



Shambhala Meditation Center of Chicago



2010 ANNUAL REPORT



SHAMBHALA
Meditation Center
of CHICAGO

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DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

As we enter the year of the Iron Rabbit, I would like to report on the state of the Shambhala Meditation Center of Chicago. 2009 was a year of reflection and preparation, highlighted by the Vision to Action Project and the successful Lion's Leap Campaign. 2010 was a year of change and establishing a strong foundation for the future. The following summary highlights some of the accomplishments and progress in the areas of Strategic Planning, Governance, Practice and Education, Community Health and Well-being, Community and Outreach, Kasung, Facilities, and Finance.

This report mentions some of the community members who have been instrumental in last year's accomplishments. We acknowledge their generosity and dedication to the work of creating enlightened society. I also want to acknowledge all the many members, friends and volunteers not mentioned who gave their time, talent and financial support to make The Year of the Iron Tiger a successful year of change, growth and preparing for future challenges.

We have accomplished much in the past year, but as the Sakyong has said, the world needs us. As we enter this new year, let us all reflect on how we can make our community kinder and more cheerful, how we can support each other in our practice and in applying that to our daily lives, and how we can reach out to the communities we live in to share the contentment, joy, fearlessness and wisdom of basic goodness.

I look forward to working with all of you this year and invite you to contact me with your questions and concerns or to share your ideas about how, as a Shambhala community, we can better serve each other and how together we can extend that outward.

With warm appreciation,

Tom Adducci
Center Director



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Last August, the new Chicago Shambhala Center Governing Council (“GC”) gathered at the Windhorse center in Wisconsin for its first leadership retreat. One of the main objectives was to start work on a 3-5 year strategic plan for the Chicago Center. To do this, the GC first reviewed the results from the vision-to-action task groups and also from the previous listening and visioning campaigns. It drafted a set of goals that focused on growth, development, and outreach, reflecting our community’s consensus that we must support and encourage the growth of our Center in order to benefit a greater segment of the Chicago area population. The Sakyong’s recent messages to the Shambhala community to extend ourselves to the larger world only confirmed that we were on the right track.

Since last August, the various community sectors represented on the GC have further refined these goals and determined priority activities to carry them out. The Center Director, Tom Adducci, was able to put together our first comprehensive annual budget based on the allocation of funds to meet these priorities. The GC will present a draft of the strategic plan’s goals and priority activities to all members on Shambhala Day 2011, with the understanding that it is to be a guiding document, open to regular review and revision as we learn what it will take to realize our vision of a Shambhala Center that can be a resource for the entire metropolitan area.

GOVERNANCE

2010 turned out to be a transformative year for governance at the Chicago Center. A new governance form called the Governing Council was installed Shambhala Day 2010 and their first priority was to recruit a full-time paid Center Director – a rarity among Shambhala Centers and made possible through donor generosity from the Lion’s Leap Campaign. By May, Tom Adducci took his seat as Center Director.

Our Governing Council is unique in that there is a Chair and Vice-Chair who focus on governance matters and provide guidance to the Center Director. In turn, the Center Director can focus on operational matters and relating to the center of the mandala. The other three parts of the Governing Council are Practice and Education, Dorje Kasung, and Community. The Three Pillars (governance, practice and education, and protection) are fully represented and Community matters are infused in each. The Governing Council is dynamic and seats will adjust as Shambhala society shifts and changes. For example, there was a Finance sector on the Governing Council in 2010 and the Office of Decorum may have a seat on the GC in 2011.

