



May 24, 2023 | ISSUE 2

FROM THE VCF TEAM:

We are so grateful to all of the old students that have helped contribute their time and dana in supporting Vipassana courses and causes worldwide via VCF! Moving forward, to keep you better informed about how VCF distributes dana based on your old student volition — we're excited to announce that we've re-launched our social media channels which you can access [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). In addition to updating you through our social media, our newsletter will commence being sent out quarterly to ensure you are aware of all the grants being distributed in the ongoing effort to support the spread of Vipassana meditation worldwide. Please don't hesitate to ask our team any questions at info@vcf.dhamma.org. Otherwise, we look forward to continuing to partner with you on this important Dhamma journey.

—With Metta, the VCF Team

IN THIS LETTER

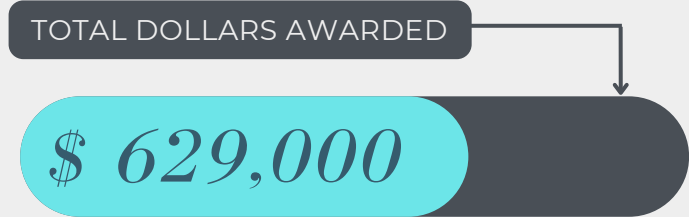
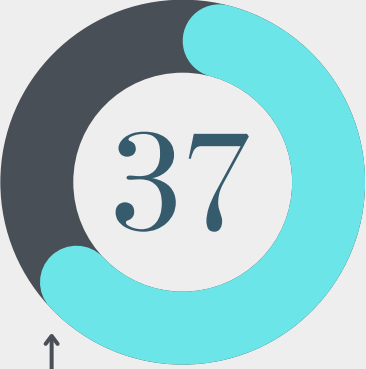
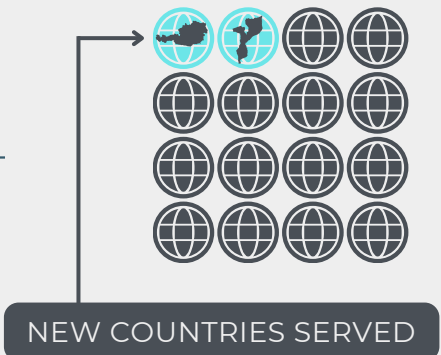
- Summary of 2022 activities
- Spotlight - The Film Fund
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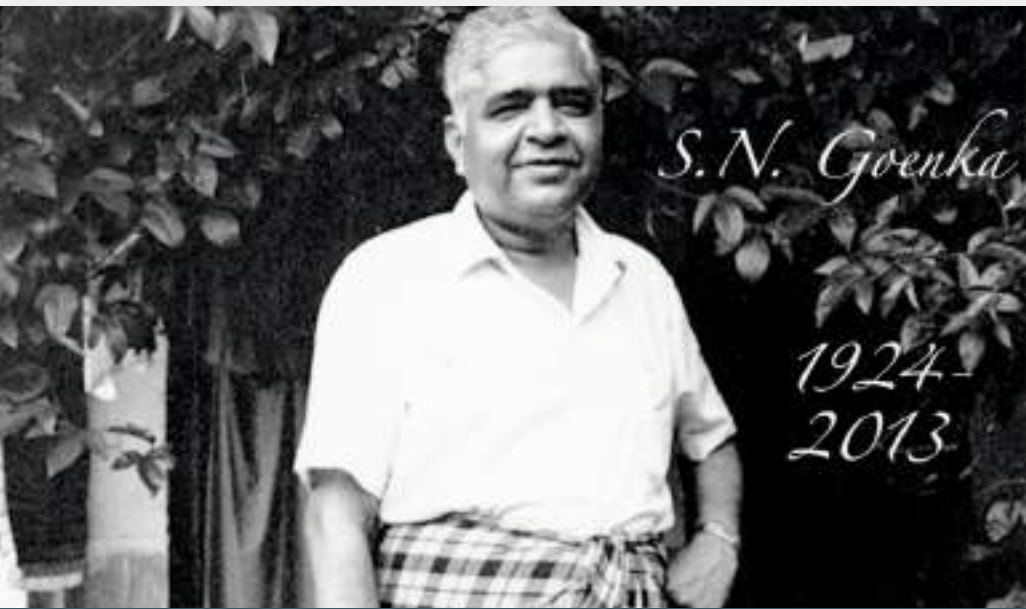


