



Hospital Staff as Taiwan Tulip Movement Disorder Association Volunteers

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Photo by: Tulip Movement Disorder Association

Flash of an Idea, Becoming of a Volunteer

There is a group of people working in the deep mountains. They take care of their patients while on the job. They take care of their patients while off-duty. To the ordinary people, it is a burden, but to this group of people it is joyful. The group is expanding by the day. The group started because in 2007 a doctor full of love attended the first World Parkinson Congress. From the meeting, this doctor came back with the idea that people in the health-care business should not just provide medical care to their patients. They should also provide care and resources for the patients' living, work, and mental status. This doctor is a professor of Neurosurgery, Chen Hsin-Yuan. Dr. Chen is the director of a medical department as well as the neurological department of the Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital. With the kind heart of Dr. Chen, a group of volunteers came together about ten years ago to organize this Tulip Movement Disorder Association in the back mountains (behind Hualien). Dr. Chen and his team of medical professionals share the idea of treating patients as friends. In this way, their patients feel like they are members of a medical team. Tzu Chi volunteers also encourage themselves to learn from their patients and called them "Park Friends", or "Friends".

Encourage Their Patients to Participate in a Multitude of Activities


The Association offers medical lectures routinely. It also sponsors many stress relief workshops, such as yoga, tai chi as well as making of butterfly art. These varieties of activities are welcome with enthusiasm for participants. The Association also encourages patients to form small groups with special interests. These small groups have their own schedule of activities. As a result, a northern group likes to sing, to play tai chi, while a southern group loves to hike and bike, and an eastern group gets together to dance. With these activities, our patients clearly show that they can overcome their physical difficulties with strong mental wills.





Volunteers of the Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital Tulip Movement Disorder Association, from left: Supervisor of Neurology Dr. Lin Sheng-Huang, Secretary of Tulip Movement Disorder Association Yang I-Fung, Neurosurgeon Dr. Tsai Sheng-Chung, Head Nurse Yu Chai-Lung, Parkinson Researcher Ho Tien-Wen, Associate Head Nurse Kung Fan-Chun, Liao Hsin-Yao (wife of Dr.Chen Hsin-Yuan), Specialist Lee Chih-Wei, Director Dr. Chen Hsin-Yuan, Parkinson Researcher Lo I-Hsin, Assistant Researcher Chen Yu-Yu, Personal Assistant Lin Yu-Ting, Personal Assistant Chen Yu-Chen, Supervisor Wang Wan-Hsiang.

In order to educate the public about the Parkinson diseases, the Tulip Movement Disorder Association encourages all patients to step into the open world. In 2014, the Association sponsored an annual memorial concert, at or around the World Parkinson



Day. Our first concert invited many established singers to perform. Gradually, we included our Friends to perform on stage. This way, our Friends not only can enjoy the performance, they actually become part of it. Through these kinds of activities, we showed the public the courage of our Friends to fight their diseases and their determination to overcome obstacles. Through these concerts, we attracted more and more new volunteers and new Friends.

The day before our 2017 concert, we encouraged our Friends to make posters to illustrate their battles with the diseases. The posters were made with professional quality comparing with those in medical conferences.

On the day before our 2018 concert, we invited members of Hong Kong Parkinson Diseases Organization to participate in a road walk. These handicapped patients were inspired, that they all bravely run/walk without giving up.

Hand-in-Hand, They Walked

A very special activity organized by the Association is our spring and autumn trips. Our Friends now have travelled all over Taiwan in recent years. Because of the difficulties of physical movement with Parkinson disease, care of our Friends during the trip is a great concern for patients as well as families. However, our volunteers are all healthcare professionals; this earned their trust and relieved their concerns. Therefore, every time we sponsored a trip we had at least two busloads of participants. The volunteers were so moved every time when witnessing the Friends overcoming their handicaps and walked out to the open world. On the other hand, the selfless accompanying of the Friends' families was highly admired by the volunteers.

Often times, patient's family would share their difficulties in caring for their loved ones. However, the answer is always that with love they always can figure out the best way. The objective of the Association appears to be taking care of our Parkinson patients and their families by our volunteers. However, taking a deeper look into our activities we realized that the experience not only improves our work skill but also beautifies our lives.

Since the forming of our Association ten years ago, our activities never stop. As the organization grows, our volunteers also grow with it. We learn to help each other selflessly and to learn from each other. From our Friends, we also learn to be brave, to walk out of the clouds and to live with the illness.