

COMPASSION & RELIEF

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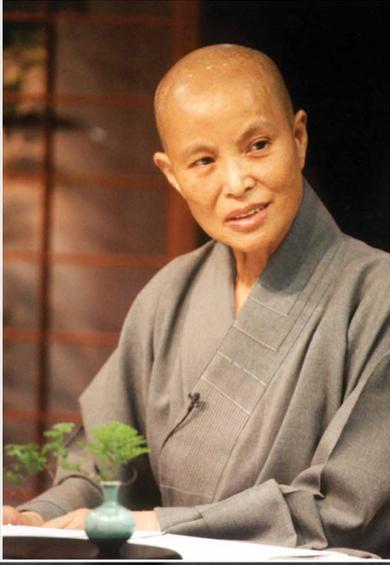
TZU CHI *USA Journal*



Celebrating 30 Years of Youth Empowerment

Tzu Chi's Global GIVINGTUESDAY Journey

Honoring Han Huang's Luminous Legacy



CONTEMPLATIVE WISDOM

Thoughts for meditation, contemplation,
and reflection

Dharma Master Cheng Yen

Founder of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

We do not need to seek
to immediately accomplish our ideals;
Instead, let us mindfully work on what we
can accomplish and what we can reach.



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Cover: Tzu Chi Collegiate Association members gather at their annual Leadership Conference, whose 2022 slogan, "One light shines bright, many lights illuminate the night," encapsulates the Association's philosophy and activities. *Photo/Mimi Ching*

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As you read the stories about the activities of our volunteers in each issue of the Tzu Chi USA Journal, do you feel a calling?

VOLUNTEERISM IS THE HEARTBEAT OF TZU CHI WORLDWIDE.

We welcome your interest!

The first step in your volunteer journey is simply to register at tzuchi.us/volunteer so we can best match your fields of interest with Tzu Chi's current needs in your area.

Discover the joy of volunteering with us!



Welcome to Issue 66 of the Tzu Chi USA Journal. It's with a heavy heart that I share some unfortunate news. A great man, role model, Tzu Chi volunteer, former CEO of Tzu Chi USA, and a friend to all, Han Huang or Bro Han, as many of us called him, has passed away.

Our feature story, "Honoring Han Huang's Luminous Legacy," offers an insightful and impactful retrospection of Bro Han's life. His footprints of compassion in action inspire us all at Tzu Chi as we continue on this path. Han Huang's legacy notably motivates Tzu Chi youth, the next generation of volunteers. With that in mind, several stories in this issue focus on youth and the future.

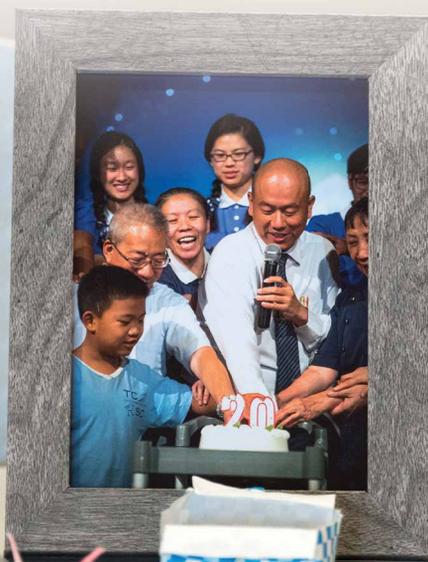
This year, 2022, marks three active decades of the Tzu Chi Collegiate Association (TCCA). In our cover story, "One More Candle to the Light: Celebrating 30 Years of Youth Empowerment," we will learn more about the TCCA. Furthermore, in August, the 2022 TCCA Leadership Conference took place at Tzu Chi USA's Northwest Region office in San Jose, California. You can read about it in our feature, "Reflections on TCCA's 30th Annual Leadership Conference."

Our portrait, "A Safe Haven for Ukrainian Children Sheltered in Poland," takes us to Europe to catch up on Tzu Chi's continued aid for Ukrainians who escaped the war in their homeland. This project benefits children from an orphanage whose future opportunities may improve thanks to the care they receive while in Poland.

Finally, as we approach the year's final quarter, fundraising to support our ongoing missions is vital. Our portrait, "To Help and to Heal: Tzu Chi's Global Giving Tuesday Journey," recaps such efforts on #GivingTuesday. By broadening awareness and sharing the work of our volunteers, we hope to inspire donations as part of this "global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world."

Through revealing the ripples of compassion and good deeds, may this issue uplift you. 🍀

by *Anik Ghose*



In memory of Han SB...
Leave a message or a crane.
Please use the pen and papers
provided here.

A photograph of a traditional Japanese interior. In the foreground, a fire pit (irori) is lit with a fire, and a large metal pot (kama) hangs from a chain above it. The room has a tatami floor and a sliding door (shoji) in the background. Sunlight streams in from a window at the top, creating a dramatic lighting effect.

Craving Instant Results

There are no shortcuts to spiritual cultivation; one must always be mindful.
-Dharma Master Cheng Yen

There was once a renowned swordsman in Japan who hoped to see his son follow in his footsteps, and thus, the father introduced his son to a friend under whom he could study the art of swordsmanship.

The son traveled a long way to see this renowned teacher. The teacher saw that he had great potential, but he made a point to say, "You want to learn the way of the sword, but it is not so easy!"

The young man heard this and anxiously asked, "Is the way of the sword really that difficult? How much time will it take for me to master the essence?"

The teacher said, "You must devote your entire life to it!"

Hearing this, the young man said nervously, "My father hopes for me to become a successful swordsman sooner than that. How can I spend my whole life studying here?"

The teacher replied, "How about ten years?" The young man still thought that this was too long and asked if he could finish sooner.

The teacher surprised him by saying, "Then it will take you thirty years!"

The young man said, "As long as I can become a master swordsman quickly, I'm willing to do whatever you tell me to do!"

The teacher replied, "Without patience, success is hard to come by! Those who learn the way of the sword need to be especially patient. I think you might have to spend seventy years studying!"

Hearing that, the young man realized that counting the years was useless, so he strengthened his resolve and said, "Since I am here, I must finish my studies before I return. No matter how long my teacher asks me to study, I will do it!"

From then on, his teacher asked him to collect firewood, fetch water, cook rice, sweep the floors, and other daily chores. After three years, he still had not learned anything about swordsmanship. One day, the young man was feeling very sad because he had not seen his parents for so long and had learned nothing. Suddenly, his teacher hit him from behind with a wooden sword. His teacher knocked him off his feet, dazing him. Day after day, his teacher did the same thing; he would suddenly appear to attack him, catching him unaware. Thus, every day, the student began to heighten his awareness and mindfully prepared to face these attacks that could happen at any moment.

Finally, one day, his teacher appeared and told him solemnly, "You have mastered all the basic skills. Take this wooden sword and observe me." From that day onward, he practiced swordsmanship with his teacher every day.

In a few months, he had thoroughly mastered his craft, and he became one of Japan's most famous swordsmen. From this, we learn that we need to be patient in order to learn any skill. Throughout the course of our daily lives, we must cultivate patience, faith, and mindfulness in all things. 🌿

One More Candle to the Light

Celebrating 30 Years of Youth Empowerment

Written by Adriana DiBenedetto



In Sacramento, California, Tzu Chi volunteers, and Tzu Chi Collegiate Association members take part in a quarterly cleanup event on the American River Parkway in 2017. Photo/Tzu Chi Collegiate Association

*“One light shines bright,
many lights illuminate the night.”*

This year, 2022, marks an unforgettable one indeed, as we celebrate three active decades of youth empowerment with the Tzu Chi Collegiate Association (TCCA). Alongside this milestone, the 2022 TCCA Leadership Conference, too, was set to create everlasting memories. It had been

three years since TCCA members had their last in-person conference. But with masks in place and slideshows at the ready, 101 attendees were welcomed home to Tzu Chi USA's Northwest Region Office in San Jose, California.

What is TCCA?

At the center of the Tzu Chi Collegiate Association's logo, two hands hold a candle, both encircled by a lotus flower – a reminder that we can all light a candle in this world and pass it on to others. In essence, this symbol shines at the heart of TCCA and guides the path onward as we celebrate three decades of youth empowerment.

The Tzu Chi Collegiate Association is about meaningful personal growth. It's about lifting up young people's voices and joining hands across generations to build a better future. It's about envisioning the world you wish to leave behind for new generations and taking action to see that wish fulfilled. And, it's about celebrating

the impact that young people have in our community.

Tzu Chi Collegiate Association members, also referred to as Tzu Ching, form an extensive network of collegiate volunteers that span the nation and all around the globe who are committed to making an impact. They bring forth the vitality to do good deeds with compassion, knowing the actions that we take here in our own community can have resonating effects.

These young leaders do so through meaningful youth innovation, social and environmental responsibility, and collaborative, community-focused efforts that build a platform for positive development.

We should grasp every chance to do something good, or else the chance will be gone and it will be too late. Some people want to do good deeds, but they want to wait until they have more money or time. Know that life is impermanent. When the opportunity comes, don't be afraid that you have only a little strength – just do it.

“

*Jing Si Aphorism by
Dharma Master Cheng Yen*

The group works locally to improve campus environments via school activities, tutoring, community cleanup events, assistance at local food pantries, helping high school students with beginning their freshman year of college, and so much more. These programs launched *by youths for youths* promote morals, strengthen character, and nurture the Tzu Chi spirit of compassion without limits for all of Earth's creatures.

Support Whole Communities With Our Whole Heart

Every year, a planning team with outstanding Tzu Ching members from across the U.S. is formed, mentors guiding youths to organize a leadership conference for current Tzu Ching officers to attend. For the planning team, it is an opportunity to cultivate one's personal and professional skills. And for attendees, it presents advanced training to become better leaders within their local chapters.

Building upon prior teachings, this year's TCCA Leadership Conference themes were "Protect life and diligently work for the good of all" and "Join hands together to spread the love with faith, vows, and action." In the same vein, the slogan for the TCCA leadership conference, "One light shines bright, many lights illuminate the night," refers to the goal of broadening TCCA members' perspectives on service,

expanding awareness from local chapters to the wider issues affecting the nation and the planet. Lessons at this multi-day event support youths in cultivating a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable future.

Classes are organized into four broad themes, or pillars, to help achieve the goals of the conference. These pillars are Community, Leadership, Service, and Dharma. Lessons on Community discuss how members can foster an inclusive and engaging community. Service classes open up conversations regarding creating more impactful service events that provide meaningful short and long-term benefits to the communities they serve. Lessons in Leadership delve into how TCCA members can develop to effectively work with each other in teams, toward a common set of objectives. And, last but not least, Dharma classes help attendees gain a better understanding of Tzu Chi's principles, and how those form the backbone of



Manpreet Badhan (middle left) and Eduardo Rodriguez (middle right) attend the TCCA Northwest graduation ceremony. Photo/Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Volunteers



Eduardo Rodriguez (right) and TCCA students from UC Davis perform a Sign Language piece during the Annual Buddha Bathing Ceremony at Tzu Chi USA Northwest Region's Sacramento Service Center in Sacramento on May 17, 2017. Photo/Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Volunteers



In November of 2019, Manpreet Badhan (right) and fellow TCCA volunteers aid survivors of the West Butte Fire, providing emergency supplies, entertainment, and music. *Photo/Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Volunteers*

everything Tzu Chi does. Altogether, these help would-be world changers who are unsure of where to start find and focus their calling.

Opening Doors to the Heart

Eduardo Rodriguez currently works as a medical technician administering COVID-19 tests in New Orleans. He joined TCCA when he entered college, and at the time, they held a nursing home visit to give joy from the heart to the senior community residents. The act of giving to others was a mutually rewarding experience. Touched by the atmosphere of kindness from his peers, the supervisors, and the smiles of seniors, he kept coming back, eventually becoming a TCCA leader in his junior year of college.

While not a current member of TCCA, Eduardo still carries that love ever forward and hopes to become a firefighter.

As a firefighter, you basically dedicate yourself to serving the public in times of

need. Tzu Chi is the same; it's dedicated to volunteer service, helping people, and changing your perspective [to be more mindful]. For me, it's something that has always helped me in my career, because I'm not here to judge people. I'm here to help them.



Eduardo Rodriguez

Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Volunteer

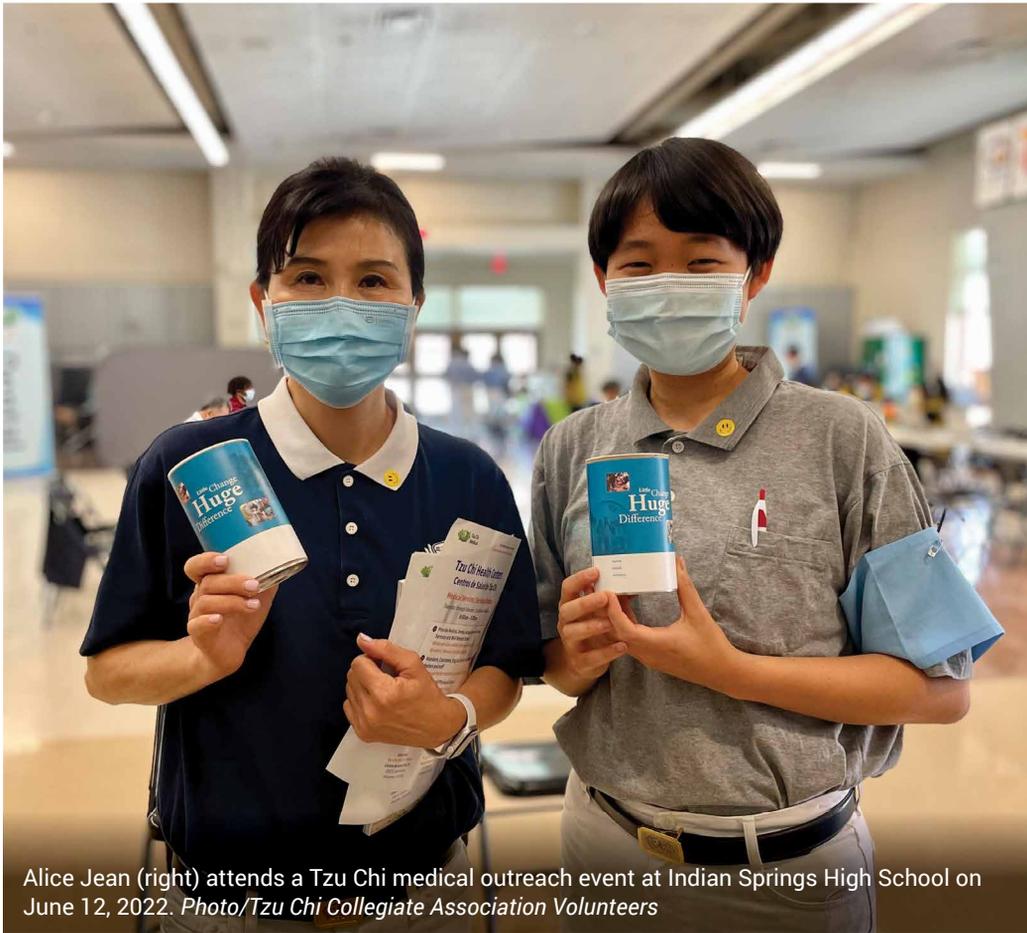
Manpreet Badhan, an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), was drawn to TCCA's booth at a campus club fair. The students had been showcasing an eco-blanket that day, which Manpreet was moved and impressed to learn was made from reclaimed, recycled plastic bottles. This was the beginning of her vow to act as a member of Tzu Ching.

One of my favorite things is going to the river and cleaning up. It feels like you're hanging out at the beach, but you're helping the environment.



Manpreet Badhan

Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Volunteer



Alice Jean (right) attends a Tzu Chi medical outreach event at Indian Springs High School on June 12, 2022. Photo/Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Volunteers



When asked what being a part of Tzu Chi means to her, she replied, “It means being kind and compassionate to everyone and everything.” Indeed, the values Manpreet still carries from TCCA have helped guide her calling in medicine as she strives for humanistic, patient-focused care and advocacy.

