

The Love and Understanding Committee members have given careful thought to our next steps in supporting the greater Sangha. We believe that Love and Understanding continues to be an important opportunity for SnowFlower Sangha to engage with the larger community and specifically with our sisters and brothers in Vietnam, and we would like to see it continue beautifully into the future. We have a very special connection with Thay's support for children and others in the poorest rural areas of Vietnam. Sangha members have made a deep commitment, financial, and through sending loving kindness. Each year, there is a line on the registration form for our annual retreat, soliciting donations for Love & Understanding, and there is an ongoing financial commitment on the part of many of us to contribute to Thay's work in rural Vietnam. Those of us who attended the SnowFlower Retreat this past weekend were able to purchase handmade cards with beautiful photography, and all of the proceeds support Love and Understanding.

Last year, the commitment to produce a wonderful DVD and distribute it to each North American sangha, was accomplished beautifully, through the efforts of dedicated SnowFlower members. We also continue to raise significant funds through soliciting individual donations, and making and selling cards and other items. Each year we request individual donations via a mailing to Sangha members. We have been collecting the donations, forwarding them on to Deer Park monthly, and tracking donations. Initially we thought that by aggregating our donations and tracking them as a Sangha, we would be more able to establish a direct link with the villages. Sister D was our main contact person and she is no longer able to play that role. Her successor at Deer Park is very grateful to SnowFlower, and also is very clear that there is no one available to be a liaison with us in this way. That is understandable, since there is so much work to be done. It also means that the initial reason to have SnowFlower act as an intermediary for donations has ended. We now warmly invite and encourage individual donors to send donations directly to Deer Park.

We ask you to consider Love and Understanding in your charitable giving, now and in the future, and continue to remember those in our greater Sangha whose lives we touch through the practice of generosity, and in recognition of the deep truth of Interbeing.

Donations made out to Unified Buddhist Church can be sent directly to:

Deer Park Monastery
2499 Melru Lane
Escondido CA 92026
Attn: Sister Chan Nao Ngiem
Love & Understanding Program

For more information regarding Love and Understanding and SnowFlower Sangha's commitment, please go to our website, www.snowflower.org and click on "Projects." With a bow of gratitude for the generosity of the Sangha and for the teachings that sustain us.

The Love & Understanding Committee

Chuck Heikkinen, Linda Jordan, Mary Michal, Susan O'Leary, Jim Roseberry, Delia Unson