The Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation had another wonderful year with the outpouring of loving energy from mindfulness practitioners around the world who support this beautiful practice of peace and healing. With such generous support, we know that the practice will continue far into the future for the benefit of all beings. It is our deep aspiration that the practice continue to nourish you, our supporters, as much as we have been nourished by your loving kindness and generosity. As our dear teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh, often reminds us, “There is no distinction between the one who gives, the one who receives, and the gift itself.”

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION — The Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation was created in 2011 by the Board of Directors of the Unified Buddhist Church (UBC) to serve as its fundraising branch in the United States. The Foundation currently operates with an all-volunteer working board comprised of lay practitioners and monastics, along with one full-time and one part-time staff member. Since the Foundation is not an endowed, grant-making entity, funds are distributed as they are raised. Funds are raised for the continuation of Thich Nhat Hanh’s teachings according to priorities determined by the UBC Board of Directors. Currently these priorities include: the three U.S. practice centers (Deer Park Monastery, Blue Cliff Monastery, and Magnolia Grove Monastery); our root monastery, Plum Village, in France; multiple Dharma education and outreach projects; international humanitarian aid (the Love and Understanding Program); and the Monastic Trust Fund. The Monastic Trust Fund is a separately incorporated permanent endowment of the UBC intended to ensure the care and continuation of our monastic community.

Donations to the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation are a direct extension of each supporter’s personal commitment to the transformation of suffering and the realization of peace. Many Foundation donors make general support gifts, which are used for community priorities determined by the UBC Board. These general support (unrestricted) funds are crucial because they provide us with the ability to meet the community’s highest priority needs. Donors may also make restricted gifts to any of our projects and programs. In 2014, our loving supporters provided a total of $1.7 million in support – $925,000 in restricted and $812,000 in unrestricted funding.

General Support
The $812,000 we received in general support (unrestricted) funding was disbursed among our practice centers and programs based on the following formula determined by the UBC Board: 20% for each of our four Practice Centers, 10% for Humanitarian Relief Efforts, and 10% for Dharma Education and Outreach Programs. In addition to supporting our practice centers and programs, general support (unrestricted) funds covered the Foundation’s operational expenses. Our operational expenses in 2014 were $198,200.
Gifts to the Foundation in 2014 comprised of funding for: multiple Dharma education and outreach projects; humanitarian aid to school children, teachers, and the elderly in Vietnam; the Monastic Trust Fund; and support for four practice centers. Last year, there was also a unique call for support for Thich Nhat Hanh’s unexpected medical expenses over the fall and winter.

Dharma education and outreach projects include “Wake Up” mindfulness tours for young people, online Dharma resources and film projects, sangha (community) building initiatives, and public “Days of Mindfulness.” Supporters provided $157,300 to sustain our current projects and expand our efforts to bring the practice to many more people.

International humanitarian relief efforts aid victims of poverty in Vietnam by helping build schools, feed school-age children, and support the elderly. Supporters provided $87,000 in funds for these efforts.

The Monastic Trust Fund is a Unified Buddhist Church (UBC) endowment created to ensure the care and continuation of our beloved monastic community long into the future. Supporters lovingly gave $47,600 in restricted gifts to make this possible.

The Nunnery Building Project at Deer Park Monastery

We started the year with one special fundraising initiative – the building of safe, healthy, environmentally friendly housing for our monastic sisters at Deer Park Monastery. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we raised $318,000 through the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation, and are a step closer to realizing this precious space for our sisters.

Supporting Thay’s Health and Well-Being

In October of 2014, our dear teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh, unexpectedly fell ill and required hospitalization and around-the-clock care. The costs of this care that were not covered by insurance became a second special fundraising initiative for the Foundation. Our community of supporters lovingly met this need by raising over $80,000 and sending much love and healing energy.

A deep bow of gratitude to you, our loving and generous supporters, for making it possible to continue Thay’s work and nourish seeds of mindfulness and peace in communities around the world in 2014.