

# YELM AND THURSTON COUNTY'S ECONOMY INFUSED WITH OVER \$2.5 MILLION BY RSE STUDENTS DESPITE CURRENT GLOBAL FINANCIAL MELTDOWN

## Ramtha's School of Enlightenment Contributes Greatly to Local Economy.

RSE Students inject \$2,626,050 into the Local Economy in 2008 while attending classes at Ramtha's School of Enlightenment in Yelm, Washington. A large number of RSE students from the United States and all over the world traveled to the City of Yelm and surrounding community to participate in their classes at Ramtha's School of Enlightenment. RSE students from thirty-nine foreign countries — from Australia, Japan, South Africa, Italy, Germany, France, Argentina, and Brazil, to name a few — made their way to our community in 2008, many for the first time.

RSE conducts a demographic survey regularly to measure the economic impact RSE students make in our local community during school events. According to the data collected at these events by those students who participated in the survey, the total purchases and expenses in our local community reached the record high of \$2,626,050 during 2008. In 2007, it was just under 2.5 million at \$2,467,000. (Note that these figures do not include the RSE event registration fees or airfares.) RSE students continue to report an increase in local spending for the goods and services of our community, which is very significant given the many challenges we are all facing in today's global economy.

Students who participate in this survey during events in Yelm are asked to list the amount of money spent locally in the following categories: transportation (car rentals, local airport shuttles, RV rentals), gasoline, groceries, restaurants, lodgings, camping supplies (tents, sleeping bags, clothing, other supplies), purchases on campus (not including event registration costs), house/pet sitting, storage, and childcare. International RSE students visiting from abroad also participate in this survey, as simultaneous foreign translation in six languages is offered during events as needed (Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish). These demographic records are open to the public for review and audit upon request.

A total of 6,365 students visiting the community participated in the survey during 2008, an increase from last year. The average amount spent per student also increased significantly to an average of \$412 per student.

Ramtha's School is very pleased that its students are supporting the local businesses in the Yelm area, making our local community a thriving and more prosperous place for everyone.



*We appreciate all the local businesses that supported our students with their goods and services while they visited our area. Thank You!*

*Sincerely,*

**Ramtha's School of Enlightenment**