Tzu Ching member Alice Jean remembers going to a Tzu Chi community health fair as a child with her mother, a nurse who often helped administer flu shots. It was a Thanksgiving event, and at six years old, Alice offered lunch to the guests with a warm and welcoming smile. The experience started the wheels in her mind spinning, perhaps even inspiring her current philosophical trajectory within the medical field.

As she continued on the path of a Tzu Ching, TCCA provided a funnel for Alice’s energy and a place to refresh and recharge, so that she and other youths could reach their potential — with confidence in themselves, in others, and the wider world. In Alice’s experience, “the people in TCCA really [see] that potential in young people” and hope to cultivate that, so young people can say with confidence, “I’ve never done this before, but I’m going to give it a try because I’ve got the support.”

The more I gave, the more I grew as a person.

“

Alice Jean
Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Volunteer



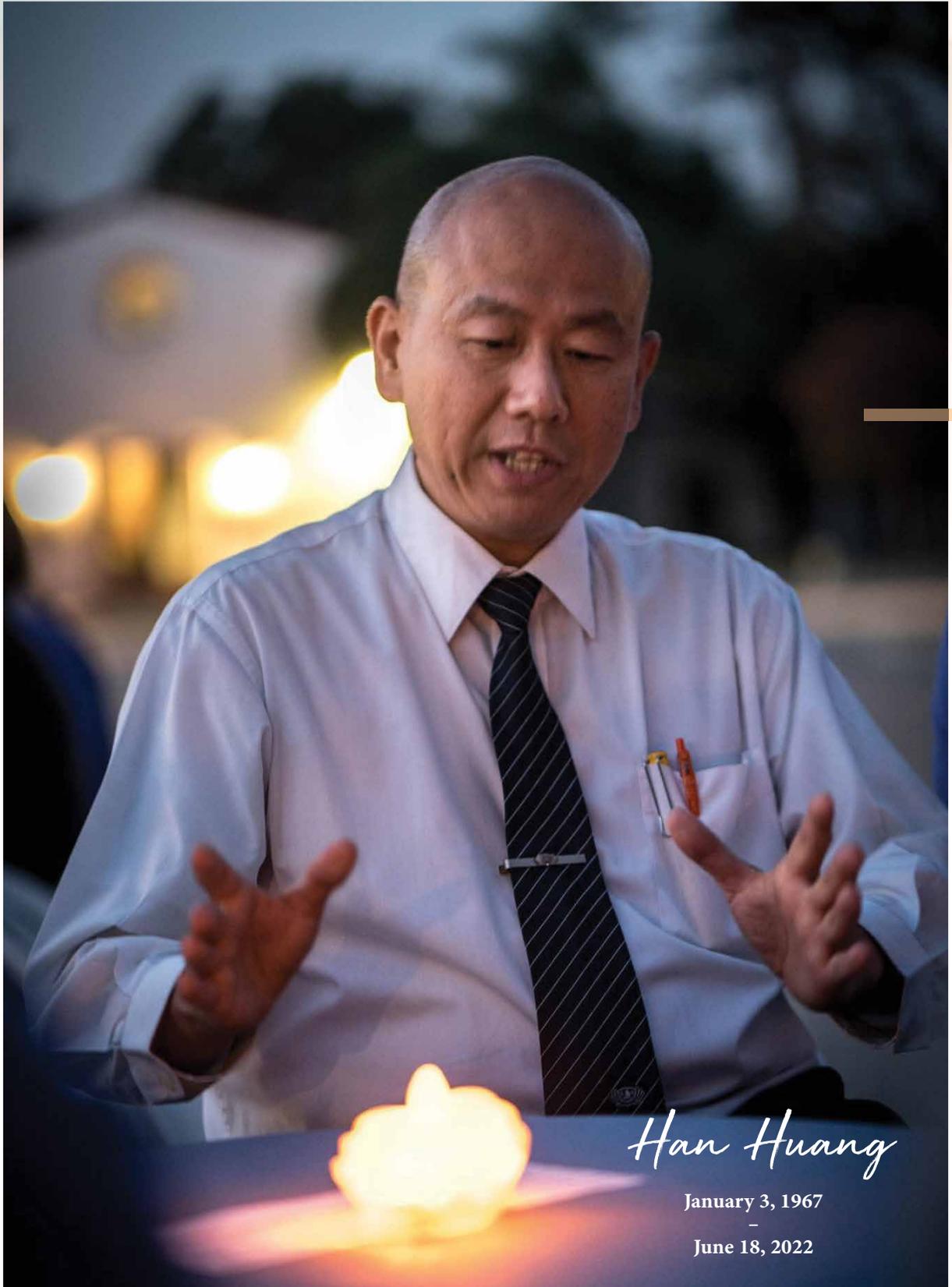
Alice Jean and fellow volunteers reach their goal of registering over 100 new bone marrow donors at a 3-day event at Littlefield Fountain. Alice had recently shaved her head to raise funds for cancer research as part of UT Austin's annual Brave the Shave event. *Photo/Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Volunteers*

As a family and preventive medicine resident physician, Alice's medical mission is centered upon compassion without bounds, particularly, "truly caring about someone and their health. So, not *just* the health, but caring about the person you see in front of you." What also drew Alice Jean to Tzu Chi, and kept her coming back, was their view on service. "I think [the] people who are in the organization truly love serving just for serving," she said. "They are there because their heart is there."

These stories are just a few of the many memorable experiences held by TCCA members. And, as we celebrate thirty years, we look forward to all of the wonderful memories to come.

Let us strive onward with these messages in mind, carrying forth curiosity and compassion, always. Because like a firefly emits its sparkling light, many working together can illuminate the night, one by one, their radiance increasing. Learn more about the Tzu Chi Collegiate Association, become a member, or support TCCA's programs by visiting youngleaders.tzuchi.us! 🌿





Han Huang

January 3, 1967

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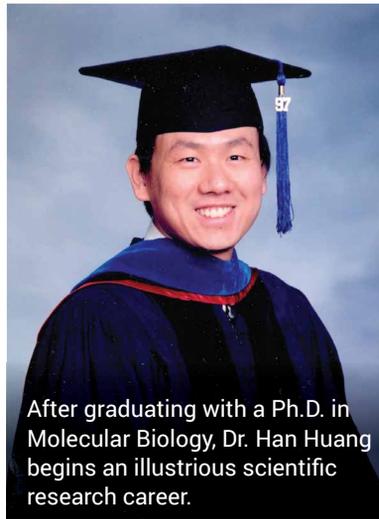
June 18, 2022

Honoring *Han Huang's* Luminous Legacy

*Written by Ida Eva Zielinska
Photos by Tzu Chi USA team*

On June 18, 2022, a shock reverberated through the Tzu Chi family, striking a painful blow to the hearts of people one particular man had touched. On this date, Dr. Han Huang, a beloved volunteer and the Chief Executive Officer of Tzu Chi USA from 2012 to 2019, slipped away from this world at the early age of 55. His story weaves a powerful legacy to inspire us all – that of a profoundly meaningful life dedicated to serving others and relieving suffering as a form of spiritual practice.

Han Huang (whose full Chinese first name is Hankuei) didn't anticipate committing to a spiritual path in his life. Born in Taiwan on January 3, 1967, he initially determined that science was his calling. In 1989, Huang completed a Bachelor of Science degree from Taiwan's research-intensive National Sun Yat-sen University. Moving to the United States, he earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Molecular Biology from Indiana University Bloomington in 1998.



Upon graduation, Huang joined the renowned Salk Institute in San Diego as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in Molecular Biology. The Institute is home to Nobel Prize and other illustrious award-winning scientists exploring "the very foundations of life, seeking new understandings in neuroscience, genetics, immunology, plant biology, and more." There, Huang conducted research and co-authored 13 scientific publications. He hardly expected that a new calling would divert him from this scientific path and lead him into an entirely new world of endeavor five years later.

In 2003, Huang, alongside his wife, Huiping Wang, was already a Tzu Chi volunteer yet had never participated in disaster relief. Then the Cedar Fire, one of the largest wildfires in California history, burned through San Diego County, leaving 2,232 homes in ashes and claiming 15 lives. As the Tzu Chi San Diego Service Center director was away at the time, the volunteers asked Huang to lead the relief mission. He agreed, took two weeks off work, and soon got a vivid introduction to the destruction disasters can cause.

“Pretty much nothing left. That’s what I saw at that time. It was pretty shocking to me,” Huang often shared afterward, saying, “When a disaster happens, that’s real life.” How it felt to help the wildfire survivors was life-changing: “I lost my interest in science. I felt it’s not the only thing that should be in people’s lives. Doing [disaster relief] was very rewarding, rewarding in a different way. I can’t compare this feeling to anything else.”

At the same time, Huang noticed issues inhibiting Tzu Chi’s partnering with mainstream organizations, such as the American Red Cross, in the relief effort. “With the barrier of language, culture, and differences in understanding, there was a big gap between us,” he noted. Still, Huang deemed overcoming such challenges possible, igniting his passion for problem-solving. So, when in 2004, Austin Tsao, then-CEO of Tzu Chi USA, asked Huang if he wanted to work for the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation full time, he said “yes,” and left science and academia behind.

Embracing a New Life

Han Huang’s initial position at Tzu Chi USA was as Special Assistant to the CEO, then transitioned to Administration Department Director in 2005. However, his commitment began to waver by 2007. Acknowledging that the bad habit of negative thinking was creeping in, he began questioning his decision to alter the course of his life, feeling an urge to leave Tzu Chi. And yet, fate intervened when the Witch Creek Fire and Guejito Fire swept through San Diego County that year, destroying 1,141 homes.

Dr. William Keh, the CEO then, asked Huang to coordinate the relief effort since he knew San Diego well. While Huang secretly planned for this to be his last mission with Tzu Chi, that’s not how things turned out. The disaster revitalized his original motivation to join, as the feelings that had inspired him in 2003 reawakened. Once again, he witnessed great suffering and felt the calling to help relieve it.



The heartwarming feeling of helping disaster survivors is life-changing for Han Huang.



Han Huang (right) on a relief mission in 2010 with then-CEO of Tzu Chi USA, Dr. William Keh (second left), and then-Executive Director of Tzu Chi USA's Northeast Region, George Chang.

But Huang also noticed more. “The Red Cross rejected us in 2003; in 2007, they agreed to work with us because they knew more about us since we had approached them many times. Actually, it was big for us. But it takes time. And slowly, we made progress,” he recalled. Also, while he had grown critical of his fellow volunteers in some respects, as he watched them kneel beside people who had lost their homes, tears in their eyes as they tried to comfort them, he saw his fellows in a new light.

“We all have a Buddha Nature, don’t we? That’s true. It’s just the environment, whether we have the timing and opportunity to see it or not. The question is, ‘how do we enhance that nature to the utmost position.’ That’s the most important thing,” Huang realized. And, he felt a surge of gratitude for the selfless

service opportunity with Tzu Chi and for the nature of suffering, which awakens the heart as one strives to relieve it.

“Many people lost their homes and their families in these two fires. So, I often feel that I owe this life not only to Master Cheng Yen, I also owe a lot to many beings,” Huang often shared, pointing out that, “The two fires are two very big turning points in my life. One made me leave the academic realm and join Tzu Chi, while the second fire is the force that made me more courageous, more determined to stay.” And then there was no turning back, and Han Huang’s role at Tzu Chi USA only grew.

Huang became Executive Vice President in October 2008, then CEO in February 2012, overseeing domestic and international missions and Tzu Chi USA’s nine regional offices across the United



Han Huang's commitment to Tzu Chi is profound and solid across years of service.

States until December 2019. Sadly, Brother Han, as the Tzu Chi family affectionately called him, began experiencing health issues in 2018, which intensified over time. Thus, by January 2020, he scaled his involvement back to Executive Vice President, a role he held till his passing on June 18, 2022.

Tributes Pour In

On July 2, 2022, Tzu Chi USA held the “Remembering Our Brother, Dr. Han Huang” memorial event at its headquarters in San Dimas, California, where tears and tributes were shared by those attending in person and those joining virtually from Taiwan.

Master Cheng Yen always reminds us to reflect on our life. But here today you can see all of us coming together to look back at your life because you chose such a meaningful path. I want to express our gratitude, I want to express our blessing; this is how I want to send you off.



Minjing Hsieh
Executive Director
Tzu Chi USA Northwest Region



Stephen Huang, Executive Director of Global Volunteers (middle), on the road with Han Huang (left) and current Tzu Chi USA CEO Debra Boudreaux (right).

Those sharing at the event spoke of how Huang was a role model to emulate. They talked about friendship and his ever-present support, highlighting his virtuous character and thoughtful, humble, empathetic, kind, and compassionate nature. They celebrated his wisdom and optimism, and how he connected with everyone. And they honored how he gave his whole life to Buddhist practice. Still, as one speaker stated and most probably agreed, “there is so much to say; I could never finish all I want to share.”

The Tzu Chi USA video team also produced several videos looking back at Han Huang’s life, which everyone watched at the memorial. Some wrote to extend their condolences and share memories of Brother Han, the messages published on Tzu Chi USA’s website. The legacy and portrait of a beloved and respected man emerged, with several discernable threads running through the collective narratives, and echoed in Han Huang’s own words.

A Patient Visionary

This young man, I really believed that he would be a great Bodhisattva in Tzu Chi; when I saw him, I knew it immediately.

Stephen Huang

*Executive Director of Global Volunteers
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation*

“

Stephen Huang, who established Tzu Chi USA in 1989, the first chapter of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation outside Taiwan, shared these prophetic words with tears in his eyes, for Han Huang was like a son to him.

Indeed, Huang would become not only a shining example of Tzu Chi's compassion in action, but during his tenure as CEO, he exhibited vision and patience, the latter vital in terms of a vision's realization. He once stated: "It can be said that for the future of Tzu Chi to be able to take root in the United States for a long time, there must be an adequate system, just like a proper track so that a car can keep moving forward and move in a stable manner." "We must follow *the times*. Hasn't this last generation been evolving quickly? We must keep learning, okay?" he would add.

Huang spearheaded Tzu Chi USA's website, tzuchi.us, which launched in 2015. And he was behind the creation of a "mobile bamboo bank," the Tzu Chi Connect App that became available for free download onto Android and iOS phones in 2018. It allows people to donate directly and round purchases up to save the change for regular giving, which Master Cheng Yen advised when establishing Tzu Chi. The App idea originated in 2012, and Huang provided patient support through the entire development phase.

"We do hope that we can use this kind of digital technology to expand the bamboo bank spirit, expand the Tzu Chi spirit to as many people as we can. And hopefully there will be a lot more people that will join us electronically."

Han Huang



Han Huang connects with Tzu Chi USA Digital Content Strategist Nancy Wei before an exhibit opening at the Tzu Chi Center for Compassionate Relief in New York.



Han Huang promotes the mobile phone bamboo bank during the Tzu Chi Connect App development phase.

Huang's vision also went beyond technology.

His far-seeing approach is paying off, as one volunteer from Santa Rosa, California, expressed when he wrote a message of gratitude to Han Huang:

"I want to increase the diversity for our volunteers, and I want Tzu Chi to be more recognized by more communities, more organizations. However, there are challenges. Tzu Chi is a very grassroots Foundation. We are all volunteer driven and we have a lot of language barriers here. I believe that we can overcome all these culture or language barriers. It's very important."

Han Huang



Brother Han opened the door for English speakers in Tzu Chi USA. He pushed the heavy doors open and held them open for us as long as he could in this life. Thank you, Brother Han. Your light that you lit for English speakers here in the USA will never go out in our hearts.

*Greg Tylawsky
Tzu Chi Volunteer*



Han Huang's vision includes broadening the cultural and language demographics of Tzu Chi USA volunteers.



Han Huang, seated beside Minjhing Hsieh, Executive Director of Tzu Chi USA's Northwest Region on his right, and a team confer during a meeting.

