



# Hope for a Better World



A Creative Estate Planning Newsletter for friends of Ananda

## Our Legacy of Light

### Touching the Lives of Future Generations

We call Ananda's endowment programs our "Legacy of Light." Those who commit themselves to leave a gift to the Janaka Foundation through their estate plans are members of the Janaka Legacy Fellowship. These gifts - figuratively and literally - enable the light of our masters and this path of Self-Realization to shine from the past through to the future, so that in generations-to-come people may find their way to spiritual fulfillment.

So, what is a *legacy*? The dictionary defines it as "1. Money or property bequeathed to someone by will. 2. Something handed down from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past."

People desire to leave something of value to someone else, usually a loved one, close relative or friend, **because they care**. They care deeply about that person and want to know that they will be receiving the benefit from that valued possession.

#### Janaka's Role

The Janaka Foundation was formed in 2001 as an extension of Ananda's fund development program. Its purpose is to give our members the means and ways of perpetuating their values for the benefit of future generations of spiritual seekers. In 2004 a director was chosen to lead this new endeavor. In 2005 Janaka began sending out quarterly financial newsletters, and in 2006 Ananda members were invited to join the Janaka Legacy Fellowship.

Currently, we have 124 individuals who have committed themselves to "*give the gift that gives forever.*" In August of 2009 over 30 members of

the Janaka Legacy Fellowship gathered together for a special tea during Spiritual Renewal Week, with Swami Kriyananda attending the tea as well. It was a wonderful time of sharing among those who have made a commitment to supporting the future of Ananda through their estate planning.

As we noted in our spring newsletter, we have received our first estate gift. Because the donor expressed his wish that it be used wherever it was needed the most, that portion of the gift set aside for endowment purposes was placed in the Janaka General Endowment Fund.

This gift has made a significant impact upon the Janaka Foundation and Ananda's ministries:

1. It helped us to begin building our endowment fund;
2. It helped us continue our planned giving program through which we share ideas for estate planning with many people interested in supporting the future of Ananda;
3. It helped Crystal Clarity Publishers to keep our best-selling books in print;
4. It helped Ananda Los Angeles in promoting the special August 2010 event with Swami Kriyananda;
5. It helped in funding the beginning needs for *The Answer*, a special film project of Swami Kriyananda.

We are confident that this donor would be pleased with our stewardship of his thoughtful and generous gift. The number of spiritual seekers whose lives he has touched through this gift, and who he will continue to influence, are many indeed.



## Five Baskets The Endowment Funds

Because not everyone has the same "inspirations," the Janaka Foundation has established five endowment funds which represent core aspects of Ananda's mission. Essentially, this gives Ananda members the opportunity to ask themselves, "*What is there about Ananda now that really inspires me? And why do I feel this ministry should continue as a strong outreach of Ananda for future generations?*"

Many Ananda members have a broad, global outlook and might be inspired by ministries such as Kriya Yoga, Meditation Support, Online Classes, Healing Prayers, Website Development, and others. The **Ananda Worldwide Endowment Fund** might appeal to them.

Other Ananda members specifically appreciate the power of the written word to change people's lives. The **Crystal Clarity Publishers Endowment Fund** would appeal to them because it shares the teachings and practices of Ananda with the broadest possible audience. Through both sight and sound, Crystal Clarity Publishers introduces and sustains the teachings of Ananda both for long-time seekers and for those who are new to spiritual teachings.

"*Our children are our future*" is a belief held by many cultures and is an especially important part of Ananda's mission. Providing Education for Life principles through our schools, through teacher training, books and online classes, we are sharing these important principles with educators, teachers, and students throughout the world. The **Education for Life Endowment Fund** ensures that the spread of Education for Life ideals will continue to be an important part of the future of Ananda.

The **Joyful Arts Endowment Fund** supports the understanding that art has the ability to uplift our consciousness. Through song, music, dance, drama, painting, sculpture and other expressions, the Joyful Arts can change people's consciousness and therefore their lives. They are an important part of the spiritual life and an important source of inspiration for future generations.

And finally, there is the **Janaka General Endowment Fund**, a "catch-all," if you will, for those donors who have a deep appreciation for *all* the spiritual ministries of Ananda and desire that their gift will be used *where it is most needed at the time it is received*.

### Principal In, Income out

The stated purpose of the Janaka Foundation is to place a percentage of each completed gift into one or more of these five endowment funds and to use only the income from these funds to support Ananda's ministries. In this way our endowment funds act as an "insurance policy," providing funding for ministries that might not be able to continue or grow when funding declines due to a recession such as we are in now.

Making a gift through one's estate plan is "*giving the gift that gives forever*." It is an excellent way for Ananda members to perpetuate their lifetime values beyond their physical lifetimes. It is an important way for them to continue to touch and influence the lives of future Ananda members and of many truth-seeking souls.

### What You can do Now

If supporting Ananda's spiritual ministries now and in the future is something of importance to you, there are three things you should do now:

- 1. Discuss these ideas** with your family, your loved ones and those whose judgment you trust.
- 2. Call the Janaka Foundation director** (Parvati Hansen) and talk with her about the best way for you to go about taking this very important step.
- 3. Make an appointment with an estate planning professional** who can help you make it happen.

There is a saying that is very applicable in these circumstances: *the gift isn't made until it is legal*.

**For further information:** Contact Parvati Hansen at the Janaka Foundation office:

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The Janaka Foundation - Building Ananda's Legacy of Light.

This newsletter has been written by qualified specialists in financial planning and offers explanations of current techniques in easy-to-understand language. Through charitable gift planning, you can help us to prepare for our future of helping others. The information provided is general in nature. Each reader should consult his or her own counselors in applying the principles provided here.