

COMPASSION & RELIEF

WINTER  
2022

ISSUE  
**67**

# TZU CHI *USA Journal*



## A Journey for Relief After Hurricane Ian

Climate Week NYC 2022

Combating the Climate Crisis:  
The Tzu Chi Effect

Tzu Chi USA's Digital Presence



# CONTEMPLATIVE WISDOM

Thoughts for meditation, contemplation,  
and reflection

**Dharma Master Cheng Yen**

*Founder of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation*

Let us do good deeds and benefit others with compassion;  
those who do good deeds will have abundant blessings.

Let us treat others and handle matters with wisdom;  
those who pass on virtues will enjoy blessings in the future.



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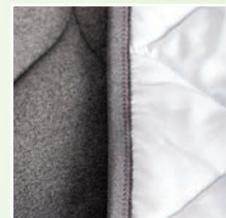
**Cover:** Tzu Chi USA's extensive Hurricane Ian disaster relief brings comfort and timely aid to those impacted in Florida as they embark on the emotionally and financially draining path to full recovery. *Photo/Tzu Chi USA Media Team*

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# Infrared Thermal Blanket



**This winter, get comfy with the Infrared Thermal Blanket from DA.AI Technology.**

Experience the ultimate in comfort, with a smooth cotton-blend lining and plush fleece exterior...

and the sophistication of green tech, with yarn made from recycled PET bottles.

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**DA.AI**  
Coexist with the Earth





**W**elcome to the Winter 2022 Issue of the Tzu Chi USA Journal. The theme for the last issue of this year is climate awareness and solutions.

Our cover story, “Seeking Holistic Solutions During Climate Week NYC 2022,” presents an overview of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation’s first Holistic Climate Solutions Summit, held at the Tzu Chi Center for Compassionate Relief in New York from September 19-25. The gathering offered 22 thought-provoking sessions comprising panels, interactive workshops, and dialogues exploring an alternative future within reach.

During the week-long event, we also discovered how communities and local groups are helping voice the climate crisis and generating interactive solutions. Our feature story, “Using Community to Combat the Climate Crisis: How Tzu Chi Makes a Difference,” reveals how communities and community leaders are combating climate change.

Tzu Chi addresses the climate crisis in a multifaceted way. At the forefront, we provide disaster relief after the continual onslaught of natural disasters. We also build public awareness about the issue and encourage environmental protection practices, such as saying no to plastics, recycling, and transitioning to an eco-friendly (and compassionate) plant-based diet.

Publicizing and creating social engagement around these missions and activities is essential to garner support, enhance the educational component, and promote lifestyle changes. One of the most powerful ways we do this is through our digital footprint. The portrait story, “Compassion Inspires Compassion: Tzu Chi USA’s Evolving Digital Presence,” outlines our progressive online growth, from the first website to today’s numerous sites and social media platform pages.

To conclude the issue, our feature “After Hurricane Ian: A Journey for Relief and Resilience” takes us back to the field, where climate disasters are wreaking havoc, to share an intensive recap of the Hurricane Ian relief mission. Witness how Tzu Chi volunteers brought attentive care, timely and practical emergency aid via cash cards, and supplies including eco-blankets and scarves that carry an environmental protection message in the very fabric they’re made from, created from recycled PET bottles using Tzu Chi’s DA.AI technology.

May this issue inspire your heart and climate action through lifestyle choices and changes. 🌿

by *Anik Ghose*

# All Things on Earth Have Value

*All resources are treasures to be cherished.*

*-Dharma Master Cheng Yen*

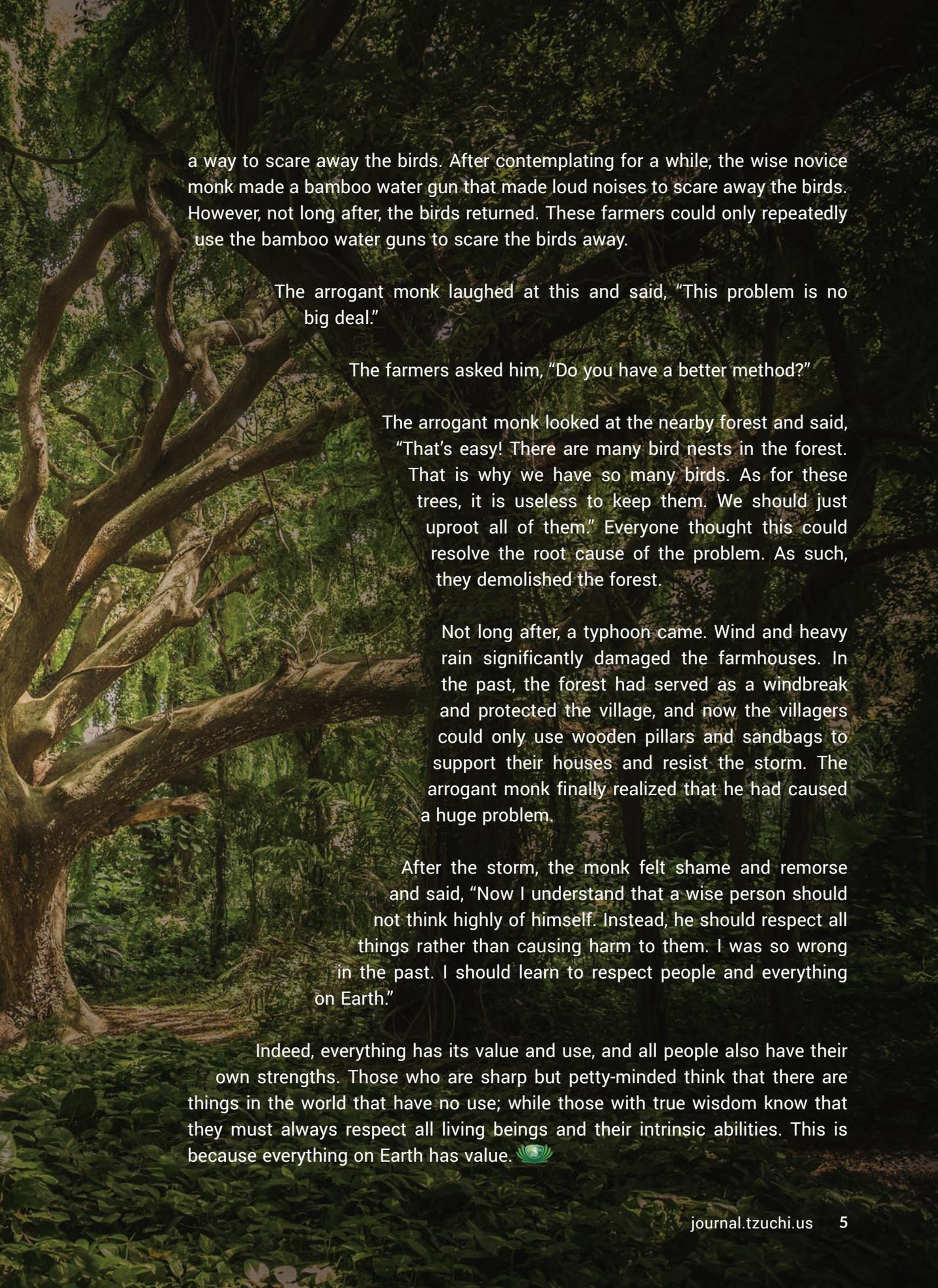
**L**ong ago, in a temple in Japan, there lived two novice Buddhist monks. One was bright and understanding, the other haughty and arrogant.

This haughty and arrogant monk often thought himself wiser than everyone else; no one was better than him, and all others were useless. The wise monk wanted to make him understand the principle that "All things on Earth have value," so, as the haughty and arrogant monk was reading and walking, the wise monk shouted, "Stop!" The monk was startled and stopped.