A Humble and Open-Minded Leader

Tzu Chi USA's leadership core of regional CEOs recalled the humility in Han Huang's behavior and his guidance over the years.

"Let's reduce our personal ego and work for the greater good."

Han Huang

Minjhing Hsieh, Executive Director of Tzu Chi USA's Northwest Region, quoted this advice, adding, "[For] any other leader in Tzu Chi, that is such a great inspiration and important lesson." Huang never placed himself on a pedestal as a leader. "We are all equal. We all have the same Buddha Nature, don't we? It's a team. It's by teaming up that we can finish a lot of tasks, we can finish a lot of missions," he would say. At the same time, he held up the highest ideals of integrity in goals.

"Being a CEO doesn't mean you have to follow me or what I said exactly. That's not in my mind. Even the founder [Master Cheng Yen] will listen to everybody, to all the volunteers' comments and opinions, and after that, she will make a decision based on most people's consensus. But, there's one very important thing: The principle and the direction have to be right. That's my part that I have to insist on."

Han Huang



Han Huang's analytical mind and belief in listening and teamwork shine during his leadership at Tzu Chi USA.



Han Huang's example is inspirational to Tzu Chi Collegiate Association (Tzu Ching) members across the United States.

And, Huang was open-minded, something greatly appreciated by the whole Tzu Chi USA team.

Throughout the years, he never wavered or turned away from new ideas. We could always bring up new and “crazy” ideas – without being careful about our wording or afraid of being turned down – because he would usually come back with even crazier ideas or ask thought-provoking questions that got us back to the drawing board for a better, or improved idea.

Nancy Wei
Digital Content Strategist
Tzu Chi USA



A Wise and Joyful Mentor

Many touched on Han Huang's dedicated mentorship of the youngest generation of Tzu Chi volunteers, those affiliated with Tzu Chi Collegiate Association (Tzu Ching) and Tzu Chi Youth Group (Tzu Shao) chapters across the United States.

Han Huang was genuinely a role model for young people. He was witty and full of positive energy. His encouragement gave us confidence. He always conveyed the spirit of Tzu Chi in a light-hearted way, making it easier for young people to accept it without feeling pressured.

Nancy Ku
Advisor Lead
National Tzu Chi Collegiate Association



Braden Ho, a Tzu Ching Alumnus who spoke at the memorial, conveyed that Huang “embodied so much of what is best in a human being.” He also recalled Huang's message that “the decision we make today affects everything down the line,” encouraging mindful reflection.

Huang also made a lasting impression on the teenage Tzu Chi Youth Group members, hoping to plant kindness in their young and tender hearts and motivate them on the path of service, saying, “The future of Tzu Chi depends on you!”

Brother Han Huang told Tzu Shaos that the purpose of life is not just to get perfect grades, to go to a top university, to get a high salary, and to enjoy a high social status. The meaning of life lies in inspiring love, revealing pure love, and going deep into the dark corners to comfort the suffering.

“

Jolin Chang & Suong Chang
Inland Tzu Chi Youth Group Team

A Beloved Friend

Han Huang's cherished companionship along life's path was remembered by most in their remarks, as was how much they will now miss him. Perhaps the words of Huiping Wang, Huang's wife, written two days after his death, express the sorrow best while acknowledging the everlasting love that remains:



Han Huang's wife, Huiping Wang, is of constant support as they walk the Tzu Chi path together.

A broken heart shatters. One by one, we put the pieces together, held together by the glue of love. Though the cracks are now visible, the heart is filled with love.

“

Huiping Wang
Tzu Chi Volunteer
Han Huang's Wife



Tzu Chi Youth Group (Tzu Shao) members, the youngest generation of volunteers, find a guide and mentor in Han Huang.



Han Huang and Taishan Huang, Executive Director of Tzu Chi USA's Southern Region, share the hilarity of the moment.



Han Huang (second left), Freeman Su (left), Executive Director of Tzu Chi USA's Northeast Region, Chong Hsieh (second right), Executive Director of Tzu Chi USA's Midwest Region, and Amy Hsieh (right) pose joyfully in front of the Jing Si Abode in Hualien, Taiwan, while visiting Master Cheng Yen.

Huang was known for connecting with people naturally, often finding a link to draw them closer through telling stories or revealing his ever-present sense of humor. As the many photos and videos shown during the memorial testified, wherever he went, smiles and laughter would follow as it was always a pleasure being in his presence.

Everyone tried their best to be positive as they bid farewell. Huang's wife said, "He lived his life following the calling of his heart and the guidance of Dharma Master Cheng Yen, so as his family members, we send him off with our blessings and with joy in our hearts that he lived such a meaningful life." As Buddhists, many also drew wisdom from his death, as it reveals the pain of attachment and impermanence.

Master Cheng Yen says that because of our deep relationship, that creates the suffering of saying goodbye to those we love. With your passing and leaving us perhaps this can be a great lesson for us all. And it can be a moment for us to contemplate the profound emptiness and wonder of all things.



Freeman Su
Executive Director
Tzu Chi USA Northeast Region

Still, it was difficult for all to say goodbye, even for Dharma Master Cheng Yen.



Faced with the passing of my disciple, I feel unspeakable sadness, and my heart is heavy.

Dharma Master Cheng Yen

An Ideal Disciple

Master Cheng Yen had a video call with Han Huang in the days before his death, although he was in a coma following two successive strokes. She then wrote "Blessings for My Disciple: Lifetime After Lifetime on the Bodhisattva Path," a letter to him read at the memorial. Below are a few excerpts:

Through the internet, I called out to you, "Hankuei! Chi Mu! Can you hear me?" I said to you that people come and go in this world, and that birth, aging, illness, and death are natural laws of life. Bodhisattvas come to this world for the goal of extensively transforming sentient beings. You are very blessed... Remember that we are always together, and that

we will always need people on the Bodhisattva Path. People come and go, go and come, but we must not let this Bodhisattva Path end; it has to continue on forever, lifetime after lifetime... I saw on the screen that you looked very dignified as you listened silently. I reminded you again to take my words deep into your consciousness and never forget them. At the end, I saw tears coming out of your eyes, and I am sure that this meant that you understood me, and that this will be the promise between us lifetime after lifetime.

Dharma Master Cheng Yen

During the June 22 teaching on the DaAi TV program *Life Wisdom*, Master Cheng Yen recounted, "A few days after that, he passed away, feeling light and at



Han Huang shares with Master Cheng Yen, encircled by the Tzu Chi USA family of regional leaders and volunteers.



The footprints of Han Huang's devotion to Master Cheng Yen and Buddhism remain.

ease." She reminded everyone how Brother Hankuei's peaceful departure could be a lesson: "We must listen to and learn the Dharma diligently. We must learn more true principles when we are alive so that when our time comes, we can leave feeling light and at ease."

Monastics from the Jing Si Abode in Taiwan also shared during the memorial event with Master De Yue reading a message from Master De Fan:

I firmly believe that Brother Hankuei, you are truly an ideal disciple of Master Cheng Yen... Through your footprints, your images, you will truly leave a deep memory in people's hearts... We thank you for allowing us to witness what an exemplary living Bodhisattva was like. I firmly believe that your life, your legacy will be passed on forever.

Master De Fan

Han Huang dedicated himself to all Tzu Chi missions and programs, including Buddhist Sutra Adaptation performances. Seeing him in a "Thousand Eyes, Thousand Hands Guanyin Bodhisattva" performance, which represents the Buddhist ideal of limitless and unceasing compassion, is etched deeply in memory for many, as it aptly encompasses how they remember him.

Regardless of his workload with the Executive Team, he was always willing to help anyone in need, he listened to others with sincerity, and nothing was ever too large or too small for his attention. To all those who knew him, he truly did have a thousand giving hands.

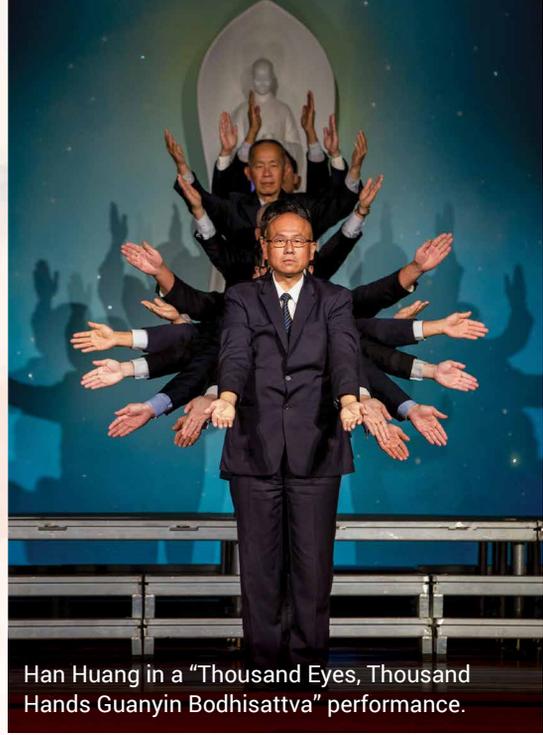
*Victor Rocha Jr.
Tzu Chi Volunteer*

Looking back at his own life with Tzu Chi, Huang felt immeasurable gratitude as he expressed to Master Cheng Yen:

“Thank you, Master Cheng Yen, for offering me the opportunity to steer away from the ivory tower of academia to learn from people, to go from a researcher in a lab to a dedicated Tzu Chi volunteer. Master, do you know that you have given more than an opportunity. You have given me the biggest blessing of my life and the biggest honor.”

Han Huang

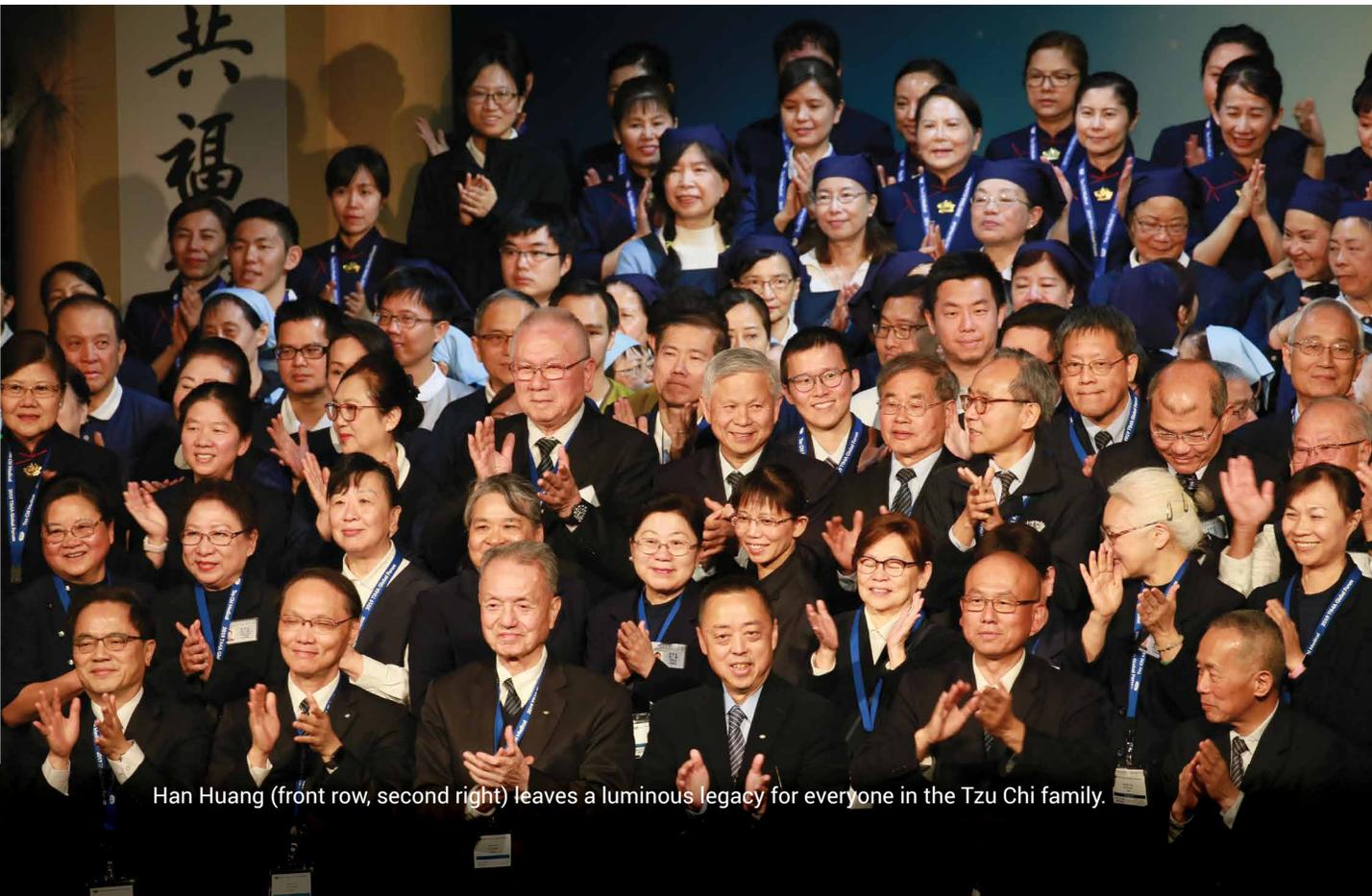
The journey of Brother Han Huang’s earthly body concluded with a Final Farewell and Cremation Ceremony on July 2, 2022, in Whittier, California. However, his spirit lives on. As Debra Boudreaux, CEO of Tzu Chi USA, said, “Hankuei is not going away. He is in everyone, in your heart. He gave us homework. He invites every one of you, let’s continue to carry out his legacy.” And it’s a luminous one, as we have seen.



Han Huang in a “Thousand Eyes, Thousand Hands Guanyin Bodhisattva” performance.

“You don’t have to be a millionaire to bring influence to people. All you need is a good heart, a kind heart and then take action.”

Han Huang



Han Huang (front row, second right) leaves a luminous legacy for everyone in the Tzu Chi family.

Reflections on TCCA's 30th Annual Leadership Conference

Written by Wen Tseng, Katie Chu, Christina Chang

Translated by Hong (Ariel) Chan

Edited by Adriana DiBenedetto

The light of a single firefly may be limited, but many fireflies together can light up the night. And so, the slogan for this year's U.S. Tzu Chi Collegiate Association (TCCA) Leadership Conference, "One light shines bright, many lights illuminate the night," encapsulates this message, too.

