

The Courage and Strength of Life for Pediatric Patients

Everyone has dream that brings hope. We work hard to have the dream comes true. However, some dreams seem easy to accomplish while others are hard to overcome. Therefore, the support of the medical team is needed for the extra push to have the dream comes true.

The Call Inside His Heart Helps Rekindle Enthusiasm of Life

I still remember this 5-year-old patient named Kaikai diagnosed with Malignant Neuroblastoma. The side effects of chemotherapy made him felt extremely sick, with broken skin inside his mouth, sustained nausea and vomiting. No matter how his father or the hospital prepared delicious foods for him, he had no appetite, and just relied on intravenous injection with life-sustaining nutrition, which made his father felt really overwhelmed and worried. Once when I was talking with Kaikai's father, he mentioned donuts as Kaikai favorite. One day when I got off my work I remembered the conversation with Kaikai's father, so I bought some donuts for Kaikai, although I was not sure that if he wanted to eat donuts. Surprisingly, the moment when Kaikai

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saw donuts, he showed me a big smile that had never shown for a long time, and gave donuts a bite excitedly, at that time his father thanked me repeatedly. After that, when the day that Kaikai left us to be an angel in the heaven came, his father hugged me, crying and saying “Thank you! Thank you!” He still remembered what I’ve done for Kaikai, he said: “Since Kaikai was diagnosed with the serious disease, my wife and I restricted him on almost everything including his favorite donuts...” Since I accidentally bought Kaikai donuts he was able to satisfy his little wish. Thus, even though Kaikai is gone, the father will not have to regret about his decision.



Sometimes, our ward will become a mini live concert. Once when I was patrolling ward, I heard a pleasing sound played by guitar came from corridor. Listening carefully, I recognized it was a Japanese song. Along the pleasing music I found and walked into the ward, it was Zhijian, a 19-year-old boy who was playing the guitar. Zhijian loves playing guitar so much that he hopes one day he can play it on the concert and show his voice to everyone. However, since he accepted Autologous Stem Cell transplantation for twice, his recovery became much slower than our anticipation, and his physical strength weaken sharply, which made Zhijian couldn’t play guitar as usual. One day morning when I passed by his bed, I saw him took his guitar and gazed it, I asked him: “what do you want to do most right now?” He just said a few words: “I don’t know if I have any chance to play my guitar and sing a song in the future...” On that afternoon, took advantage of Zhijian’s better strength, me and a group of medical team worker came to the ward, invited him to play the guitar and sing songs. Seeing his white slim fingers playing on the guitar, with long hair around his shoulder, Zhijian seemed extremely like a singer on television! Then we sang few songs and Zhijian accompanied with guitar, in the narrow ward, everyone cheered to him: “Idol! Idol! Please give me a signature!” We had enjoyed a noisy but funny afternoon. From then on, Zhijian seemed to found his stimulus and enthusiasm back, we could hear pleasing music from his ward again.



Wenwen: “I just want to come back to my classroom and have lessons.”

Serving in pediatric ward, if we knew kids have any dreams, we will try our best to help satisfying their wishes immediately.

Wenwen is living in Guangfu Township, Hualien County. She was unfortunately diagnosed with Malignant Osteosarcoma, and she came back to our ward again because of her cancer recurrence, along with transferring cancer cells throughout her many other organs. Although 11-year-old Wenwen accepted suffering therapy in the hospital, she never gave up her schoolwork, accepting beside teaching during the hospitalization. We always saw she was writing examination paper carefully when her physical condition became better. Wenwen told her parents that her best wish was come back to school and have lessons with her classmates. Her parents told us, asking if we could satisfy her dream. After being

assessed by attending physician and discussed by medical team members, they found Make-A-Wish, a foundation that helps children under 18-year-old to accomplish their dreams, to help Wenwen. When that day came, in the morning, Wenwen and me (I was responsible for her nursing care during discharge time) followed social worker and staffs from the foundation, we took train to Guangfu Elementary School. Principal, teachers and her classmates also participated in the dream-accomplish-action plan. When Wenwen arrived in the classroom, she caught up the last lesson in the morning, math. She sat on her seat, listening the lesson carefully. After class, all people gather in the classroom to hold a party for her. Teachers and classmates came to Wenwen and sent her blessing cards. They had a great time with eating and playing. Wenwen put on her favorite scorpion wig, she was so happy that although she had to put on mask all the time, through her smiling eye, we could feel her hard to conceal her excitement. Her mother also told us that Wenwen said her feet didn't feel pain on that day.

