



Foundation Project
Retreat Centers, USA
Activity Report 2019



1. Introduction	3
2. Buddhism Foundation Diamond Way locally	6
3. Project Representatives	11
4. Finances	12



1. Introduction

Buddhist Foundation Diamond Way of the Karma Kagyu Lineage

Purposes and Activities

The activities that carry out the purposes of Buddhist Foundation Diamond Way include the maintenance, cultivation and practice of Buddhist religion, philosophy and culture within the traditions of the Karma Kagyu lineage of Tibetan Buddhism. More specifically, the Foundation promotes the teaching, study and meditation practice of the Buddhist community in the Diamond Way transmission of the Karma Kagyu lineage.

The Foundation will further carry this out through the purchase of land for Diamond Way practitioners as well as the general public to use for meditation retreats, Buddhist teachings, and practice. The Foundation will organize public lectures, retreats, courses, and seminars on the land, specifically for our Diamond Way organization and by qualified and ordained Buddhist spiritual leaders and teachers from our Karma Kagyu lineage.

Qualified and internationally renowned Buddhist Lamas (teachers) of our specific lineage will travel to our retreat lands, (and eventually urban properties) from throughout the world, including places such as India, Nepal, and Europe to guide meditation retreats and give religious teachings and ceremonies. As the Diamond Way organization world-wide has over 650 centers, properties owned by the Buddhist Foundation Diamond Way will benefit countless individuals and thousands of Buddhists over time and will be extremely important in preserving our Buddhist lineage and teachings in the West.

Additionally, other activities of the Foundation include, the promotion of persons who practice in longer meditation retreats (laymen or Buddhist monks and nuns), the allocation of sponsorship funds to persons studying the Tibetan language or



Buddhism at an institution of higher education, the promotion of Buddhist art, including architectural and of Tibetan medicine, and the promotion of projects servicing the Buddhist practices of terminal care, as well as the creation and maintenance of Buddhist cemeteries.

RESTATEMENT

PURPOSE:

- promotion of the Buddhist Religion, philosophy and culture in the North American context following the tradition of the Karma Kagyu lineage
- provide facilities, infrastructure and support for individual and group meditation retreats as well as regional and national courses
- purchase land and buildings in an inspiring, secluded, quiet and undisturbed settings which will provide the physical framework for deep individual inner development and realization through meditation
- purchase land and buildings in urban settings to allow for consistent contact in society with the methods, view, and teachings of Diamond Way Karma Kagyu
- ultimate goal is to facilitate and encourage individuals to reach their highest potential by inquiring into the nature of mind through meditation to the end that they will be able to be of great benefit to the world around them

ACTIVITY:

The Foundation has purchased properties in California, Colorado, Wisconsin, New York, and Texas. They are all located in quiet rural areas that offer secluded and undisturbed locations suitable for our activities. The Foundation has hosted national and regional meditation courses for upwards of 600 participants. In addition, all the properties have been used for regional and local retreats for the benefit of hundreds of people. The facilities and infrastructure have proven beneficial to many individuals who in turn have returned to their private lives and benefited many more people.



Besides giving ideal conditions for meditation practice, one thing that all the retreat centers in the Americas have in common is that they unify sangha, both on regional and national levels. They are becoming increasingly important vehicles for unifying across even broader distances, throughout the hemisphere, and hopefully throughout the world. We are ready and excited for your visit; please feel at home. ¡Mi casa es su casa!



2. Buddhist Foundation Diamond Way locally

2.1 Western Retreat Center - California, USA

diamondway.org/wrc
wrc@diamondway.org

The Western Retreat Center, located in the mountains of the Central Coast of California, features the “top of the world” views in the setting of acoustical and visual privacy, and supports sustainable, off-the-grid living, in harmony with the natural beauty of the surrounding area. The WRC offers rustic but comfortable conditions for individual or couple retreats, as well as monthly group meditation and work retreats.



- Located in the mountains of Diablo Range, Central Coast of California
- 2.5 hours from San Francisco, 5.5 hours from Los Angeles, 1 hour to nearby town
- 80 acres (32 hectares)
- Features 2 comfortable meditation cabins, indoor gompas and communal space, outdoor kitchen, outdoor showers and toilets
- No electricity, no internet, no phone reception
- Offers rustic but comfortable and focused conditions for individual, couple and group meditation retreats
- Plenty of good water and space to camp, hike and meditate in nature



- Features the “top of the world” views in the setting of acoustical and visual privacy
- Supports sustainable, off-the-grid living, in harmony with the natural beauty of the surrounding area.