In just the same way, teens from across the United States set out as one to meet for the 2022 TCCA Leadership Conference, which spanned four days, from August 11–14, and took place at Tzu Chi USA's Northwest Region Office in San Jose, California. A total of 101 youths and dedicated staff

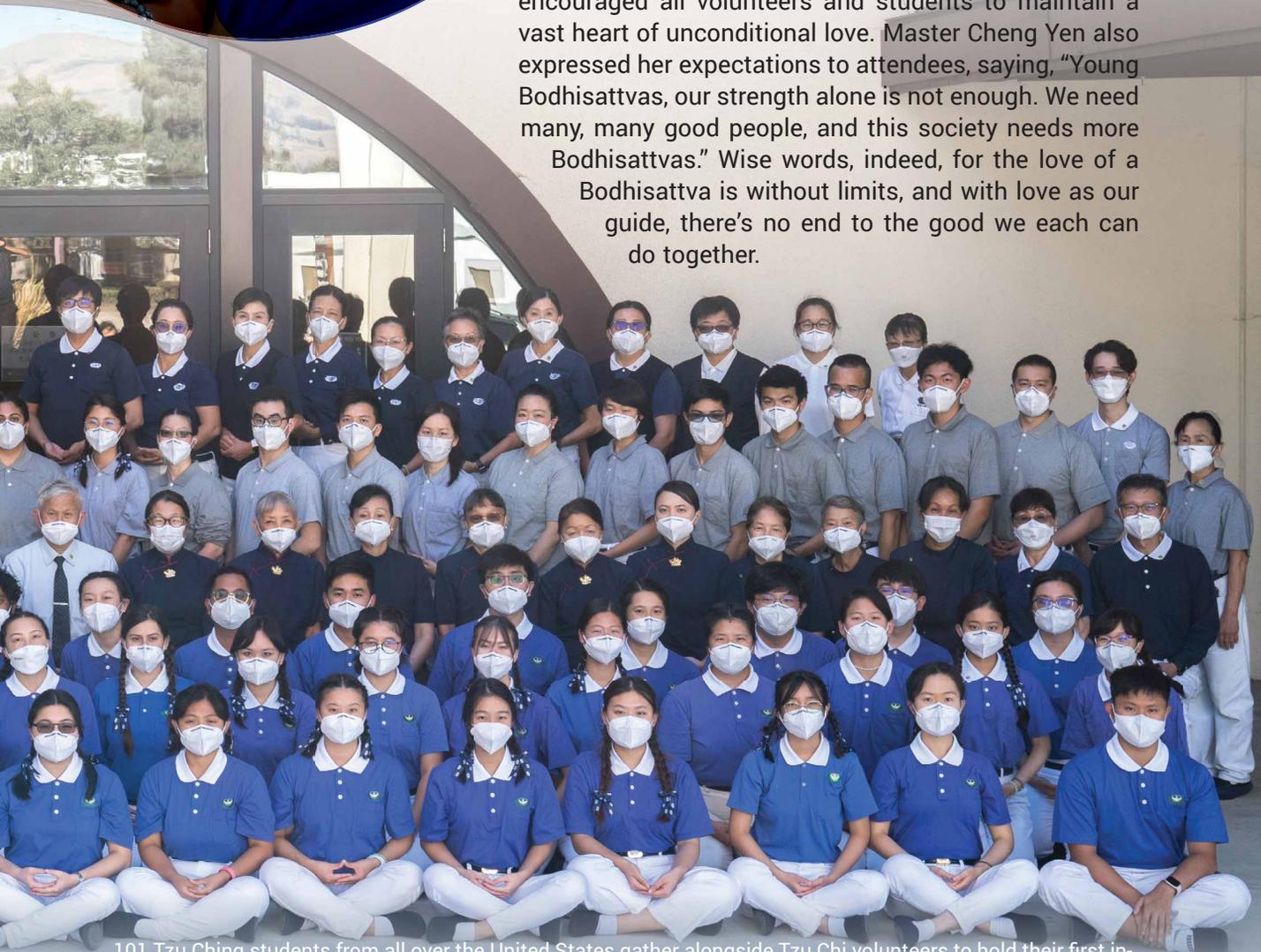




Attendees of the TCCA Leadership Conference are grateful for the opportunity to virtually meet Tzu Chi's founder, Dharma Master Cheng Yen.
Photo/Wenguang Zhu

from all over the country gathered to hold their first in-person leadership conference since the pandemic began. Focusing on the four core themes of Community, Leadership, Service, and Dharma, the annual conference aims to inspire students to do good deeds, and strengthen the connection between individuals and the communities they serve. Through sharing experiences and techniques, students at the conference improved their leadership skills, and deepened their understanding of the Tzu Chi spirit.

During a virtual activity on the 13th, Tzu Chi's founder, the venerable Dharma Master Cheng Yen, encouraged all volunteers and students to maintain a vast heart of unconditional love. Master Cheng Yen also expressed her expectations to attendees, saying, "Young Bodhisattvas, our strength alone is not enough. We need many, many good people, and this society needs more Bodhisattvas." Wise words, indeed, for the love of a Bodhisattva is without limits, and with love as our guide, there's no end to the good we each can do together.



101 Tzu Ching students from all over the United States gather alongside Tzu Chi volunteers to hold their first in-person Tzu Chi Collegiate Association (TCCA) Leadership Conference since the pandemic began. *Photo/Bohan Chen*

Dharma in Our Interactions

Bryan Xiao served as a leader of the course affairs group for the first time. Bryan began participating in Tzu Chi's disaster relief amid flooding in Texas seven years prior. While aiding in the distribution of cash cards and eco-blankets, Bryan observed volunteers' sincere care for survivors, and it moved his heart deeply. In the years since he joined Tzu Ching, Bryan has participated in three conferences in the U.S., and one held internationally. Bryan believes that the most formidable part of the lesson preparation process is "transforming the Master's teachings into positive, effective participation so that Dharma can be implemented in daily life."

From the course activities, Bryan saw that Tzu Ching partners from all over the United States shared an aspiration to help others and promote kindness collectively, which offered great encouragement. Bryan volunteered to lead the Tzu Ching team to unfold and transform Master Cheng Yen's teachings into meaningful everyday

actions. After graduation, he hopes to continue assisting Tzu Ching members with social events and more.

Attendees this year can really expect to have a really warm and welcoming environment with lots of people who are there for them – to help inspire them, to help them grow within themselves as people, and within their own chapters back home.



Marilyn Kung

Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Member

Iryl Tan is the eldest daughter of Baoru Chen, Deputy CEO of Tzu Chi USA's Northwest Region, and is currently studying at the University of Texas at Austin, where she was responsible for the school's annual Tzu Ching social event in 2021. During this year's TCCA conference, she managed several digital art projects, and served as a student leader during conference activities. When she served in the Tzu Ching club at UT Austin, she not



Courses at the conference cover the four themes, or pillars, of Community, Leadership, Service, and Dharma. *Photo/Changming Rong*



Varied activities help TCCA members explore the Tzu Chi spirit in greater depth, foster a sense of national youth camaraderie, and inspire good deeds. *Photo/Bohan Chen*

only devoted herself to recruiting students, but promoted vegetarianism through virtual events during the pandemic, inspiring her peers to keep engaged via environmental responsibility.

I am very fortunate to have grown up in a Tzu Chi family. After leaving home to study, I met a new group of Tzu Ching members in Texas. I constantly discovered new things during my interactions with people of different backgrounds through Tzu Chi. It made me feel that my blessings should be shared with others. Finally, I made a wish to Master Cheng Yen, hoping to bring the warmth of the Tzu Chi familial community and great love to those in suffering, and introduce it to more young Americans so that they can join Tzu Chi and contribute to society together.



Iryl Tan
Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Member

In 2015, through a friend's introduction, Allan Tien encountered the Tzu Ching group at Texas A&M University. At that time, he couldn't understand why his friend devoted so much time to Tzu Ching activities. It was not until the following year, when he joined the TCCA, that he discovered the heartwarming rapport between members and was moved by it. He realized how many genuine and caring individuals there were in the world and vowed to join in.



A dedicated team brainstorms ways to inspire learning, put one's compassion into action while connecting to the broader community, and understand the message of unconditional love Master Cheng Yen delivers. *Photo/Alex Ma*



Team members and presenters initiate conversations about mindfulness and unpack what it means to build a better future. *Photo/Alex Ma*

Allan spoke about his impressions of TCCA, saying, “This time, aside from myself, there is also the new generation of A&M Tzu Ching seniors, and some of them are working as group leaders. I am very touched and encouraged. I didn’t expect the A&M Tzu Ching family to expand like this. I think the biggest change is in myself. When I interact with people, I not only change what I say verbally or do outwardly, but what I want to say and do is from the bottom of my heart.”

Let Love Steer the Path

“After two years of online Tzu Ching conferences,” said Tzu Ching member Alex Ma, “we have paid special attention to inheritance in planning this Tzu Ching conference. Tzu Ching seniors have all returned home to participate and host the first happy reunion since the pandemic.”

Marilyn Kung, an activity coordinator from San Jose, California, likewise shared, “Because we are still in the middle of the

pandemic, and because of my geographical convenience, it is my duty to undertake the work of activity coordination.” Marilyn has participated in Tzu Chi activities since the sixth grade, and has rich experience in hosting Tzu Chi events. Through regular online discussions, Marilyn collaborated with Tzu Ching and Tzu Chi volunteers from various locations virtually, and planned meaningful activities for this year’s conference.



Tzu Ching graduates and future leaders in the making hone their skills, learning how to support one another as well as their community. *Photo/Hongyi Lin*

Throughout the whole planning process, it felt like, 'Oh, we're working toward something, we're finally here now.' So, that's pretty exciting.

“

Iryl Tan*Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Member*

Starting from scratch, Marilyn and TCCA members from all over the world – including Evelyn Cheng from Seattle, Washington, Steve Chen from Washington, D.C., and Victoria Low from San Diego, California – organized the work structure of the 2022 TCCA conference. Evelyn graduated from National Hualien Girls' High School four years ago and attended college in Washington. Having grown up in Hualien, Taiwan, where Master Cheng Yen resides, Evelyn said, "Although I had the opportunity to interact face-to-face with Master Cheng Yen when I was a child, I still look forward to connecting with her at TCCA this year. Being able to connect with people and things in Hualien makes me feel at home."

Blessings Through Everyday Mindfulness

Tzu Chi USA Northwest Region's Executive Director, Minjhing Hsieh, also attended the conference, and expressed his sincere hopes for all. "This year's conference is the first large-scale event held in the service center since the pandemic. It is very special," he reflected. Hsieh further thanked the volunteers who came from all over the U.S., and from local communities. Young people bring hope and vigor to Tzu Chi, and he hopes that everyone can inspire each other, exchange experiences, and light up each other's hearts amidst the thought-provoking activities at this multi-day conference. Hsieh is especially grateful to Master Cheng Yen, who took time out to encourage young people in the United States in real-time.

The most emotional is the connection with Master Cheng Yen, because seeing her live is very emotional. Also, I feel like I am connecting with my own grandparents.

“

Lily Kang*Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Member*

Debra Boudreaux, CEO of Tzu Chi USA, also took to the stage at the conference, expressing her appreciation, and welcoming everyone back to their home at Tzu Chi. She additionally gave thanks to Tzu Chi volunteers, who strengthen communities and uphold Master Cheng Yen's teachings, "Extending connections and expanding love, interacting with others in the moment." Boudreaux also spoke about her hopes for TCCA members, sharing, "Master Cheng Yen's compassion relies on the next generation so we can achieve success together. Tzu Ching





should cherish and grasp such privileged karma and interact with the venerable Master virtually at any time.”

Workshops inspire youths to explore Tzu Chi’s three guiding principles: Gratitude, Respect, and Love, sometimes abbreviated by Tzu Ching members as GRL. *Photo/Victor Rocha*

I was very privileged to get the opportunity to talk to Dharma Master Cheng Yen, [and] getting to see the audience so happy and hear her meaningful words. She’s actually very funny. She has humor to her personality, and I was so lucky to hear about how she wants to inspire us. I also plan to learn some more Chinese, as she asked me to continue my learning in that language so that I could speak to her next time.



Samanta Corte
Tzu Chi Collegiate Association Member



Engaging activities encourage conference attendees to work together. *Photo/Zuyi Jin*

As this year’s annual U.S. TCCA Leadership Conference came to a close, peers reflected on the calls to action to lead positive change – both within themselves and the world around us. Every student came to the conference with a soft light, and renewed their energy through the event. Now, they’ll take that light, strengthened by the support of others, back to their respective communities and send that love ever forth. 🌱



Scrumptious vegetarian meals provide plenty of fuel for conference attendees. *Photo/Andy Chiang*



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A Safe Haven

for Ukrainian Children Sheltered in Poland

Written by Ida Eva Zielinska



Marek Kolbowicz, co-owner of the Szafir Center in Poland sheltering Ukrainian children who escaped the war in their homeland, officially accepts Tzu Chi's long-term aid. *Photo/DaAi TV Team*

It was 10 o'clock at night when the phone at the Szafir Conference and Leisure Center in Poland rang and Marek Kolbowicz answered.

"Listen, tomorrow morning, around 100 kids are arriving in two buses," he heard, and his immediate reaction was, "What?" Although, he knew this moment could come.

Marek Kolbowicz and his business partner, Tomasz Zalewski, co-own the Szafir Center and have been running it for 11 years. "Mostly we're in charge of organizing camps, green schools; we're in

direct contact with children. You could say it's a holiday center for children," Marek describes.

The Szafir Center is in Moryń, a town in Gryfino County in Poland's West Pomeranian Voivodeship, around 15 miles from the German border. However, these young international guests weren't on their way from Germany but Ukraine, from Huliaipole in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, approximately 1,240 miles away. Moreover, they weren't coming for a holiday but escaping the war raging in their homeland since Russia launched its invasion in February 2022.



Many Szafor Center structures look like something out of a fairytale. *Photo/Tzu Chi USA Video Team*

Huliaipole, at the intersection of important roads bisecting the eastern part of Ukraine, has sustained heavy damage due to bombardment and artillery battles. The population, around 13,000 initially, has dwindled to about 2,000 as people were evacuated or fled. The 106 children who showed up at the Szafor Center on March 9 are from an orphanage for special needs kids. An additional 40 people soon joined them: The children's caretakers with their families.

The Ukrainians path here emerged in steps after Gryfino County emergency

services first contacted the Center when the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. "They asked, 'Are you able to accept anyone because there will be a lot of refugees, probably there will be a war, so are you able to accept anyone?'" Marek shared, continuing, "We said, 'Okay. We can do that.' Soon after, a foundation reached out to us, Happy Kids, and said, 'Will you accept children?' 'Okay, we're ready to accept kids because we have experience.' 'Fine, so wait,'" and they did.

The Happy Kids Foundation (Fundacja Pomocy Dzieciom), whose mission is to



The Ukrainian kids can now safely enjoy sports and other activities far from the explosions of war left behind. *Photo/Tzu Chi USA Video Team*

provide equal opportunities for every child to achieve their life goals, initiated the evacuation of children from orphanages. Once Marek and his business partner said yes, the wheels were in motion. Why did they agree? For Marek, it's obvious and nothing special as he counts them among all the other Poles helping their displaced Ukrainian neighbors.

Poland took in over two million Ukrainian refugees. So nearly everybody has an acquaintance with someone from Ukraine in their home. I have a somewhat bigger home and took in a bit more people, but all of Poland did this: Because we have to, because that's how it should be, because we should help those in need. For us, it was as simple and normal as breathing.



Marek Kolbowicz
Co-Owner, Szafir Center

Tzu Chi Learns About the Children

When Tzu Chi volunteers in Europe first heard of this beautiful story and came to visit, the situation was stable, and the Szafir Center was able to fulfill the accommodation requirements. Still, the children's adjustment to their new living environment in a foreign land had been gradual.



It takes a while before the children finally relax in this new place. *Photo/Tzu Chi USA Video Team*



The Szafir Center sets up a tent to store donated clothes and shoes for the Ukrainians.
Photo/Tzu Chi USA Video Team

I'll never forget how when the kids arrived, they went to the cafeteria, and there was complete silence. It was terrifying. I thought, 'Jesus, will it be like this all the time?' But actually, the kids were tired, scared, in a completely different reality, and I know that during that first meal at the table, they were learning about the food, that there will be enough, they'll always have it, so those were the first steps. But from day to day, hour to hour, this situation was changing, and the first smiles appeared. They saw that they were safe and taken care of, and they started to function normally, laugh, talk, and be happy about being here together.

“

Marek Kolbowicz
Co-Owner, Szafir Center

Beyond providing food and shelter, there was more to address. With only a short time to pack, the children followed their instructions: “Bring only as much as fits into a small knapsack,” Marek Kolbowicz explains, “and that’s all they took. We didn’t know that’s how it would be.” Even while the kids were in transit for three days, that became clear. “We got a call, then a second, a third... ‘Listen, we need this... this... we need this.’”

The Szafir Center staff bought underwear, socks, and clothes as many kids had favored their stuffed animals over other essentials to bring. Poles also donated clothing and shoes once they learned about the children coming.

The Center then adapted its summer camp program, considering that 70% of these children have some form of mental disability, with many on the



The Szafir Center adapts its summer camp program to accommodate special needs children and include education. *Photo/Tzu Chi USA Video Team*

autism spectrum. “We had to change how we approach these kids quite a bit,” Marek said, but apart from that, “nothing changed; we’re in the same rhythm, the kids are the same as Polish kids.”

