

VICTORIOUS MOUNTAIN RETREAT CAMPAIGN WITH GUARDIANS OF THE FIVE BUDDHA FAMILIES MANDALA

In January 2008 this campaign began as an effort to support Kilung Jigme Rinpoche's work in Tibet, enabling him to shift his focus more strongly toward spiritual practice while maintaining his obligations in Tibet, and engaging and inspiring our own practice. The following is an explanation of the program.

Kilung Jigme Rinpoche has devoted the last dozen years to rebuilding Kilung monastery, and revitalizing the nomadic Kilung community. When we began this work years ago, he said that this would be his most important accomplishment for this lifetime—his reason for being. Now he's within grasp of achieving this monumental work.

Over the years these projects absorbed enormous time, much of that in the search for funding. Up to the point when we conceived this program, Rinpoche had been giving up something essential to his being—time for his own practice and for retreat. Since the advent of VMRC, Rinpoche's community of supporters have been helping speed up the process of rebuilding Kilung, and enabling Rinpoche to accomplish significant retreat!

VMRC PLAN: Funds from VMRC go toward Kilung Foundation projects, freeing up Rinpoche from fundraising for specific projects. Some funds are also used for his own retreat, ideally 3-5 months each year.

VMRC IMPACT: Rinpoche has been able to freely direct these funds toward whichever project is most in need, from constructing monastery buildings, to maintaining Kilung facilities, and to humanitarian efforts including Tibetan disasters. Significantly, he has also been able to accomplish several lengthy personal retreats. The program has made possible Rinpoche's continuation of his leadership role with Kilung community, his dharma teachings in the west, while helping to fulfill his deeper trajectory for this lifetime: the Buddhadharma.

VMRC GOAL: To fulfill the complete vision for Kilung Monastery and humanitarian projects, a financial goal was set for \$300,000. In the first three years, 20% was raised, or \$68,000. There's more yet to accomplish—the integrated efforts to support Tibetan nomad culture, their education, their health, and their spiritual life.

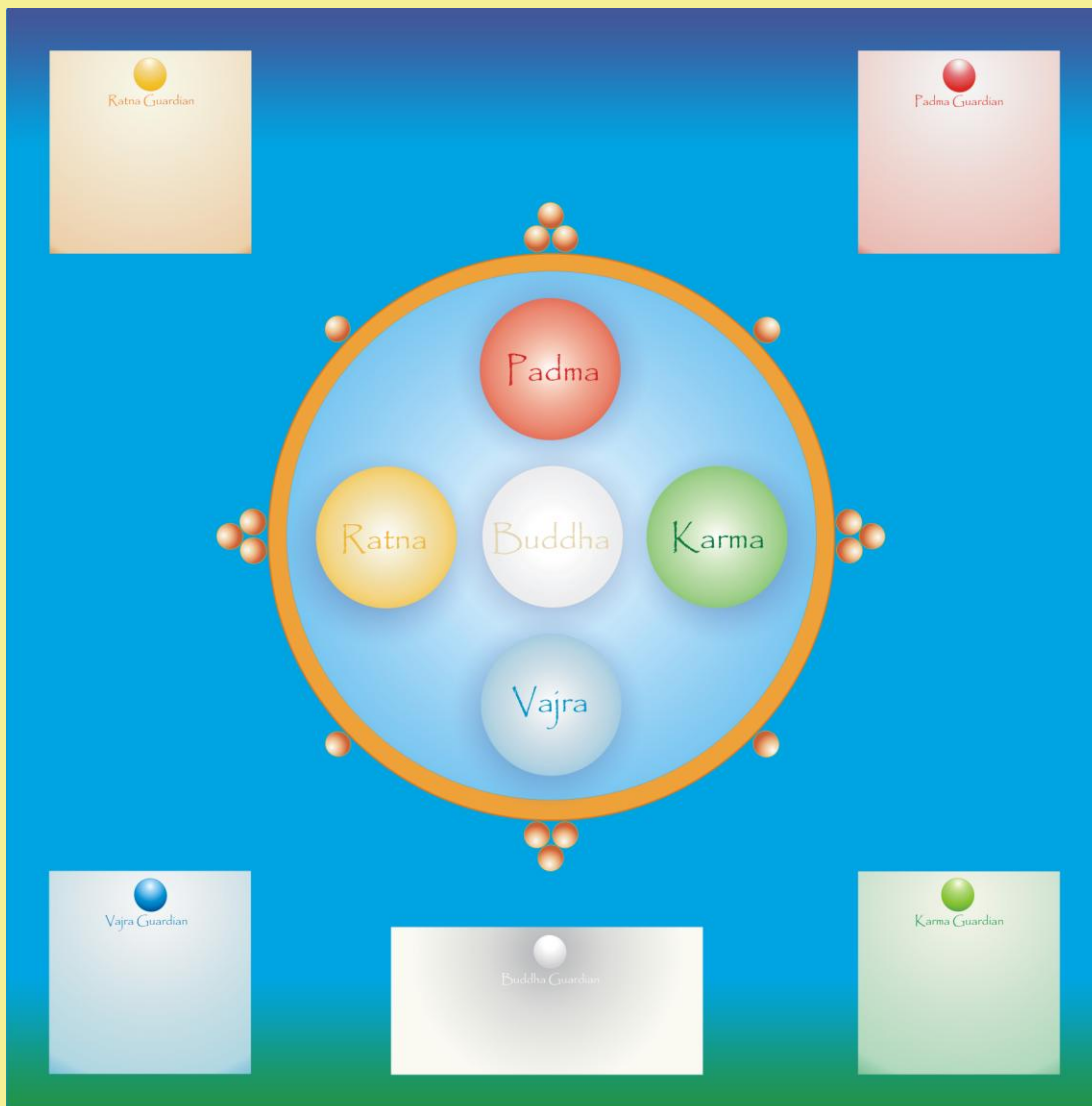
See below to learn more...

