



Common Ground

Meditation Center

Practicing together in the footsteps of the Buddha.

Fall 2009

Dear Common Ground Friends,

As we get close to completing our first year in the new building, we can reflect on and appreciate the innumerable forces and people that have supported the coming to be of our new practice home. The building embodies qualities of stillness, simple beauty, and peace. Once a year we take the time to reflect on our wholesome intention to create and maintain this Buddhist mindfulness practice center in the heart of the Twin Cities. This letter is an annual reminder about the Building Fund that supports this vision.

Common Ground operates under the principle of *dana*, the Pali word for generosity. All that happens at the center happens because of people's freely given gifts. In addition to the \$120,000 needed to meet annual operating expenses, Common Ground receives gifts throughout the year for the Building Fund. Currently the Building Fund gifts are being used for the renovation of the parking lot and installation of garden space. This multi-year project is estimated to cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000. In addition to this major project, there are smaller renovation projects that could be done in the basement to make it more functional for walking meditation and for programs for older children. Finally, Common Ground has a mortgage of \$190,000. Ideally, as a *dana*-based organization, we would be debt free. It is the Board's aspiration to pay off the mortgage in the near future. Being conservative with debt allows the center to operate with greater ease, avoiding the stress of needing to maximize program income.

The projects we take on with the Building Fund depend on what gifts the community provides. In a direct way, our financial donations and willingness to lead these projects determine what gets done. Let's reflect on the gratitude and joy we have for our practice, our community and our new building and offer what makes sense given our life situation.

May our generosity support unshakable peace in our hearts and in the world,

Mark Nunberg
For the Common Ground Board of Directors

Ways to Donate to the Building Fund

Common Ground exists only because of people's generosity and is completely dependent on donations. Please join in this heart-centered practice of freely receiving the teachings and freely giving to support the community and the building we practice in. There are several ways to give.

Cash and personal checks payable to Common Ground Meditation Center may be dropped in the Building Fund box next to the donation bowl at the center. Or, they may be mailed to 2700 East 26th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406. If you want your cash donation recorded for tax purposes, place it in an envelope with your name (and address if not already on file). For checks, please note "Building Fund" in the memo line.

Electronic payments are offered through most banks. Contact your bank for instructions then get the center's account information by contacting the office manager, debbie@commongroundmeditation.org.

Credit card payments can be made on line. Go to CommonGroundMeditation.org and click on the link "Donate Online". You will have the option to make a one-time donation or schedule regular deductions. You may type in a designation for your donation (i.e. Building Fund). Please save your e-mail receipts for tax purposes. Contact the center if you have any questions. Stocks or appreciated investment securities can be donated to the center. Please contact the office manager at 612-722-8260.

In-kind gifts can be another way to support the Building Fund. Please contact the center if you would like to know more about specific needs.

Some people make pledges to the center. This helps Common Ground and donors in financial planning. Please contact the center for a pledge form

Contributions to Common Ground are tax deductible. The center will mail an annual letter acknowledging donations for tax purposes. Please keep Common Ground informed of your address and any address or name changes. Common Ground Meditation Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. If you have any questions about your donation, please contact the office manager at 612-722-8260 or Debbie@commongroundmeditation.org. The generosity of your practice and financial support make this center a great resource for us all.