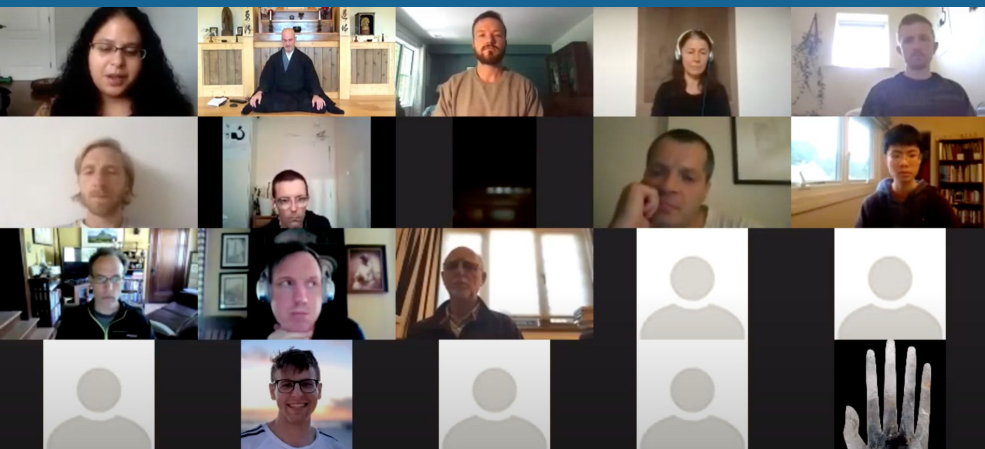
We offered two, week-long retreats in a Farmhouse in Enosburg Falls, Vermont. Participants dove deep into the practices of mindfulness meditation, interpersonal meditation, and workshopped ways to support one another in practice and in service to our respective communities. Please see our website landing page for testimonials about participants experiences this summer.



Cohort 2 of the Dharma Gates 2021 Summer Immersion wrapping up their retreat.

Digital Programming

In 2021, we offered 11 donation-based online events with teachers from eight traditions, including four half-day retreats.



Guests this year:

Guo Gu

Meido Moore

Ayya Medhanandi

Cory Hess

Beth Upton

Daniel Thorson

Hector Marcel

Kisei Costenbader

Theodore Tsaousidis

Youtube Channel & Podcast

We now have 10 event recordings, 4 episodes of our podcast, and over 4000 total views on the Dharma Gates Youtube Channel.

This channel aims to document our online events, provide a platform for our podcast, and offer lasting value to a wide range of audiences.



1:1 Advising

Our freely offered, donation-based advising service has continued to mature into a powerful offering over the past year. We've worked with 25 people this year through phone calls and Zoom calls to share what we know about places to practice meditation deeply given a person's interest and circumstances. Many of our past advisees end up training at reputable Buddhist monasteries and meditation retreat centers around the US.

It remains our aspiration, to become a word-of-mouth network that shares training environments that might be hard to discover on one's own.



Advising Experiences:

[Living at Great Vow Zen Monastery] has definitely been a very rewarding and opening experience. The community aspect and integration of practice with work have been perhaps the most useful and unexpected parts of Zen training for my own growth.

Being at the monastery has really increased my respect for the work Dharma Gates is doing. The shifts in perspectives and transformations that places like Great Vow bring about seem very necessary for people in our generation.”

- Aayush Jain



Advising Experiences:

I cannot overstate how grateful I am for Dharma Gates: Nicky gave such high quality information on specific centers to go to in Asia, as well as detailed explanations about the history and lineages of various forms of Buddhism. I wouldn't have been able to find any of this otherwise.

In particular, without Dharma Gates' advising service, I would not have found a version of Buddhism that aligns so clearly with my personality and hopes. It's my hope that any young person on the path gets to work with Dharma Gates!

-Valerie Zhang



Leadership and Financials



Additions to the Monastic Advisory Board



Roshi Meido Moore

Meido Moore is the abbot of Korinji, a Zen Buddhist monastery in Wisconsin, and guiding teacher of the Korinji Rinzai Zen Community. Meido Roshi began Zen practice in 1988 and trained under three teachers in the line of the great 20th century Rinzai master Omori Sogen Roshi.



Guo Gu

Guo Gu (Dr. Jimmy Yu) is the founder of the Tallahassee Chan Center, the founder of the socially engaged intra-denominational Buddhist organization, Dharma Relief, and a professor of Buddhism and East Asian religions at Florida State University.



Ven. Thubten Chodron

Venerable Thubten Chodron is the founder and abbess of Sravasti Abbey, one of the first Tibetan Buddhist training monasteries for Western nuns and monks in the US. Ordained as a Tibetan Buddhist nun in 1977, Ven. has studied extensively with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Financial Aid and Accessibility

At all of our events to date, we've granted all financial aid requested.