Actually, from the plan started to finished, because of her instability physical condition, we had to change the content of the plan constantly. During the planning, she felt extremely pain of her bone, and she couldn't leave the sickbed. Seeing these, we almost gave up, trying to hold the party in the hospital instead of the original plan. Fortunately, her condition was relieved under the medicine control, though it was slight but we seized the opportunity and set up the plan. Finally, Wenwen contentedly came back to the hospital to accept palliative treatment, after her dream came true.

Taking Sasaya to the Baseball Field to Play

It was a sad story that a five-year-old boy Sasaya was diagnosed with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia



For Sasaya to accept treatment attentively, pediatric nursing team of Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital together with social worker help him accomplish baseball dream, and paint a poster to encourage him.

when he was only one year old. This disease is mostly found in adults, but unfortunately happened in Sasaya. His condition was controlled well because he took chemotherapy, however the cancer reappeared out of our prediction, turning into Acute Myeloid Leukemia with high malignancy. He had to accepted bone marrow transplantation surgery immediately, but since he could hardly make a pair with non-relative donor, doctors had to discuss with his parents and operated him with parent-child semi-matched bone marrow transplantation surgery. Thus, he is the first case in Hualien Tzu Chi hospital, accepting parent-child transplantation surgery.

Before the transplantation surgery begun, his parents told us that he loves playing baseball, each time when he saw his brother competing with peers, he shouted to them that he also wanted to play baseball and became a pitcher in the future. Thus, during the surgery time, we especially prepared a pair of baseball glove and a bat for him, hoping he could successfully get through the surgery. After transferring out of the transplantation ward, Sasaya's physical condition became worse than before, he always shouted for his painful feet, he spent most of his time laying on the bed. Although he could hardly leave his bed, he still kept his baseball glove and bat on his desk, telling his parents not to pack it up, or he couldn't see it at any time. Seeing his suffering, my team and I felt extremely sympathy for him. Fortunately, under social worker's assistance we contacted with Make-A-Wish foundation again, asked for a cooperation. We together assessed Sasaya's condition and communicated with another organization for many times, finally we successfully contacted with a baseball coach and principal, both from Chung Zhen Primary School, and we made an agreement that we would choose a day to satisfy his dream, together with medical team from the hospital and baseball team from the primary school.

When that day came, I helped him put on his exclusive jersey, socks and shoes. With the best-looking suit on his body, Sasaya's lovely face showed us a smile that had not appeared for a long time. He seemed to forget any painful he was suffering, enjoying the moment on the playground, pitching and swinging. When they get home, Sasaya's mother called me and said: "He's so excited that he doesn't want to take off his suit!" Through the telephone, Sasaya told me: "Miss nursing director, would you like to come to my house? It's really funny!" This was the first time he took off his alert and invited us, and from that moment on, as long as he had to get an injection and blood draw, he always designated me



to help him finished it. Although still scared to cry, he could hold back painful and wait until the process ended.

For helping patients to accomplish their dreams, all the team members, wherever they come from, they have to support and throw themselves into the planning. Before the plan implement, the preparation work includes vehicles and dream place arrangement. Beside evaluate patients' physical conditions, medical team members also need to discuss any unpredictable situation, preparing medical machines such as absorption, surgical dressing, blood-pressure meter, thermometer and so on, to made provision against emergencies. Also, patients' families and other staffs must understand the whole process and attentions of the plan. Everyone must know, all the complicated preparations have the same goal: to help the dream-accomplishment plan finish with smooth and safety.

According to several times of dream-accomplishment plans' participation, we appreciate all the workers from Make-A-Wish foundation, thank you for your generous investment for cancer children. We also feel appreciate for those kids' parents, they listen and respect their kids' wishes, which give us a chance to know what these children thinking and how we can help them accomplish it. Of course, we express our most appreciation for these brave angels, from their willing to make a sound for themselves and make great efforts to chase dreams, we learn the courage and strength of life for them.