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Donating PPE to Large Hospitals and Small Clinics Alike

Tzu Chi volunteers in Atlanta have constantly been on the lookout for signals of help from medical facilities and supplying them with PPE in response. On May 18th, 20th, and 22nd, the volunteers donated PPE to seven hospitals and nine departments, which amounted to a total of 30750 surgical masks, 1840 medical masks, 2000 KN95 masks, 200 goggles, and 150 protective gowns.

For Emory University Hospital's ICU department, this was the second time that they had received a donation from Tzu Chi. When the PPE arrived, nurse Hu Jing contacted her coworkers and took a picture of the many front line workers surrounding the boxes of medical masks. These front line workers, whose faces were darkened by the pandemic, who fought for lives with their lives, seemed to be reborn with hope at the sight of more supplies.

Tzu Chi volunteers also donated PPE to Emory Johns Creek Hospital. They listened to the many stories of the front line workers, such as the anesthesiologist who risked contraction of the virus attaching ventilators onto patients. Anesthesiologists seemed to be the condensed form of every single



(Second picture) Front line workers at Emory University Hospital felt a burst of hope seeing the donated PPE, and they took a picture to express their gratitude for Tzu Chi.



(Fourth Picture) "Grandpa Pablo," as called by his patients, kept his clinic open in the midst of the pandemic to serve the public. Dr. Chen Yingwei (left) and several volunteers donated PPE to his clinic.

front line worker—fighting ardently for the wellbeing of another and not the self, earning the respect of many volunteers. As a result, Tzu Chi volunteers, no matter how far the distance, are always there for front line workers with any supplies they can get. Tzu Chi volunteers also sent supplies to Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center, which was a one-hour drive away, and to Houston Healthcare Perry Hospital, which was a two and a half hour drive away, allowing hospitals in



To protect the health of the citizens, Tzu Chi's Atlanta Headquarters distributed free masks on May 23rd.

rural cities to feel the support and love of Tzu Chi.

Protecting Aged Local Doctors with Masks

Even before the pandemic, people would constantly flock to their family doctor at first sight of an ailment, and people with chronic illnesses, teeth pain, and eye-related diseases need routine consultation. Therefore, many clinics remain open to maintain the health of such patients. To help the clinics, Dr. Chen Yingwei, convener of Atlanta members of TIMA, contacted clinics and began to distribute PPE to the clinics.

Seventy-seven year old Dr. Pablo Quintanilla of the Clinica Union has been providing medical consultation to local Hispanics in the midst of the pandemic. Many of his patients have visited him since a young age, so Grandpa Pablo could not bear to close his clinic in consideration of personal safety.

Eighty year old Dr. He Zhida was a US INS Designated Civil Surgeon. Because there were not many like him,

Dr. He was also seeing patients in the middle of the pandemic to continue the Immigration Medical Exam service for new immigrants.

Compared to front line workers in large hospitals, these aged doctors who worked in small clinics suffered more from lack of resources. Not only did they need to wear the masks, they also needed to give them to patients, which resulted in a larger lack of masks. Even worse, they were constantly overlooked for mask donations due to their clinics' size.

On May 26th, TIMA volunteers in Atlanta donated 8500 medical masks, 1020 KN95 masks, and 150 goggles to fifteen clinics. Doctors from these clinics expressed their gratitude for Tzu Chi's care, bringing warmth in these difficult times.

Besides donating to medical workers, Tzu Chi volunteers in Atlanta organized a drive-through mask pickup at their headquarters to protect the health of ordinary citizens. There was a long line of cars in the early morning, and some people even arrived in electric wheelchairs. Volunteers gave masks and Tzu Chi's publications, giving 7610 masks. These services benefitted Asians, Caucasians, African Americans, Hispanics, and other ethnicities alike. Although everyone was wearing masks and could not get a clear glimpse of each other's complexion, gratitude could be felt through every bow and wave.