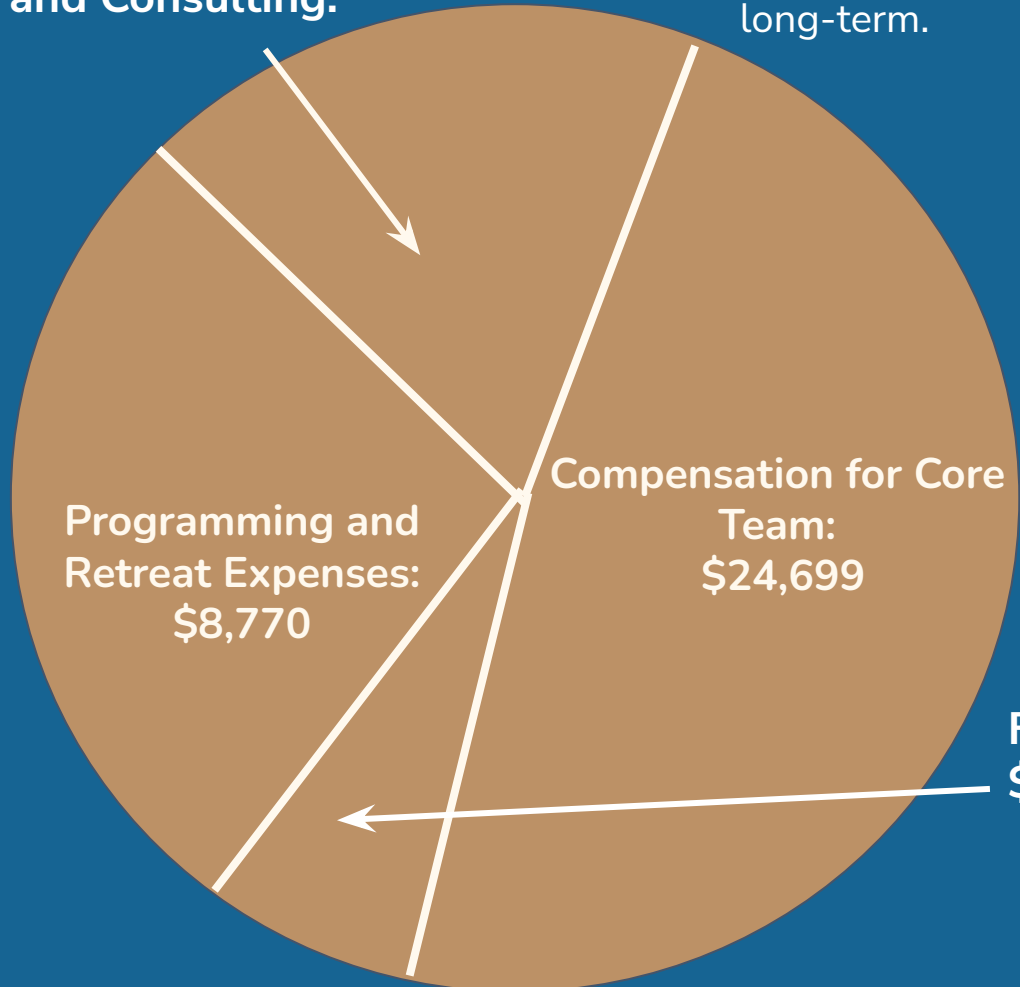
Our online programming has always been free. For our in-person programming, we have named a suggested price and allowed participants to pay as they are able to. We are offering our next two retreats, scheduled for Winter 2022, on a completely donation-basis.

In the coming years, we aspire to offer all of our programming on a donation-basis, requiring no payment by participants for any of our offerings.

Total Expenses: \$48,655

Note: We hired Tashin Fogleman as a consultant from March - June of 2021 to help us build internal processes and learn project management, allowing us to grow and function at a higher level in the long-term.

Tax, Travel, Accounting, Legal, Website, Editing, Marketing, and Consulting: \$10,749



Programming and Retreat Expenses: \$8,770

Compensation for Core Team: \$24,699

Fundraising: \$4,437

Note: Dharma Gates team members donated approximately 250 hours of their time to leading events this year, which keeps our programming expenses disproportionately low. If we had compensated our team at a rate of \$30/h, our programming expenses would be around \$16,270

Thank you to our major donors

Pascaline Servan-Schreiber

Zev Benjamin

Benjamin Pence

Jill Goodman

Miles Bukiet

Alexandra Heller

Gigi Falk

Kayla Falk

Dan Grossman

Cory Muscara

Alex Julie

A New Earth Foundation

Khyentse Foundation

Get Involved

- Volunteer:
 - Back-end needs: legal help, fundraising, accounting, web development, marketing, and social media
 - Front-end needs: local organizing and meditation event planning!
- Share DG Content and Events on social media...
 - Instagram: [dharma.gates](#)
 - Twitter: [@dharma_gates](#)
 - Facebook: “Dharma Gates”
 - Facebook Group: “Dharma Gates Community”

Contact team@dharma-gates.org

Support Dharma Gates for the Coming Year...

We're looking to raise \$100,000 by June 2022.

Here are some examples of how your support counts:

\$35,000

2022 salary for
our executive
director

\$20,000

2022 stipends
for our core team

\$14,000

7-day retreat for
30 participants

\$7,000

4-day retreat for
30 participants

\$4,000

One year of
legal,
accounting, and
website hosting
fees

\$950

On-campus
retreat for up to
thirty
participants

\$350

Full scholarship
to a 5-day
retreat for one
participant

\$75

Pay for one day
of retreat for
one-participant

**Your generosity makes
practice accessible to all.**

For monetary gifts, please donate:

Online:

dharma-gates.org/donate

Or by mail to:

**200 Lyn Anne Court, Ann Arbor, MI
48103**

Or contact team@dharma-gates.org

