

# Celebrating in 2025

## August – September – October

**Ken's Birthday – Visakha's Birthday**  
**Fifty Years of Marriage – Twenty Years in Sri Lanka**



**Beginnng Sunday, August 10**  
**Dana at our home in Kandy**  
**152/1 Riverdale Road, Anniwatte**  
**Serving the Sangha at 11:00 AM**

**Lunch at 1 PM**

**All are invited**

**R. S. V. P.**

**No personal gifts, please.**

**We need nothing but your friendship!**



### Donations to Buddhist Relief Mission would be appreciated

Donations may be made in Sri Lanka via:

Commercial Bank,  
Anniwatte Branch  
A/C 8254001210  
Kenneth Kawasaki

in the U.S. via:

River Bank & Trust  
Buddhist Relief Mission  
A/C 262527856  
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[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=2VNPE5P8FZP58](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=2VNPE5P8FZP58)

Your donations will help Buddhist Relief Mission to carry out various programs, such as, providing food, medicine, and other essentials to families, students, schools, monasteries, hospitals, and other institutions in Sri Lanka during this economic crisis, helping refugees in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Thailand, assisting monks and nuns in India and Nepal, supporting Buddhists in American prisons, and responding to emergencies worldwide. Thank you for your generous support!

**Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!**

## Two Appeals

### Exercise

Kandy National Hospital is setting up an exercise gym for psychiatric inpatients. We would like to help.

Do you have any used equipment to donate?  
Please contact us to discuss arrangements.



### Clothing drive

Are your closets over-crowded with clothes you no longer wear or need?

They can be used. We will help find a good home for them where they will be worn and appreciated. Refugees and local institutions. Men's, Women's, Children's, Babies' – everything is OK! Please contact us.



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# Urgent Appeal to Help Provide Medical Care to the a Remote Valley in Nepal

Buddhist Relief Mission has just received this message from Ven. Tsundue, a Tibetan nun whom we have long known and respected. After studying in BodhGaya at the Root Institute for several years, she moved to Nepal, where she is now studying and practicing in Patan, near Kathmandu. Buddhist Relief Mission would like to be part of the project.

We are forwarding this appeal for your consideration and support.



Dear Friends,

Sight to Sky <[www.sighttosky.org](http://www.sighttosky.org)> is raising funds to support a remote Himalayan monastic community in Tsum Valley, Nepal. There is no hospital, no pharmacy, and no doctor.

This heartfelt request comes directly from the Geshema at Rachen Nunnery, where many practitioners have spent years in retreat, dedicating their lives to the Dharma and praying for all sentient beings. Now, they need our support.

With your help, we aim to:

- Hire a full-time nurse for 2 years to care for elderly sangha and local villagers – \$250/month = \$6,000
- Fund emergency helicopter evacuations throughout the year – \$3,500
- Provide 2 wheelchairs – \$200
- Create a 2-year medicine fund for chronic needs (blood pressure, arthritis, gastric illness) – \$10,000
- Provide women's hygiene and feminine care products for the nuns – \$800

**TOTAL: US\$24,500**

Additionally, Sight to Sky will personally sponsor a full-scale medical mission in early November 2025, bringing volunteer doctors to provide eye exams, women's health checkups, general consultations, health education, and free medications.

Every dollar counts. Even \$10 helps one elder receive a week's worth of essential medicine.

The campaign runs through 2025. Please join us in this deeply compassionate mission.

With deep gratitude,  
Liz, Founder of Sight to Sky



[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=65H4QBV2YXPYU](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=65H4QBV2YXPYU)

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# Rohingya Refugees Escaping from Genocide in Myanmar



## Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Most of the world has forgotten the genocide being perpetrated against the Rohingya in Arakan State in Myanmar (Burma).

