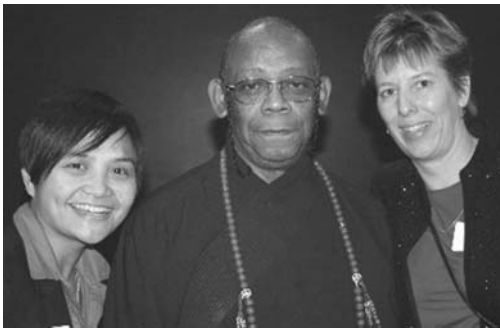


Buddhist Peace Fellowship Annual Report 2006



BPF's Vision

The Buddhist Peace Fellowship envisions a future in which people from all backgrounds come into a heartfelt realization of our interconnection to each other and to the Earth. We believe that actions generated from this understanding will create societies guided by generosity, compassion, wisdom, and justice.

Mission and Purpose

The mission of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship (BPF), founded in 1978, is to serve as a catalyst for socially engaged Buddhism.

Our purpose is to help beings liberate themselves from the suffering that manifests in individuals, relationships, institutions, and social systems. BPF's programs, publications, and practice groups link Buddhist teachings of wisdom and compassion with progressive social change.

Through our worldwide network of 4,000 members and more than 30 chapters, our vision is to bring peace where there is conflict, to promote communication and cooperation among Buddhist sanghas, and to alleviate suffering wherever possible.

BPF Board of Directors, December 2006

Robert Joshin Althouse
Doug Codiga
Anushka Fernandopulle (Vice President)
Anchalee Kurutach (President)
Azara Turaki
Marian Urquilla
Jesse Vega-Frey
Chris Wilson (Treasurer)

BPF Staff December 2006

Michael Callahan, Transformative Justice Co-coordinator
Hong Chingkuang, Transformative Justice Co-coordinator
Colette DeDonato, *Turning Wheel* Managing Editor
Bhante Suhita Dharma,
Transformative Justice Co-coordinator
Maia Duerr, Executive Director and Chapter Coordinator
Diane Biray Gregorio, BASE Coordinator
Charis Khoury, Membership Coordinator
Susan Moon, *Turning Wheel* Senior Editor
Alan Senauke, Acting Associate Director of Programs
Oren Sofer, Administrative Coordinator
Tempel Smith, Youth Program Coordinator

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends,



I believe that life has a way of moving in cycles of action and reflection, especially for dharma practitioners who are involved with social change movements. For BPF, 2006 was a year of reflection, partially as the result

of a comprehensive strategic planning process, and partially because of some transitions in our office.

In fall 2005, we began a year-long strategic planning process in order to take a step back to think more deeply about how we work. During 2006, board and staff members coordinated a process of reflection, evaluation, and visioning. We interviewed key stakeholders, held two planning retreats, and had numerous conversations with former staff and board, chapter leaders, and BPF members to hear input on these key questions:

- *Where do we want to be five years from now? Ten years from now?*
- *What's our unique contribution to the world?*
- *How should we focus our roles and programming to better accomplish our mission?*
- *How important is diversity to realizing BPF's mission and making us better at what we do?*

The fruition of this process is a Strategic Plan which will help to guide our priorities and our work for the next three years. We've included the seven key goals from the plan below.

Our office staff weathered a number of transitions in 2006, some of them difficult. In August, Associate Director Diana Lion's year-long medical leave of absence ended, and unfortunately she was still too ill to return to work. Diana continues to be a valued member of the BPF community and will work with us as a consultant in 2007. In September, Jenesha de Rivera left her position as Associate Director of Administration in order to devote more time to pursuing an MFA degree. She, too, continues to have an association with BPF, consulting with us on financial matters. We

are grateful for these continued relationships, and the skills and spirit that Diana and Jenisha bring us.

