“... clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”
~The Apostle Paul (Colossians 3:12)

“Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.”
~Gautama Buddha
Welcome

Dear BYA Community,

Welcome to the first issue of the Bodhi Youth of America (BYA) Newsletter. We believe that this newsletter will be an excellent way to communicate the good things that are happening with BYA. We want this to be a community newsletter and are counting on you to share your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions to help build an environment where young people can unfold their potential, live in harmony, and build happy communities following the Bodhisattva path. That is BYA.

I am proud to be among the BYA founders. Together we have a combined fifty plus years of experience in working with children (age 6 to 18) within the Vietnamese Buddhist Youth Association. I have recently looked into many other youth organizations (e.g. Boy Scouts of America, YMCA, Agents of Change, American Youth Federation, etc.) and have seen stagnation. Youth organizations that grow HUGE are rarely able to change or to push their limits and therefore, do not have much to offer today’s youth for a holistic lifestyle. And still others spend more time and money on concepts rather than on trying to understand what motivates our young people. That is why BYA is different—we walk the road less traveled.

BYA emphasizes an atmosphere of creativity and challenge, which helps our youth to attain good health, emotional well-being, and happiness. BYA was formed to ensure that young people gain the essential skills of knowing how to live happy and healthy lives in the present moment and also to reach out in peace and mindfulness to other young people around the world.

The time has come for BYA to reach out to more people and to have more people reach out to one another. This will enable us to innovate while retaining BYA’s most distinctive characteristics: Bodhisattva Hearts and Path. We are delighted that you have supported or are considering supporting BYA. This newsletter is for you!

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to this first newsletter. We hope to be able to publish our newsletter quarterly with many interesting and informative articles. We can use your help! If you have an idea for an article or would like to write something, please e-mail us. New articles and ideas are always welcomed! This is our attempt to help start a dialogue with the BYA community, to get people thinking, and to exchange information to build a better BYA.

On behalf of all contributors to this issue and the rest of the people who help to make BYA possible, I welcome you! From our home to yours, we wish you a very warm, mindful, and peaceful Spring.

Let’s start our long-awaited journey: A journey to practice mindfulness and to follow the Bodhisattva aspiration to nurture youth of all genders, ethnicity, and religious beliefs. Let’s learn together and make the principle changes needed to help our youth to unfold their potential.

On behalf of BYA,

Sung Nguyen
President

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