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority in Myanmar. Though they have resided in Arakan State for many generations, they have frequently been oppressed and persecuted by both the Buddhist majority government and the local Arakan Army, which is also in conflict with the central government. The most recent wave of violence began in 2017 with organized destruction of Rohingya homes and razing of entire villages. Thousands of Rohingya were killed, and many of their bodies were buried in mass graves. This horrendous crackdown has been described as a war crime and genocide. In the eight years since this violence began, there has been a massive exodus of Rohingya fleeing the country. There are more than one and a half million Rohingya struggling to survive in crowded refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Conditions in these camps, the largest in the world, are, to say the least, inadequate, and, with recent reductions in funding from the United Nations, largely due to President Trump's suspension of USAID, the situation has become dire. The suspension of U.S. support has had an outsized and immediate impact, threatening both emergency relief and longer-term prospects for stability. In addition, other countries, including the United Kingdom and Germany have announced their own cuts. Al Jazeera has reported that, since the beginning of this year, food rations have been cut from \$12 a month to \$8 a month to \$6 a month, basically half, and that, at that level, since they can't afford any fish or chicken, they are surviving on just pulses and rice.

Recent aid cuts have forced health clinics to suspend all non-emergency medical services and to reduce support for mental health care, GBV prevention, and services for people with disabilities. It is estimated that more than 300,000 people have been affected by the loss of medical services. Patients with chronic illnesses, in need of prenatal care, or suffering from any non-life-threatening conditions have to seek treatment and to obtain prescriptions, if they can afford it, outside the camps. Plans to provide Hepatitis C treatment to 7,000 people through the World Health Organization have reportedly been put on hold due to the aid freeze.

Of course, educational programs are also in jeopardy. All of the schools set up by the refugees themselves are in dire need of funds to maintain their buildings, to provide books and supplies to the students, and to offer snacks or meals to allow them to continue their studies.



## Sri Lanka

There are two groups of Rohingya refugees in Sri Lanka. The first group of Rohingya, rescued by the Sri Lankan Navy several years ago, have been granted temporary asylum and are staying in Panadura, south of Colombo. The second group, rescued by the Navy in December 2024, are still being held in an Air Force base in Mullaitivu, near Trincomalee. The fate of this group has not yet been decided, and there have been several rallies urging the Sri Lankan Government not to deport them back to Myanmar, where they would be certain to suffer further persecution.

Those in Panadura had, until this year, been receiving a stipend from UNHCR, but, with the closure of the office in Colombo, that stipend was cancelled, and they are struggling. Without legal residence, they cannot find adequate employment, and the children are not eligible to attend public school. Furthermore, they face discrimination in housing arrangements. They are barely subsisting, primarily on private donations. Given our long relationship with Burma (Myanmar), as well as our involvement with refugees, both Indochinese and Burmese, Buddhist Relief Mission would like to help both the refugees in Sri Lanka and those in the camps in Bangladesh.

We appeal to our donors for support. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.



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## UPDATE, September 14, 2025

There are currently 117 Myanmar refugees staying under supervision at the Mullaitivu Air Force camp. Among them are 53 females including young children, 63 males, and even a newborn baby. The group includes infants, children, youth, and adults. The camp authorities have announced that it has become possible to provide necessary supplies for them. Arrangements for donations should be made through the Controller General, Department of Immigration and Emigration. Particular attention should be paid to the children, the elderly, the disabled, the sick, and those with special needs.

Particular attention should be paid to the children, the elderly, the disabled, the sick, and those with special needs.

A team is planning to make a visit to the camp and to carry as many relief supplies as possible.

Donations of packaged food, medicine, clothing, toys, baby formula, diapers, sanitary napkins, toiletries, and any other useful items may be sent or delivered to BRM. 152/1 Riverdale Road, Anniwatte, Kandy 20000.

For more information, call 077-964-9292



Monetary donations may also be made

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<https://srilankanews.lk/en/protest-in-mullaitivu-for-rohingya-refugees/>



## LEAD STORY

## Protest in Mullaitivu for Rohingya refugees

January 9, 2025 / Editor

A protest was held in front of the Mullaitivu District Secretariat today (09) demanding that the refugees from Myanmar who are being held at the Mullaitivu Air Force Base not be deported back to Myanmar.

This protest was held by a group of civil society activists, women's organization representatives, journalists and fishermen.

