

VIPASSANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (VCF)

OVERVIEW FOR ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL AT MEETING

DECEMBER 2022



TODAY'S PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Provide background information on the Vipassana Community Foundation (VCF)
- ✓ Better explain how VCF might be of support to old students & centers globally



BACKGROUND:

VCF's Mission:

“ To help provide dāna/resources for the spread of Vipassana meditation around the globe — ***by*** distributing grants & loans to new & existing centers worldwide.

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BACKGROUND:

Some history:

- Established in 2008 with Goenkaji's blessing
- Registered as non-profit in the U.S. with Community Foundation status*
- Initial focus was on the "Americas" (North and South America)
- In 2020, expanded its charter to a global grantmaking focus

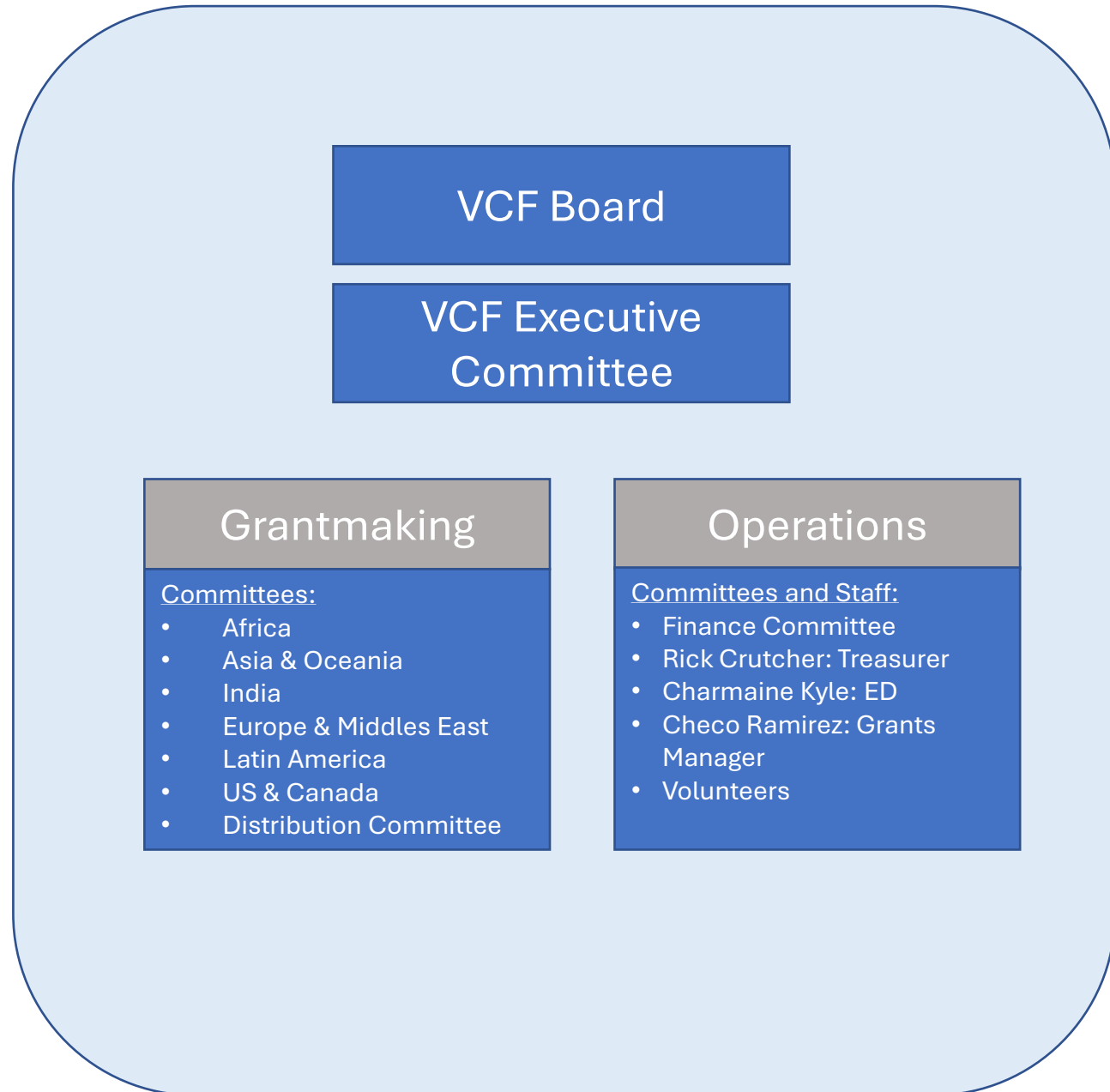
* This registration status allows U.S. based old students to get a tax deduction for their dana.