The wise monk took a hoe in his hand and said, "You think that nothing is useful other than yourself; therefore, the spot you are standing on must be the only spot that is useful, while everywhere else is useless."

He started to dig out all the soil around the arrogant monk until eventually there remained only the little piece of dirt the arrogant monk was standing on. This caused the ground around the arrogant monk to become unstable, and he fell. He was very angry and still refused to accept the teaching, saying, "I still think everything else is useless."

Some time later, a situation arose in the village. Some farmers had sown seeds to grow, but birds had eaten all the seeds. These farmers did not know what to do, so they asked the wise novice monk to help them find



a way to scare away the birds. After contemplating for a while, the wise novice monk made a bamboo water gun that made loud noises to scare away the birds. However, not long after, the birds returned. These farmers could only repeatedly use the bamboo water guns to scare the birds away.

The arrogant monk laughed at this and said, "This problem is no big deal."

The farmers asked him, "Do you have a better method?"

The arrogant monk looked at the nearby forest and said, "That's easy! There are many bird nests in the forest. That is why we have so many birds. As for these trees, it is useless to keep them. We should just uproot all of them." Everyone thought this could resolve the root cause of the problem. As such, they demolished the forest.

Not long after, a typhoon came. Wind and heavy rain significantly damaged the farmhouses. In the past, the forest had served as a windbreak and protected the village, and now the villagers could only use wooden pillars and sandbags to support their houses and resist the storm. The arrogant monk finally realized that he had caused a huge problem.

After the storm, the monk felt shame and remorse and said, "Now I understand that a wise person should not think highly of himself. Instead, he should respect all things rather than causing harm to them. I was so wrong in the past. I should learn to respect people and everything on Earth."

Indeed, everything has its value and use, and all people also have their own strengths. Those who are sharp but petty-minded think that there are things in the world that have no use; while those with true wisdom know that they must always respect all living beings and their intrinsic abilities. This is because everything on Earth has value. 🌿

# SEEKING HOLISTIC SOLUTIONS DURING CLIMATE WEEK NYC 2022

Written by Ida Eva Zielinska  
Photos/Tzu Chi USA Media Team



From September 19-25, join the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation for thought-provoking panels, interactive workshops, and community programs exploring an alternative future that is within reach. Convened in alignment with Climate Week NYC and the UN General Assembly, we'll present solutions-focused themes that model a better tomorrow, as well as those that showcase what's possible when optimism and action converge with respect for all sentient beings and our planet.

HOLISTIC CLIMATE SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

2022 SEPTEMBER 19-25



[tzuchicenter.org/ClimateWeekNYC](https://tzuchicenter.org/ClimateWeekNYC)

STOP CLIMATE CHANGE

**We only have one Mother Earth, and the temperature keeps rising with wildfires, drought, and crazy rain, and we're here at the very primordial moment.**

**Kenneth Liao**

*Deputy Chief Executive Director  
Tzu Chi USA Northeast Region*



**F**rom September 19–25, 2022, the Tzu Chi Center for Compassionate Relief in Manhattan, New York, hosted the Holistic Climate Solutions Summit (HCSS). The conference was part of Climate Week NYC, which the organizers – the Climate Group, an international non-profit – define as:

**The biggest global climate event of its kind. Bringing together the most influential leaders in climate action from business, government, and the climate community, in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly and the City of New York. Climate Week NYC creates an ambitious platform for our mission to drive climate action. Fast.**



*Climate Week NYC Website*



Holistic Climate Solutions Summit guests check in at the entrance to the Tzu Chi Center for Compassionate Relief in New York.

The theme of Climate Week 2022 was “Getting It Done.” Thus, Tzu Chi’s summit gathered over 30 partners, comprising academics, activists, youth leaders, government officials, and people from all walks of life, with one goal: Developing the innovative solutions we need to tackle the climate crisis.

**Our partnership network is very expansive. HCSS is an opportunity for us to bring together these different partners, and the more they partner and work together, the faster we’re going to be able to help those most at risk of being left behind. We wanted to bring innovative ideas and groups together that are working at the grassroots level and connect them to representatives at the UN.**

**Steve Chiu**

*Tzu Chi Representative to the UN*

The summit program consisted of 22 sessions: Panels, workshops, and community dialogues with a specific theme each day.

## Food Systems

Food systems were the focus on September 19. The first panel, “An Intergenerational Dialogue: Youth Solutions and Priorities for Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems,” brought together youth-led group representatives and veterans at the forefront of championing comprehensive change in global food systems to share their perspectives and activities.



The “An Intergenerational Dialogue: Youth Solutions and Priorities for Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems” panel on September 19, 2022.

The food system is built on colonialism, and you have the Global North countries using low-income countries as the breadbasket of the world. There's an opportunity now for young farmers to get together with young investors, young consumers, and start doing things in a different way.



**Lasse Bruun**  
CEO  
50by40

Youth involvement looks a couple of different ways at the activism part but is also supporting, whether monetarily, volunteering, or just getting involved with a lot of the work that youth on the frontlines are already doing.



**Megan Chen**  
Executive Director  
The Urban Garden Initiative

The “Faith-Based Solutions to Create Climate-Resilient Food Systems” workshop built upon findings generated during the Faith + Food Coalition’s Faith and Food Dialogues for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

Then the “Revolutionary Strategies of Food Sovereignty for Historically Marginalized Communities of Color” panel revealed how certain populations globally face severe and disproportionate rates of food insecurity.

Our current way of going about our food development, and basically our land maintenance, has negatively impacted our access to food, especially in communities of color and Native American communities.



**Reverend Dallas Conyers**  
Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Manager  
Southeast Climate & Energy Network



Many indigenous communities are working hard to revitalize their local food systems, and encouraged this as a path forward.

**One, research the land you're on and see which indigenous communities live there. Secondly, just learn about the history and the culture of the entire region. And then also, just go and put your hands in the soil.**

“

**Dr. Crystal Cavalier**

*Co-Founder*

*7 Directions of Service*

The first day of the summit concluded with “In Dialogue With Youth Environmental Leaders: Creating Transformative Change at the UN,” an intentional meal.

## Local to Global

The sessions on September 20 explored the geographical aspects of climate change. The “How Global Solutions Are Failing Local Communities” panel highlighted how regions hardest hit by natural disasters in the developing world struggle to cope with the loss and damage while being the least responsible for the climate crisis.

**We have to acknowledge and understand that the countries of the Global North are responsible for, I believe, more than 90% of the damage that we're seeing.**

“

**Colette Pichon Battle, Esq.**

*Vision & Initiatives Partner*

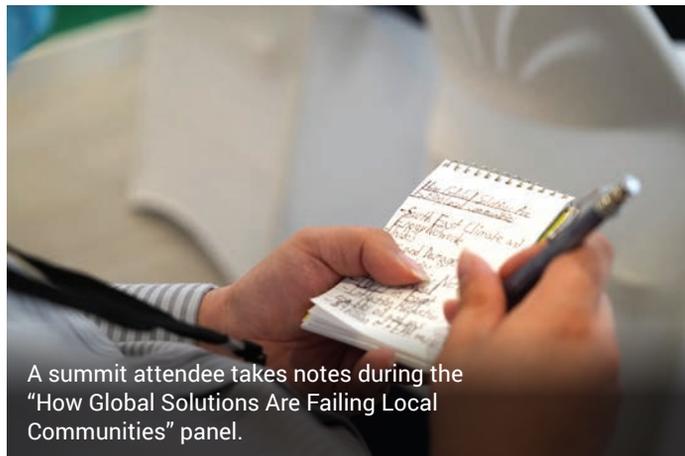
*Taproot Earth*



The “Revolutionary Strategies of Food Sovereignty for Historically Marginalized Communities of Color” panel on September 19, 2022.



The audience listens intently to a panel during the Holistic Climate Solutions Summit.