In December 2005, a racist flier targeting Japanese Americans was left outside our office door and set in motion a painful chain of events that ultimately resulted in one of our valued staff members, Mushim Ikeda-Nash, resigning from her position as Acting Associate Director of Programs in February 2006. This episode showed us just how much we have to learn about being allies, and also pointed out deficiencies in our office safety protocol. Our staff took a diversity training together, and throughout the year we continued conversations and reflections about the meaning of this. We also focused on what it means to truly be a multicultural organization in our strategic planning process. (For a more in depth discussion of this incident and BPF's response, read "Where the Rubber Meets the Road," in the Spring 2007 issue of *Turning Wheel*.)

There were also many things to celebrate during the year, including a very successful benefit event with Robert Thurman and our Membership Gathering in June. We also welcomed new staff members Bhante Suhita Dharma, Diane Gregorio, and Oren Sofer.

This will be my last annual report letter to you as executive director. During this past year, I gained clarity on the need to make my own transition into a position at BPF that I feel will be more sustainable for me and for the organization in the long-run: the newly created role of Communications and Outreach Director. We expect a new executive director to be in place by summer 2007. I will do all I can to support a smooth and healthy transition. I have truly enjoyed

getting to know so many of you these past three years, and look forward to deepening our relationship in my new capacity.

In the dharma,

Maia Duerr

Buddhist Peace Fellowship's 7 Key Goals for 2006-2009

From BPF's Strategic Plan. The complete plan with detailed objectives for each of these goals can be downloaded from the BPF website at www.bpf.org.

- 1. Weaving Indra's Net:** Cultivate a greater sense of our interconnection throughout the BPF community, and an understanding that BPF is comprised of many people: members, chapters, staff, board, and more.
- 2. Diversity:** Commit to becoming a more diverse and culturally competent organization that deeply recognizes the value of difference and unity.
- 3. Sustainability:** Ensure sustainable use of our energy and efforts: spiritual, physical, emotional, financial, and material.
- 4. Transformative Peacework:** Develop a more clearly defined and supported Peacework Program that emphasizes the link between internal and external peacemaking.
- 5. Transformative Justice:** Support the evolution of the Prison Program into an innovative Transformative Justice Program that integrates practice and action, and addresses systemic injustice through community solutions like the Coming Home Initiative.
- 6. Community:** Create and sustain vibrant groups of compassionate activists who come together to deepen their inner and outer practices, using resources generated by the BPF community.
- 7. Telling Our Story:** Increase BPF's visibility and our capacity to communicate effectively about the contributions of socially engaged dharma to the peace and justice movement, both within our own network and to the general public.

L to R:
Consultant
Viveka Chen and
staff members
Jenisha de
Rivera and Diane
Gregorio at our
2006 strategic
planning retreat



Peacework

Staff: Maia Duerr, Alan Senauke

Throughout the year, we collaborated with other organizations and coalitions like the American Friends Service Committee, United for Peace and Justice, and the Network of Spiritual Progressives. Our main concerns included the war in Iraq, nuclear disarmament, and human rights violations (especially torture).

We also recognized economic justice as a necessary ingredient for peace. In partnership with Interfaith Workers Justice (IWJ), BPF member Mushim Ikeda-Nash authored a “Call to Action for American Buddhists”



which appeared in IWJ’s annual Labor Day Packet.

We see it as our responsibility to offer a Buddhist voice for peace in these contexts. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has described peace as not just the absence of war, but rather a condition where actions are motivated from compassion. We wholeheartedly agree and put this vision forward wherever we can. BPF chapters were essential partners in this effort. Some examples:

- The Vancouver, Canada, BPF chapter organized a panel on “Seeds of Peace: Buddhist Perspectives on Social Engagement” at the World Peace Forum in June;
- Seattle BPF presented a daylong symposium on “Wholehearted Practice in Troubled Times” in October;
- Chapters in Rochester, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and many other locations held ongoing meditation vigils and peace walks

to bear witness to the suffering from the Iraq war.

