

BPF DRAFT THEORY OF CHANGE - June 2006

ROOT PROBLEMS

- We live in a Culture of Materialism where people are encouraged to sacrifice the wellbeing of others for their own sake. Economic systems based on capitalism reinforce fear around lacking 'necessities' for happiness.
- Culture of Fear results in a public which is easily manipulated by gov't to be complicit with racism, oppression, torture, militarism
- We live in a Culture of Domination which stresses separation, isolation, division, manifesting as "Isms:" Racism, Sexism, Classism, etc.
- We all are susceptible to the illusion of separateness from each other, animals, the planet. We mistakenly believe that our sufferings are not related to one other.
- Absolutism is the dominant view, rather than inter-connection.
- The status quo way of doing things has achieved great momentum
- There is a lack of leaders & community structures that give people a sense of being cared for, and a lack of alternative models to counteract cultural forces.

CORE STRATEGIES – next 3 yrs.

1. Dedicated, rigorous **spiritual practice**/meditation as the foundation of all our work.
2. **Engagement** that expresses & deepens spiritual practice for 3 "audiences:"
 - *Individuals*
 - *Buddhist communities*
 - *Movements*
3. Intentionally develop & address imbalances in the 4 archetypes of SEB Mandala through our priorities
4. Specific centralized goals/plans that galvanize collective action on 4 initiatives:
 - *"Coming Home": Transformative Justice*
 - *"Coming Home": Peacework*
 - *Building Vibrant Communities of Compassionate Activists*
 - *Weaving Indra's Net—communications and networking*
5. Create more opportunities for BPF programs to work in collaboration with each other, rather than as separate entities.
6. **Communicate** alternatives that BPF offers/models; tell stories of liberation.
7. Develop multi-generational, diverse **leadership**.
8. Sustainable **funding**: Build self-sufficiency' Access mainstream & gov't resources.

IMPACTS WE SEEK

1. Raised awareness (within ourselves & society) of interdependence and of global connections; shine light on privilege, related domination & the suffering that arises from it.
2. Increased #'s of people learn to live & exemplify a SEB way of life, based in nonviolence, compassion, and sustainability.
3. Widely publicize viable alternatives to the status quo.
4. Mutual Liberation, both personal and social.
 - Social & economic equity, especially among the incarcerated.
 - Increased peace/ decreased militarism.
5. Increase the degree of existing **Buddhist commtys'** social engagement
6. Influence mainstream social justice **movements** w/ Buddhist perspective

BPF Mission: Serve as a catalyst & agent for socially engaged Buddhism. Our aim is to help beings liberate themselves from the suffering that manifests in individuals, relationships, institutions, & social systems. BPF's programs, publications, & practice groups link Buddhist teachings of wisdom and compassion with progressive social change. We raise humanitarian, environmental, & social justice concerns among Buddhist communities, & bring a Buddhist perspective to peace, environmental and social justice movements.