

Feel the Pain of those in Pain, Give Thoughtful Love



After nearly 60 years of history, Tzu Chi has developed its four major missions: charity to alleviate poverty, medicine to care for the sick, education to inspire hope for society, and humanistic culture to unfold the beauty of humanity. Among these, building the medical mission was particularly difficult, but also especially meaningful. Suffering is common in life, but the pain of illness is among the greatest. Therefore, healthcare is crucial, as it is a powerful remedy to alleviate human suffering.

Patients need doctors not only to treat their physical ailments but also to address their spiritual concerns. We often say that there must be compassion between doctors and patients. With sincerity, doctors and nurses provide heartfelt care, which patients can truly feel. In the Tzu Chi healthcare system, I have heard many touching stories of doctor-patient relationships. The pain of the patient is also the pain of the doctor. We treat every patient as a family member, sharing in their suffering. Sometimes, when I see our medical team visiting patients' homes to provide care, the only words I can use to describe it are "thoughtful love."

I have deep respect and gratitude for our medical personnel. In their tireless efforts to save lives, especially during the pandemic, they have stood on the front lines of danger. In the past, when enemy forces attacked a city, generals would wear armor to defend the gates. Today, doctors and nurses are like those generals, protecting the safety of all by standing on the front lines.

I still remember during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, when healthcare workers finished their shifts and removed their protective suits, their clothes were soaked through, and they could even wring out sweat. It was incredibly difficult. However, we should focus on the blessings, not



the hardships. The sacrifices made during that time were great, and the responsibility was heavy, but thankfully, we have safely emerged from it. Every profession has a social responsibility, and healthcare carries the weight of safeguarding public health, which is no easy task. This is how we realize the value of life. Therefore, we must be grateful to ourselves and to our teams.

Gratitude cannot be expressed enough. Many things cannot be accomplished by one person alone. However, “as long as there is determination, nothing is impossible.” My initial intention to build a hospital was to address the shortage of medical resources. Now, medical resources are more abundant across Taiwan, and that is a good thing, as more patients can receive the care they need. Tzu Chi’s medical mission is not driven by profit or competition, but we hold ourselves to a higher standard, continuously striving to improve the quality of care so that it can be more comprehensive and patient-oriented.