The protesters have been protesting demanding that the government treat these refugees humanely.

They also submitted an open letter to the government, in which the protesters requested that Sri Lanka act in accordance with the UN Conventions on Refugees to which Sri Lanka is currently a signatory.

Mr. Ruki Fernando, a human rights activist who participated in the event, stated that there are even children among this group. He further stated that if Sri Lanka acts in violation of international agreements regarding this group, the country could be greatly disgraced.



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# Recent Buddhist Relief Mission Activities



## Food Parcels for Needy Families

The recently elected Sri Lankan government is trying very diligently to readjust the economy and to compensate for years of mismanagement and corruption. Nevertheless, inflation is high, and the situation is still critical for many ordinary people. During this difficult time, Buddhist Relief Mission continues to distribute parcels of dry rations to destitute families wherever and whenever we can.

## Uniforms for a School Marching Band



Click the photo for a 12-second video of the band in action

Pete Seeger believed in the power of song, and we agree that music is important to a good education. When we were asked to provide uniforms for this impoverished rural school, we were delighted to find a donor. Please listen to children proudly perform.



## Kandy Cancer Home

Every month, on the 15th, we offer high tea, dry rations, and medicine to the residents of this center. Before they eat, they share merit with donors. Click the photo for a video of their singing "Happy Birthday" to Visakha.



## Venerable Nanda

Each month, we provide a parcel of dry rations and medicine to this elderly nun who resides in a hermitage on a former tea estate near Kandy. We often invite her to join a dana with our students in Anniwatte.



## Ven. Tsundue

We continue to support this Canadian nun, a student of the late Lama Zopa Rinpoche, in her study and practice. She recently celebrated her birthday in Malaysia.



## Medical Assistance

BRM occasionally receives requests for medicine, medical equipment, physical aids, such as a bedside commode or a wheelchair. We try never to refuse such a request. This elderly woman suffers from severe osteoporosis and needed a walker. Godwin Memorial Fund assisted us in buying one.



## Refugee Aid

We were happy to meet members of the Aid Committee of the local mosque and to learn that they are assisting the Rohingya refugees. We will be able to coordinate our efforts with them.

## Poya Day at Methasevana Rehabilitation Center

Every month on Poya Day, the young men at this center take sila and meditate with a monk. BRM provides lunch packets for their practice. In October, Vipul, our SERVAS guest from India, led them through a session of yoga. Congratulations to Amila, who just received his counseling degree from Royal High Campus. Buddhist Relief Mission supported his study.



## School Supplies Donated by "From Our Hands to Their Hearts"

Buddhist Relief Mission was happy to cooperate with this activist youth group in their initiative of donating supplies—exercise books, pens, etc.—to fifty poor students at a small school in a village near Kandy. We were introduced to this group by Rebecca, one of the five female members of the group, who is the daughter of Ashoka, our three-wheeler driver.



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Your donations will help Buddhist Relief Mission to carry out programs such as these, providing food, medicine, and other essentials to families, students, schools, monasteries, hospitals, and other institutions in Sri Lanka and assisting refugees in both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Thank you for your generous support!



When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.

—Maya Angelou



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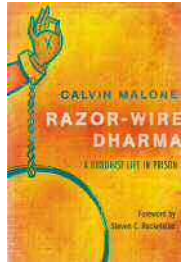
# The Way Home Project

## Empowering Prisoners for Reintegration into Society

### This Worthy Project Must Not Become Homeless!



In Olympia, Washington, Calvin Malone, author of *Razor-Wire Dharma*, a staunch member of Olympia Zen Center, and our friend for more than 30 years, has established a Buddhist program, **The Way Home Project**, both to support incarcerated prisoners and to assist released inmates in their successful readjustment to American society. After four years, the Project and Calvin were suddenly deprived of the house that he had personally repaired, restored, and repurposed! He is urgently in need of support both for his project and for himself.