Things progressed smoothly for a time as institutional and spontaneous donor funding was coming in, with Marek’s celebrity as the 2008 Beijing Olympics Gold Medal winner in rowing also attracting interest to the cause. And yet, the children had already stayed longer than the expected month or two.

Persevering Even as Aid Runs Dry

When the Tzu Chi USA video team traveled to Moryń in mid-May to follow up on the situation, needs were escalating while the aid boom was over. “Nobody calls, nobody comes, nobody helps,” Marek Kolbowicz announced. Perhaps his renown had eventually led people to assume he didn’t need more help.

A lot of them say, ‘Come on, you’re the Olympic champion. You’re on TV, I’m sure that you get a lot of attention, a lot of money.’ Then he doesn’t get any help because everyone thinks he’s famous so he’ll get money from everywhere. But that’s not true.



Lukasz Baranowski
Tzu Chi Volunteer

This new reality converged with the imminent arrival of Polish kids at the doorstep for summer camp, soon to take up all the regular accommodation spaces. They couldn’t cancel those reservations because that revenue, “that’s our bread, our upkeep for this Center,” Marek explained. At the same time, the Ukrainian children had to stay.

Thus, housing them suddenly encompassed buying and setting up mobile homes and purchasing beds and bedding for 146 people, all within ten days. “Will we succeed? We have to. Because if we don’t,

the kids won't have anywhere to go," Marek thought, and they got to it, circumventing financial hurdles as best as they could.

We have to essentially stand on our heads and turn our world upside down because what we want to do is unbelievable but possible. Something inside us is saying that we'll manage, that they'll help us, from everywhere they'll help us because we're helping, so why shouldn't others help us? We'll accomplish it all, and there will be Polish and Ukrainian children here, and we'll create an international summer camp.

Marek Kolbowicz
Co-Owner, Szafir Center

Meanwhile, the stress of being able to feed the 146 guests was growing. Other costs were also unaccounted for since many of the children take prescription medications and require doctor visits entailing frequent travel to Szczecin, a 100-mile round-trip. Perhaps Marek's faith that good deeds create blessings kept him going, so he plowed ahead despite all the obstacles.

It's just through 'good heart' and nothing else because we can't make ends meet, but money isn't everything. I think we'll manage and persevere to the end, until the end of the war, and I hope they will be with us till the end, here at the Center.

Marek Kolbowicz
Co-Owner, Szafir Center



Marek Kolbowicz is ready to do whatever it takes to house the children at the Szafir Center until it's safe for them to return to Ukraine. *Photo/Tzu Chi USA Video Team*



A little girl proudly demonstrates her newly acquired hula hoop skills. Photo/Tzu Chi USA Video Team

He pauses before continuing as he imagines the children’s eventual departure, “and then we’ll say goodbye, and buses will come, they’ll get on... we’ll cheer them on when they’re leaving, no?” His words falter as tears fill his eyes, an expression of genuine love.

A Good Deed of Far-Reaching Benefit

Marek Kolbowicz had no idea that the Szafir Center’s good deed of sheltering the Ukrainian children was to see a burst of support at the beginning of June. Realizing the long-term needs, Tzu Chi committed to providing monthly funds per child while they stay at the Center. Marek’s immense gratitude merged with a sense of astonishment.

It’s the first organization that showed up and really wants to help. It’s absolutely... I’m talking to you

guys, but I’m just starting to believe it. Wow. I want to scream with joy. It’s in the category of miracles, right? That, ‘good returns tenfold.’ If you do good once, it will return to you ten times, and that’s what you are.



Marek Kolbowicz
Co-Owner, Szafir Center

Tzu Chi’s aid potentially has additional far-reaching benefits. First, the children can enjoy an idyllic setting along the coastline of picturesque and pristine Lake Morzycko, in the buffer zone of protected Cedynia Landscape Park. Just the glory of nature here is a priceless gift.

And yet, the children are also enjoying new possibilities. “Maybe in Ukraine, they never even ventured outside and saw nothing, and here they have a lot of opportunities because they’re in different spaces, and various volunteers come here who show them what they can do, how,” Marek happily shares.

The novel circumstances and stimulating surroundings have positively changed the children’s demeanor. Marek notes that among the Szafir team, “each of us observes that they’re behaving differently from just after arrival; they’re evolving in their development, getting better. Do they have better care? No, it’s quite similar; it’s just that the range of opportunities is much larger. They can do a lot more. They’re getting to know a lot more.”

**I like it here. Everything is okay.
You can dance here, you can dance!**



Valentina
Ukrainian Child

Additional factors also make their prolonged stay beneficial. UNICEF reports, “Before the war, Ukraine had the highest number of children in institutional care in Europe: More than 90,000 children.” Furthermore, “the majority of children living in orphanages in Ukraine are not

orphans. Most have parents and families who have placed them in orphanages for economic reasons or for assistance with a child’s special needs,” the U.S. Department of State’s Special Advisor for Children’s Issues wrote in a March 2022 statement.

They call me mommy. I say, ‘I’m not your mother; I’m just a guardian.’ I hope God sees what I do.



Ina
Ukrainian Caretaker

Some of the Ukrainian children’s conditions could improve thanks to the latest treatments available in Poland.
Photo/Tzu Chi USA Video Team



The Szafir Center owners envision updated diagnoses and possibly new treatments for the children’s conditions. *Photo/Tzu Chi USA Video Team*

The reasons the parents of so-called “social orphans” gave up or lost their parental rights may also stem from illness, alcoholism, or other social problems.

According to UNICEF, nearly half of children in Ukraine’s state residential care – orphanages, boarding schools, and other facilities – have disabilities, physical, mental, or both. At the same time, many institutions are underfunded. Children can carry outdated diagnoses and lack access to the latest therapy for their condition, impacting their future quality of life and possibilities as adults.

Given this complex context and the varied health issues facing these special needs children, Marek and the team plan to activate channels to re-diagnose them, particularly using Poland’s most advanced technology. They found a medical facility where these assessments could proceed, potentially offering new tests and treatment directions.

100% of these children will get re-diagnosed by our Polish specialists. There may be different eventual treatments and rehabilitation in terms of motor skills. It may turn out that when they leave here, the doctor will say, ‘He is healthy, has no issues.’ I’m convinced we’ll pull out not just one child but many, and we’ll see them cured here. We’ll go to heaven while alive if we succeed in this.



Marek Kolbowicz
Co-Owner, Szafir Center

Such marvelous eventualities are what everyone involved in this Tzu Chi long-term care case hopes will manifest. Still, there are transformations unfolding already. One older child, whose initial behavior had been somewhat troublesome, was interviewed a few weeks after arrival, and when the reporter asked, “What has staying here given you?” Marek fondly remembers how





Marek Kolbowicz (third right), Lukasz Baranowski (middle), his wife Monica Chang (third left), and all rejoice as the Szafrir Center receives long-term funding to shelter the Ukrainian orphans.
 Photo/DaAi TV Team

the boy replied, "I became a better person, and I learned here, as it is in this place, to help others."

Marek's heartfelt vision for the children is, "They'll acquire faith in others; I suspect they had it, but now they'll have even greater faith, opening the possibility to discover greater horizons."

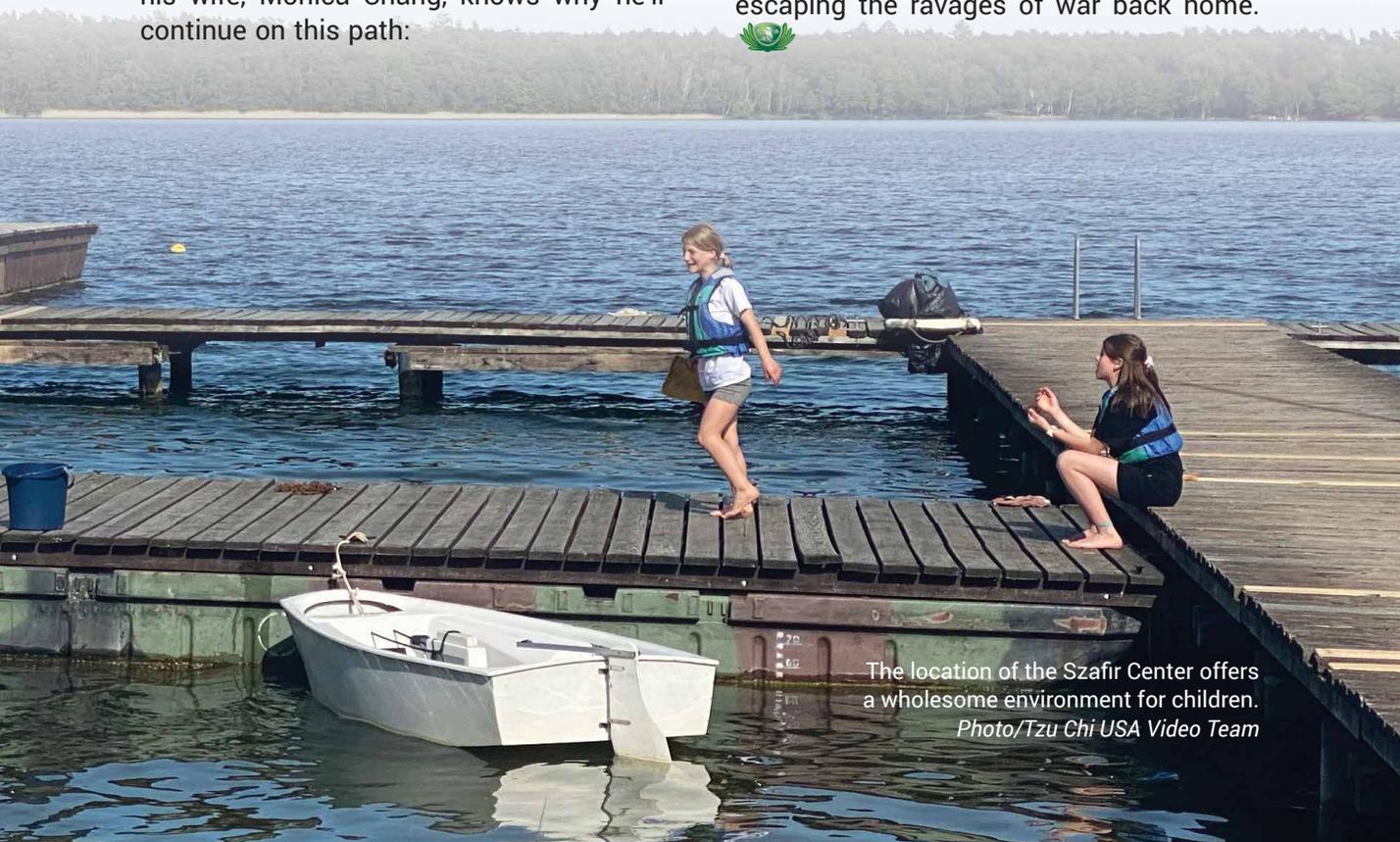
These are the ripples of compassion in action, which Tzu Chi volunteers experience first-hand worldwide. Here in Poland, volunteer Lukasz Baranowski, who is involved in this mission along with his wife, Monica Chang, knows why he'll continue on this path:

I just feel that I need to do it. I think that if my kids see that their parents help a lot, they'll become better people in the future. That's one of the reasons. Another reason is that I always wanted to make this world a little better.



Lukasz Baranowski
 Tzu Chi Volunteer

And indeed, the world is a better place for the 106 Ukrainian children who found safety and shelter in Moryn, Poland, after escaping the ravages of war back home.



The location of the Szafrir Center offers a wholesome environment for children.
 Photo/Tzu Chi USA Video Team

TO HELP AND TO HEAL

Tzu Chi's Global

#GIVING

TUESDAY

Journey

Written by *Adriana DiBenedetto*

Pure and sincere love is the force behind world harmony and humanity's hope.



*Jing Si Aphorism by
Dharma Master Cheng Yen*

Across the globe, on the first Tuesday following Thanksgiving in the U.S. each year, something remarkable occurs. On this day, people, diverse community foundations and nonprofits, schools, religious institutions, and beyond, join in solidarity to reimagine a world built upon shared humanity and generosity – to meet needs and provide healing.

Founded in 2012, #GIVINGTUESDAY was given shape by a simple yet powerful question: “What if there was a day to give back following Black Friday and Cyber Monday, two major days of consumption?”

When approaching the time of year where holidays abound, many contemplate their year-end gift-giving routines. Thanks to #GIVINGTUESDAY, your gift can aid someone's recovery after disasters strike, help someone receive essential medical, vision, or dental care, uplift students through compassionate educational programs, and strengthen communities.

Your #LoveSaves

At its core, #GIVINGTUESDAY presents an opportunity for people to jointly use their individual powers of generosity to connect to and support the causes that mean the most to them, and make a truly massive impact together. What's more, all forms of kindness are encouraged on this day, from giving to charities to lending one's time or talents to a loving cause. And, because generous individuals and groups may sponsor NGOs for #GIVINGTUESDAY,



#GIVING TUESDAY

VIRTUAL CHARITY CONCERT

慈善星期二
慈濟美國雲端音樂會

THANK YOU! 感恩

Tzu Chi USA's 2021 charity concert celebrates the power of compassion in action through art and music.
Photo/Tzu Chi Media Production Center

donations made to participating charities are often matched up to a specified amount, so you can double the love you give. Perhaps especially so in times of stress and uncertainty, **GIVING TUESDAY** represents a profound sense of hope.

In fact, Tzu Chi has participated in **GIVING TUESDAY** since 2016. At the time, the Foundation's **#LoveSaves** campaign had just launched, celebrating the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation's 50th anniversary, while upholding the Tzu Chi spirit of service with faith, perseverance, and courage.

Indeed, the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation grew to what it is today from the conviction that love saves. And inspired by Tzu Chi's founder, Dharma Master Cheng Yen, we know that there's no end to the good we can do together with compassion as our guide.

Yet, the story behind Tzu Chi's founding emerged from a heartbreaking tragedy.

Many years ago, a woman suffering from labor complications had been carried to a hospital for miles, only to be turned away when she lacked the funds to cover the hospital's security deposit. Upon learning this woman's story, Dharma Master Cheng Yen was moved to act. Over the course of one year, she and her dharma family saved US 2¢ daily from their grocery fund to raise the amount needed for someone, like that woman, to receive the treatment they need and deserve. Since then, Tzu Chi went on to raise enough money to build a hospital in Hualien, Taiwan, and the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation's footprint of charity and humanitarianism now spans the globe.

Tzu Chi's path reveals how profoundly each loving thought counts, and that truly, love can change lives. To that end, **GIVING TUESDAY** seemed a perfect pair for Tzu Chi's global relief efforts.



Although they came home to mud and soot, the spirit of Louisiana flood survivors was unbroken. Tzu Chi USA's Louisiana flood relief mission provides \$836,200 in aid to 1,673 families, benefiting 5,553 people. After Tzu Chi's disaster relief distributions, a sentiment expressed by many aid recipients was that, although they had lost much materially, they felt the meaning of love. *Photo/Tzu Chi Volunteer*

Each year during the giving movement, Tzu Chi takes time to showcase poignant stories that uplift the global community, while celebrating the good work of other nonprofit organizations around the world, and raising funds that will help Tzu Chi continue to fulfill its compassionate missions.

In 2016, Tzu Chi's aid spanned the USA, providing relief after the devastating **Louisiana** flood, and several tragic wildfires in **California**. Volunteers delivered their care and comfort after Hurricane Matthew, and carried out hot meal services in **Haiti**.

After a deadly earthquake in **Ecuador**, Tzu Chi's relief reached five of the hardest-hit cities and created over 34,121 temporary jobs through a Cash-For-Relief program. Volunteers provided flood relief in **France**, built an eco-friendly DA.AI village in **Honduras**, and Tzu Chi launched its **Ethical Eating Day** movement, promoting the collective wellness of communities and the planet.