WHY IS RETREAT IMPORTANT FOR KILUNG RINPOCHE?

Retreat is deeply important...

- to continue his spiritual path
- to take advantage of the opportunity of the few remaining older-generation yogis still alive who have urged Rinpoche to do significant retreat with them
- to emanate his own enlightened vast blessing, and inspiration, wherever he is in retreat
- to be a model for those of us interested in retreat and practice
- while in the west, to lead others on parallel retreat, perhaps in close proximity to him
- while at Kilung Monastery, to inspire the monks and nuns there into their own long-term retreat, something that has come to seem remote to them in recent years.

IN RINPOCHE'S WORDS: *I can see clearly that sharing my life and Dharma practice with others through retreat is greatly important. The most important is by accomplishing the lineage of the masters' aspirations. As a lineage holder, I have an unstoppable commitment to continue their enlightened transmissions and activities for the sake of sentient beings, until they reach the state of enlightenment without remainder. Therefore, I'm very much looking forward to this retreat happening soon, before I get old. And not only me, but all of my students and friends, as well.*



How can we participate in this campaign?

By taking a place in the mandala of the Five Buddha Families as a Guardian, and inspiring others in their participation.

WHAT ARE THE FIVE BUDDHA FAMILIES?

The Five Buddha Families represent different facets of Enlightened Activity, or states of being. These families make up a balanced whole—a mandala composed of five mandalas which work together to turn the Wheel of Dharma.

Rinpoche had a series of dreams indicating the importance of using this model of enlightened activity to accomplish his work. He says, *“The essence of all of phenomena is reflected in the nature of the Five Buddha Family Mandala. All phenomena includes internal and external, subject and object, the elements and aggregates, in fact everything associated with the whole universe.*

“When we come to understand profoundly the nature of these phenomena, which is our own nature, then we can see there is nothing other than the presence and manifestation of the Five Buddha Families.”