A summit attendee takes notes during the "How Global Solutions Are Failing Local Communities" panel.

**We need to be proactive and really put money where our mouth is right now and work together to mitigate this crisis and support the Global South because if not, it's not going to happen.**

**Alexander Easdale**

*Executive Director*

*Southeast Climate & Energy Network*





The “How Global Solutions Are Failing Local Communities” panel on September 20, 2022.

The “Responding to the Food Crisis: Future-Proofing Local Food Systems to Be Resilient” panel featured how – given the growing global population, which reached eight billion in 2022 – we must transform current food systems as they are vulnerable for a variety of reasons.

**[We talked] about the connection between conflict, climate change, and the food crisis. We’re in the third year of the pandemic, and it has only exacerbated the inequalities that existed before, whether in health, nutrition, or education. And on top of that, now we’re seeing more and more extreme weather events and this is just adding to the number of people that are on the move and vulnerable to these climate risks.**



**Austin Chu**  
Assistant Director Global Cause Partnerships  
UNICEF USA

The panel created a space for Tzu Chi and partners, currently collaborating to aid Ukrainians displaced by the Russian invasion of their homeland and the ensuing war, to converse.

**It’s an opportunity to sit around one table and discuss how ‘if it’s now broken, how we can build it back better.’ So, it’s a great opportunity for us to offer communities to think of how to not only bounce back but also bounce forward after facing emergencies.**



**Michal Bar**  
Director of Emergency & Operations  
IsraAID

Broadening the conversation, a Tzu Chi representative to the UN highlighted recycling as part of bouncing forward to a more sustainable future and spoke of Tzu

Chi's innovative DA.AI Technology that transforms PET plastics.

**We take trash and then we make it into usable products. Since climate change is worsening every single day, it's our duty to share the ideas to an X amount of people that we can still live a good life, but we just need to make a small change that makes a big difference.**



**Sarah Chu**  
Project Specialist  
Tzu Chi Global Partnership Affairs Department

“Global Solutions from Your Home,” a community-based dialogue, drew the day to a close and focused on how everyday lifestyle choices regarding food, fashion, travel, recycling, plastics, and energy can make an environmental difference.



Kenneth Liao (right), Tzu Chi USA Northeast Region Deputy Chief Executive Director, in front of graphics modeling Tzu Chi's environmental protection approach.



The “Responding to the Food Crisis: Future-Proofing Local Food Systems to Be Resilient” panel on September 20, 2022.

## Interfaith and Wellbeing

September 21 opened with “Highlighting Interfaith Responses to Climate Anxiety,” an intentional meal where faith groups connected with mental health experts. Then, the “Faith Dialogue Informing the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health” workshop drew together people of faith eager to contribute their thoughts and experiences to the design of the U.S. national strategy to end hunger and reduce diet-related diseases and health disparities.

The Faith + Food Coalition hosted the program as part of the Good Food Dialogues led by Food Systems for the Future in

advance of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health days away on September 28 – the first conference of its kind in 50 years.

**We discussed the first three pillars of the White House Conference: Improving food access and affordability; integrating nutrition and health; and empowering all consumers to make healthy choices. We’re going to use the notes to write a report [then share it] with the Good Food Dialogues and the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health.**

**Kelly Moltzen**

*Convener*

*Interfaith Public Health Network*



The “Highlighting Interfaith Responses to Climate Anxiety” intentional meal on September 21, 2022.



The "Faith Dialogue Informing the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health" workshop on September 21, 2022.





A workshop, “The Building Blocks of Mutual Aid for Disaster Resilience,” on September 21, 2022.

That afternoon, the “Explorations of the Climate Security Nexus” panel created a space for youth peacebuilders, climate activists, and representatives from government, UN agencies, and civil society to discuss sustainable peace solutions that acknowledge the connection between climate change, peace, and security.

Another workshop, “The Building Blocks of Mutual Aid for Disaster Resilience,” featured preparedness with the growing understanding that among communities’ greatest tools are awareness and resilience. If communities at risk anticipate not being able to receive government assistance

following major disasters, they can create mutual aid networks to ensure they’re ready.

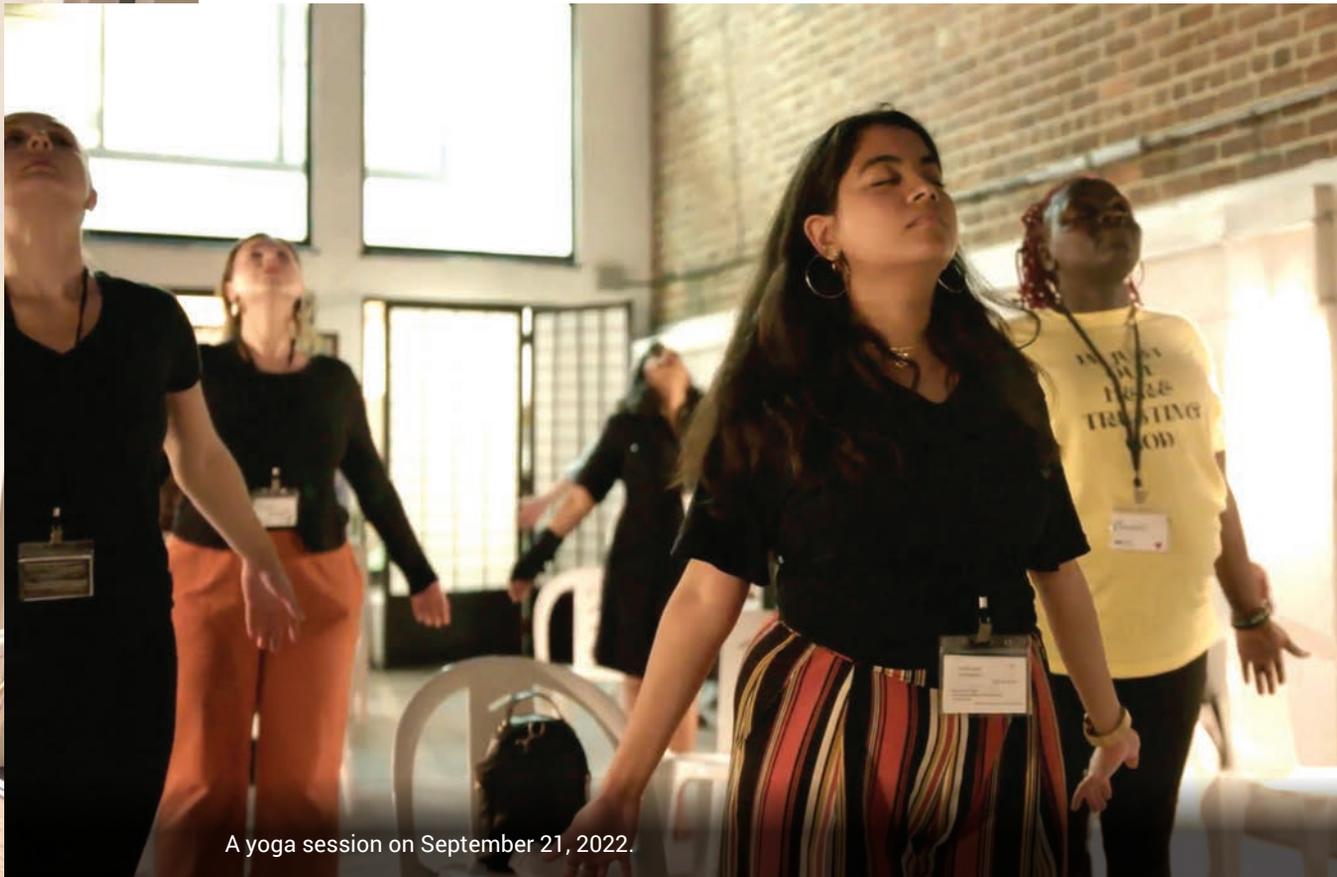
However, disaster readiness is also a personal matter, and many find coming to terms with climate change difficult.