#GivingReliefDay

At the end of **October 2017**, Tzu Chi launched its **#GivingReliefDay** campaign for **GIVINGTUESDAY**, looking back on the year's humanitarian efforts while exploring the ways "Tzu Chi Relief" is unique. Because each step in Tzu Chi's disaster relief process is deeply entwined with love, care, and respect, volunteers reach far into the communities they assist to help ensure no one is forgotten. Tzu Chi's direct cash card aid likewise gives survivors the freedom to decide for themselves what they most urgently need.

And, Tzu Chi offers more than just financial assistance. Sometimes what's needed just as crucially after a disaster is for someone to be there, listening with an open heart...

In 2017, Tzu Chi held a free clinic in **Cambodia**. Meanwhile, floods emerged in **Zimbabwe** and **Ecuador**, and volunteers launched swift relief. Also in 2017,

communities joined hands at a groundbreaking ceremony in Canoa, Ecuador, for the rebuilding of a Catholic church that had been destroyed in an earthquake the previous year.

Tzu Chi mobilized aid after heavy rains caused terrible disasters across **Taiwan**, held a free eye clinic in the **Philippines**, and carried out wildfire relief in **Canada**. Flood relief was held in **Myanmar**, and water

tanks with filters were provided to drought-impacted areas in **Vietnam**.

Volunteers mobilized flood relief in **China**, extended their love after Hurricane Irma, and again after voracious wildfires erupted in **California**. **Argentina, Guatemala, Chile, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Venezuela**, also received Tzu Chi's aid. On the morning of September 20, Hurricane Maria struck **Puerto Rico**, and

Tzu Chi's 2016 #GivingTuesday campaign encourages people to create their own bamboo banks. Photo/Tzu Chi Media Production Center



In Ecuador, following a massive earthquake, Tzu Chi's Cash-for-Relief program launched as part of the aid effort. By the time the program reached Pedernales, 1,200 people were waiting to join. From single moms to entire families, everyone was proud to work in joyful solidarity, inspired by the change they could see in their town. When the program ended in Manta, residents and Tzu Chi volunteers shared tears of gratitude and love. Photo/Tzu Chi Volunteer



Tzu Chi's #GivingReliefDay campaign gives thanks to the benevolent efforts of others and shares how Tzu Chi's care is unique. Donations made to Tzu Chi on this day were matched up to \$250,000 with the love of generous sponsors. *Photo/Tzu Chi Media Production Center*

Tzu Chi soon mounted relief, holding a five-day distribution event.

In **Sierra Leone**, days of torrential rain brought about floods and catastrophic mudslides, and Tzu Chi volunteers prepared thousands of hot meals across multiple locations. In **Indonesia**, Tzu Chi built a bridge for children who had to wade through a river to get to school, and provided relief after a massive earthquake rocked **Mexico**.

Following volunteers' Hurricane Harvey relief in **Texas**, the mayors of two towns expressed their appreciation with proclamations: September 2017 was named "Tzu Chi Month" in Dickinson, and October 6, 2017, became "Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation Day" in Port Arthur.

#HopeHeals

In **2018**, after a 6.0 magnitude earthquake shook **Taiwan**, collapsing buildings, and perilously trapping survivors, Tzu Chi hastened to deliver hot meals, drinks, and set up beds, with Master Cheng Yen visiting the site in person.

In April, Mt. Kilauea in **Hawaii** tragically erupted, and Tzu Chi volunteers delivered their care without delay. After the Fuego volcano erupted in **Guatemala**, Tzu Chi reached out to help. Hot meals, medical attention, and cash cards were delivered amidst widespread flooding in southern **Taiwan**, and free clinics were held in **Mexico** to further care for survivors of the earthquakes in 2017.



After providing its initial relief following the earthquake that struck Central Mexico, the Tzu Chi International Medical Association (TIMA) returns to provide support for survivors' most pressing medical needs in September of 2018. *Photo/Yue Ma*



Tzu Chi's #HopeHeals campaign seeks to deliver effective cash relief to families affected by the Camp Fire by raising donations from 10,000 people, which would directly fund cash cards for 10,000 Camp Fire survivors before Christmas. Photo/Tzu Chi Volunteer

Volunteers provided hot meals, medical attention, and relief funds after **Indonesia** experienced two powerful earthquakes in one day, followed by a tsunami that swept away homes. Going further, Tzu Chi and the military signed a memorandum to build houses for earthquake survivors in Palu, Indonesia.

After a passenger train derailed in **Taiwan**, Tzu Chi mobilized immediately to visit those injured at the hospital, provided monetary aid, hot meals, and comforted families who had lost loved ones. In October, the houses Tzu Chi helped build for earthquake survivors in the **Philippines** were completed, and medical volunteers held a three-day clinic in Ormoc City, where Tzu Chi also helped build homes after a typhoon impacted the city in 2013.

In November, when wildfires raged again across **California**, devastating entire towns, Tzu Chi volunteers quickly delivered thermal blankets and cash cards. Volunteers across

the U.S. took to the streets to fundraise for wildfire survivors, and Tzu Chi initiated its **#HopeHeals** campaign.

As of 2018, Tzu Chi set up offices in 57 countries, brought aid to 97 countries, built 228 schools in 16 countries, constructed 18,683 houses in 15 countries, and provided free medical services to over 2.9 million people in 50 countries. Fifty cities in eight countries have designated a Tzu Chi Day, Tzu Chi Week, or Tzu Chi Month.

Thanks to generous sponsors, in 2018, donations made to Tzu Chi USA on **GIVING TUESDAY** were matched up to \$360,000.

Love Has No Borders and Never Waits

On the path forward, **2019** was a huge year for compassion and relief, beginning with two new Tzu Chi Vision Mobile Clinics,



Two Tzu Chi Vision Mobile units are delivered by five Tzu Chi medical volunteers from Tzu Chi USA's National Headquarters in California, all the way to New York. The inauguration of the mobile units began with the See 2 Succeed program on September 18. See 2 Succeed is a nonprofit partnership that works alongside schools to offer eye exams and glasses for children in underserved communities at no cost.
Photo/Tzu Chi Volunteer

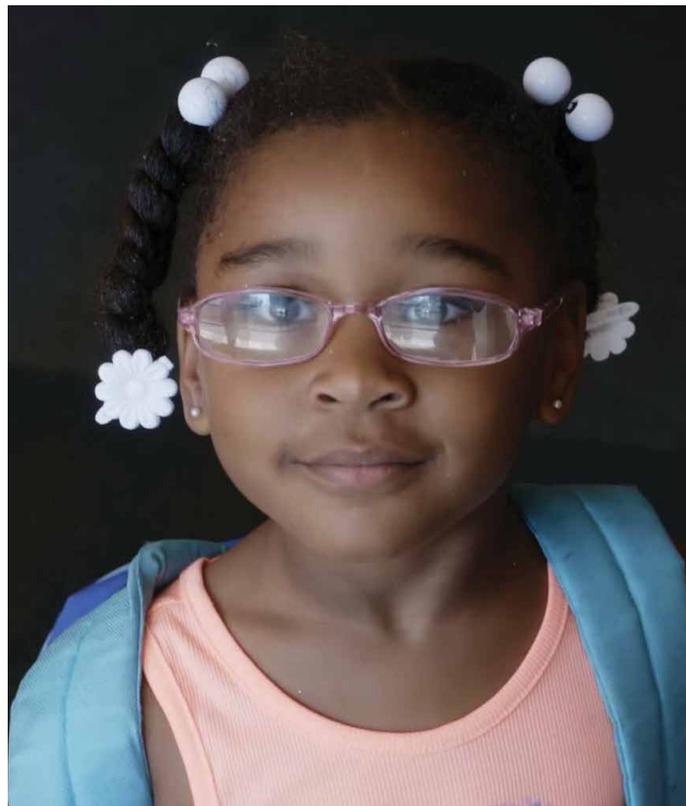
so volunteers can do even more to serve the East Coast. And, by the end of 2019, Tzu Chi had nine Mobile Clinics in operation in the **United States**. These clinics provide mobile vision, medical, dental, and cancer screening services, aiming to ensure no one gets left behind when it comes to health care.

As the year continued, Tzu Chi provided support for the parents of children with special needs, empowering strong, caring parent/child interactions, and volunteers visited nursing homes nationwide to bring their love and joy to residents. In total, Tzu Chi's community care services visited 1,008 institutions, benefiting 33,333 individuals, and food pantry services benefited 109,668 individuals. Winter distributions helped 2,608 individuals.

Across eight California and Texas public schools, Tzu Chi's Character Education program helped increase student attendance while supporting compassion, goodwill, and self-esteem,

with a total of 33,853 sessions provided. **DA.AI Technology's** line of eco-friendly alternatives were also made available in the U.S. as of 2019, sparking greater social responsibility.

After a tornado struck Dayton, **Ohio**, Tzu Chi sprang to action, holding a disaster



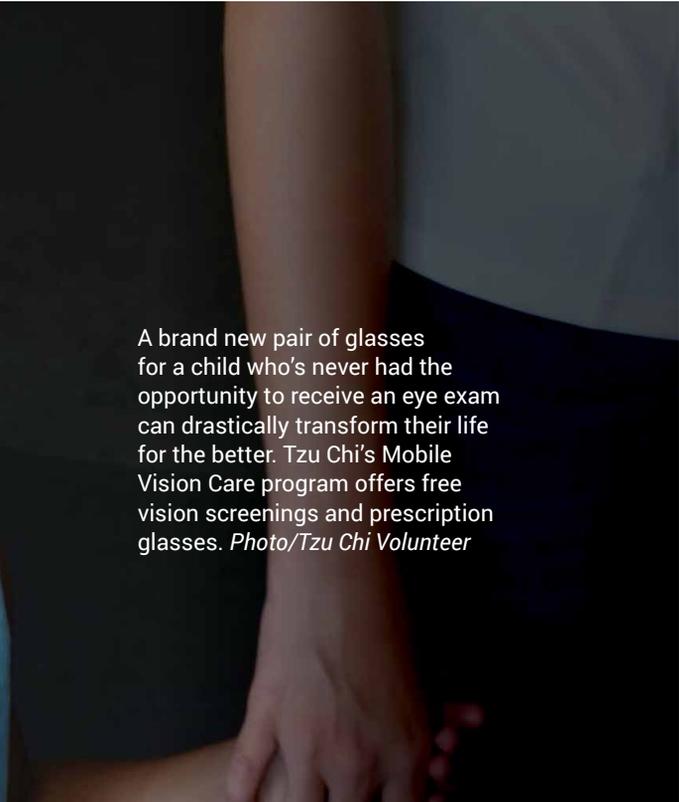


Sponsored by Condor Outdoor Products, Niantic Labs, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Tzu Chi USA's first-ever charity walk, Steps for the Earth, unites communities across the country in support of a cleaner, safer future. Walks were held in New York City on August 11, and in Los Angeles, California, on August 17, 2019. Photo/Tzu Chi Volunteer

relief event that benefited approximately 500 impacted families. At the same time, long-term recovery programs for Hurricane Harvey in **Texas** and the Camp Fire in **California** advanced on the long path toward recovery.

Tzu Chi's long-term relief internationally also continued in 2019, with free medical care in **Ecuador**, and the Catholic Church that the Foundation helped rebuild in Canoa, that community's spiritual home, was completed at last. In **Mozambique**, Tzu Chi provided relief after Cyclone Idai, facilitating the rebuilding process, which included building schools for local children.

The Tzu Chi International Medical Association's (TIMA's) outreach in the town of Santa Ana, Ecuador, addressed concerns from hypertension to nutrition, with volunteers partnering up with local doctors to provide services to residents. Tzu Chi's medical outreach also returned to **Mexico**, providing 10,039 services to 7,816 patients, and reconstruction plans to rebuild a school that was destroyed in the 2017 earthquake were well underway. In support of these missions and more, donations made to Tzu Chi on **GIVING TUESDAY** in 2019 were matched up to \$830,000.



A brand new pair of glasses for a child who's never had the opportunity to receive an eye exam can drastically transform their life for the better. Tzu Chi's Mobile Vision Care program offers free vision screenings and prescription glasses. Photo/Tzu Chi Volunteer



Deeply woven within each stitch of a homemade cloth mask created by a Tzu Chi volunteer is a feeling of boundless love and care. Volunteers in Oakland, California, made bunches of these environmentally friendly cloth masks by hand to be given to community members. *Photo/Tzu Chi Volunteer*



In addition to the provision of eco-friendly masks, volunteers also deliver groceries to seniors in the community. *Photo/Tzu Chi Volunteer*

Together We Heal

A shocking year for the entire globe, **2020** marked the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The United States confirmed its first case of **COVID-19** in January, and by March 13, a national emergency was declared. Amid the crisis and several shortages of essential personal protective equipment (PPE), Tzu Chi volunteers were determined to assist. They delivered eco-blankets, and thousands upon thousands of medical masks, with volunteers even sewing handmade masks themselves to help fill the need. Tzu Chi delivered groceries to seniors, and volunteers revamped the way they give by transforming regular community

food distributions into contactless drive-through distributions.

Tzu Chi medical volunteers additionally held COVID-19 testing events, allowing proper health and safety steps to be taken without delay. By October 4, 2020, volunteers provided 2,180,376 surgical masks, 196,352 N95 masks, 26,621 handcrafted masks, 20,826 bags of groceries, 77,120 pairs of gloves, 42,563 protective goggles, 28,601 face shields, and 14,989 antiviral coveralls across the nation.

During a year already filled with heartache, natural disasters did not cease to occur. Hurricane Laura raged across southeast **Texas** and southwest **Louisiana**, and Tzu Chi volunteers coordinated distributions of cash

cards, eco-friendly blankets, and Jing Si Instant Rice and noodles. When ferocious wildfires sparked in **California**, Tzu Chi delivered blankets and cash cards with love.

To help people at home stay connected, Tzu Chi hosted a virtual charity concert on October 17, featuring stories of hope, and music from around the world. Donations made to Tzu Chi for **GIVING TUESDAY** in 2020 were matched up to \$660,000, and in May of 2020, in response to the distress caused by the pandemic, Tzu Chi additionally participated in **#GivingTuesdayNow** – a powerful day of global unity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On The Journey Forward

In **2021**, we saw compassion in action reach new heights. On November 30, thanks to the support of generous donors, your **GIVING TUESDAY** contributions were matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$2.5 million,

doubling the love you gave toward life-changing initiatives like COVID-19 recovery, wildfire relief, Hurricane Ida aid, and Haiti earthquake recovery.

Tzu Chi began by joining the COVID-19 vaccination effort, and through collaboration with communities across the country, provided 15,000 free COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Tzu Chi's charity programs provided food, free vision care, and supplies for students. Volunteers held health and education fundraisers, and upheld wisdom to inspire, guide, and uplift.

Tzu Chi volunteers responded when a three-alarm fire devastated an apartment building in California's **Inland Empire** metropolitan area, displacing dozens of families in a single night. Volunteers helped families recover after a gas explosion in Quezon City, **Philippines**, and after destructive fires in **Oregon** and **Arizona**, providing not only monetary aid but spiritual



GivingTuesday launches **#GivingTuesdayNow** as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. Together, with all of your love, Tzu Chi was able to send crucial PPE to healthcare and other essential workers during the pandemic. Donations to Tzu Chi USA were matched up to \$700k on May 5, 2020. *Photo/Tzu Chi Media Production Center*

support. Tzu Chi brought assistance to **Chicago** after a tornado with winds of over 130 mph passed through multiple suburbs in June, and gave out emergency cash cards loaded with funds to aid one's recovery.

Wildfires raged across the **Northwest**, leaving families displaced and in shock, and in addition to monetary and emotional relief, Tzu Chi helped multiple families obtain housing. In 2021, our wildfire emergency aid delivered \$206,700, benefiting 1,136 survivors. A Tzu Chi free clinic in **Thailand** was opened, and volunteers brought relief after a cyclone in **Mozambique**. Following this initial relief in Mozambique, volunteers provided seeds and farming tools to help locals set their lives back on track.