Governance accomplishments in 2010 include:

- Shambhala Day 2010 – Nomination and selection of the charter Governing Council seated
- May 2010 – Center Director search resulted in the selection of Tom Adducci
- August 2010 – Governance Council retreat that shaped Center priorities and goals, informed a revised Mission Statement, and cultivated a sense of camaraderie and enlightened leadership amongst participants
- Encouraged and supported policies for such matters as scholarships and teacher compensation

**Governing Council 2010 members include:**

Gina Caruso, Chair

Tom Golz, Vice-Chair

Tom Adducci, Center Director

Barbara Wolkowitz, Practice and Education

Ira Abrams, Rusung, Dorje Kasung

Gretchen Neve, Community

Ellen Schweri, Finance (retired October 2010)

PRACTICE AND EDUCATION

The Practice and Education Department has continued the Center's efforts to provide extensive practice and study opportunities for practitioners of all levels, from brand-new meditators to dedicated students of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche and the Sakyong, Mipham Rinpoche that promote enlightened society and enrich the lives of individual practitioners. In 2010, the Sakyong appointed two very senior practitioners, David Stone and Marita McLaughlin, to serve as shastris to provide guidance and encouragement to administrators, teachers, and students. Practice and Education Department managers – Way of Shambhala I and II (Beth Vande Vort, Renya Krempf, Karla Shelton), Buddhist Studies/Learn to Meditate (Ellen Schweri), Practice (Jeff Stone), Vajrayana study and practice (David Schreier), Contemplative Arts (Julie Einstein), "Tuesday evenings" (Ian McLaughlin, Jan Jercinovic) and Staff/Coordinator Training (Barb Gormley) – as well as dharma teachers, meditation instructors, Shambhala Guides, coordinators and staff have worked hard to establish a strong base of practice and study that is attracting increasing numbers of people seeking more peaceful and meaningful lives.

Accomplishments

- The first graduates of Way of Shambhala I (i.e. Shambhala Training Levels I-V and the Meditation, Contentment, Joy, Fearlessness and Wisdom in Everyday Life courses) attended Rigden Weekend with Acharya Eric Spiegel in January 2011, introducing participants to the Shambhala lineage in a warm, inspiring way. Our second group of WOS I students began the sequence with Level I in the spring of 2010, and will complete the series in 2012. Using video and sound Skype technology enabled the Center to include participants who moved out of town or live too far to attend a weeknight class in person.
- The Center sponsored the first series of Way of Shambhala II weekends (formerly Sacred Path) in a few years. The group will finish the series in early June, when some students may apply to Warriors Assembly this summer.
- Altogether, since Shambhala Day 2010, Practice and Education has sponsored at least 15 weekend levels and 13 Everyday Life courses. Participants' evaluation forms reflected positive experiences for nearly all students. Other classes have included several online Shambhala School of Buddhist Studies courses, bi-monthly Learn to Meditate programs (attracting participants from all over the Chicagoland area), a seminar for students preparing for sutrayana seminary, and a Vajrayana class taught by Shastri David Stone and John Roadhouse.



- High points of the practice year were a very well-attended weeklong intensive meditation program (weektun) from December 26, 2010 to January 1, 2011 and refuge and bodhisattva vows administered in the spring of 2010 by Acharya Richard John.
- Meditation Instructors, Shambhala Guides, umzes (timekeepers) and volunteer shrine keepers have conscientiously staffed weekly meditation sessions open to the public on Sunday mornings, Tuesday evenings and special practice events, such as Milarepa Day and mamos chants. Vajrayana practitioners have practiced together in the manner the Sakyong has requested. Tuesday evenings, especially, provide an opportunity for newer participants to taste the depth and brilliance of Shambhala Buddhism.
- Center members have also taken the initiative to expand opportunities for meditation into the wider Chicagoland area: weekly meditation groups are held in the Western suburbs and Hyde Park, and meditation instructors regularly visit the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago to provide instruction to patients, families and staff.
- In the spring of 2010, Contemplative Arts organized an extensive art exhibit and introduced students to “first thought, best thought” through artistic expression in the Shambhala Arts. Miksang (a contemplative practice using digital photography); ikebana (contemplative flower arranging), and qi gong classes by lineage holder Eva Wong and other teachers.
- Working with the Community and Finance Departments, the Center adopted written policies to make programs financially accessible to all interested people, provide scholarships to financially needy students attending land center programs, and provide needed benefits to teachers and coordinators.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

One of the Community Sector’s accomplishments this year was the creation of a Community Council. That council has taken the lead in developing goals and objectives to guide future activities and priorities. Sponsoring Nyida Day celebrations is one of the responsibilities of the Community Sector. We took our seat in that endeavor starting with last year’s Children’s Day and will continue to do so going forward.