More highlights from the year:

- April: BPF sponsored Bhante Suhita Dharma to travel to New York City for a weekend of events (organized by Clergy and Laity Concerned About Iraq) to draw attention to the human rights violations at Guantanamo. The BPF-NYC chapter offered a peaceful presence at the April 29th march.
- August: BPF chapters and members in California, Florida, Illinois, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington state took part in vigils to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Bay Area BPF chapters held a “Bearing Witness” meditation vigil at the gate of Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.
- Throughout the year, BPF member Taigen Dan Leighton was one of the lead organizers for weekly vigils on torture held near UC Berkeley’s School of Law. Speakers included Joanna Macy, Melody Ermachild, Alan Senauke, and Daniel Ellsberg. In Humboldt, California, members of the local BPF chapter also organized a vigil on torture.
- Our office continued to receive requests from young people for assistance in documenting their Buddhist beliefs for conscientious objector applications, and BPF members offered GI rights counseling in Chicago, San Francisco, and other parts of the U.S. We also started the “Ask a Dharma Vet” project.



BPF New York City, April 2006

BPF Chapters and the Buddhist Alliance for Social Engagement (BASE) Program

*Maia Duerr, Chapter Coordinator,
Diane Gregorio/Tempel Smith, BASE Coordinator*

BPF Chapters

In June 2006, we held “Peace in Ourselves, Peace in the World: Wholehearted Practice in Difficult Times,” our first membership gathering in over 10 years, at the Garrison Institute in New York. BPF members came from more than 17 states around the U.S. and heard dharma talks from BPF co-founder Robert Aitken Roshi (via a phone connection to the Palolo Zen Center in Hawai’i) and Hozan Alan

Senauke; attended workshops on topics as varied as prison dharma to values-based fundraising; and shared contemplative practices from traditions ranging from Theravadin to Zen to Tibetan to Quaker.



In the fall, Executive Director and Chapter Coordinator Maia Duerr visited Lexington, KY, to offer a workshop on the “Mandala of Socially Engaged Buddhism” at a conference she co-led with David Loy and Richard Reoch. While in the Midwest, Maia met with groups in Lexington, Cincinnati, Yellow Springs, and Cleveland. Several new socially engaged dharma groups have emerged from this visit, and stronger relationships were forged with members of the Shambhala dharma community.

Our Chapter Council, comprised of regional representatives from the U.S. and Canada, met bi-monthly throughout the year, and focused on identifying how the relationship between chapters and

the BPF office could be more mutually beneficial.

BASE Program

The BASE (Buddhist Alliance for Social Engagement) program continued to provide six-month support communities for the study and practice of socially engaged Buddhism. All BASE programs combine five elements: service/social action, wisdom/training, dharma practice, community, and commitment. Participants work or volunteer in service projects, and meet regularly for study, support, discussion, training, and meditation.

In 2006, a Creative Language BASE was led by Sue Moon and Anna Brown Griswold and Aging and Sickness BASE was led by Martha Boesing and Sam Stern. The latter group volunteered at Chaparral House, a hospice care facility for the elderly in Berkeley, CA. The BASE House in San Francisco sponsored a speaker series in spring 2006 that included peace scholar and activist Professor Michael Nagler and Ven. Robina Courtin (founder of the Liberation Prison Project).

In October 2006, former BPF board member Diane Biray Gregorio became the BASE Program Coordinator. She takes over from Tempel Smith, who now focuses on developing our growing Youth Program.

Diane has identified five leverage points which will help us to realize our vision of planting BASE groups successfully and sustainably in diverse geographical regions, as well as increasing BASE’s impact and contribution to the growing field of spiritual activism: Leadership Development, Curriculum, Flexible Form, Economics of BASE, and Connection to Direct Action.

This last point is especially important. The acronym BASE was coined by founder Diana Winston in part to evoke the Base Christian Communities of Liberation Theology that flourished throughout Latin America and the Philippines, groups that engaged in collective social change projects in their very own communities. Whereas past BASE groups have supported individuals in their diverse forms of social service and activism, we are exploring how BASE groups

can work together on projects and themes to which BPF is committed—such as supporting ex-prisoners through the Coming Home initiative or counseling conscientious objectors and counter-recruitment work.

