

Starting a Refuge Recovery Meeting

Refuge Recovery is designed to be practiced in community. For this program to be successful, we will need people to start meetings and to create new communities. We offer here the meeting format that we have been using in the pilot meetings in Los Angeles since 2008. We hope that as the program develops and grows, new formats and styles of meetings will be created. Our website www.refugerecovery.org will serve as the centralized information hub, where new meetings and new formats will be listed and posted for download.

Those who want to start a new meeting are asked to do so only if they are willing to host the meeting weekly with a minimum commitment of six months. That means that even if no one shows up for the first few months, they continue to be there at the designated place and time each week. Since this is a new movement, we will need to be patient with the process of attracting and sustaining community. We would prefer that all meetings that are open to the public be held in nonresidential settings, but we also understand that at times meetings in someone's home will be the only option.

When each new meeting is started, we will post the information on the website and list the local contact person for that meeting. We encourage a rotating leadership at the meetings, with each secretary and other positions within the group taking six-month commitments. As leadership and contact people change, there will be an easy way to update the site.

All meetings are to collect a donation, and the proceeds from the donations are to be used to support the group paying rent and buying any supplies deemed necessary such as coffee or tea. After a prudent reserve is reached, we ask that excess donations be sent to the Refuge Recovery headquarters to support the infrastructure of the nonprofit. All financial records for Refuge Recovery will be public and posted on our site. Start a meeting and create a refuge for your community. We will be by your side as the Buddhist Refuge Recovery movement grows and spreads.