

The Young Boy Met His Life - Saving No- Blood Related Uncle

By Chen Ching-Hsiang & Liu Chen-Chen

Donor Hung Jia-Jun

Recipient Tang Bin-Chen

Every year we prepared the “Happy Meeting” reunion event with the bone marrow donors and recipients, the 28th annual celebration was held on October 2021 at Buddhist Tzu Chi Stem Cells Center. Because of COVID, there were only 3 pairs attended to avoid the group gathering.

The venue of the celebration was the Da-Ai Television Station, there was only the host Chen Chu-Chi, the donors, the recipients, family members, the bone marrow colleagues, volunteers, and the photographer from television, for those who couldn't attend in person participated the on-line setting.

Tang Bin-Chen is 13 years old this year, and his donor is 37 years old Hung Jia-Jun who lives in the city of Taipei. Tang Bin-Chen first showed sign

of illness when he was three. He went through numerous chemo treatments in the hospital and spent most of his childhood in the hospital. When he was 7 years old his lymphoid leukemia turned into myeloid leukemia and had to seek for bone marrow transplant. Now he is a junior high school student. When his donor Hung Jia-Jun heard about the match, the couple was going through infertility treatment, but they stopped the treatment and prepared the marrow transplant to save a young life. The luckiest news is after the transplant of bone marrow, the couple had two young kids. Thus the family brought the two young kids who wished to meet Bin-Chen who was like a brother to them even though they have never met.



The recipient Tang Bin-Chen (right 2) and mother Lin Chao-Chin (right 3) presented a bouquet to his donor Hung Jia-Jun (the middle). The right 1 was the hostess Chen Chu-Chi.

This Cute Little Boy Accepted His Own Fate with Leukemia Spent his Childhood in the Hospital

Tang Bin-Chen, the pretty looking boy, came accompanied by his mother and brother. Bin-Chen has a teenager's shyness and was not very talkative. Since 7 years old, the bone marrow transfer helped him stay away from the hospital and grow up like other school kids.

"Bin-Chen first showed symptom when there were many bumps on his neck and high fever. After diagnosis, the doctor determined that was lymphocytic leukemia. Then he started chemo treatment in the hospital." The mother described those days when he first showed the symptoms. The kids his age were playing and he was at the hospital for chemo treatment. "He was still in diapers and he couldn't even stand up steadily, and he had to be confined in the hospital room with curtain drawn. He could only move around in the hospital bed."

For three years, he was constantly in and out of the hospital. Seeing his little body suffer by the treatment, the mother said her heart was painful and so sorry for he suffers. But Bin-Chen was extraordinarily brave and never cried or cranky about the situation. She said, "He didn't cry for injection or blood draw. Sometimes, they couldn't get blood from the hand and had to get it from the leg;

he never cried and just held me tightly."

Originally, the plan was to continue with chemo treatment, but it had recurrence twice. Then in 2015, it morphed from lymphocytic leukemia to myeloid leukemia, and he needed bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, even with the same genetics, his brother and mother did not match. Thus, the hospital had to ask Tzu Chi Bone Marrow Center to find a bone marrow match. Luckily there was a match and the donor agreed for the transplant. Two months later, Bin-Chen left the hospital in good health.

A Mother Is Always Strong and Holding Up

Bin-Chen's mother Lin Chao-Chin's parents-in-law passed away a while back. Her husband originally worked for a technology company but had a stroke when she was pregnant with Bin-



Ms. Lin Chao-Chin was sorry that her son Bin-Chen's childhood were trapped in the hospital bed.

Chen. Bin-Chen's brother was only 1 year old when her own mother was old and with ill health. She had to take care of everyone in the family. After knowing Bin-Chen's condition, she had no time to be depressed or in pain, she didn't want to show any sign of sadness in front of the family. She could only feel sad when no one was around her like in the middle of the night. Luckily, she had religious beliefs and her church friends were like sisters to her. She had plenty of support such as delivering meals or moral support; she was able to go through this hardship.

She saw a lot of young sick persons die during the hospital stay with her son, she was also worried about her own son. Fortunately, they found the match. She was so glad that Hung Jia-Jun agreed to donate, and the transfer was very successful. Although there was a little rejection such as some skin flakes on the legs, she felt her family was still intact, and Bin-Chen was able to recover and returned to school.