**The climate crisis is much more than a political, economic crisis: It’s a spiritual crisis. I think especially young people are grappling with this grief, like, ‘What’s going to happen? What does the future hold?’**

***Lucy Cummings***

*Senior Manager Faith Sector Resilience  
New York Disaster Interfaith Services*





A yoga session on September 21, 2022.

**I've witnessed, not only in my personal life but also in my patients' life, my students' life, my family, that we've been experiencing a lot of losses, trauma, and what I've thought about is grieving: We all lack a place to grieve together.**

***Katherine Lau***

*NYU Adjunct Professor Psychology  
Licensed Psychoanalyst*

“

Building on the thread of resilience, three mindfulness practitioners offered interactive meditation, yoga, and group therapy sessions during the community-based program, “Mindfulness in the Face of Eco-Anxiety and Climate Grief,” that concluded the day.

## Envisioning Our Shared Future

September 22 brought three panels aiming to contemplate the future we want. The first, “The Zero-Zero Solution: Getting to Actual Zero Anthropogenic Emissions of GHG with the Vision for Equitable Climate Action (VECA) Framework,” walked attendees through the VECA. Collaboratively created by hundreds of organizations with diverse background experiences, it provides solutions that foster bold, comprehensive, and equitable climate action, recognizing that the scale and scope of the global crisis arise from systems of colonialism, racism, and injustice.



The “Youth Leadership in the Triple Planetary Crisis: Creating the World We Need to Live In” panel on September 22, 2022.

“Youth Leadership in the Triple Planetary Crisis: Creating the World We Need to Live In” presented perspectives from the frontlines of creating change within communities, building innovative solutions, and ushering in a more sustainable future. The triple planetary crisis – climate change; nature and biodiversity loss; and pollution and waste – are projected to put millions of species at risk of extinction and lead to the continued erosion of ecosystems and destruction of the air and water we depend on to survive. With over 49% of the global population below the age of 30, integrating the voice of youth in decision-making processes is critical.



The “Innovative Usage of Storytelling for Media Communications on Climate Awareness and Climate Action” panel on September 22, 2022.



Group activity notes from a summit session highlighting issues of importance.

**Climate change is the most pressing issue facing us as humanity. We have to start working together to make sure that we have a just transition to a clean future.**

**Jerome Foster II**

*Environmental Justice Advisor  
The White House*



**One key message to send is: The time is now, and the solutions are already here. The only thing lacking is political will. It's important for young people around the world to understand the power we really have. I think we have the power to change everything.**

**Gator Halpern**

*Co-Founder & President  
Coral Vita*



**“Innovative Usage of Storytelling for Media Communications on Climate Awareness and Climate Action” gathered youth activists, climate change communications experts, and representatives from the UN to reflect on how to generate concern about the climate and catalyze social change and climate ambition from governments. Including those most affected by climate change in the conversation, and an uncompromising stance, emerged as vital.**





The “Art for Climate Action: Creating Our Future Together” community-based program on September 22, 2022.

**When in human history has a movement led by people who have not been affected by it been successful? It doesn't work. And don't get bogged down into the language of compromise because compromise will not lead us to survive what is coming ahead of us.**



**Ayisha Siddiqa**  
Co-Founder  
*Polluters Out*

Concurrently, some bemoaned the enormity of the task:

**I love the work that I do, but it's unfortunate that I have to do this work because I'm stuck in a position as a young person, as a 22-year-old having to think about not only my future but my family's future, my generation's future.**



**Shiv Soin**  
Executive Director  
*TREEage*

The day closed with “Art for Climate Action: Creating Our Future Together,” an evening of art-making and conversation where participants shared their hopes and stories.

## Building a Flourishing Future

September 23 began with “Marching Towards COP27: Building Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Climate Resilience by Engaging Women of Faith in Food Systems Transformation.” The panel presented how with a collapsing global economy and worsening impacts from climate change, around 20% of people in the MENA region are food insecure, then shared best practices in transforming food systems.

The “Solutions at the Nexus of Climate, Animal Welfare, and Sustainable Development” panel showcased how improving animal welfare contributes to achieving global climate goals and accelerating progress towards UN Sustainable Development Goals. A central element of protecting animal welfare is promoting a global shift to a plant-based diet.



The “Solutions at the Nexus of Climate, Animal Welfare, and Sustainable Development” panel on September 23, 2022.



Vegetarian meals and snacks prepared for summit participants by Tzu Chi volunteers encourage a shift to a plant-based diet.

**Animal agriculture is the biggest driver for climate change, so any innovation that we can have at the food industry level is going to positively impact the environment. What we’re seeing right now is a huge increase in awareness.**

**Jessica Kwong**  
*Founder & CEO  
 Jack & Friends*

**We’re working hard to accelerate the transition toward a plant-based food system and to find an end to industrial animal agriculture.**

**Amelia Linn**  
*Director of Global Policy  
 Mercy For Animals*





The “Exploring the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment” workshop on September 23, 2022.

Tzu Chi brought a religious perspective, emphasizing compassion and ethics.

**We spend so much energy feeding the animal. If we use all this energy to produce plant-based food, we can feed the whole world; there will be no people going hungry. It’s about the value system.**

“

**Yuru Chou**  
Director of Audit

*Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation*

The “Exploring the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution on the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment” workshop followed up on the July 28, 2022, UNGA declaration that access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a right for all, not just a

privilege for some. Individual nation-states must take action to implement it, as people are losing their homes and access to food, causing climate-forced displacement. Participants pinpointed that the dialogue concerning what lies ahead must be inclusive in the broadest sense.

**We need to have a dialogue with everyone. Dialogue not only with us humans, but dialogue with creation, dialogue with different people, dialogue with all races, dialogue with all tribes of the world, so that we can come to a consented kind of solution to the current problems we’re having.**

“

**Benedict Ayodi**  
Outreach Officer  
*Franciscans International*



The Holistics Climate Solutions Summit agenda is packed, with sessions continuing until after dark.

A networking event completed the day's program, allowing attendees to meet the speakers, panelists, event organizers, and other summit participants, and continue the conversations informally.

## Confronting Plastics

On September 24, "Confronting Plastics: A Strategic Ethical Response" zeroed in on our global reliance on plastics across all sectors of society, and its detrimental impact on the environment, health, and more. As one of the panelists said, "Plastic pollution, to our environment, to our community, is real. We're not projecting that it will happen in the future: We're seeing it happening right now."

**It's a laundry list of issues. The chemicals used, plastic pollution clogs our streams, it keeps forests from growing, it's killing fish. We're looking at this deep existential risk that threatens the efficacy of our species going forward.**

**Andrew Schwartz**

*Director Sustainability & Global Affairs  
Center for Earth Ethics*



Some were quite upbeat about potential solutions alongside systemic change.



The "Confronting Plastics: A Strategic Ethical Response" panel on September 24, 2022.

**There are so many solutions out there, and I think recycling is one, but there are so many technological solutions, scientific solutions, and policy solutions. But we also have the driving voice to say that we need change from the systems.**



**Kevin J. Patel**  
*Founder & Executive Director*  
*One Up Action*

Others were more focused on individual action regarding plastics.

**Recycling is important, but the most important is 'Do not use it.' By saying no to plastic, we can make a difference right now.**



**Alex Tan**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Tzu Chi University*



Summit attendees continue their lively discussions outside the Tzu Chi Center for Compassionate Relief.



Steve Chiu, the host of *United in Action: Dialogue at Tzu Chi Center*, opens the show during the live taping on September 25, 2022.



