

Affinity of Marrow Stem Cells Donation

# Mathematics Genius Is Reborn

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Huang Yen-Min, suffered from Osteosclerosis Fragilis Generalisata, also known as Marble Bone Disease; he has had a bone marrow transplant when he was just 6 months old. Despite being reborn, Huang suffered amblyopia and moderate mental retardation. He is super sensitive to numbers, otherwise outgoing and a normal happy child. At a face to face meeting with the Hematopoietic stem cell donor on October 15, 2016, both donor and donee have a common characteristic of being positive and outgoing. It was a happy ending.

## Awesome Supernatural Abilities

"Yen-Min, what day of the week is November 5th?" Wang Hsing-Li looked at her son. "Saturday," Yen-Ming responded without thinking while a Tzu Chi volunteer was still searching with his phone. "It is

Saturday," an awed volunteer inquired again, "What about February 6th?"

"Saturday," said Yen-Min, disregarding the volunteer's surprised falsetto and facial expression. The exclamation and unbelievable voice is common to Yen-Min. However, the astonishing facial expressions will never be clearly seen by Yen-Min in his lifetime.

His mom Wang Hsing-Li mentioned his ability to convert lunar dates. So the volunteer again asked, "Then what is the day for May 5th on next year's (2017) lunar calendar?"

Without hesitation, Yen-Min responded, "Tuesday." The speed of his response is even faster than the computer. The volunteers looked at each other and commented simultaneously, "He has a supernatural power!"

Yen-Min was excited seeing the volunteers and he happily pulled his



Chinese homework and practiced writing. He must lower his face touching the notebook in order to see his own writing. His visual distance on one eye is 60 cm while the other is 20 cm. He must distance himself a foot from the television in order to see. Ophthalmologist estimated his vision to be -11.25/-11.25.

A dense cloud, including a spark of golden light, slowly embraced over the volunteers' heart. It was a mixed feeling of empathy and hope...

### **Life Has Unlimited Possibilities**

Two months after birth, when Wang Hsing-Li placed Yen-Min on the bed, she noticed that his eyeballs were glazing

downward and twitching, unable to focus. She took him to a local clinic and he was a suspect of Hydrocephalus. After a month of observation, Yen-Min was transferred to the pediatric department of a larger hospital and they diagnosed Hepatosplenomegaly, or leukemia. Further analysis investigation found that this was not the case.

Unable to find the causes and despite examinations from top to bottom, Yen-Min was referred to Metabolic Genetics department where they found his foot bone mass was higher than normal. Further examinations revealed a rare disease - Malignant Infantile Osteopetrosis, commonly known as "the marble babies." This disease affects the whole nervous



**Due to his amblyopia, Huang Yen-Min must hold his book up-close in order to read the already enlarged fonts. However, he does not give up and enjoys learning.**



**Because of Yen-Min's amblyopia and moderate mental retardation, his mom Wang Hsing-Li is focus and mindful in his education.**

system, which would result in moderate mental retardation. He was only 5 months old at the time.

"I can't believe it! How can this be? He looks so normal." Optimistic Wang Hsing-Li didn't understand why God made such a joke in her life. Her husband, Huang Shian-Yi cried, "I had not killed anyone or set fire on anything. Why my child?!" The joy of a child arrival has not yet dissolved, but a sudden dark cloud flooded the sky. The couple was devastated and in pain.

With genetics testing, both Wang Hsing-Li and Huang Shian-Yi are carriers of Osteopetrosis. The probability of passing the gene defect to children is about 25%. There are only five incidents found in Taiwan reported with this disease. If a patient of Osteopetrosis does not

receive bone marrow transplant, bone growth will continue to harden. Bone cells will change from normal hollow to solid, similar to marble which is hard but brittle. The head will become bigger, and average life expectancy is twelve years.

Love created a happy family but their loving child is being tested. Against all odds and adversities, and despite the obstacles of high mountains, there is a pristine river somewhere. Regardless of wishes, they are like warriors with armor battling the life of their sick child.

### Light Fades and Brightens

Bone marrow transplant is the only resolution to save a life. They searched all hospitals in Taiwan and found National Cheng Kung University Hospital (NCKUH). Previously NCKUH only accepts children older than three years old. Looking at the 5-month old, doctors made an exception to accept the challenge. However, he commended, "There is a good chance of success, but also failure." The fire for life brightens faintly; the hearts of the parents also followed this light, fading and brightening at the same time.