2022 ACTIVITY SUMMARY



COUNTRIES HELPED





SPOTLIGHT FILM FUND

We are excited to announce that VCF has formally launched the Dhamma Films Fund — to help support the powerful conclusion of the three-part film series “From Myanmar to the World.” This documentary trilogy tells the story of how Vipassana meditation was re-discovered by the Buddha of ancient India, lost to India, preserved in Myanmar, and in the last century returned to India and then spread around the world.

VCF is currently helping to raise funds for the third film installment of the series: “To the Multitudes” — which tells the story of how and why S.N. Goenkaji introduced Vipassana to people worldwide.

The previous two films, “Overland to India” and “Caves to Pagodas” have already been completed. They document the experience of Westerners traveling in the early 1970s who discovered the work of Goenka and the priceless gift of Dhamma; as well as the spread of Sayagyi U Ba Khin’s pagoda design globally.

If you would like to learn how to contribute to the film fund, please click [here](#).



Vision for Philippines Center

NEWS ABOUT OUR DEDICATED FUNDS

VCF would like to thank all of you who donated to our three urgent relief efforts that were run in addition to our regular course and non-course activities in 2022. The Philippines Fund, Sri Lanka Fund, and Farsi Courses Fund were all created to help support the Vipassana community in places experiencing challenging economic, social, and political conditions. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide much-needed support to these communities; and would like to take the opportunity to update you on the progress made as a result of the support of these funds.

The Philippines Fund

Last Fall, the Philippines Fund was established in partnership with Dhamma Phala in the Philippines after they experienced a total shutdown, as their buildings were deemed unfit due to severe termite damage. With the help of generous old-student support:

- Dhamma Phala has now rebuilt the dormitory buildings and bathroom blocks where steel frames replaced the previously wooden structures.
- As of January 2023, Dhamma Phala held its first ten-day course after a hiatus of 3 years.
- Since then, courses are now regularly being offered once per month.

Sri Lanka Fund

Given the challenging economic and political situation in Sri Lanka, last year, VCF launched the Sri Lanka Fund to better support center and non-center courses, as well as the old student sangha. Old student support for the fund resulted in VCF being able to distribute dana to Sri Lanka last year for multiple efforts, including:

- Supporting Dhamma Dharani and Dhamma Sobha center courses to supplement the shortage of dana locally.
- Supporting two ten-day non-center courses at two Rehabilitation Centers for over 110 inmates recovering from drug addiction.
- Providing food, medicine, and water purifiers for the Sri Lankan Old Student Sangha of Bhikkhus and Bhikkhunis, children and families — across 44 monasteries, 35 families and an orphanage.

Farsi Courses Fund

Farsi-speaking Old and New students in the Middle East and surrounding areas have extremely limited opportunities to attend Farsi language courses. As a result, in 2022, VCF established a fund for those who wish to support courses for Farsi-speaking Old and New students in these areas:

- In May and June of this year, two planned Farsi-speaking courses will be hosted in Armenia — taking an essential step towards bolstering the region's Farsi language non-center course program.

NEW PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT: VIPASSANA PRISON TRUST

VCF is partnering with the North American Vipassana Prison Trust (VPT) to support their work with inmates around the world. Since 1997, VPT has partnered with prisons to provide 10-day courses to inmates serving time in prisons in the U.S. and Canada.

To support as many courses for incarcerated people as possible, VPT has now decided to start offering small financial grants to Vipassana prison trusts that are organizing prison courses outside of the U.S. and Canada. In order to take this step, VPT and VCF have now partnered up — given VCF's deep expertise in distributing dana internationally. As a result, VCF will serve as the back-end operations for distributing VPT dana for any international prison courses.

