



BHARATIYA TEMPLE OF LANSING, INC.

955 Haslett Road, Haslett, MI 48840

<http://lansingtemple.org>

Phone: (517) 339-6337



Tax Exempt ID: 38-2399465

Board of Trustees - 2008

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Jai Shankar Tripathi
517-347-4257

March 6, 2008

Dear Devotees,

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who have provided financial support to the Temple in recent years. You did this by making generous donations towards Temple operations or capital improvements, by sponsoring priest services at the temple or home, by becoming annual or life members, or by a combination of these. Collectively, these contributions provided the funds that allowed us to embark on the construction phase of the Temple Completion Project in Fall 2007 while maintaining temple operations at the level of past years.

Secondly, I wish to point out that your continued financial support is essential for fulfilling the three main goals that the Board has set for itself in 2008 under the overall mandate of serving you to meet your spiritual, social, and cultural needs:

- a) Continued operation of the temple at the level of recent years;
- b) Gradual reduction of the construction debt;
- c) Development of plans for optimal use of the completed temple facilities.

Our Temple does not receive any subsidies or public funding and is run solely on your voluntary contributions. It is important that the pace of financial contributions should not slow down.

Operating Budget for 2008: As approved at the Annual General Body meeting in December 2007 and itemized in the table on the other side, our Temple will need steady revenue of approximately \$157,000 in calendar year 2008 to meet operating expenses. Devotee contributions and revenue from special events, priest services, and membership dues are the main sources of income to meet operating expenses. We need your help throughout the year to raise funds to operate the Temple. Several specific ways in which you can help are described on the other side.

Capital Improvements Budget for 2008: As per the budget passed at last December's Annual General Body meeting, a target of \$145,000 was set for capital improvement contributions in 2008. This level of contribution will allow us to complete the Temple without additional loan. Please turn to the other side for the several ways you can help the Temple achieve this target.



Optimal Use of Completed Temple: Within the next 6 months, our community's long-held vision of having a complete temple that meets all our needs will be realized. Construction is progressing satisfactorily; the shell of the building addition is complete (see photograph) and interior work will start later this month. The ways in which the completed temple will benefit the community are described on the other side. At this time, we seek your input on the level of service you would like. For example, should we offer full-service option for pujas, wherein the temple

supplies all the items needed for a puja and the devotee comes only with the cooked Prasad? Should the kitchen prepare food for purchase by devotees on weekends? And so on.

Again, I thank you for your past generosity and appeal to you for your continued financial support so that we can realize the full potential of our completed Temple. God Bless.

Yours Truly,

Rajiv R. Das

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,
Bharatiya Temple of Lansing

Operating Budget

FINANCIALS OPERATIONS	Budget 2007	Budget 2008
Operating Revenue		
Contributions	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 68,300.00
Priest Services	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 42,000.00
Special Events & Membership	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 47,100.00
Total	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 157,400.00
Operating Expenses		
Priest Salaries and Benefits	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 67,000.00
Rental & Insurance	\$ 7,150.00	\$ 7,000.00
Special Events	\$ 12,770.00	\$ 17,000.00
Supplies	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
Repair and Utilities	\$ 27,750.00	\$ 35,750.00
Audit Fee	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
Printing & Postage	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 3,000.00
Other	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Interest Expense & Loan	\$ 10,080.00	\$ 10,150.00
Total	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 157,400.00

- It costs approximately \$430 a day, every day of the year, to operate our Temple.
- To give you an idea of our expenses: our gas and electricity bill in the past 6 months (September 2007 – February 2008) was \$7368.
- Every time you do an *archana* or sponsor a puja, you are helping us to meet these expenses.
- Our Temple does not receive any subsidies or public funding and is run solely on your voluntary contributions.

Here are some ways for you to help the Temple meet its operating expenses:

- Make annual pledges for temple operations. Pledge Cards are available in temple lobby and are also posted at lansingtemple.org/forms/pledge.pdf.
- Utilize the priest services inside or outside the temple.
- Sponsor the temple's expenses for a day under the Sponsor a Day program at a cost of \$400.
- Make donations on days of special significance to your family or during key events.
- Pick up an expense item, such as supplies of some item(s) for a year.
- Become a dues-paying annual member or a life member.

Here are some ways for you to help with the Temple Completion Project expenses:

- Make annual pledges for the temple's capital improvements.
- Sponsor a plaque in the Navagraha sanctum area.
- Sponsor a plaque in the Yagnashala area.
- Donate towards a building component (a classroom or kitchen, for example).
- Support other initiatives currently being developed by our fund-raising committee.

Ways in which completed Temple will enhance services to the community

When our Temple is completed in Summer 2008, the community will have an attractive facility for arranging public as well as private functions involving gatherings of 250 or more attendees. With its large hall, well-designed *yagnashala* (fire pit), fully functional kitchen and dining hall with seating for 250, and its unique ambience, the Temple will be an especially suitable venue for weddings, birthdays, and other *samskaras* (rites of passage) like the hair-cutting ceremony and the sacred-thread ceremony. In the enlarged hall, music and dance programs can accommodate larger audiences than before. There will be four new multi-purpose rooms, which will provide much-needed space for classrooms for children and adults, yoga sessions, meetings of various kinds (e.g. gatherings of seniors or new families), etc.

The construction committee, while controlling costs, has not compromised on quality where it matters, whether it involves the upstairs facilities for conducting religious ceremonies and social functions or the downstairs facilities for cooking and dining. Use of natural lighting in the foyer and large windows will enhance the ambience of our Temple.

Once again, I request you to support this great institution which will meet the spiritual, social, and cultural needs of the mid-Michigan Hindu and Jain community.



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PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY TO SUPPORT TEMPLE OPERATIONS AND MAKE THE TEMPLE COMPLETION PROJECT A SUCCESS

Please use this pledge/donation form for mailing your pledge or your donation check to the Temple as your contribution for Temple operations and/or the Temple Completion project. Please donate generously. Fundraising Committee members will contact you if you check "Yes" for Navagraha plaque, Yagnashala plaque, or towards any building component.

DONATION FOR TEMPLE COMPLETION PROJECT/OPERATIONS

Name	
Spouse	
Address (Street)	
Address (City, State, Zip)	
Phone #	
Email:	

<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to sponsor a Navagraha plaque or a Yagnashala plaque
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to donate towards a building component - classroom or kitchen
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to donate towards temple operations.

Amount	
Check #	
Date	

Please mail the donation details with your check to:
Treasurer, Bharatiya Temple of Lansing, 955 Haslett Road, Michigan 48840.