

Scholarships

I want to share some thoughts about scholarships for my retreats at RMERC.

I recently had a conversation with someone that went like this.

Student: I'd really like to go to your retreat, but I can't afford the money.

Me: That's OK, we have scholarship funds to make it affordable for you.

Student: Oh I couldn't do that, scholarships are for people who really need one.

I tried to explain that if she sincerely wanted to go but couldn't financially afford to she was "someone who really needs one".

Another reason I've heard in the past is "I had a scholarship last year, it's someone else's turn this year". There is no need to "take turns".

Let me explain where scholarship money comes from. Perhaps it will make you and other people like these students feel more comfortable asking for a scholarship.

In my case scholarship funds come from 3 sources.

1) I set my prices so that some people pay a little extra, beyond the actual cost of food and lodging. This "extra" money goes into the scholarship pool.

2) I have money left over from previous retreats that I keep track of and add to the current retreat's scholarship pool. This is the difference between what people payed for the previous retreat and what I actually have to pay RMERC and the cooks for rooms and food. I never take this money for myself.

3) RMERC has a "matching" scholarship fund, so if I give someone a \$200 scholarship ½ that money comes directly from RMERC.

There is plenty of money available for scholarships, No one who has a sincere desire to go on retreat will be turned away, whether you just need something off the price to make it affordable for you, or you need a scholarship for the total cost, that's just fine. It is VERY important to me that no one hesitates to come and sit with me because they "can't afford it".

To apply for a scholarship to my RMERC retreats just e-mail me briefly at barryhgillespie@comcast.net explaining your circumstances and how much of a scholarship you need. We'll make it happen. Feel free to share this with friends who might be interested as well.

Come share the dhamma with me.

Barry