After Bin-Chen's recovery, he didn't have to be confined in a small room and without a mask, could breathe the fresh air, happily find the insects in the grasses, and freely walk on the street. The most important thing was he could go to school and meet many new classmates.

Thinking of meeting the savor, Lin Chao-Chin couldn't sleep the night before, and kept on thinking what to say to the savor to express her appreciation.



In 2015 during the donation period, Hung Jia-Jun and wife delayed their birthing plan in order to save a life.



After a transplant, the mother Lin was so happy that Bin-Chen could run in the sunshine, and play outdoors, and happy that her son was growing up healthily.

Saving Life First, the Donor Stopped the Treatment of Infertility

Donor Hung Jia-Jun came on the "Meet and Greet" day with his younger son on his back and holding the hands of his wife and older son. The whole family came to Guandu to meet this new "relative" .



In 2005, when Jia-Jun was still a college student, he walked by the big retail stores and saw the campaign for bone marrow donation, and no one was putting down their names. He thought since he had donated blood periodically, without a second thought he went in and got a blood test. “This is a good deed of saving lives.” Jia-Jun only thought “Saving a life is a good deed,” and if he could be one of those donors, “why not?”

In 2007, he got the first notice that there was a match with him, and he was servicing the army. However, the patient chose another treatment, so he did not donate that time. Then in 2015, he received the 2nd notice of match, he

thought he was very lucky that he was able to donate. His mother was a Tzu Chi volunteer, but his father was more old-fashioned and might object to this. Thus, he didn’t tell his father. “Since I’ve promised to help save a life, I can’t disappoint the recipient.”

In order to donate, Jia-Jun made some changes to his daily life. When he received the match notice, his blood pressure was a little bit high. In order to maintain his body condition, he started adjusting his daily life and watching his diet. Originally he only loved to eat meat and he changed to a balanced meal with more vegetables and fruits. He needs to maintain his health condition well. From injecting the white blood cell growth



After Hung Jia-Jun donated the bone marrow, his wife was pregnant naturally and had two sons consecutively.

hormone to the donation day of the bone marrow, he made this donation a top priority and did as the plan called for.

Also, Hung Jia-Jun and his wife Wu Jia-Jeng weren't able to have a baby and they were longing to have their kids. During the year 2015, they were going through infertility treatment; thus they had to change their plan after they received the match news. "Helping others is a good thing." Mrs. Hung was very supportive of her husband's decision because they could feel the other family's anxiety. She said with humor that they didn't have kids for so long anyway. Thus, with the doctor's approval, they decided to go ahead with the bone marrow transplant.

"Our first son was born after the donation of bone marrow and was by nature, not from infertility treatment. It was because Jia-Jun had a business trip and had to stop the treatment, then I became pregnant." This was like good karma, and this luck returned to them. The couple now has two kids and understand the mother's feelings. Now they saved the stem cells and umbilical cord blood, so they can keep on helping others in the future.

Not a Talkative Man, But Lead the Circle of Good Deeds

Hung Jia-Jun is not a very talkative person, he answers every question with a short "yes" or "okay", sometimes

he makes the volunteer Lu Ai-Yu misinterpreted his action as he doesn't want to donate. After a while, the volunteers realized that the couple is very committed and enthusiastic of help others.

From the small amount of blood donation, the couple discussed this donation must be for a child. Today, they witnessed that child has grown up to be a healthy youngster. Since Tang Bin-Chen entered adolescence, he was also not very talkative. With shyness, he sincerely thanked Hung Jia-Jun gave him a reborn life, so he could live with family and go to school like other kids, and enjoy the sunshine.

Lin Chao-Chin prepared a backpack made by herself, along with the hand-made paper cranes by her son Bin-Chen, and presented to Hung Jia-Jun as an expression of their appreciation. Jia-Jun immediately put on the backpack and took a picture with his son. Mrs. Hung told Lin, "The recipient may change his character that similar to the donor. My husband is filial to his parents; Bin-Chen will be filial to you when he grows up." After going through past hardship, Lin Chao-Chin saw her child healthily growing up with gratitude.

The love of donating bone marrow is a pure love, the saving of fragile youthful life and let the other family intact is so precious. Best wishes to the donors: A home with kind-hearted people deserves happiness.