BACKGROUND:

Organizational Structure:

- **Overall governance:** Managed by VCF Board & Executive Committee comprised mainly of Acariyas and ATs
- **Global Grantmaking:** Led by Geographic Committees* & VCF Distribution Committee
- **Operations:** Managed by VCF Treasurer, two part-time staff, and the Finance Committee



* Geographic Committees contain members from their respective regions

BACKGROUND:

VCF Services:

VCF offers services to support three groups:

- **New Centers/Geographies**
- **Existing Centers/Trusts**
- **Old Students**



New Centers/Geographies:

VCF support includes:

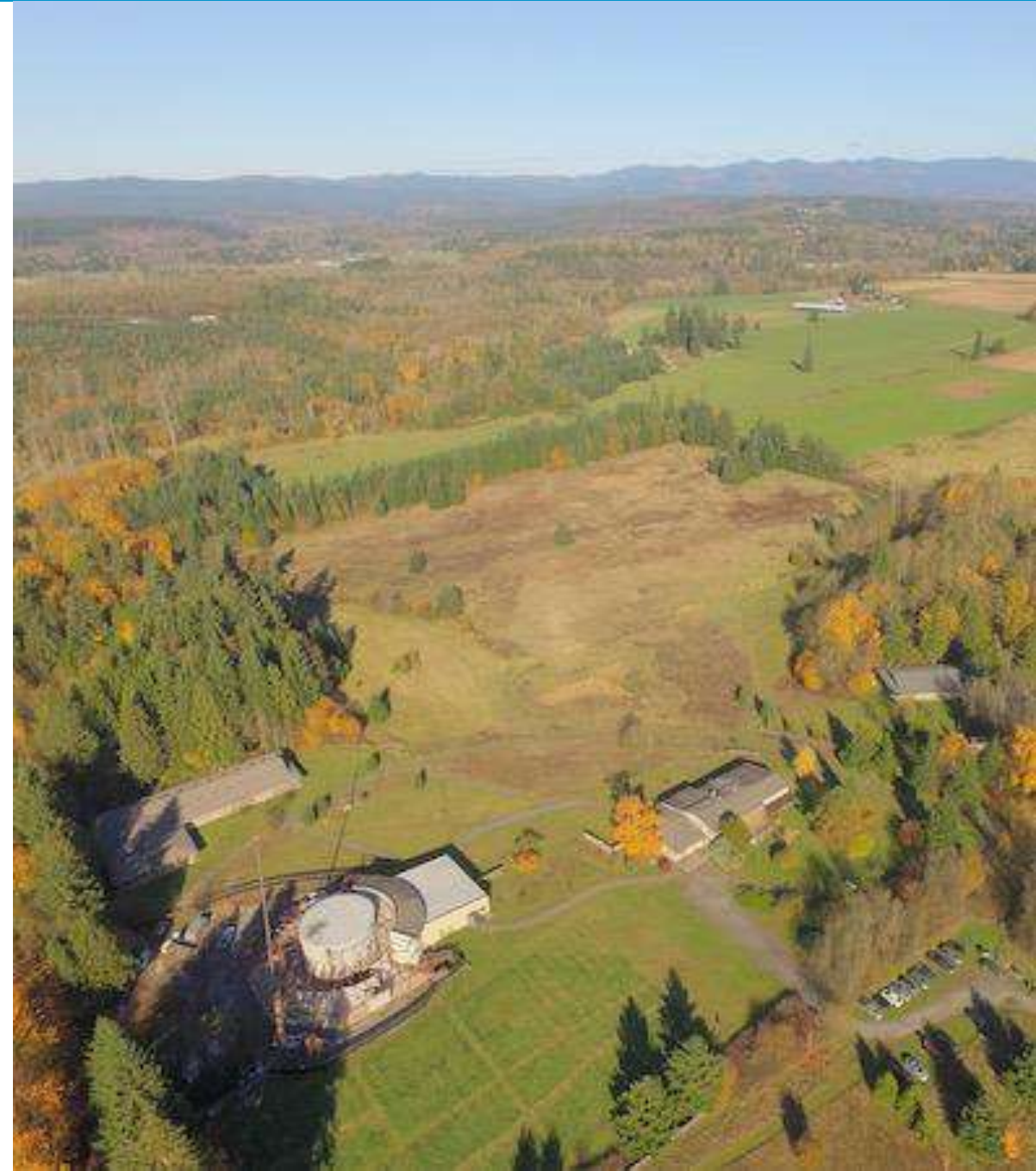
- **Non-center courses:** supporting non-center courses in new/emerging regions*
- **Legal support:** supporting/funding legal needs for new trusts and centers
- **New-center land purchases:** providing grants to purchase new land



