

Thanks!

Barnett Davis (Malibu) has a huge heart. So huge that he formed [The LIFE Foundation](#) [for "Low Income Family Enrichment"], which recently made a substantial gift to TMC. Read about Barnett's inspiration on the next page (hint: it has something to do with the "crazy wisdom" of Chöd practice).



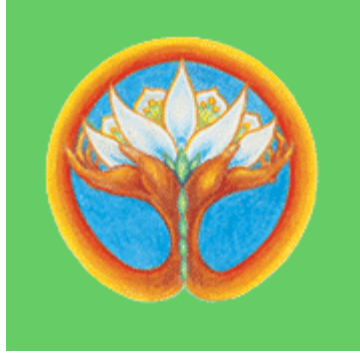
Bella Petersen (Portland) may be only 9, but she's an entrepreneur of the first rank. As soon as the TMC residency team started hosting Saturday lunch fundraisers to raise money for items needed by the ashram, Bella set up a lemonade stand outside the kitchen. Kudos to Bella, whose efforts so far have helped us purchase a stove for the East Wing and a wind-measuring machine for our long term energy-saving efforts.



Bella sells lemonade to Bob Shoemaker while mom Kristen Francis looks on.

Bonnie Schnitta (New York) donated soundproofing materials for the Portland meditation hall to improve the sound quality of recorded talks. We are very grateful for her generous gift, which will benefit generations of students.

We also want to thank the **anonymous donors** who provided the offerings at the havans during the Retreat, as well as the many photographers who captured so many special moments of the retreat--among them **Barry Kaplan, Steve Maxwell, Larry Manning, Kenny Ross, Kristen Francis, Becca Roberts, Monica O'Neal, Michelle Lawson,** and **Mira Ames.**



The Life Foundation

Barnett Davis tells us why he started the Life Foundation and how it links to his (and our) spiritual values.

The idea for the Life Foundation flowed into me, in the greatest possible detail, while I was practicing the Chöd—something at which I was (and am still) a novice practitioner. The fruition of my efforts took a great deal of belief in myself and what I was doing—the ability to take great risks and at the same time stay open and receive answers, even when everything seemed to be going wrong.

The flowering of the Life Foundation is an expression of my practice and the gifts that come from releasing negativity and tension . . . and creating a space . . . an opening for something magical to enter . . . connecting with my creative energy . . . accessing the infinite source of abundance that surrounds us at all times . . . and expanding the possibility to serve others exponentially . . . by tapping just a small part of the infinite awareness available to us all, always.

My experience has led me to deeply believe in the possibility for everyone in the community to find and achieve any higher purpose that is deeply meaningful to them. I also believe that success in the material realm can be part of our practice and does not preclude our spiritual evolution.

If one deeply believes in one's practice, and deeply believes in oneself, and acts on such belief, then, as there is great magic and power in action, our practice will provide more than enough energy and knowledge to make dreams flower in unimaginable ways.

While I am sure that there are elements of random luck, both good and bad, involved in what happens to everyone, it is only by finding and deeply pursuing one's dreams that those dreams have any possibility of flowering into far more than what our limited minds can comprehend.

And in everyone's quest, I deeply, madly, and sincerely wish you inspiration . . . belief . . . action . . . and an abundance of crazy wisdom.