The coming year will give us a chance to work with these leverage points and to initiate BASE groups in the Pacific Northwest and other locations. We are also exploring strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations such as the Metta Center for Nonviolence Studies and looking into the possibility of joint foundation proposals and programming.

We are grateful for support from the Hidden Leaf Foundation to help us to develop communities of compassionate activists, through both BASE and our chapters.

International Projects and Partnerships

BPF International Liaison: Alan Senauke

BPF's international connections remain strong. At the same time, staff limitations have made it challenging to work directly with engaged Buddhists around the world. Over the last few years, we've built on BPF's organizational strengths and network in order to support the work of chapters, affiliates, and friends in Asia. We stay in frequent communication with chapters, affiliates, and members of BPF's International Advisory Council in Australia, India, Mexico, Bangladesh, Italy, Canada, Korea, Spain, and Ladakh.

BPF provides fiscal agency for a number of initiatives. The Tibetan Children's Refugee Fund and the Tibetan Revolving Fund, managed by Gordon and Margo Tyndall have been running for more than fifteen years. The Children's Fund provides more than \$20,000 to children and elderly Tibetans living in the refugee settlements of India and Nepal. The Revolving Fund has approximately \$100,000 in capitalization, which circulates to support labor-intensive projects in the Tibetan settlements. These projects come with the recommendation and broad supervision of the Tibetan Government in Exile.

Dharma Gaia Trust (John Seed, Ruth Rosenhek,

Allan Hunt-Badiner, Jill Jameson, and Alan Senauke) provides modest funding to environmental initiatives in Buddhist Asia, including Sri Lanka, Ladakh, India, and Vietnam. In Vietnam, BPF and Dharma Gaia Trust are strongly supporting South East Asia Organics, which is developing an organic farming model which can be shared across the region.

Alan Senauke continues to work closely with and serve on the board of our affiliate, the Foundation for the People of Burma. FPB provides funding for a wide range of welfare projects within Burma, and along the Thai-Burma border. Their work covers medical clinics, backpack medical teams, basic education for children, training and empowerment for ethnic women, and support for the Burmese sangha.

BPF's board president Anchalee Kurutach serves on the Executive Committee of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB), begun by Sulak Sivaraksa in 1989. BPF has played an active role in INEB's leadership from its beginnings, and the Network itself has been the source of close relationships and critical international work we have shared.

Transformative Justice Program

Co-Coordinators: Bhante Suhita Dharma, Hong Chingkuang, and Michael Callahan



"My dream is to be released to a place where I can build upon my vows and cultivate a better life... I would just like the chance to become a positive member of society. I want to be embraced by people who understand this and at the same time, have support from people who understand Buddhist practice."

- Inmate from Franklin Correctional Facility, New York

Since 1998, our Prison Program has played a leadership role in the prison dharma movement and worked with thousands of imprisoned individuals through ministry, advocacy, correspondence, and education. Our correspondence program, guided by Helen Seward and a group of dedicated volunteers, provided Buddhist materials to 1,588 prisoners in 2006 alone.

In 2006, program director (and founder) Diana Lion stepped down from her staff position due to a long-term illness. During our strategic planning process, we recognized that the program has succeeded in planting the seeds to support dharma practice on the inside. Co-coordinators Michael Callahan and Hong Chingkuang offered a proposal for the “Coming Home” initiative that addresses the needs of a group that is often overlooked: dharma practitioners who are returning to the community from prison as well as the community to which they are returning.

The need to develop holistic alternatives for those coming home is critical: In California alone, approximately 113,000 prisoners are paroled every year. Of these, 59% return to prison either on new charges or because of parole violations. Only 6% of the state prison budget is allocated to rehabilitative programs.

The mission of *Coming Home Project* is to act in fellowship with those who have found the resolve to practice meditation while imprisoned, and to meet the material, emotional, and spiritual needs of people coming home and the larger community. Our long-term vision is to create institutions and relationships based in compassion, generosity, equality, participation and peace. Only when we understand that we are one community can there be a real opportunity for liberation for all.

In November 2006, Bhante Suhita Dharma joined our staff, and we re-christened the program as the Transformative Justice Program, to emphasize the emancipatory aspects of this work for all involved.