Here is the current situation of **The Way Home Project** and an outline of the project in Calvin's own words. For more information, please read the description online at our website by clicking on the link below. Thank you

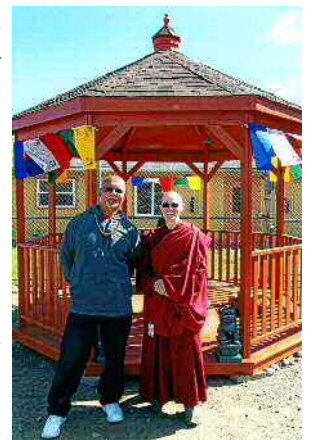
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My name is Calvin Malone. In 1992, while incarcerated at the Walla Walla State Penitentiary in Washington State, I founded a Buddhist meditation group that grew into a strong spiritual community behind the walls. Some of these experiences are shared in my book, *Razor-Wire Dharma*.

After nearly 30 years of incarceration, I was unconditionally released to Olympia, Washington. I carried with me a clear determination: to help my brothers and sisters coming out of prison find stability, dignity, and hope as they re-enter society.

Within six months of release, I partnered with a financially secure friend to launch what became **The Way Home Project**. Together we obtained a house—affordable but in disrepair, with land overgrown by weeds and blackberry bushes.

I personally handled all the repairs, upgrades, and restoration of the property. My partner, who lived in another city, left the day-to-day operation entirely in my hands.



This is a gazebo which Calvin was able to have built as a meditation pagoda in the last prison in which he was incarcerated.

Over the past four years, **The Way-Home Project** has:

- Assisted 14 individuals facing acute housing insecurity after prison.
- Helped residents secure essential documents (birth certificates, IDs, Social Security cards).
- Provided transportation to jobs, training, and medical appointments.
- Offered stability and a safe environment without any government funding.

Support has come from only a handful of kind donors: a Buddhist priest in Switzerland, my community at the Olympia Zen Center, and a few others who believed in this mission.

About a year ago, the property owner abruptly demanded we vacate so he could sell the house. As of today, one resident remains here with me, and neither of us has any alternative.

This struggle reflects a broader national crisis:

- A local survey I conducted revealed that nearly 70% of homeless men had previously been incarcerated.
- Many end up on the streets within weeks or months of release.
- Consistent, wrap-around support is almost non-existent.



Had I been able to demonstrate seven consecutive years of operating a successful program, I would have qualified for a state grant large enough to purchase a permanent home for this work. Instead, the clock has run out on the property, and the men who could benefit most are again left without options.

Formerly incarcerated people are among the most marginalized in America. Once released, few care what happens to them, yet they remain our neighbors, our fellow citizens, and people deserving of dignity. Without support, desperation takes hold. With support, transformation is possible.

**The Way Home Project** is rooted in compassion, resilience, and the belief that no one should be discarded after release. With your help, I can continue this work and give men returning from prison a real chance to rebuild their lives.

If you know of available housing, partnerships, or grant opportunities, your guidance could be invaluable. Every form of support makes a difference—whether through funding, connections, or simply spreading the word. Contributions to sustain this work and help secure a permanent home for **The Way Home Project** can be made via Buddhist Relief Mission.

May you be well and happy.

With gratitude,

Calvin Malone [calvin.malone131@gmail.com](mailto:calvin.malone131@gmail.com)



Continue to Page 2

# The Way Home Project

## Empowering Incarcerated Buddhists for Reintegration into Society

### An Outline of the Philosophy behind the Project



#### Introduction

**The Way Home Project** is grounded in the core principles of compassion, wisdom, and non-harming. Its primary mission is to provide comprehensive support and guidance to incarcerated individuals who identify as Buddhists, helping them cultivate inner transformation and empowerment during their time in prison, and facilitating their successful reintegration into society upon release. Through the lens of Buddhist teachings and practices, the project seeks to foster a positive and lasting impact on the lives of those within the criminal justice system, aiming to break the cycle of suffering and promote healing for individuals and communities affected by incarceration.