In March, Tzu Chi donated medical supplies to hospitals in **Malaysia**. In April, when an express train tragically derailed in eastern **Taiwan**, taking the lives of 50 people and injuring over 200, Tzu Chi's monastic practitioners quickly prepared hot meals to be sent to the accident site, and volunteers visited funeral homes to offer their heartfelt care to families.

Additionally, in April, **India** experienced a COVID-19 crisis. Acting swiftly, Tzu Chi provided medical devices, fundraised, and in Lumbini, **Nepal**, volunteers taught locals how to make cloth masks. And, when news of circumstances in India reached **Mozambique**, Tzu Chi volunteers there composed a song of love, solidarity, and hope, to raise more funds for the people of India.

When torrential rain lashed **China's Henan Province**, submerging entire neighborhoods, stores donated supplies to Tzu Chi so they could be safely distributed to those most in need. In **New Zealand**, Tzu Chi volunteers donated winter clothing to people who were experiencing homelessness, and

in **Zimbabwe**, Tzu Chi gave out surgical masks and rice to nearly 1,500 families.

In July, **Germany** was hard-hit by floods, and beginning in August, Tzu Chi provided hot, healthy meals for an entire month, along with printed quotes from Master Cheng Yen to lift one's spirits. In August, **Haiti** was struck by a magnitude 7.2 earthquake, and U.S. Tzu Chi volunteers sprang to action. Volunteers immediately assembled 16,586 first aid kits for distribution. Along with water purification tablets, volunteers provided rice and more food to 11,100 households in hard-hit areas and served 8,000 hot meals.

In September, the homes Tzu Chi built in Palu, **Indonesia**, for quake survivors were finally ready, and to help care for patients amid the continued effects of the pandemic, a Tzu Chi hospital was opened in Indonesia as well. In the **Philippines**, to help the government reach its vaccination target, Tzu Chi medical volunteers pitched in to help with vaccination drives.

After **Hurricane Ida** reached the Northeast, causing tornadoes and deadly floods, volunteers mobilized to provide \$242,100 in financial relief and other aid, benefiting 1,097 survivors.

With the year nearing its end, Tzu Chi's UN team attended COP26 in **Scotland**, where delegates heard Tzu Chi's call for mindful living and plant-based diets amid a changing climate.

As of November 24, 2021, Tzu Chi USA's footprints of humanitarian aid reached 126 countries and regions, with offices in 66 countries and regions globally. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tzu Chi USA has sent pandemic relief to 96 countries and regions globally, with a total of 48,635,196 pieces of medical supplies, benefiting

3,900,272 households, totaling over 16,108,770 people.

Then, in December, The U.S. faced yet another disaster when tornadoes tragically impacted homes and towns across the Midwest. Tzu Chi raced to bring aid before Christmas, the distributions reaching 445 families in hard-hit **Kentucky** and **Missouri** by December 24.

Tzu Chi's mission to advance global wellness continued with a free **GIVING TUESDAY** Charity Concert in 2021, featuring performances to awaken the spirit. This virtual concert included pieces from Skip Culton, Wan Fang, Marcos Loya, STC Performing Arts, Diane W. Carter, Bart Shatto, Rosa Martínez, Justin Robertazzi, Pauline Parkhurst, Nicholas J. Reese, and Tzu Chi Sign Language Performers. During the family-friendly broadcast, viewers took the opportunity to make a donation to Tzu Chi USA and see their generosity grow thanks to a donation matching program.

For one day only, contributions made up to \$2.5 million were matched thanks to our **GIVING TUESDAY** sponsors.

With each step we take, we are paving a path of love inch by inch. As we pave the path by giving with love, let us take every step firmly and mindfully and stride forward diligently every day.

Dharma Master Cheng Yen

Dharma Master Cheng Yen once said, "None of us can single-handedly hold up the sky." But together, wonders do abound. Day by day, we each can help empower the brighter, more compassionate future we all aspire for. 🌱

#GIVING TUESDAY
VIRTUAL CHARITY CONCERT
慈善星期二
慈濟美國雲端音樂會
2021 / 11 / 30 日

EAST COAST EDITION
美東場 7pm ET

WEST COAST EDITION
美西場 7pm PT

LAST CHANCE TO DONATE!
(Match donation up to **\$2.5 million**)

捐款的最後機會!
(贊助總金額最高可達250萬美元!)

On the East Coast Edition of Tzu Chi's GivingTuesday charity concert, people tune in for inspiring performances by STC Performing Arts, Wan Fang, Skip Culton, Bart Shatto, Rosa Martínez, Justin Robertazzi, Pauline Parkhurst, Nicholas J. Reese, Diane W. Carter, & Tzu Chi Sign Language Performers.
Photo/Tzu Chi Media Production Center



#GIVING TUESDAY

2022 CHARITY CONCERT

NOV 29

7 PM ET
EAST COAST EDITION

7 PM PT
WEST COAST EDITION

JOIN US FOR A MUSICAL
EVENING CELEBRATING
COMPASSION IN ACTION!

On Tuesday, November 29, 2022, you're invited to tune into the livestream of our annual charity concert in honor of *Giving Tuesday*, a global day of giving.

During our family friendly program, enjoy special performances and see the impact we've made this year. You'll also be able to donate before and during our program. [Save the date and watch live!](#)



tzuchi.us/GivingTuesday





Illuminations

Dharma Master Cheng Yen responds to questions and comments from visitors, volunteers, staff, and disciples.

LETTING CHILDREN DEVELOP NATURALLY

Question: “Master, what is the appropriate way to discipline children?”

Answer: “Raising children is like planting saplings. If you intentionally give too much water and nutrients to the soil, the roots will quickly rot. Children are the same. You should be aware of their capabilities and let them develop naturally. Being overly protective or spoiling them only hurts them.”

EDUCATING WITH THE WISDOM OF BODHISATTVAS

Question: “My child doesn’t behave and doesn’t study. What should I do?”

Answer: “Parents can only do their best for their children. They do not have the right to restrict their children’s development. They should plant blessings for their children and cherish all sentient beings with a mother’s heart. Parents should also use the wisdom of bodhisattvas to educate their children. Do not worry over the children; otherwise, you can unknowingly add to the child’s negative karma.”

LOVING THE PERSON OUR CHILD LOVES

Question: “I put in a lot of effort raising and nurturing my only son. I never let him help with housework. He was successful as a student and has established a successful career. He is now married and has children. However, my daughter-in-law not only expects him to do all the housework but to also take care of their child. I cannot bear to see this happen to my son.”

Answer: “If you love your son, you should love the person your son loves. If he is willing to give of himself for his loved ones, you should be happy for him! Try to treat your daughter-in-law as your own daughter. Imagine that this daughter has found a great husband. Then, you won’t feel bad for your son. Besides, your son is willing to take on this housework. As long as he is happy, and as long as the two of them have good chemistry and are not fighting with each other, what is there to complain about?”

WITH BLESSINGS AND AFFINITIES, WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO SENTIENT BEINGS

Wholeheartedly gather the power of love and create a cycle of love.

Master Cheng Yen's Teachings | Translated and Compiled by the Dharma as Water Team

Every day, there is one word that the world cannot escape from—"suffering." Even the wealthiest people experience suffering. There is no such thing as a perfect, worry-free life, no world without suffering. For instance, the weather is very hot right now, and you and I all experience it. Similarly, suffering is also a universal experience. There is the suffering of aging, illness, and death; ordinary beings are deluded and find them hard to accept. For awakened people, on the other hand, it is not that they do not experience suffering, but instead, they thoroughly comprehend it and accept it as the law of nature, so they are at ease and at peace.

What causes even more suffering are the afflictions and ignorance in people's hearts; these disrupt peace among people and lead to conflicts between countries. Over the last few months, we have seen how the Russian-Ukraine war has affected so many. People also have excessive greed and desire, resulting in overconsumption and waste. We see how merchandise is overpackaged for beauty, and this leads to more and more waste. In Tzu Chi's recycling stations, we see piles of new clothing that people donated after holding onto them; so many of them still have their tags on. Not only do people have excessive clothing, but they also waste so much food, while many people are starving.

Even though we all live on the same planet, those in wealthy countries pursue pleasure, while those in poor countries have to deal with underdevelopment and lack of resources. If we all could reduce our desires and learn to be content, we would have enough to spare for those in need. We do not need to be completely

full when we eat; we just need to have enough. When we eat until we are 80% full and use the 20% to help others, fewer people will starve.

The International Buddhist Association of Nepal collaborated with Tzu Chi to set up medical facilities in Lumbini, Nepal. Tzu Chi volunteers from Malaysia and Singapore visited in July to check on the progress of the construction work for the free clinic and the operations of the dialysis center, and they also conducted home visits in the rural area. A few months ago, Dr. Chen Jimin from Malaysia walked by a family in a village in Lumbini. He saw a toddler crawling on the ground, trying to drink from a milk bottle on the floor. Dr. Chen was so shocked that he held up the boy's head and fed the milk to him. The boy's parents were disabled and worked as laborers on a nearby farm. The boy's sister is of school age, but they could not afford the monthly tuition—less than 5 US dollars.

This is a vicious cycle in the local village, where children drop out of school and remain illiterate. Then, they grow up to make a very minimal wage—less than 3 US dollars a day. As they cannot make a living, some will just beg, waiting for someone to give them money or food.

In the Buddha's hometown of Lumbini, there are many tourist spots, but how many people are able to witness suffering and realize their own blessings? When we see suffering how many of us can give rise to empathy? Tzu Chi volunteers found this family and quickly distributed food supplies to help





them, and they arranged for the little girl to attend school. There are so many people in this world that every encounter is an extraordinary cause and condition. If people in suffering have the affinities to receive help after bodhisattvas see them with compassion and reach out a helping hand, then they are also blessed. In these cases, I am glad for the people suffering and joyfully give them my well-wishes.

I cannot personally visit the Buddha's birthplace, Lumbini, but I am grateful that I have a group of disciples whose hearts are so close to mine. They will complete my mission of repaying the Buddha's grace by doing actual construction work and developing medicine and charity missions there.

With these bodhisattvas as my strength, I hope to implement Right Dharma in the Buddha's hometown and help the Buddha Dharma prosper.

The Buddha came to the world for one great cause, going among people to help sentient beings in suffering. After more than 2,500 years, you must seize the conditions to take your teacher's mission as your own and the Buddha's heart as your own. You must take the responsibility to work for Buddha's teachings and for sentient beings on your own shoulders, expanding your heart to see all sentient beings in the world as your own responsibility.

Though we truly cannot save all beings in the world, we can dedicate our efforts

to doing so. When we see and hear about suffering in the world, if we have an affinity with the place, we give of ourselves there. When having one person is insufficient, we spread the word, and good words can guide good people. With everyone's love gathered, we leverage everyone's strength so that we can help those in suffering, wherever they are.

Tzu Chi volunteers have aspirations, vows, and strength; they give unconditionally and place their palms together to express gratitude. This is such a beautiful way of life! We also elevate the value of our lives in this way. Every time I see this, I cannot help but express my gratitude and how moved I am! With love in our hearts, we have an abundance of wealth. When we can give love, we are giving ourselves blessings. Creating blessings in the world is creating blessings for ourselves.

We must implement the Buddha Dharma in the world. As we learn the Buddha's teachings, we must put them into action. If we simply stand in place all the time trying to "throw a stone to find a way," we will actually end up blocking the path. I keep urging everyone to awaken the power of love. I also ask everyone to help lend some strength to my voice and speak more kind words on my behalf. When everyone is grateful and content, we can extend our connection and spread our love more widely, expanding our arms to embrace all beings. I hope that everyone can form the aspiration so that we can create infinite blessings and allow all beings in poverty, illness, and suffering in the world to be saved! 🙏



Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation Global Relief Efforts

by Sophie X. Song, Ida Eva Zielinska



 Chile



On June 5, Tzu Chi volunteers go to Colegio San Gregorio de la Salle in La Granja to distribute winter supplies, helping 200 disadvantaged households overcome the difficulties in their lives. The volunteers also hold a free eye clinic and provide eye exams and glasses for students from underprivileged families. *Photos/Santiago Service Center*



 Mozambique



On June 16, Tzu Chi holds a ground-breaking ceremony for the ESG Mafambisse Secondary School in Dondo County, Sofala Province. Lourenço Ferreira Bulha, the Governor of Sofala, lays down the first brick on the new school grounds, wishing the project every success. Students perform on stage as part of the festivities. *Photos/Jose Jorge*



 The Philippines



Tzu Chi's agricultural poverty alleviation program for indigenous tribes in Davao del Norte Province proceeds on June 4. Tzu Chi volunteers and agriculture professionals go to the rural area as they have done monthly to provide guidance on the cultivation of banana seedlings. The children are also thrilled to receive delicious buns from the volunteers on that day. *Photos/Matt Serrano*



 Thailand



Although the COVID-19 pandemic has shown signs of abating, it still impacts Thailand's economy and citizens' livelihood. Tzu Chi volunteers organize emergency relief projects that distribute supplies to those in need, for instance, people who are unemployed or have no income, temporary workers, families with children, and so on. On May 31, volunteers distribute supplies in the Thanyaburi district of Pathum Thani Province, and everyone gives a thumbs up in support. *Photos/Jose Jorge*



 Haiti



Aid distribution is nearly impossible currently in Haiti, as gangs control many areas, including in the capital, Port-au-Prince. However, since people are starving, upon receiving rice from Taiwan, Tzu Chi Haiti distributes 200 tons in the impoverished Cité Soleil and La Saline neighborhoods in July. *Photos/Tzu Chi Haiti*



 Poland



Millions of Ukrainians have fled their homeland since the Russian invasion began in February, with many arriving in Poland. In July, Tzu Chi holds 12 aid distributions over four consecutive days for Ukrainians sheltering in Opole. The emergency relief phase concluded at the end of July, after \$13,940,542 in gift cards was distributed to 79,479 Ukrainians. Tzu Chi's aid has now transitioned to mid- to long-term relief. *Photos/Shu Wei Chen, Wanzhen Cai* 🌿



Tzu Chi USA Relief Efforts

by Sophie X. Song, Ida Eva Zielinska

Education and Celebration of Student Success



1 Students serve tea to their parents to express their gratitude at a ceremony on May 14, celebrating the successful conclusion of the academic year at Tzu Chi Academy in Miami, Florida, and sending off the 2022 graduating class. *Photo/Chai-Hwa Chen*

2 Students perform a Tang poetry recitation during the 2022 graduation ceremony at Tzu Chi Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 15. *Photo/Boying Zhong*

3 The students' humorous performance of "Journey to the West - Flaming Mountain" delights the audience during the 2022 graduation celebration at Tzu Chi Academy in Cupertino, California, on May 21. *Photo/Cupertino Tzu Chi Academy*

4 The COVID-19 pandemic kept everyone home for two years, but in 2022, the Tzu Chi Collegiate Association in New York can hold an in-person graduation ceremony on May 22. They celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in the graduates' lives, as having inherited the Tzu Chi spirit, they will go on to plant the seeds of kindness elsewhere. *Photo/Pinhau Chu*

5 Tzu Chi Elementary School in Walnut, California, holds the closing ceremony for the academic year on May 27, with around 140 parents and more than 40 Tzu Chi volunteers and teachers participating in the event along with the students. *Photo/Tzu Chi Elementary School*

6 New Jersey Tzu Chi Academy's 10th graduation ceremony on June 5 is a simple and solemn event, with graduates receiving warm blessings from their teachers, Tzu Chi volunteers, and other students in the school's auditorium. *Photo/New Jersey Tzu Chi Academy*

Interfaith Collaboration



7 Concurrently to the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, California, FIDELA (Foro Interreligioso de las Américas) holds its Second Interreligious Forum of the Americas from June 7 to 8. Debra Boudreaux, the CEO of Tzu Chi USA, is invited as one of the keynote speakers. *Photo/Jennifer Chien*



8 Tzu Chi USA Chief Executive Officer Debra Boudreaux (second right), one of the keynote speakers, listens to the speeches of others representing different religious groups at the Second Interreligious Forum of the Americas in June. *Photo/Jennifer Chien*