## Live Taping of *United in Action*

The Holistic Climate Solutions Summit ended on September 25 with the live taping of *United in Action*, the Tzu Chi Center for Compassionate Relief's latest program, produced in collaboration with Tzu Chi USA's Global Affairs Team and featuring in-depth conversations between the host and representatives from the UN community. The Holistic Climate Solutions episode spotlighted how we can overcome gaps and obstacles and solve the climate crisis through mutual understanding and cooperation.

It was a stimulating week that motivated attendees to do their part to drive climate action and get it done: Fast. 🌱



Using Community to Combat the Climate Crisis:

# HOW TZU CHI MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Written by Anna Sipek



Faith leaders discuss the best options for combating hunger and broken food systems on Day 3 of the Holistic Climate Solutions Summit. *Photo/Hector Muniente*

In September 2022, the city of New York came together to get serious about the climate crisis for the 14th annual Climate Week NYC. Held in conjunction with Climate Week and the UN General Assembly, the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation's Holistic Climate Solutions Summit held at the Tzu Chi Center for Compassionate Relief brought together some of the world's brightest minds for a week of reflection,

brainstorming, and action on some of the most important ecological issues to date.

From thought-provoking panels to community meals and healing sessions, each day was filled with events to help model a better tomorrow, showcasing what is possible when those who value optimism, action, and respect join forces to save our planet.





Holistic Climate Solutions Summit organizers reflect on their week during the live taping of *United in Action: Dialogue* at Tzu Chi Center on the last day of the event. Photo/Jennifer Chien

## Building a Climate Activist Network

Over the course of seven days, the Holistic Climate Solutions Summit (HCSS) brought together all walks of life and presented an opportunity for this passionate and engaged group of people to create a network of climate activists. Regardless of their background, people from dozens of different nations, religions, and ethnicities found a space for their voices to be heard and complimented.

The first event of its kind, the summit wasn't initially intended to be as large as it became. "It snowballed the more we spoke about it," said Steve Chiu, principal organizer of the HCSS and a Tzu Chi Representative to the UN.

**The more we talked about it, the more eager we were to create more and more events for the community at large because we were all passionate about combating the climate crisis and making the space for people to engage in conversations that not only bring together valuable perspectives but really take the time to create actionable steps as a community of climate activists.**



**Steve Chiu**  
*Tzu Chi Representative to the UN*

Throughout the event, activists, academics, and attendees echoed similar sentiments: There has long existed a disconnect between those who represent their people at an international level and those who they are representing.

“The leadership at the UN is not doing what it needs to do,” asserted Colette Pichon Battle, the Vision and Initiatives Partner for Taproot Earth. Eager to combat this epidemic of disconnectedness, the HCSS organizers put in the time to ensure the summit could be a place where people build connections and understanding.

“We wanted to make sure that we weren’t just having conversations in isolation on an international level, but bringing grassroots perspectives as well,” said Chiu at the end of the week. “With that reflection, we’ve been able to build coalitions, dissolve silos, and bring partners together in ways that extend into authentic dialogue to scheme how we can make a better future together.”

## Engaging Within Local Communities

Thich Nhat Hanh once said that the next Buddha might not be an individual but

a community – a community practicing understanding and loving kindness, a community practicing mindful living. With this in mind, the HCSS organizers recognized just how important it was to dedicate time to fostering an engaged and connected local community.

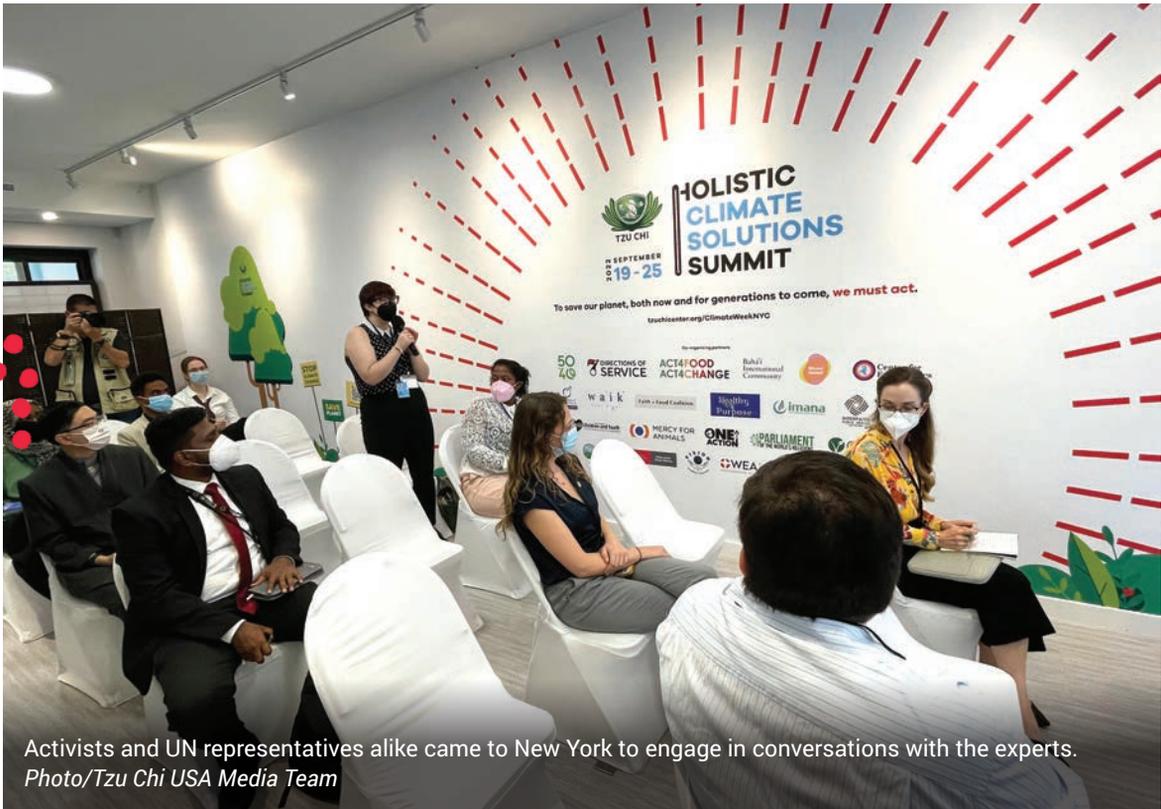
### *Importance of Local Engagement*

With climate change bringing along ecological disaster after ecological disaster, it has become more and more evident that the worst impacts of the climate crisis are felt on a local scale and not a global one. From loss of resources to loss of culture, even loss of life, local communities need to know how to come together and rebuild when disaster strikes.

“When you look at communities and their ability to bounce back from disaster, the main determinative feature is social cohesion, social connectedness. It’s not



Activists from all over the world gather at the Tzu Chi Center to develop solutions to the ongoing climate crisis. *Photo/Jennifer Chien*



Activists and UN representatives alike came to New York to engage in conversations with the experts.  
 Photo/Tzu Chi USA Media Team

how much money is thrown in, or how big the disaster is,” said Lucy Cummings, Senior Manager, Faith Sector Resilience, at the New York Disaster Interfaith Services who was a speaker during the panel on mutual aid.

This can be more difficult than many are prepared to admit. With much of the world relying on systems of production which act on a global and industrial scale, it isn’t unusual for the average person to feel totally divided from the communities they occupy space within. “We’re very good at problem-identifying in the climate crisis,” pointed out Isaias Hernandez, a speaker at HCSS, “but a lot of people don’t know about those local solutions that are happening on the ground.”

An environmental educator and organizer also known as @Queer Brown Vegan on TikTok, Hernandez knows first hand the importance of empowering people on a local level. Growing up in poverty, Hernandez and his community faced environmental injustice on the daily. He found that while institutions take a long time to act, communities armed with knowledge have the ability to create meaningful and expedient changes.