The Membership Committee led by Bruce Mocking has continued to sponsor quarterly “Welcome to Shambhala” meetings on the third Sunday in January, April, July, and October. The purpose of these meetings is to provide visitors with information about our Center, about Shambhala, and about our teachers. In the past, these meetings have been well attended. While Bruce coordinates and leads these meetings, he welcomes others to join him hosting the meetings. Different people offer new people different perspectives and experiences that can be helpful in answering questions of interested visitors. Last year we welcomed 22 new members into the Shambhala Community.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

In September, Aarti Tejuja joined the administrative staff as Manager of Communication and Outreach. Aarti has been working with Erin Haley to create a uniform and uplifted look to the Center’s PR, communication materials and signage, and integrating the use of our website, emails and social media.



We are also identifying ways to support and expand our ongoing efforts to reach out to the greater Chicago community through satellite locations, like Des Plaines and Hyde Park, and organizations, like the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Gerhard Barth generously installed and programmed new communication systems at the center that provide greater flexibility, scalability and more features as well as significantly reducing our telephone and internet expense.

KASUNG

In the last year, the Chicago squad of the Dorje Kasung has met the challenges of our increasingly active and important Center. With the notable leadership of Kasung Vince Whitlock and Barbara Gormley from Atlanta, a lot has happened. You will now find a Kasung at the front desk at nearly every program – a big change from recent years. In addition, Vince and Barb hosted the community at a Bar-B-Q on Harvest of Peace. Chicago is becoming a model of the urban Kasung squad.

When the mandala leadership was in Chicago for a November meeting, our service formed the inspiration and the template for International Kasung orders for the eight Kalapa Governance Gatherings being held around the world.

Internally, experienced Kasung now have formal protection responsibilities to support activities in the Center. There are now three “Kehunchungs” --assistant commanders. Administrative Khenchung Vince Whitlock, Educational Khenchung Tobias Kaemmerer, and Safety and Security Khenchung Peter McLaughlin.

FACILITIES

The year of the Iron Tiger was a time of reflection and activity in regard to caring for our physical space. Two committees formed to address our immediate and longer term needs in this area.

Julie Einstein led a team that worked on cleaning, organizing and arranging the Center. Their work resulted in a tidier, more spacious and less cluttered environment. A commercial cleaning company was also retained to provide bi-weekly cleaning.

Another team led by Peter McLaughlin, Vince Whitlock and Jennifer O’Hara worked on upgrading and uplifting the Center. Peter and Vince provided the vision and labor that resulted in our second floor Vajrayana Shrine Room. Lucy Yanishevskaya painted the second floor, the stairways, bathrooms and community room and kitchen. The kitchen also saw new lighting installed by Vince, and Sayre Vickers constructed a new center island.

This year there are plans to install new carpet in the community room, bookstore and Shambhala Meditation Hall, upgrade the Main Shrine Room and basement, tile the entryways, install new signage and improve ventilation and drainage.



FINANCE

After last year's successful Lion's Leap fundraising campaign, the Center was financially well positioned entering 2010. A key priority was identifying opportunities to gain efficiencies and strengthening our base of ongoing financial support.

The Chicago Shambhala Center continues to grow. Program revenue for 2010 increased 33% over 2009. 2010 unrestricted contributions increased by 16%. At the same time, our operating expenses have increased, driven primarily by the addition of a full time Center Director.

There have been areas where we have been able to reduce expenses. By refinancing our mortgage, in March 2011, we will reduce our mortgage payments by nearly 50%. Through the purchase of new equipment and changing vendors, we have reduced our monthly telephone and internet charges by about 70%.

Our Annual Fund drive, Moving Basic Goodness Forward, resulted in over \$6200 in annual donations and pledges, including an increase of \$450 in regular monthly contributions, a good step toward our long term goal of reducing our dependence on program revenue to cover operating expenses.

For the first time ever, we now have an annual budget which will guide our decision making during the 2011 fiscal year and assist in long term planning to support future growth.