BPF has already built relationships with many of the people who will participate in this Coming Home Initiative, through our prison correspondence and ministry over the past eight years.

During 2006, program staff went to San Quentin Prison to meet with some of the inmates who are prospective members of Coming Home; Bhante attended the first conference on re-entry for inmates; and we networked with a number of social and community services in the Bay Area.

As the year ended, we projected opening a Drop-in/Meditation Center in spring 2007. Bhante and other staff and volunteers will offer Buddhist practices to help support the decarceration process, as well as other kinds of support and referrals to participants. While Coming Home is a local project, we plan to document it so that it can be replicated and adapted in other parts of the world.

Throughout the year, we also deepened our relationship with Death Penalty Focus, American Friends Service Committee, and California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty to work toward a legislated moratorium in California and sentencing reforms.

Youth Program

Program Coordinator: Tempel Smith



“This retreat was like a long drink of fresh spring water. Sharing my thoughts, hanging out, sitting intensively, and resting in this wonderful space we created was joy. I left with renewed hope and confidence, clarity on the issues that had been troubling me, and energy to continue my meditation practice at home.”

~ Teen Retreat participant

In 2006, BPF's Youth Program held two six-day intensive retreats for teenagers, each retreat serving 35 youth. Teens traveled from as far as Toronto, Colorado, Oregon, Nevada, Michigan, and Tennessee to attend. We experimented with making the 2006 retreats a day longer than in previous years and found it greatly improved the depth of the experience.

During each retreat, we held an afternoon workshop on a theme of progressive social awareness. On the first retreat, Diana Winston and Spring Washam lead a workshop on social diversity and oppression and on the second, Alan Senauke taught on the dharma of Martin Luther King, Jr. and engaged the teens in issues of social change.

In 2007, we are adding a new teen retreat in southern Virginia, and we are holding our first retreat for young adults in their 20s. We are also working with the Insight Meditation Community in Redwood City on the first *dana* (donation) based weekend retreat for teens. Our intention is that this retreat will greatly reduce any economic barriers to lower income families who are interested in these retreats.

The LEF Foundation continues to support the youth retreats with a generous scholarship fund. We are also grateful to The Land of Medicine Buddha and the Padmasambhava Peace Institute centers for helping us by lowering their usual site rental rate. And finally, we are thankful to the 15 adults who volunteer on each retreat and offer a week of their lives to teach and serve the youth. BPF's Young Adult Retreats are truly a community-wide effort!

Communications

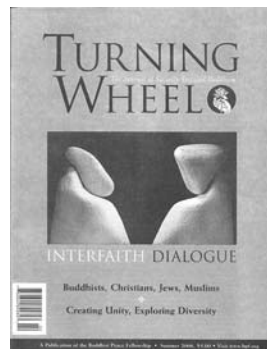
(Turning Wheel, e-newsletter, film project)

Editor: Susan Moon

Managing Editor:

Colette DeDonato

Webmaster: Maia Duerr



“**Turning Wheel** is the best Buddhist journal I read.”

~ Jack Kornfield

Turning Wheel continues to publish dynamic quarterly issues on themes of interest to socially engaged Buddhists. Since the last annual report, we have published issues on the following themes:

- Spring 2006: Personal Odysseys
- Summer 2006: Interfaith Dialogue
- Fall/Winter 2006: A Buddhist Call to Action
- upcoming in Spring 2007: Building Alliances to Address Racism

The fall/winter *Turning Wheel*, “Call to Action,” was a special double issue on the urgency of our situation in the world and how we can respond as engaged Buddhists. It is also a tribute to Robert Aitken Roshi, who suggested the idea. The issue elicited much positive feedback, and was produced with a spine and heavy cover to make it a real keepsake. It contains important analyses and interviews with many of our teachers and elders: Thich Nhat Hanh, Joanna Macy, Robert Aitken, Robert Thurman, Nelson Foster, and David Loy among others.