1. **Compassionate Understanding**
2. **Mindfulness and Meditation**
3. **Ethics and Responsibility**
4. **Education and Skill Development**
5. **Cultivating Inner Peace and Resilience**
6. **Community Building and Support**
7. **Supporting Incarcerated Buddhists during their Prison Journey**
8. **Facilitating Reintegration into the Community**



#### Conclusion

**The Way Home Project** is guided by the belief in the potential for personal transformation and the inherent goodness within all individuals, regardless of their past mistakes. By offering support, education, and a foundation of Buddhist principles, we seek to empower incarcerated Buddhists to liberate themselves from the cycle of suffering and create a positive impact within themselves and their communities. Through compassion, mindfulness, and ethical living, we envision a society where individuals can find healing, inner peace, and the opportunity for a new beginning, fostering a cycle of understanding, growth, and liberation for all.



**The Way Home Project** is a transformative endeavor with the power to make a lasting impact on the lives of incarcerated individuals and, in turn, on the broader issue of homelessness. By extending the guiding principles of Buddhism and compassionately supporting those on their path to reintegration, this project embodies the spirit of hope and the promise of a brighter future for all. Together, let us journey towards a society that values redemption, restoration, and the boundless potential of the human spirit.

Click [HERE](#) to read Calvin's full explanation of the philosophy behind **The Way Home Project**

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This is the design on a T-shirt which Calvin created while in prison 30 years ago.



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# An Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance for Rescued Rohingya in Sri Lanka



Rohingya Asylum Seekers in Mullaitivu		
Age group	Male	Female
Under 1 year	2 (born in Sri Lanka)	0
1-5	8	7
6-10	7	9
11-18	13	12
19-60	34	22
Over 60	1	2
Total	65	52

It's been almost one year since the last boatload of Rohingya were rescued by the Sri Lankan Navy. These refugees have been housed in an Air Force camp in northern Sri Lanka since December 2024. As you can see in the table, two babies have been born since their arrival! Of course the entire group is in need of assistance!



Background: The Rohingya are a Muslim minority in Arakan State, Myanmar (Burma), who have long been discriminated against and persecuted. Although the Rohingya have lived in Arakan State for centuries and were at one time granted citizenship, successive regimes have claimed that they are recent migrants from Bengal, and have refused to recognize them as just another ethnic group within the nation. 2017 saw the beginning of an organized genocide, and desperate Rohingya families fled for their lives. Whole villages were destroyed and burned, and thousands of Rohingya were killed. Many escaped across the Naf River to neighboring Bangladesh, where there are now more than one million Rohingya in Kutupalong, the world's largest refugee camp, in Cox's Bazar.

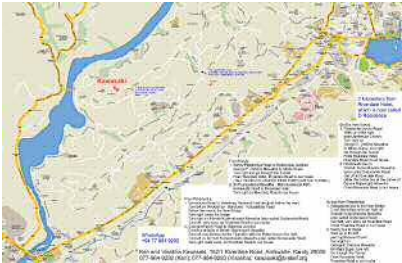
Other Rohingya have escaped by boat, hoping to reach safety in Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia. Often, however, these boats experience engine failure or run out of fuel and drift at sea. In this case, if the boat is not quickly rescued, occupants may die of exhaustion or hunger, or the vessel may capsize, and all drown. The Sri Lankan Navy has rescued several such boats, and the occupants were brought to Sri Lanka. Although the Sri Lankan government has not signed the UN Convention on Refugees, some asylum seekers have been allowed to stay in Panadura, without official recognition. Those on the boat, rescued in December 2024, are still being kept in the Air Force Camp in Mullaitivu. As far as we know, no outside agency has been permitted to visit the camp for many months, so it is difficult to know their situation exactly, but we are sure that they are in need of many things, including toys, clothing (used or new), diapers, laundry soap, sanitary items, baby formula, and basic medicine. From our first appeal, several months ago, we received some funds, but more are needed. Our team, including members of The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, is planning to apply for permission and hopes to enter the camp in the near future. Buddhist Relief Mission would like to help sponsor and take part in this visit. From our Sri Lankan donors, we request children's clothes, coloring books, and toys, used or new. From all of our donors, we request funds to purchase needed items and to cover the cost of transportation to the camp. Thank you very much for your concern, compassion, and support.