**A lot of people, if they get to know about local issues and local solutions that are happening, that also helps them navigate and gives them the power to understand that they can move through this crisis together, rather than learning through global content issues.**

**Isaias Hernandez**  
 Environmental Educator & Youth Activist



Environmental educator and youth activist Isaias Hernandez speaks on the importance of investing time and energy into empowering local communities. *Photo/Liu Hui*

### **Local Communities in Action**

“All of us live in a time where communities are being dismantled and disintegrated,” explained Dr. Colette Pichon Battle, so envisioning a community-focused future can be difficult. “Words like love and community and collective and cooperative, these are words that we have not been taught to respect,” she continued. “They are words that we have been taught need to be dominated, but they are, in fact, the only weapons that we have.”

Rebuilding local communities isn’t always simple, but social justice leader and organizer Dr. Pichon Battle suggests fellow climate activists bring people into the party rather than to the struggle. In other words, before asking others to fight for a cause, bond with them and make sure they have something worth fighting for.

Throughout the summit, the Tzu Chi Center held various community-building activities in order to forge connections that organizers hope, in the long run, will be some of the strongest defenses against the climate crisis. From community meals to group therapy to cooperative art programs, these activities engendered a sense of unity and energy among those attending.

“For me, I think that spaces like [the Tzu Chi Center] are not common spaces – where people are allowed to come and just feel a sense of community. I think this is something that really needs to be kept going,” said one participant, Desmond Alugnoa, Co-Founder of Green Africa Youth Organization.



Participants of the Holistic Climate Solution Summit join Tzu Chi volunteers for tea, building community and cultural understanding. *Photo/Tzu Chi USA Media Team*

## The Tzu Chi Effect at Work

Many attendees applauded the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation and its volunteers, who were integral to the success of the event, for their emphasis on togetherness and respect.

“[Love] is so embodied in this space,” said Reverend Dallas Conyers, a co-organizer of the HCSS. “The way the volunteers work not only amongst each other, but with the people visiting the space, makes all the difference in the world when talking about a topic that most people usually associate with doom and gloom.”

As a group, Rev. Conyers noted, Tzu Chi volunteers modeled the very qualities that are necessary for a resilient and ecologically sound future: “[Their love] invigorates and energizes. It gives new perspectives on

how we should do this work and why we should do this work.”

## Finding Community on a Global Scale

As the summit came to a close, participants and organizers alike reflected on how the HCSS might have impacts outside of the Tzu Chi Center. The experts seemed to all agree that the HCSS, by providing a space for solidarity and mutual understanding, brought everyone involved one step closer to an informed and empowered global population, equipped with the tools it needs to fight for the planet.

“No matter where we are, what means we have,” concluded organizer Steve Chiu, “there are ways that we can give to this movement to strengthen it, heal our planet, and heal ourselves.” 🌿



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# Compassion Inspires Compassion: Tzu Chi USA's Evolving Digital Presence

*Written by Ida Eva Zielinska*



Han Huang (left), Ting Fan (second left), Nancy Wei (right) and other Tzu Chi USA team members take a photo near a poster introducing the Tzu Chi Connect App during the 2019 Walkathon at Tzu Chi USA Headquarters in San Dimas, California. *Photo/Nancy Wei*

## Do not underestimate yourself, for human beings have unlimited potential.

“

**Jing Si Aphorism**  
**Dharma Master Cheng Yen**

Master Cheng Yen's wisdom sends a limitless invitation to do good deeds, extended to one and all. And yet, some of us need further inspiration, which can come in various forms. From this perspective, seeing and reading about examples of people on the social service path, such as Tzu Chi volunteers, boosts the awakening of impulses to engage in compassion in action. Sharing such content online is one of the best methods to reach and touch many people.

Thus, while a digital presence is a vital advantage, if not a necessity, for any organization in the 21st Century, it is especially beneficial for the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, which seeks to relieve suffering and encourage community participation in this mission. Here in North America, Tzu Chi USA's digital footprint has been expanding dramatically since 2012, when Han Huang took over the role of Chief Executive Officer and actively promoted its advancement.

“He wanted Tzu Chi USA to have a strong presence and be visible in the digital world,” Nancy Wei, Tzu Chi USA's Digital Content Strategist, who came on in 2015, shared. Part of that meant improvements to the existing website.



Han Huang shares his broad vision during an interview. Photo/Tzu Chi USA Media Team

**I remember being on a call with Han and Ting Fan (Director of the Tzu Chi USA Media Center at the time) and proposing a completely new, responsive, mobile-friendly website design. At the end of my presentation, he started thinking about how we could bring this up to Tzu Chi’s global headquarters in Taiwan for approval – the U.S. would be the first overseas Tzu Chi branch to have a different website layout from its global headquarters. He briefly described a bit of the complicated process of getting approval – but at the end, he just said, ‘let’s do it.’**

“

**Nancy Wei**  
*Digital Content Strategist*  
*Tzu Chi USA*

Regarding the development strategy, the initial goal was to update the site technologically to ensure Tzu Chi USA stands out in the digital sphere. This aim was essential as search engines were beginning to prioritize mobile-friendly sites. Users were also migrating to mobile web browsing enabled by the fast development progress in smartphones at the time.

However, Huang’s broad view extended beyond the Tzu Chi USA website design and mobile responsiveness.

It was his vision to move to a digital communications format using social media and email newsletters, and to step into the future of the Tzu Chi Bamboo Bank via our Tzu Chi Connect App.



**Anik Ghose**  
Editor in Chief  
Tzu Chi USA Journal

Sadly, Han Huang passed away in 2022, yet Ghose confirms that “his vision to grow Tzu Chi USA is still the main focus for us all.” [To learn more about Huang’s impact within Tzu Chi, please read our story “Honoring Han Huang’s Luminous Legacy” in Issue 66.]

So, let’s take a look at the advancements in terms of Tzu Chi USA’s digital presence, social engagement, and communications, most watched over by Han Huang, who

remained CEO until 2019, then Executive Vice President until his passing in 2022.

## A Cascade of Websites

Once the development team had addressed the technological improvements to the main Tzu Chi USA website, it focused on showcasing content.

**We soon realized many departments in Tzu Chi needed their own platform online to showcase their work to the relevant constituents – hence the birth of all the sites that followed. From a technical and budget standpoint, we also needed to consider how to maximize our resources to allow us to build affordable new sites.**



**Nancy Wei**  
Digital Content Strategist  
Tzu Chi USA



Overview of Tzu Chi USA’s website development progression from 2015 to 2021.



Tzu Chi USA

Who We Are

What We Do

Our Philosophy

Events

Blog

Video



Volunteer

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## As 2022 ends, donate & make a difference

Help our charitable, medical, and disaster recovery programs get a strong start in 2023.

GIVE TODAY



### It's time for a new year, new Tzu Chi

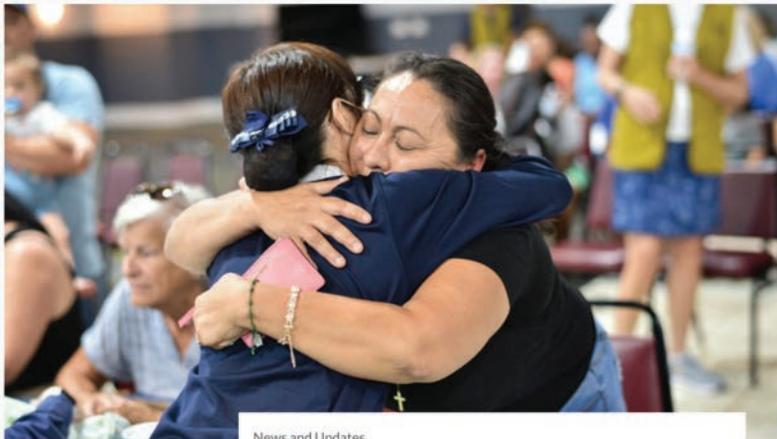
Make a donation to Tzu Chi USA's fundraiser, the Journey Forward, and support our charity initiatives.