Existing Centers/Trusts:

VCF support includes:

- **Grants for Center Construction:** grants for new construction projects
- **Complex Gifts:** receiving crypto-currency and other complex gifts on behalf of centers
- **Investment Fund:** new service of investing dana on the behalf of centers



Old Student Support

VCF endeavors to facilitate the volition of old students in giving dana globally via:

- **International Giving:** providing OS simple means of donating internationally*
- **Anonymous Gifts:** allowing old students to make gifts anonymously to centers
- **Complex & Crypto Currency Gifts:** helping OS donors and centers with non-cash gifts
- **Donor Advised Funds:** allowing old students to manage their giving to various dhamma organizations

* U.S. based old students are also able to get a tax write-off for their international donations



VCF ROLE/PROCESS:

Distribution of Funds:

- Old students come to VCF with the volition to support a specific center/region
- VCF mainly plays a **logistics role** to facilitate OS international giving
- VCF **does not** have surplus funds that it distributes to centers regionally*

* Funds are instead distributed based on the dana and specific volition of various old students



VCF GRANT PROCESS:

For Centers that Receive a Grant*:

- Need to initially provide some background/legal information
- Sign a grant agreement
- Provide simple annual report (brief description of use of funds)

* Centers are not able to apply for a grant from VCF given that VCF grants are based on OS volition



VCF CHECKS & BALANCES:

VCF strives to serve as a ***neutral party*** in distributing dana globally by:

- Serving the volition of old students
- Working with our geographic committee members to provide due diligence and guidance on all grantmaking
- Having all grants reviewed by our geographic committees and/or board



VCF: COUNTRY GRANT/DĀNA SUPPORT TO DATE

Africa

- Morocco
- Mozambique
- South Africa
- Uganda

Asia & Oceania

- Australia
- India
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka

The Americas*

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Chile
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Mexico
- Peru
- United States
- Venezuela

Europe & Middle East

- Austria
- Israel
- Ukraine

Global Relief Funds

- Philippines Relief Fund
- Sri Lanka Sangha Dana Fund
- Farsi Courses Fund
- COVID Relief Fund



* Given that VCF's charter was originally in the Americas, more countries have been served there to date. VCF expanded to a global focus in 2020.

VCF: EXAMPLES OF RECENT GRANTS PROVIDED

Types of grants include: construction projects, legal support, land purchase & funding courses

- **Argentina** (Dhamma Viriya): **Legal Support Grant** for title transfer/center establishment
- **Austria** (Dhamma Mudita): **Construction Grant** for five trailers
- **Brazil** (Dhamma Santi): **Construction Grant** for dorms, bathrooms and server rooms
- **Colombia** (Dhamma Nandanavana): **Land Purchase Support Grant**
- **Israel** (Dhamma Pamoda): **Course Grant** to support costs related to food, electricity & water
- **Mozambique** (Vipassana Mozambique): **Course Grant** for non-center ten-day
- **Philippines** (Dhamma Phala): **Construction Grant** to renovate male and female dorms impacted by termite infestation
- **Sri Lanka** (Dhamma Dharani): **Construction Grant** for Dhamma hall & accommodations
- **India** (Dhamma Kota): **Construction Grant** for work on Dhamma hall and Pagoda
- **Uganda**: **Course Grant** for non-center ten-day
- **United States** (Dhamma Sela): **Construction Grant** for water, septic and electricity



SUPPORTING VCF:

If you are interested in getting involved and/or supporting VCF, you can do so by:

- Getting involved in a geographic committee
- Spreading the word about VCF services
- Giving dana to one of VCF's geographic funds



GENERAL FEEDBACK:

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DISCUSSION

COMMENTS

QUESTIONS

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

Additional Information:

- **Website:** www.vcf.dhamma.org
- **Giving Dana:** <https://vcf.dhamma.org/donate>

Board/Staff Contacts:

- Parker Mills: parker.mills@dhamma.org
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