Barely been exposed to the new world, Yen-Min had to learn how to endure pain during chemotherapy, under the tearful eyes of his parents. Because of the slim success rate (1 out of 100,000) of matching bone marrow recipients, hospital staff and Tzu Chi Stem Cells Center quickly launched a search effort. It was

like finding lifesaving driftwood in a vast ocean.

Unimaginable things do happen. It seems like Angels were on the side of Yen-Min for the match. Within a month, there were 6 people in Taiwan confirmed to have compatible hematopoietic stem cells with Yen-Min.

“Gratitude” is the only expression from his parents. They just planted deep inside their hearts the seed of “Giving Back” to the community. Gratitude and Giving Back were the only feelings at the time.

Among the 6 candidates, the one with the most compatible matching was chosen for the hematopoietic stem cell transplant. The following three months were constant checking in and out of the hospital. A unusual four-nurse company

and the medical team of NCKUH provided delicate total care. The transplant gave Yen-Min a new life; however, the side effects of Osteosclerosis left Yen-Min with amblyopia and moderate mental retardation for the rest of his life.

During the battle for transplant, thousands and millions of kind thoughts with love poured in from all over the country. The parents knew that kind of love and support cannot be purchased with money. The warmth from the community allowed them in a chance to give back when Tzu Chi had a bone marrow blood matching activity near Tainan Young-Kan district. Both husband and wife joined this life saving activity to create a cycle of love and compassion. Yen-Min had ignited his parents' compassion.

**During the meeting, Yen-Min under the guidance of the host moved forward to meet his donor, Hung Wen-Pin.**



## With Compassion to Build Bridges

The child is already behind the starting point; Wang Hsing-Li hurried to catch up. She seized every second and every minute to provide Yen-Min's learning opportunities with all her might. She participated in all early intervention classes even though her parents' in-laws were reluctant.

The family's unwillingness to let children suffer and the worries regarding his future had only strengthened her endurance and perseverance. Her youthful face exuberates the shinning maternal love. Her husband was her only support.



**Hung Wen-Pin and his wife came to attend the meeting. At the registration, he was filled with excitement and continuously believed that it was fate that connected him to the recipient and for them to meet in this life.**

Because of Yen-Min, Wang Hsing-Li received a "Loving Mother Taiwan" award. In addition, she learned to be content with life, using gratitude to face everything; she also understands "Seize the Moment" is the most beautiful.

Under the accompanying of Tzu Chi volunteers' care, Yen-Min grew up gradually. To accommodate his special learning environment, Wang Hsing-Li took him to Taipei last year to attend a visual impairment school. Starting 2015, Yen-Min began to learn words. Yen-Min's mathematic skills exceeded children his age. When asked when he visited National Taiwan University Hospital last year, he clearly remembered the date. He also remembered which high speed rail he took without hesitation. Given his high sensitivity toward numbers, it is obvious that God has opened another window of opportunity for him.

At school, Yen-Min uses his white cane. But in a familiar surrounding area like home, he always runs in and out, filled with curiosity. He understands piety and provides massages and tea to his parents. Watching how happy and free in his little world, Hsing-Li is unwilling for Yen-Min to grow up too fast.

However, Yen-Min did not know that there is another person in this earth who shared similar life codes. However, this unfamiliar face remained deeply in Hsing-Yi's heart. Finally, Tzu Chi Stem Cells Center brought the fateful news of meeting each other.



**Donor Hung Wen-Pin, Mrs. Hung, Recipient Huang Yen-Min, father, mother at the reunion meeting.**

## **First Acquaintance, Deep Feelings**

Looking forward to meeting the donor, Hsing-Li took Yen-Min who was happy to go to the meeting place. Surprisingly, wearing a jacket for the weather, donor Hung Wen-Pin's kind smiles and his bulk physique became more hospitable and warmth.

Due to an injury to the spinal cord at age seventeen, Hung Wen-Pin experienced excruciating pain lying supine on the bed. He realized the preciousness of health which planted a kind though to save life in the future.

Hung Wen-Pin is 42 and always thought of the marrow recipient for the past 8 years. Early this year, he was invited

to meet the recipient, and his first thought was, "Is he ok?" At that moment, when he learned that the recipient is alive, his heart was filled with assurance and happiness. He still believes that fate has connected them to allow them to meet in this life.

On October 15th, 2016, Tainan Jing Si Hall hosted "the 23rd annual Tzu Chi Stem Cells Center Reunion. Smiles and tears filled the stage. Wang Hsing-Li met her son's life saver to have such courageous physique and compassionate smiles. She finally understands why her calm tempered son is so active and outgoing. Hung Wen-Pin prepared dumbbells as present for Yen-Min. Despite the silent dumbbells, they filled the atmosphere with love.