\$25

DONATE

With your generosity, we can do more.

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News and Updates

**Tzu Chi Volunteers Accompany Hurricane Ian Survivors on the Road Ahead**

News and Updates

**Continuous Care for Ex-Offenders in Washington State**

News and Updates

**Hurricane Ian Relief Reveals Tzu Chi's Seeds of Care in Florida Blossoming**

News and Updates

**Tzu Chi's Hurricane Ian Relief Returns to Pine Island**

News and Updates

**The Journey for Hurricane Relief Continues in Fort Myers**

News and Updates

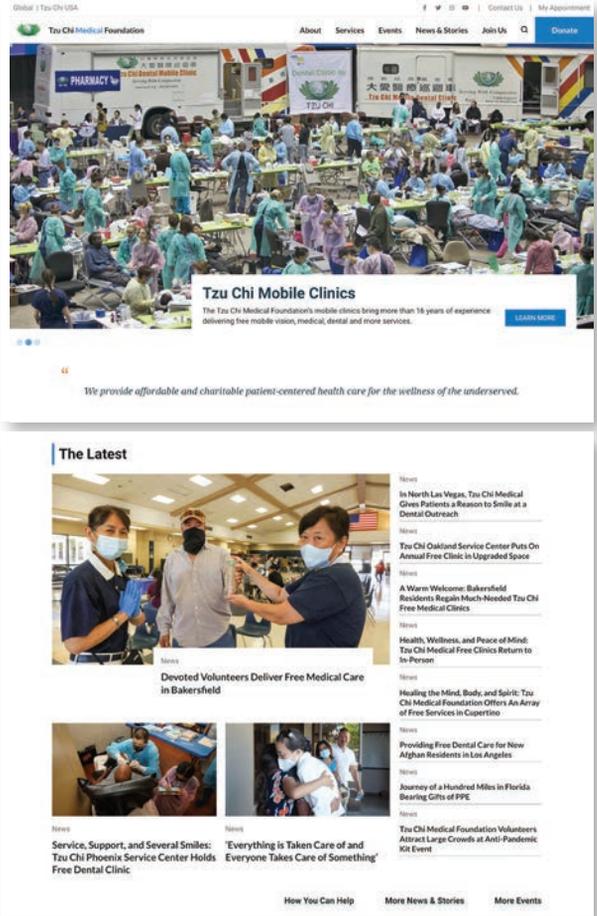
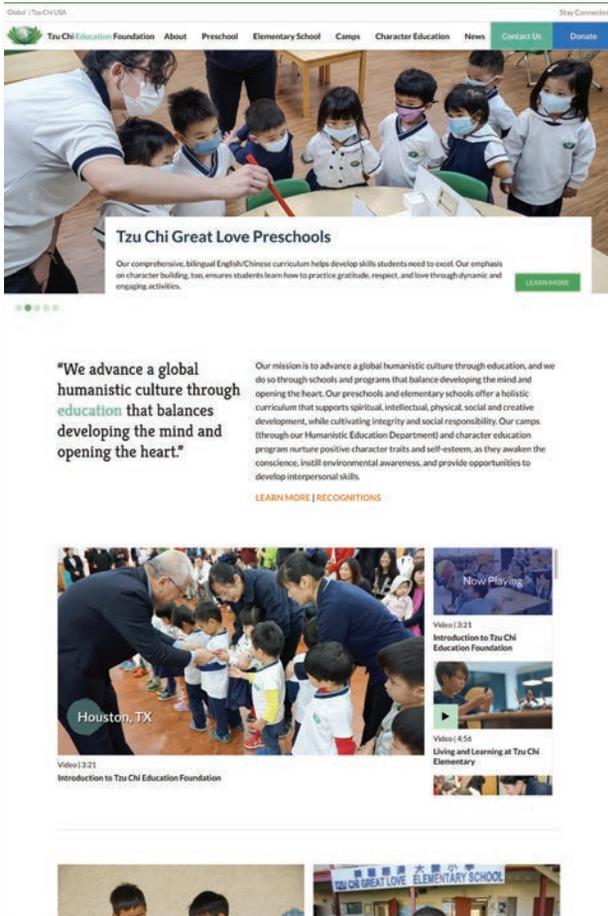
**Partnering with the American Red Cross to Protect Families From Home Fires**

News and Updates

**Offering Free Flu Shots and Back-to-School Supplies in San Francisco**

News and Updates

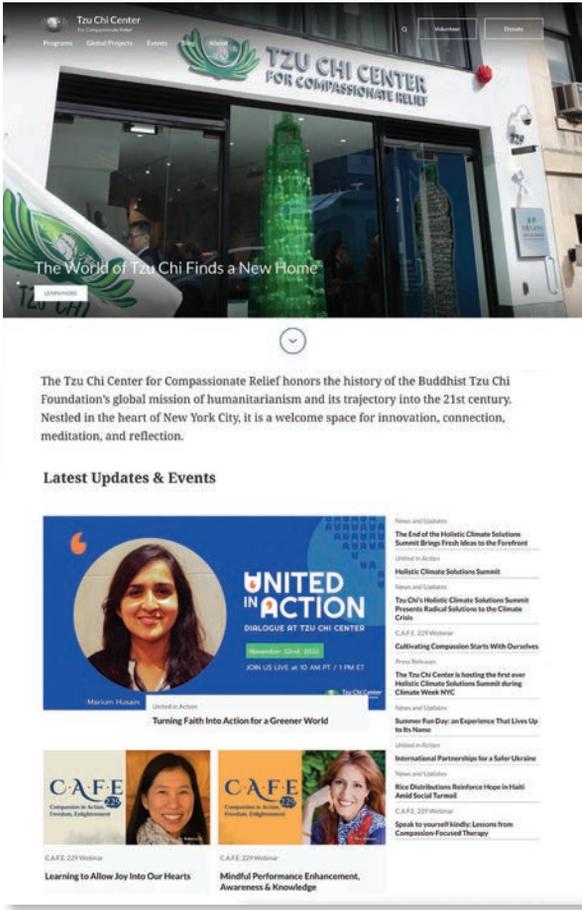
The landing page of the Tzu Chi USA website in December 2022.



The Tzu Chi Education Foundation (left) and Tzu Chi Medical Foundation (right) websites.

Following the evolution of the Tzu Chi USA English website, [tzuchi.us](http://tzuchi.us), the team developed a cascade of specialized and different language sites, creating the necessary content simultaneously. First, Tzu Chi USA started a separate website for the Tzu Chi Education Foundation in the United States, [tzuchieducation.us](http://tzuchieducation.us), then one for the Tzu Chi Medical Foundation, [tzu chimedical.us](http://tzu chimedical.us).

Next, in 2019, Tzu Chi USA websites in different languages joined the English one online: In Spanish, [tzuchi.us/es](http://tzuchi.us/es), and [tzuchi.us/zh](http://tzuchi.us/zh) plus [tzuchi.us/cn](http://tzuchi.us/cn) in traditional and simplified Chinese. All outline Tzu Chi's history and missions, with sections on *Who We Are*, *What We Do*, and *Our Philosophy*. Concurrently, they are a hub of up-to-date information presenting the most current activities and events, chronicled in detail through videos and photo-filled blogs.



