



The Joy Radiates from Within

By Zen Wei-Chuan, Deputy Head Nurse for the Surgical ICU, Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital

I came to Dalin Tzu Chi hospital in 2013 and since then I worked in the ICU for the surgical unit. Back then, the hospital hall was always filled with people visiting. Wherever you went, you could see volunteers from Tzu Chi.

This was also true in the Surgical ICU unit. In this unit, every morning after the shift change, we had many nursing tasks, such as changing wounds dressing, dispensing medicine, tube-feeding, or turning patients. I would be busy doing these tasks and showing no emotion, until the Tzu Chi volunteers greeted me with, “Ms. Nurse, good morning!” Then I would reply with a smile and no longer felt I was showing a stony face.

Not only would Tzu Chi volunteers in the ICU accompany the patients, and calm the patient’s family, they would also be good helpers for the nurses. Typically, they made milk from milk powder, fed the patients, helped visitors to put-on protective gowns, etc. They also kindly reminded us to drink, “Nurse, don’t forget to drink water.” “Nurse, have you eaten yet, remember to eat.” It always gave everyone a warm feeling.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have gone two years without seeing Tzu Chi volunteers, such as Tzu-Cheng Dads and Yi-Te Moms, and other volunteers. We found our jobs stressful without their presence. Everyone was feeling anxiety. We were lucky to still have the Tzu Chi Cultural Team members Yinyin and Bi-Jen continue to show concern and support us. The ways they showed their support were by making mung bean soup, or purple rice red bean soups, or a hot herbal tea that would help us stay protected from the pandemic, and then by putting the foods and drinks on our meeting table.

One of the reasons that I came from Taoyuan to Chiayi Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital was because I heard a familiar Tzu Chi volunteer uncle say: “Dalin Tzu Chi is a humanity-based hospital. The simple humane touch culture is felt at Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital. Since I came to work for Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital, I looked forward to seeing those Tzu Chi parents visiting us more than on pay-day or on New Year’s Eve. They all came from different areas; some even came from as far away as Little Liuqiu Island by boat. They always brought tons of vegetarian cuisines, prepared with love. Even non-vegans also



loved the food, and also celebrated their colleagues' birthday.”

Tzu Chi moms and dads couldn't come to hospital to visit us, but we could meet with each other through the video conferences. Sometimes they would screen shot our morning video conferences. The screen would show that we were sharing our experience in the nursing field. The message said “We could see our children are sharing in the meeting.” They would mail biscuits and seasonal fruits to us, and said “Although we can't meet with you and cook the hot food for you, we still hope that you can see us during the pandemic and we send you our love and care.” We felt so lucky!

In this pandemic, we still have a long way to go. I learned from the volunteers and Tzu Chi parents to always smile to radiate the happiness deep from my heart. No matter what happens, I would always treasure this fate and I do my best to devote my talent and energy to repay the love I received from the Tzu Chi family. I also wish Tzu Chi volunteers and Tzu Chi parents to be safe and healthy. Hopefully the pandemic will soon be over and we look forward to meeting them again.