2.2 Dakini Ranch - Colorado, USA

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Dakini Ranch is at an altitude of over 8,900ft. (2,700m), with breathtaking views across the San Luis Valley to the 14,000ft. (4,300m) peaks of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains. The inspiration and beauty of the place



are as vast as the land itself, and one truly has the chance to feel the space of mind here.

- Located in San Luis Valley outside of Saguache, Colorado
- 3 hours from Denver, 3 hours from Santa Fe, 5 miles to small town, 45 minutes to 16th Karmapa stupa
- 314 acres (127 hectares) of remote, raw land
- Rustic, off-grid, 3-season cabin with loft
- Large barn with gompa
- Plenty of space to camp, hike, and meditate
- Perfect for small group and personal retreats
- Breathtaking and vast views of the valley and Sangre de Cristo mountains



2.3 Heartland Retreat Center - Wisconsin, USA

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The joyful group dynamic and freedom of the Heartland Retreat Center are its greatest assets, which expresses our common view that the process is the product. The rolling hills and meditating in front of the life-size 16th Karmapa statue are also quite impressive.



- Centrally located in the “Midwest”, in the Amish countryside of Wisconsin
- 3 hours from Minneapolis, 4 hours from Chicago, 2 hours from Madison, 10 minutes to nearby town
- 87 acres (35 hectares) of forests, hills, and spring-fed creeks
- 2,500 sq ft cabin with beautiful gompa that holds up to 70 people and an inspiring life-size 16th Karmapa statue
- 2 guest bedrooms, 2 resident bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, socializing space
- Landline phone and wifi in the cabin
- Comfortable conditions for open retreats and group activities
- Both open and secluded areas for camping
- Outdoor sinks and showers

"This place will surely benefit many. Thank you for your wide range of activities." -
Lama Ole Nydahl



2.4 Northeast Retreat Center - New York, USA

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Karma Dondrub Ling, "Place of Accomplishment", rests on a high plateau with 270-degree views of inspiring forested hills. The flat open fields at a high altitude show the freedom of space and allow our mind to see its own potential and richness.



- Located in upstate New York
- 3 hours from NYC, 3.5 hours from Boston, 4 hours from Philadelphia, 1 hour from Albany
- 42-acre (17 hectare) property resting on a high plateau with 270 degree views of inspiring forested hills
- Main house with 420 sq ft gompa, 2 guest bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full industrial kitchen, laundry room and lounge area
- 450 sq ft dormitory above the garage for larger groups
- Comfortable conditions for open retreats and group activities
- Nearby attractions to enjoy during all seasons

"The nature of mind is beyond birth and death, coming and going and everything, and this is the type of place where you can realize that."

-Lama Ole Nydahl



2.5 Texas Retreat Center – Texas, USA

www.diamondway-trc.org/

The Texas Retreat Center is 20 minutes from Fort Hood, the largest U.S. military base in the world. The closest city is Kempner, TX, and around 20 million Texans live within driving distance. The TRC offers meditators a 2-bedroom 1-bath house at the entrance of the property with 2 hikable ridges offering



breathtaking views. The TRC is 10 minutes from Copperas Cove, a town of 30,000 residents with hotels, grocery stores, and restaurants.

- Located in central Texas
- 1 hour from Austin, 2.5 hours from Dallas, 4 hours from Houston
- 35-acre (14 hectare) property with 2 ridges offering and great views
- The house has 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, and around 1,500 sqft
- Comfortable conditions for open retreats and group activities
- North America's newest retreat center (lots of work to do!)



3. Project Representatives

All powers and activity of the Buddhist Foundation of the Karma Kagyu Lineage, a California Nonprofit Religious Organization are exercised and conducted under the direction of the Board of Directors (Lisa Worthington, Sasha Rozenberg, Chason Geister, Chris Lofton, Eric Gibson, Ian Llanas) and the Executive Team (Tasso Kalianiotis, Laura Pretsch, Margaret Poissant, Ildiko Kasza, Eugene Trak). Since the beginning of the retreat center projects there are several regional teams which, in accordance to their respective duties, prepare and develop information, plans and fields of activities and partly also execute them independently.



4. Finances

Many thanks to all of you who have supported our activity and the retreat centers in the US. Every contribution will help our organization meet its ongoing operating expenses and will help us achieve our goals and the vision of Buddhist Foundation Diamond Way.

All Contributions: € 55952.39 / \$ 60190.15

General \$21,514

Western Retreat Center \$518

Dakini Ranch \$2,853

Heartland Retreat Center \$518

Northeast Retreat Center \$3,760

Texas Retreat Center \$31,028