Each family has a name, an element, a direction, and characteristics

- ❖ **Vajra Family**, the element of Water, Indestructible Protection, The Eastern Buddha Fields of Pure Joy
- ❖ **Ratna Family**, the element of Earth, Holding the Precious Qualities of Outer & Inner, The Southern Buddha Realm of Glory
- ❖ **Padma Family**, the element of Fire, Enlightened Representation of Projecting, Magnetizing, & Gathering, The Western Buddha Fields of Great Bliss
- ❖ **Karma Family**, the element of Wind, Enlightened Activity & Accomplishment, The Northern Buddha Realm of Perfect Action
- ❖ **Buddha Family**, the element of Space, Enlightened Sphere of Essential Spaciousness, The Central Buddha Realm of the All-Pervading Sphere

The Financial Picture:

The goal for this campaign as of January 2011 is to raise \$230,000 toward Kilung projects in Tibet. (Project list on page 6.) Pledges can be made for one or more years.

As of January 2011, the campaign raised \$68,000 in donations and pledges.

Thank you to all Guardians of the Five Buddha Families!

All contributions go to the Kilung Foundation as general donations, and Kilung Rinpoche will distribute those funds as needed to the projects in Tibet. Utilizing the Kilung Foundation means all donations are tax deductible. For a list of projects, see below.

RINPOCHE'S CHALLENGE TO THE GUARDIANS

Rinpoche challenges each Guardian to match 10% of his or her retreat time with their own retreat. For example, for every month of retreat that Rinpoche does, the Guardians do 3 days or more of retreat at the same time. By encouraging our own retreat, plus Rinpoche's post-retreat teachings, Rinpoche says, he "reflects back to my supporters, and to all of my students and friends. It's a way of returning your generosity, bringing you joyful inspiration, and sharing positive merit. This will make me so happy." All of Rinpoche's enlightened views and activities, now enriched by his retreat and reflection and deeper dharma, increase the benefits for all beings.

How to take your place in the Five Buddha Family Mandala for THE VICTORIOUS MOUNTAIN RETREAT CAMPAIGN

To make a pledge,

Make a donation,

Get help choosing a Family,

Join a Family Guardianship group,

Lead one of the 5 Family mandalas, or,

For more information,

Email [rigdzin AT pocs DOT org](mailto:rigdzin@pocs DOT org)

You can send a **check** directly to:

Kilung Foundation, PO Box 622, Langley, WA 98260

Include a note that it's for the Victorious Mountain Retreat Campaign, and let us know which of the Five Families you'd like to join.

By **credit card**: Join the campaign through [PayPal](#) and let us know which of the Five Families you'd like to join.

*By taking a place in this mandala we grab a hold of an enormous prayer wheel,
and spin it for the benefit of all beings.*

Projects – \$289,000 total for projects

Already Accomplished through VMRC 2008-2010:

At Kilung Monastery:

- Monks' homes
- Ancient Temple reconstruction and outfitting
- Stupa for 1st Kilung Rinpoche, HH Jigme Ngotsar Gyatso, at Mura Mani Wall
- Kilung Monastic College—further outfitting including major statues
- Puja Endowments—drupchen support
- Support for monks and nuns
- Monastery jeep

Humanitarian Projects:

- Disaster Relief—2008 Blizzard & 2010 Kyegundo Earthquake
- Medical treatments for nomads
- Traditional Tibetan Architecture House-Center in Sershul
- Education assistance for nomad kids

Retreat for Kilung Rinpoche

- Over 10 months of personal retreat and pilgrimage

Future Projects Planned for VMRC:

- Mountain Retreat & Small Temple, above Kilung Monastery at sacred site
- Guest lodging at Kilung Monastery for retreat and visitors
- Nine stupas
- Puja Endowment—more to go
- Medical clinic development
- Midwife training

Annual Operating Fund – \$3,000-10,500 per year

- Operating costs for Kilung Monastery
- Building Maintenance
- Stipend for Kilung Rinpoche

Donations made to this campaign will be distributed by Kilung Rinpoche wherever the need is greatest, according to his discretion, and may include humanitarian community projects, as well as the above dharma-oriented ones.

For a more detailed rundown on the estimated costs for each project, please request.

Note for current Kilung Foundation supporters

We still encourage donations for specific projects, for example, sponsorship programs for students, monks and nuns, and for secular humanitarian projects, such as disaster relief. There may always be those who would rather give to a specific project, and we are encouraging people to continue, as before, if they would like.

Thanks to Lynn Hays for her early conversations with Kilung Jigme Rinpoche which inspired this campaign.