SHAMBHALA CENTER OF CHICAGO 2010 INCOME STATEMENT SUMMARY

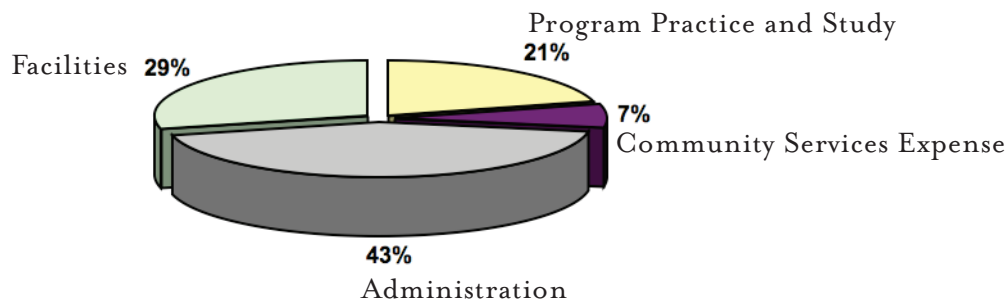
Income

Community Services	\$8,708.92
Other Income	\$4,404.04
Programs, Practice and Study	\$75,922.22
Unrestricted Contributions	\$91,185.81
Services	\$710.38
Total Income	\$180,931.37

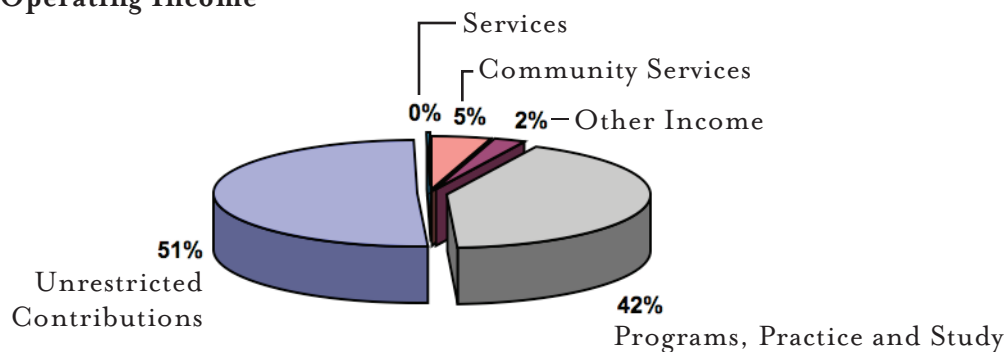
Expenses

Program Practice and Study	\$36,384.33
Community Services Expense	\$12,388.27
Administration	\$76,346.24
Facilities	\$50,532.93
Total Expenses	\$175,651.77
Net Operating Income	\$5,279.60

Operating Expenses



Operating Income





SHAMBHALA CENTER OF CHICAGO
BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010

Assets

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	\$16,533.10
Accounts Receivable	\$710.38
Money Market and Investments	\$77,554.78
Total Current Assets	\$94,798.26

Fixed Assets

Building and Lot	\$352,584.62
Total Fixed Assets	\$352,584.62

Other Assets

\$23,151.84

Total Assets

\$470,534.72

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$2,000.16
Other Current Liabilities	\$3,519.64
Total Current Liabilities	\$5,519.80

Long Term Liabilities

Mortgage	\$145,291.77
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$145,291.77

Total Liabilities

\$150,811.57

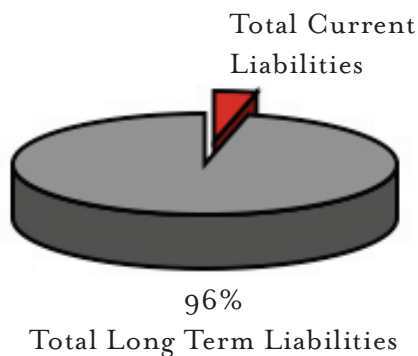
Equity

\$319,723.15

Total Liabilities And Equity

\$470,534.72

Liabilities



Assets