Timely Disaster Relief



9 On May 20, a tornado hit Gaylord, Michigan, bearing wind speeds up to 241 mph, killing two people and injuring more than 40. On June 18, volunteers from the Chicago and the Detroit service centers of Tzu Chi USA's Midwest Region, distribute \$1,000 cash cards, eco-blankets, masks, and other emergency relief supplies to those affected by the disaster. *Photo/Yue Ma*



10 The Oak Fire that ignited in Mariposa County, California, on July 22 destroyed over 100 homes. At the request of the County, Tzu Chi first set up a booth in the Local Assistance Center to help impacted families register for assistance. Then on August 14, Tzu Chi USA Northwest Region volunteers from Modesto and Fresno begin to provide disaster relief, with a second distribution on August 20. *Photo/Kelly Liu*



11 Heavy rain at the end of July led to widespread and catastrophic flooding in eastern Kentucky. Tzu Chi USA Midwest Region volunteers from Chicago



12 Beginning on July 26 and lasting two days, several rounds of thunderstorms caused flash flooding in the St. Louis metropolitan area in Missouri. Tzu Chi USA Midwest Region volunteers provide disaster aid to 80 impacted families on August 27, bringing immediate relief to 260 individuals. *Photo/Yue Ma*



13 The McKinney Fire ignited in the Klamath National Forest in Siskiyou County, California, on July 29 and grew explosively, burning over 60,000 acres and causing four fatalities. On August 29, a team of Tzu Chi USA Northwest Region volunteers distribute \$21,000 in disaster aid, benefiting 57 survivors. Curtis Sexton, who is in charge of the water tower and was the last person to escape, shared shocking photos of the blaze with the volunteers. *Photo/C.M. Yung*

State	Tzu Chi USA Offices	Address	Tel / Fax	State	Tzu Chi USA Offices	Address	Tel / Fax	
AZ	Phoenix Service Center	2145 W. Elliot Rd. Chandler, AZ 85224	480-838-6556 F: 480-777-7665	KS	Kansas Office	9508 Shannon Way Circle Wichita, KS 67206	316-323-5798	
S. CA	Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, US Headquarters Area	1100 S. Valley Center Ave. San Dimas, CA 91773	909-447-7799 F: 909-447-7948	LA	New Orleans Office	52 Driftwood Blvd. Kenner, LA 70065	504-782-5168 F: 504-832-2022	
	Jing Si Books & Café, San Dimas		909-447-7799 x 6569	MD	Montgomery County Service Center		703-707-8606 F: 301-339-8872	
	Tzu Chi Academy, San Dimas		909-447-7799 x 6551 F: 909-447-7944	MA	Boston Service Center	15 Summer St.	617-762-0569	
	Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation	1008 S. Garfield Ave. Alhambra, CA 91801	626-427-9598 F: 626-788-2321		Tzu Chi Academy, Boston	Newton, MA 02464	617-431-4844 F: 617-431-4484	
	Tzu Chi Medical Center, Alhambra		626-281-3383 F: 626-281-5303	MI	Lansing Office	3511 West Hiawatha Dr., Okemos, MI 48864	517-505-3388	
	Tzu Chi Community Clinic, South El Monte	10414 Vacco St. South El Monte, CA 91733	626-636-8706 F: 626-671-8778		Detroit Service Center	2122 Fifteen Mile Rd. #A Sterling Heights, MI 48310	586-795-3491 F: 586-795-3491	
	Buddhist Tzu Chi Education Foundation	1920 S. Brea Canyon Cutoff Rd. Walnut, CA 91789	909-895-2125 F: 909-345-7025	MN	Minneapolis Office	1485 Arden View Dr. Arden Hills, MN 55112	617-939-6965	
	Tzu Chi Great Love Preschool & Kindergarten, Walnut		909-895-2126 F: 909-927-8336	MO	St. Louis Service Center	8515 Olive Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63132	314-994-1999 F: 314-994-1999	
	Tzu Chi Elementary, Walnut		909-895-2125 x 3200 F: 909-345-7025	NV	Reno Office	903 West Moana Lane Reno, NV 89509	775-827-6333 F: 775-770-1148	
	Tzu Chi Academy, Walnut		909-895-2280		Las Vegas Service Center/ Academy	2590 Lindell Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89146	702-880-5552 F: 702-880-5552	
	Tzu Chi Great Love Preschool & Kindergarten, Monrovia	206 E. Palm Ave. Monrovia, CA 91016	626-305-1188 F: 626-599-8098	NJ	Mid-Atlantic Region/Jing Si Books & Café	150 Commerce Rd. Cedar Grove, NJ 07009	973-857-8666 F: 973-857-9555	
	Tzu Chi Academy, Monrovia	220 E. Palm Ave. Monrovia, CA 91016	626-775-3675 F: 626-359-8199		Tzu Chi Academy, Northern New Jersey			
	West Los Angeles Service Center	11701 Wilshire Blvd. #15A Los Angeles, CA 90025	310-473-5188 F: 310-477-9518		Tzu Chi Academy, Central New Jersey	50 Woodrow Wilson Dr., Edison, NJ 08820	973-857-8666	
	Torrance Service Center	1355 Broad Ave. Wilmington, CA 90744	310-684-4465 F: 310-684-4460		Central New Jersey Service Center		908-420-5218	
Tzu Chi Community Clinic, Wilmington		310-684-4466 F: 855-651-1717	NY	Northeast Region/Academy	137-77 Northern Blvd. Flushing, NY 11354	718-888-0866 F: 718-460-2068		
Orange County Service Center	22911 Mill Creek Dr. Laguna Hills, CA 92653	949-916-4488 F: 949-916-5933		Jing Si Books & Café, New York			718-799-3000	
Tzu Chi Academy, Irvine	4321 Walnut Ave., Irvine, CA 92604	714-624-3026 F: 949-916-5933		Brooklyn Service Center	5721 6Th Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11220		917-909-0682	
Cerritos Service Center	14618&14620 Carmenita Rd. Norwalk, CA 90650	562-926-6609 F: 562-926-1603		Long Island Branch/Academy	60 E Williston Ave. East Williston, NY 11596	516-873-6888 F: 516-746-0626		
Northridge Service Center	8963 Reseda Blvd. Northridge, CA 91324	818-727-7689 F: 818-727-2722		Manhattan Service Center	101 Lafayette Street, 4/F, New York, NY 10013	212-965-1151 F: 212-965-1152		
San Gabriel Valley Service Center	9620 Flair Dr. El Monte, CA 91731	626-416-4527 Warehouse: 626-416-4529		East Long Island Office	4 Milburn Rd. S. Setauket, NY 11720	631-964-3393		
Jing Si Books & Café, El Monte		626-448-1362		Tzu Chi Center, New York	229 E. 60th St. New York, NY 10022	212-660-9229 F: 646-864-0086		
San Diego Service Center	5754 Pacific Center Blvd. #202 San Diego, CA 92121	858-546-0578 F: 858-546-0573			Raleigh Service Center		919-322-8389	
Northwest Region	2355 Oakland Rd. San Jose, CA 95131	408-457-6969 F: 408-943-8420		NC	Charlotte Office	4527 Dwight Evans Rd. Charlotte, NC 28217	704-281-8060 F: 704-943-1031	
Tzu Chi Academy, Tri-Valley		925-785-7413		OH	Cincinnati Office	11228 Brookbridge Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45249	513-469-2161 F: 513-469-2161	
Jing Si Books & Café, San Jose		408-457-6981	Columbus Service Center		2200 Henderson Rd. Columbus, OH 43220	614-457-9215 F: 614-457-9217		
San Francisco Branch	2901 Irving St. San Francisco, CA 94122	415-682-0566 F: 415-682-0567	Dayton Service Center		1459 E Dorothy Lane Dayton, OH 45429	937-701-7111		
Tzu Chi Academy, San Mateo	2675 Ralston Ave., Belmont, CA 94002	650-888-1582	Cleveland Service Center		1076 Ford Rd. Highland Heights, OH 44143	440-646-9292 F: 440-646-9292		
Tzu Chi Academy, San Francisco	350 Girard St. San Francisco, CA 94134	415-680-5225 F: 415-682-0567	Portland Service Center		3800 SW Cedar Hills Blvd #194 Beaverton, OR 97005	503-643-2130 F: 503-643-2130		
Modesto Service Center	1100 Carver Rd. #J Modesto, CA 95350	209-529-2625 F: 209-529-2625	OR		Tzu Chi Academy, Portland	12250 SW Conestoga Dr., Beaverton, OR 97008	503-841-7776	
Stockton Office	1212 W Robinhood Dr. #3D Stockton, CA 95207	209-957-7800 F: 209-957-7800	PA		Philadelphia Office	107 North 9th Street Philadelphia, PA 19107	215-627-1915 F: 215-627-1916	
Tzu Chi Academy, Cupertino	1280 Johnson Ave San Jose, CA 95129	408-823-8799			Pittsburgh Service Center/ Academy	1333 Banksville Rd. #201 Pittsburgh, PA 15216	412-531-8343 F: 412-531-8341	
Santa Rosa Office	2435 Professional Drive, Suite D Santa Rosa 95403	707-546-1945			Southern Region/Academy	6200 Corporate Dr. Houston, TX 77036	713-270-9988 F: 713-981-9008	
Sacramento Service Center	1820 Tribute Rd. # J Sacramento, CA 95815	916-568-5800			Jing Si Books & Café, Houston		713-981-8966	
Ukiah Office	527 S State St. #B Ukiah, CA 95482	707-462-2911 F: 707-462-2911		Tzu Chi Great Love Preschool & Kindergarten, Houston		713-395-0303 F: 713-395-0305		
Oakland Service Center	620 International Blvd. Oakland, CA 94606	510-879-0971 F: 510-879-0971		Austin Service Center	7221 Northeast Dr. Austin, TX 78723	512-491-0358 F: 512-926-1373		
Tzu Chi Academy, San Jose	625 Educational Park Dr. San Jose, CA 95133	408-457-6970		San Antonio Office	19179 Blanco Rd. #109-2 San Antonio, TX 78258	909-576-2387 F: 210-566-3970		
Fresno Service Center	7421 N Maple Ave. Fresno, CA 93720	559-298-4894 F: 559-298-4894		Central Region/Academy/ Jing Si Books & Café	534 W. Belt Line Rd. Richardson, TX 75080	972-680-8869 F: 972-680-7732		
Orlando Service Center	5401 Alhambra Dr. #A Orlando, FL 32808	407-292-1146 F: 407-292-1146		Tzu Chi Great Love Preschool & Kindergarten, Dallas		214-446-1776 F: 214-446-1772		
Miami Service Center	8070 Pasadena Blvd. Pembroke Pines, FL 33024	954-538-1172 F: 317-645-9907		VA	Greater Washington D.C. Region/ Academy	1516 Moorings Dr. Reston, VA 20190	703-707-8606 F: 703-707-8607	
Atlanta Branch/ Tzu Chi Academy, Atlanta	3120 Medlock Bridge Rd. Building E Peachtree Corners, GA 30071	770-458-1000		Richmond Service Center	1318 Tomahawk Creek Rd. Midlothian, VA 23114	804-306-6037 F: 804-378-3520		
GA			WA	Seattle Branch/Academy	15800 SE Newport Way Bellevue WA 98006	425-643-9104		
HI	Pacific Islands Region/Academy	1238 Wilhelmina Rise Honolulu, HI 96816	808-737-8885	WI	Milwaukee Office	5356 W. Silverleaf Ln, Brown Deer, WI 53223	414-357-8427	
IL	Midwest Region/Academy/ Jing Si Books & Café	1430 Plainfield Rd. Darien, IL 60561	630-963-6601 F: 630-960-9360		Madison Office	1019 Starlight Ln, Cottage Grove, WI 53527	608-960-1962	
IN	Chicago Chinatown Service Center	215 W 23rd St., Chicago, IL 60616						
	Indianapolis Service Center	2929 E. 96th St. #E Indianapolis, IN 46240	317-580-0979					



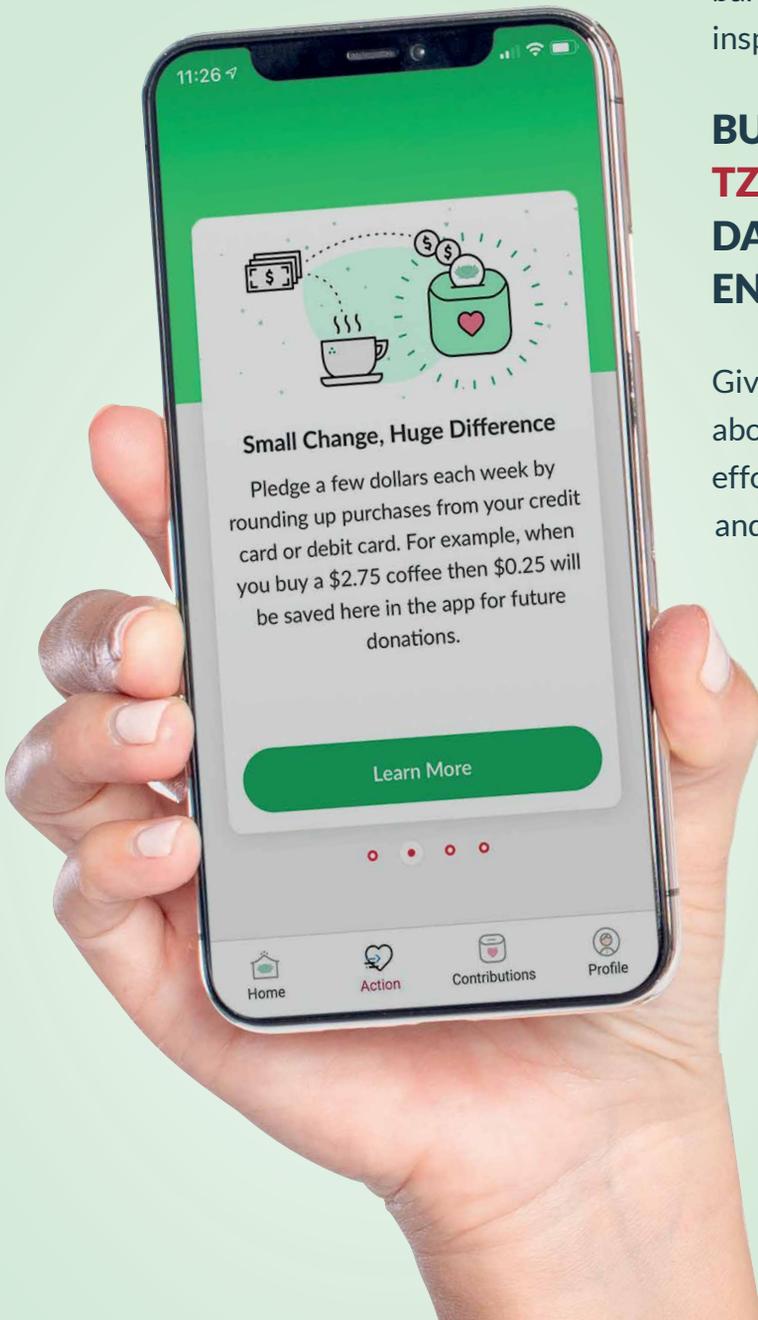
Tzu Chi Connect

Tzu Chi was founded on the principle of daily giving, where the loving intention to help others is even more important than the amount donated.

In the beginning, Dharma Master Cheng Yen's followers collected funds to donate in coin banks made of actual bamboo. Tzu Chi volunteers continue to offer updated "bamboo banks" to one and all, hoping to inspire regular giving with love.

**BUT NOW, WITH THE
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Tzu Chi's aid for Ukrainians who escaped the war in their homeland and are sheltering in Poland brings 12 distributions to Opole, where children try on volunteer vests, inspired by the loving-kindness of the Tzu Chi volunteers they meet. *Photo/Tzu Chi Volunteer*