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Donations of supplies may be delivered or sent to:

Ken and Visakha Kawasaki  
152/1 Riverdale Road,  
Anniwatte, Kandy 20000



Click the map to download it as a jpg image.

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# Emergency Relief for Sri Lanka after Severe Rain, Wind, Flood, and Landslides

**Thursday, November 27, 2025**  
**All of Sri Lanka placed under RED ALERT**  
**Heavy Rain Warning**

## Safety Guidelines Issued by Disaster Management Authorities

Authorities advise the public to take the following precautions:

### ✓ Stay Indoors

Avoid unnecessary travel during heavy downpours.

### ✓ Move to Higher Ground If Needed

If water begins entering your home or you live near flood-prone rivers.

### ✓ Keep Emergency Supplies Ready

Important documents, water, dry food, torchlights, chargers, first-aid, and baby essentials.

### ✓ Secure Loose Items

Outdoor items, roofing sheets, and temporary structures can become hazards during strong winds.



The Moragahakanda Main Bridge, a vital link between Matale, Polonnaruwa, and Kurunegala districts, was swept away by raging waters. This bridge supported agricultural transport and access to the Moragahakanda Reservoir, the largest in the Mahaweli Development Project. Its collapse has stranded thousands and disrupted irrigation supply lines tied to the reservoir.

On Saturday, November 29, Sri Lanka declared a nationwide state of emergency and appealed for international assistance as Cyclone Ditwah continued to batter the island. The death toll has reached 334 with more than 200 people missing. More than 20,000 homes were destroyed and nearly 180,000 people took refuge in state-run temporary shelters as torrential rains and landslides, triggered by the cyclonic storm, unleashed one of the country's worst natural disasters.

The whole country has been affected, and nearly one-third is without electricity or running water, with power lines downed and water purification systems flooded. Some villages have been completely buried, making civilian-led rescue efforts impossible without military support. Roads, bridges, rail-lines, and power grids have suffered severe damage, paralysing transport and communications networks. There have been widespread breakdowns in electricity, telecom, water supply, and logistics. In some areas, water supply has been stopped. With the flooding of rice and vegetable fields, shortage of food is certain. Already long lines have formed at fueling stations, and shortage of cooking gas is expected. Extraordinary measures will be necessary to prevent panic, to maintain order, and to safeguard shelters, hospitals, and supply lines. In some areas, due to swollen rivers and brimming reservoirs, there are dire warnings of worse to come.



A landslide in Kadugannawa, between Kandy and Colombo, dislodged a huge boulder which fell and crushed a house, killing six people and injuring several others.



A mudslide blocked the Haloluwa Tunnel in Anniwatte, Kandy, near our house. We have heard that this is the only motorable tunnel in Sri Lanka.



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Sri Lankan security forces are carrying out extremely difficult rescue missions across the country, reaching stranded families, evacuating the vulnerable, and saving lives in dangerous conditions.

For international bank transfer, please send a request for instructions.

Everyone in Sri Lanka is being affected by this disaster. The needs are urgent and great, and it will take considerable time for the country, already suffering from an economic crisis, to recover. Buddhist Relief Mission is committed to cooperating with friends, students, and local organizations, to distribute food, medicine, and essential supplies, without discrimination, to as many of the needy as possible. At the same time, we will continue to offer relief to destitute families, schools, monasteries, and other institutions we've been helping for years. We appeal to all our donors and supporters for assistance in these meritorious efforts. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. **Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!**

Buddhist Relief Mission is a 501(c)3 organization, and all donations in the US are tax exempt with the IRS.



Giving to those in need is important for strengthening communities, addressing social problems, and providing both givers and receivers with joy, health benefits, and a sense of purpose. For the giver, it can increase happiness, reduce stress and anxiety, improve physical health, and foster a deeper sense of gratitude and connection to others. For the recipient, it provides crucial support, a sense of hope, and the inspiration to contribute to society as well.



## Buddhist Relief Mission

[www.brelief.org](http://www.brelief.org) – [buddhist@brelief.org](mailto:buddhist@brelief.org)

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