If you know of prisons in your community or another part of the world that could benefit from offering Vipassana courses to inmates, please get in touch with us at info@vcf.dhamma.org. We would love to help support VPT's volition to support more facilities internationally.

Or if you would like to help support international prison courses, please visit our donations page [here](#) (and then send us a note separately to donations@vcf.dhamma.org, requesting funds for this purpose).



Sample food distribution in Sri Lanka

2022 GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

With the support of old student volition, VCF was honored to distribute almost 40 grants in 2022 to centers worldwide. Here is a snapshot of some of the grants from last year!

PERU - *DHAMMA SURIYA*

- GRANT GOAL:** Adding critical systems and infrastructure for the center
- GRANT FOCUS:**
- Building a perimeter wall around the center
 - Constructing new student buildings and infrastructure to open the center for courses
 - Building a new Assistant Teacher residence
- GRANT STATUS:** The center has now completed all these projects, enabling it to offer courses! The first residential course was offered on December 29th, 2022.

SRI LANKA - *DHAMMA DHARANI*

- GRANT GOAL:** Support the construction of the center's meditation hall and accommodation buildings.
- GRANT FOCUS:**
- Building mini Dhamma Hall
 - Supporting financing of the female dormitory
 - Construction of the dormitory building
- GRANT STATUS:** Mini Dhamma Hall and dormitories completed as of November 2022.

AUSTRIA - *DHAMMA MUDITA*

- GRANT GOAL:** Support phase 1 construction of the first center in Austria
- GRANT FOCUS:**
- Financing the construction of five trailers
- GRANT STATUS:** Report/status pending

INDIA - *DHAMMA KOTA*

- GRANT GOAL:** Support with construction costs of critical projects
- GRANT FOCUS:**
- Construction of dormitory buildings and main hall
 - Completing the exterior of the pagoda
- GRANT STATUS:** All areas of focus have been successfully completed as of March 2022.

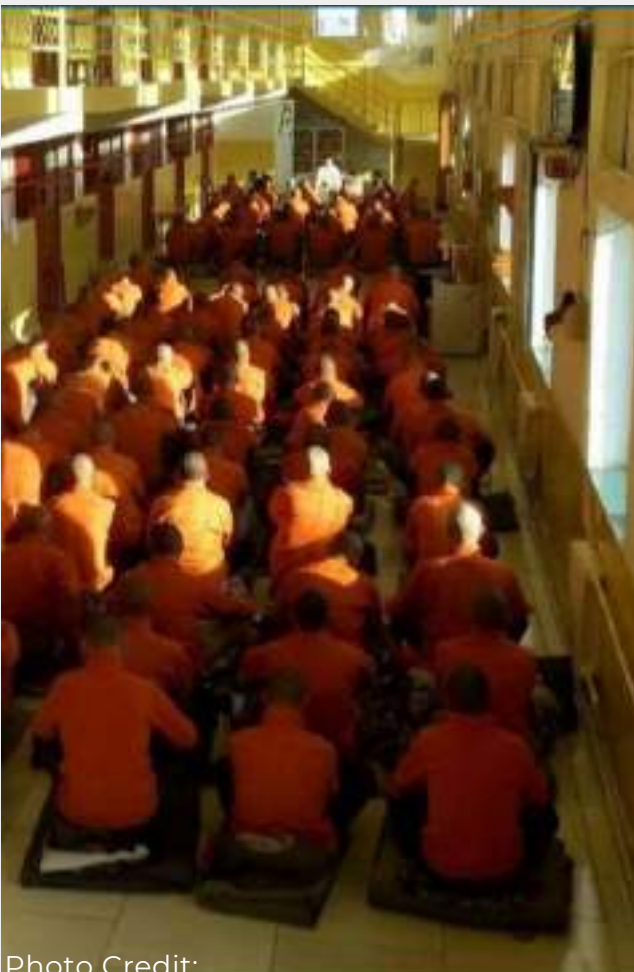


Photo Credit:
"Doing Time Doing Vipassana"