

特別賞

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「助け合いのレーは幸せのレーだ」という言葉は、フランス留学で出会った難民からのものでした。この経験を通じて真の助け合いとは何かを考えました。そして多くの人と幸せを分かち合いたいという想いをこの作品に込めました。

Refugees change my value

One of the most significant events that profoundly influenced my values was my experience during my study abroad in France when I encountered refugees who were involved in collecting school supplies and raising funds to support poor countries. These individuals, who were themselves refugees, faced extreme hardships, lacking even basic necessities such as food and shelter. Despite their difficult circumstances, they remained committed to helping others, driven by a strong sense of responsibility and empathy. When they told me, "We are working to bring happiness to everyone. The relay of helping is a relay of happiness," their words pierced my heart and stayed with me.

Before this encounter, I had always taken pleasure in serving as the HR committee member and camp leader, roles in which I thrived and found fulfillment. However, this experience forced me to reflect deeply on my motivations. I realized that my joy in being appreciated for helping others was, in part, driven by an unconscious desire for recognition and personal satisfaction. This realization led me to critically reassess my approach to helping others, and I felt a profound sense of remorse for the self-serving nature that had underpinned my actions.

The refugees, on the other hand, were not seeking any form of recognition or reward. They were engaged in these activities purely out of a sense of duty and a belief in the importance of helping others. Their actions were driven by the simple yet powerful idea that they had been helped, and therefore, it was only natural to help others in return. This attitude struck me as being closely aligned with Kant's categorical imperative, which emphasizes acting according to principles that could be universally applied as a moral law. The refugees' selflessness and their commitment to what they believed to be the right course of action deeply inspired me and led me to a new understanding of what it means to help others.

Motivated by the values I learned from these refugees, I have since approached my volunteer and committee activities with a renewed sense of purpose. I strive to act not for the sake of recognition or personal gain, but because I genuinely believe in the importance of contributing to the well-being of others. This shift in perspective has also influenced how I interact with my peers. I now make a conscious effort to encourage and inspire those around me to engage in acts of kindness and support, emphasizing the collective benefit of our efforts rather than individual recognition.

In the end, my encounter with these refugees not only changed the way I view volunteering and helping others, but it also fundamentally reshaped my understanding of human relationships and our responsibilities to one another. The lesson they taught me—the idea that "the relay of helping is a relay of happiness"—has become a guiding principle in my life, one that continues to influence my actions and decisions every day. Through this experience, I have come to realize that true fulfillment comes not from what we receive, but from what we are able to give to others.

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