



I'm Not a Youth Without Goals

By Jiang Ren-Jie, RN, 12A Ward, Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital

I was born in the Yingge District of New Taipei City, a pristine and quite place. Almost all the children in my family are girls. Probably that is the reason why my personality is not as outspoken and firm as a lot of boys. On the contrary, I am a little more docile and weak.

The person who influenced me the most was my dad. There are four children in the family, but he never treated them differently and gave the same love to all. He has an easy-going personality. As long as we make a decision, he will basically not stop us. As a result, I have no idea about the future. When I was still in school and worrying about the future, my Junior High School teacher gave me information about the "Tzu Chi University of Science and Technology Nursing Department Indigenous Class". He told me since I am an Indigenous person, I may apply.

Thousands of miles away, I went all the way from Yingge District to Hualien Ji'an Township Tzu Chi University of Science and Technology. The first thought was, this place actually is more rural than Yingge District! Little did I know that I completely fell in love with this place. I successfully secured a guaranteed spot among 100 places in the admissions exam and made going to Hualien my 1st choice.

For a fifteen-year-old kid who has never left home alone, going to Hualien undoubtedly is a huge challenge.





There were no family members to wake me up and take me to class and no familiar friends to talk to. First year was the hardest: adapting to the environment, peers and schoolwork pressure, etc. I couldn't help but shed tears, complaining about the decision I made; just want to drop out of school and go home. When I thought about how worried my parents would be, I held back my tears and grinding my teeth to make it through. I became stronger. No matter how difficult the internship was, no matter how difficult the report was, all were successfully completed. In fifth grade, I chose to graduate and take the National Nursing exam and then directly enter the workplace. Being too conceited, I didn't take the National Examination seriously. After the results were released, I found out that I didn't pass the exam and regret it. I went to Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital feeling defeated.

Because I didn't get the license, I had to study and work at the same time. For a newcomer who just entered the workplace, it undoubtedly increased the difficulty in the workplace. While learning clinical knowledge and skills that are more challenging than studying, one also needs to review all the lessons taught in previous classes. In addition, my original personality is an introvert with little self-confidence. When communicating with patients and colleagues, I often have to rehearse something in my mind before I can express it. I was really sad when I was taking exams and working at the same time. Head Nurse Zhang Jun-Yu took good care of me at that time. Half of



the credit for getting the license is due to her. She urged me to study, which helped me clinically and often encouraged me, giving me the motivation to persevere.

After successfully passing the license exam, I became more proficient at work and adapted in the unit. Just when I thought all the problems were solved, the shocking Coronavirus (COVID-19) hit us and the first confirmed case appeared in our unit.

After a series of contingency measures, our unit became the first dedicated ward in the hospital. This is the first time everyone wearing an isolation gown to fight the pandemic. There were many problems to overcome, such as unable to eat, go to the toilet and also worried about the risk of being infected. In such a high-pressure environment, everyone still held on and passed through the difficult days together.

Until this year, we have survived three waves of the pandemic together. Despite our past experience, we still have many uncertainties to face. We are still nervous and scared, but as long as we stick together, there is the motivation to persevere.

Looking back over the years, there have been difficulties, big and small, in the process from the college to the workplace. From blaming others to treating difficulties as experience. From a youth without goals, I grew up and learned to be independent and have the courage to accept anything. I dare not say how powerful I am, but compared with my former self, I can proudly say that I have grown up.