During 2006, we also organized a mini-fundraising campaign to help send authors and Sandy Boucher and Earthlyn Manuel to Sakaydhita's International Conference on Buddhism Women in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which took place in June. Earthlyn presented a groundbreaking paper at the conference titled, “What's Buddhism Have to Do with Black Women?” On her return, Sandy gave several presentations about the activist efforts of Buddhist women in Asia.

We are excited about the spring 2007 issue on “Building Alliances to Address Racism,” and believe it will serve as a useful tool for diversity, multi-cultural, and anti-racist work in Buddhist sanghas that are mostly white. There will be three guest consulting editors for the issue: Mushim Ikeda-Nash, Kenji Liu, and Swan Keyes.

Colette DeDonato continues to work hard as TW's managing editor, while simultaneously meeting the challenges of parenting a toddler. Artist Jan Eldridge has been a wonderful resource as an art

consultant, and Jim Brown served as the book review editor.

In June 2007, Susan Moon will retire after 18 years as *Turning Wheel's* esteemed editor. She is looking forward to the next piece of her life, with more time for writing and dharma. Sue will work with Maia Duerr as she transitions into the role editor of *TW*.

We also stayed in touch with our members in several other ways:

- Thanks to the efforts of BPF member John Simon, we launched BPF Radio—a participatory project that serves as a way to share the voices and stories of socially engaged Buddhists and to build bridges in the BPF community.
- Our monthly e-newsletter has grown to more than 3,500 subscribers and keeps readers up-to-date on socially engaged dharma news and events in between issues of *Turning Wheel*.
- “Being Peace in a Time of War,” an 11-minute film with footage of BPF peace actions in Washington, D.C., Los Alamos, NM, and San Francisco, CA, was produced by filmmaker Ed Herzog. Several chapters have shown the film at their meetings, and we plan to post it on our website for viewing in 2007.

Financial and Membership Report

Associate Director (Finance and Operations):

Jenesha de Rivera

(Oren Sofer took over this position in Jan 2007)

Membership Coordinator: Charis Khoury

In March 2006 we hosted a major fundraising event: *Being Peace in a Time of War*, a celebration which featured Bhante Suhita Dharma and Tenzin Robert Thurman as our speakers. The event, held at Saint Mary's Church in San Francisco, attracted over 300 people. To our delight, we met our fundraising goals and brought in a net income of \$25,000. Our intention is to make this an annual event, with the purpose of not only raising funds for BPF but of sharing our mission with a wider audience.

The event, combined with our continued presence within the national and international commu-

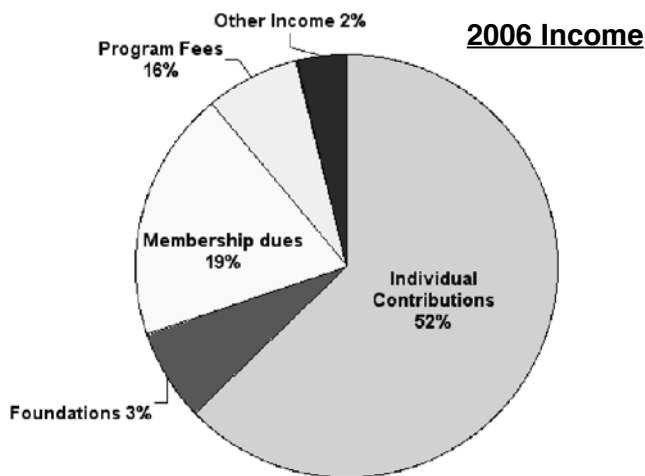
nity of socially engaged Buddhists, had ripple effects on our fundraising efforts. Overall, we had a successful year financially, ending with a net income of nearly \$15,000. Revenue from individual member contributions increased by \$20,000 over the 2005 amount. Nearly 500 donors participate in the Bodhisattva Circle, which provides the opportunity for individuals to sustain their financial support over three years on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. We continue to maintain a strong base of 4,000 members, and we gained 650 new members through our annual membership acquisition mailing. All these signs indicate that the organization has stabilized quite well since earlier periods of leadership transitions and financial volatility from 2002-2004.

