

Helping Students in Centers Who Are In Need Of Care

Centers, projects and services should not think we are here just help to people outside the center - we have to help people in the center as well. That is very important. We need to look after people living in the center who are sick, elderly, or who need help due to illness and so on.

Dharma practice is not just learning the words but practicing, practicing bodhicitta and the six paramitas, understanding the shortcomings of samsara, which means renunciation.

In the *Bodhicavarata* it says that even the mere thought to benefit sentient beings is much more beneficial than making offerings to all the buddhas and bodhisattvas. So no need to say how much more beneficial it is when you actually cause happiness for sentient beings.

'Benefitting sentient beings' means actually getting the opportunity to help someone in great need, so this is the best offering to numberless bodhisattvas and buddhas, and this is what most pleases the buddhas and bodhisattvas. Helping sentient beings as much as possible, just as a mother with her beloved child: if there is a choice the mother would prefer to die rather than her child, she would rather die so that her child can live.

This is most important to understand for the center.

Colophon: Scribe Ven. Roger Kunsang, 2012. Lightly edited by Claire Isitt, July 2013.