Our programs also experienced considerable growth. We gained additional foundation support for the Coming Home Initiative, a project of our Transformative Justice Program, and saw an increase of support for our chapter work and BASE programs. The Youth Program's Teen Retreats continue to draw more participants and support from foundations and individuals every year; compared to the previous year, income from the 2006 retreats increased by \$15,000.

In spring of 2006, BPF took some deep breaths and reflected together as an organization during a board and staff strategic planning process. Over an extended weekend that included time to practice and lengthy discussions about our individual visions for the organization, a three-year strategic plan was produced. We see this plan as a key tool in increasing membership participation in the future.

For the first time in years, BPF held a membership gathering, which took place at the Garrison Institute in New York in June. The gathering was an important way to deepen a sense of community and partnership among BPF members and chapter leaders. Over three days, we connected, shared the diversity of our dharma practice, and brainstormed strategies for social change. Additionally, Maia and BPF staff and board members shared a draft of the strategic plan and invited feedback from members and chapters.

By the year's end, BPF maintained a robust cash



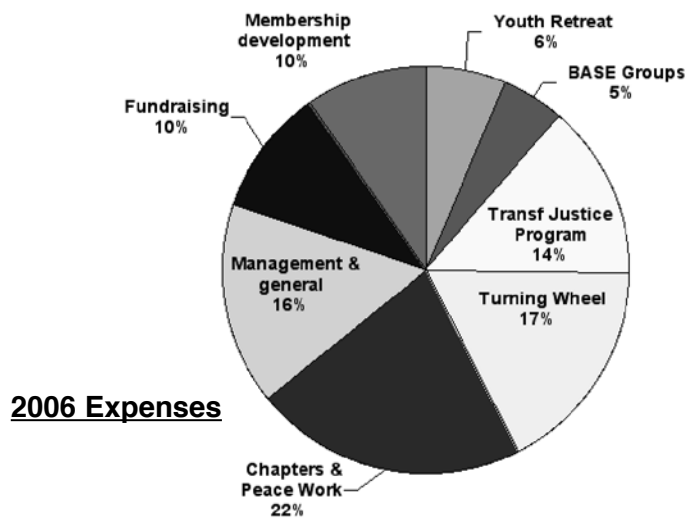
Statement of Financial Position for 2006

INCOME

Contributions from Individuals	\$319,932
Grants from foundations and others	\$35,000
Membership fees	\$96,722
Program fees	\$36,731
Other income	\$20,230
TOTAL REVENUE	\$508,615

EXPENSES

Program services	
Youth Retreat	\$31,765
BASE Groups	\$24,180
Prison Program	\$68,715
Turning Wheel	\$85,588
Chapters & Peace Work	\$106,941
Supporting services	
Management & general	\$79,627
Fundraising	\$49,521
Membership development	\$47,345
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$493,682



balance thanks to the continued support from our members. The coming year promises to hold new beginnings as we say good-bye to some key staff, including Maia Duerr our Executive Director, and make room for new staff. We look forward to the future as we continue on our journey to bring together wisdom and compassion for progressive social change.

BPF Fundraising Mission Statement

The Buddhist Peace Fellowship views fundraising as an important aspect of the Buddhist practice of dana (generosity), which has the potential to transform scarcity into sufficiency, and which is based on principles of interdependence, gratitude, and inclusion. In all our fundraising efforts, we vow to hold the quality of relationships over attachment to outcome.

Gratitude

All of this work has been made possible through the generosity of our members, as well as grants received from:

- Carl Bjorkman Foundation
- Hidden Leaf Foundation
- LEF Foundation
- San Francisco Foundation

We offer our supporters an opportunity to sustain BPF through a three-year pledge program called the Bodhisattva Circle, at amounts ranging from \$10/month and upwards. We gratefully acknowledge the more than 500 people whose membership in this Circle and consistent giving provides a strong foundation for our work. Thank you!

We bow in gratitude to all who have supported the Buddhist Peace Fellowship during 2006, and to the many volunteers who have offered their time and talents.