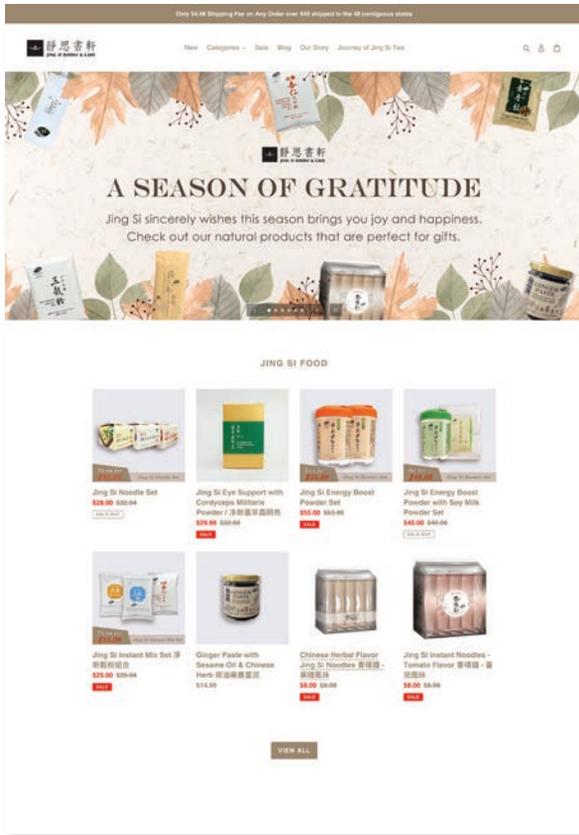
The Tzu Chi Center for Compassionate Relief (left) and Tzu Chi Dharma (right) websites.

After the Tzu Chi Center for Compassionate Relief opened in New York, it too found an online home at [tzuchicenter.org](http://tzuchicenter.org) by 2020. That year also brought the [veryveggieovement.org](http://veryveggieovement.org) site in English, Spanish, and Chinese, featuring Tzu Chi's trademarked *Very Veggie Movement* aiming to promote plant-based diets and unite society around the cause of animal rights, environmental protection, and public health. And the Tzu Chi Dharma website, [tzuchidharma.org](http://tzuchidharma.org), also launched, outlining the principles of the Jing Si Dharma Lineage

and the Tzu Chi School of Buddhism established by Dharma Master Cheng Yen.

Since 2021, digital forms of the Tzu Chi USA Journal in English, [journal.tzuchi.us](http://journal.tzuchi.us), Spanish, [journal.tzuchi.us/es](http://journal.tzuchi.us/es), and Chinese [journal.tzuchi.us/zh](http://journal.tzuchi.us/zh), exist online as well. Tzu Chi USA's nine regional chapters have equally gained digital ground with web pages, and the Tzu Chi Collegiate Association has its own site, [youngleaders.tzuchi.us](http://youngleaders.tzuchi.us).

The Very Veggie Movement (left), Tzu Chi USA Journal (top right), and Tzu Chi Collegiate Association (bottom right) websites.



The Jing Si Shop (left) and DA.AI Technology (right) websites.

There is additionally now a website for the Jing Si Shop, selling Tzu Chi’s signature foods, [jingsi.shop](http://jingsi.shop), and one for DA.AI Technology, [daaitechnology.com](http://daaitechnology.com), which is at the root of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation’s environmentally friendly products, including the eco-blankets distributed worldwide during disaster relief and charity care missions.

With regard to what lies ahead, with all the sites maturing in terms of content volume and Tzu Chi USA approaching its 35th anniversary in 2024, Digital

Content Strategist Nancy Wei declares that “we’re going back to the drawing board to re-evaluate our sites to improve them during 2023 in time for the 35th-anniversary celebration.”

As we can see, continually ameliorating Tzu Chi USA’s digital presence is paramount for the development team. And yet, websites are just one arena of digital existence as posts on social media platforms and emailed newsletters complete Tzu Chi USA’s communications and public engagement strategy.

## Increasing Social Engagement

Tzu Chi USA is currently present on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube, and a flow of content that includes videos and posts rich in photos is creating increased social engagement from year to year.

We can see that from 2018 to now, Tzu Chi USA has gone from 25k to 34k in Likes on Facebook. We have also seen growth in all other social media platforms, such as Instagram and Twitter. What we want to accomplish with social media is to inform our current and potential new followers and care recipients about Tzu Chi’s work. We want to leave a digital footprint of our relief work and what kind of services we provide to help others. Master Cheng Yen always encourages us to create footprints and share them.



**Anik Ghose**  
Editor in Chief  
Tzu Chi USA Journal

The nine Tzu Chi USA Regions also each have a Facebook page, creating enhanced contact within the communities they serve. This expansive social media presence allows individuals to join the conversation through comments, inspiring more people to learn about Tzu Chi. In turn, their interest helps to empower all the missions through growth in donations and support.

This is an incredible organization who truly helps those in need. Thank you for being there for those in need in Florida.



**Victoria T. Ramina**  
Tzu Chi USA Follower  
Hurricane Ian Facebook Post Comment

In their comments, the public often recalls previous aid. In 2022, Heather Suggitt in Naples, Florida, wrote regarding an October 4 Facebook post about Tzu Chi’s current hurricane disaster relief mission there, “Thank you for helping our neighborhood in May 2019.” Such continuity helps deepen community recognition, strengthening Tzu Chi’s capacity to offer timely assistance in that region in the future.

FACEBOOK	Followers - Feb 2022	ANNUAL TARGET	Followers - June 2022	AMOUNT REACHED	% REACHED	GROWTH OVERALL
Tzu Chi USA	31,384	increase by + 5,000	34,137	2,753	55.06%	108.77%
INSTAGRAM	Followers - Feb 2022	ANNUAL TARGET	Followers - June 2022	AMOUNT REACHED	% REACHED	GROWTH OVERALL
Tzu Chi USA	2,581	increase by + 2,000	3,831	1,250	62.50%	148.43%
LINKEDIN	Followers - Feb 2022	ANNUAL TARGET	Followers - June 2022	AMOUNT REACHED	% REACHED	GROWTH OVERALL
Tzu Chi Foundation	2,470	increase by + 1,000	2,712	242	24.20%	109.80%
TWITTER	Followers - Feb 2022	ANNUAL TARGET	Followers - June 2022	AMOUNT REACHED	% REACHED	GROWTH OVERALL
Tzu Chi USA	2,222	increase by + 1,000	2,257	35	3.50%	101.58%
FACEBOOK	Followers - Feb 2022	ANNUAL TARGET	Followers - June 2022	AMOUNT REACHED	% REACHED	GROWTH OVERALL
Tzu Chi Center	542	increase by + 200	645	103	51.50%	164%

This year alone, Tzu Chi USA has already reached most of its social media goals.



The Tzu Chi USA Facebook page.

Finally, Tzu Chi USA has maintained a presence on YouTube since 2010 under its Tzu Chi USA 360 page, garnering over 1.27 million views up till now.

## Going the Extra Mile

As part of its public engagement strategy, the Tzu Chi USA team also utilizes search engine optimization (SEO) to draw flow to content on digital sites. Anik Ghose explains, “Our primary focus is deep and rich content curation, which we use to grow our digital footprint. We mostly focus on Organic SEO for procuring online traffic via blogs, press releases, and media pitches.”

To top off the engagement strategy, the team harnesses the power of email outreach.

**We get a decent amount of traffic to our website and donations via email**

**marketing efforts. From 2018 till today, we've seen email marketing showing incremental growth in digital donations.**



**Anik Ghose**  
Editor in Chief  
Tzu Chi USA Journal

## Why It's Important

Building Tzu Chi USA's digital presence and following is an evolving process, and the development and communications team is committed to steadfast improvements. The reason is simple: Each new connection is a blessing toward creating a better world for all. Whether you connect with Tzu Chi as a volunteer, a care recipient, a supporter, or a friend, our joining hands to help others assures the ripples of compassion in action will spread – from one good deed to another, one person at a time, without limits or end.



**Tzu Chi USA 360**  
@USTzuChi360  
4.77K subscribers

HOME VIDEOS SHORTS LIVE PLAYLISTS COMMUNITY CHANNELS ABOUT

### Can You Say 'Tzu Chi'?

17,030 views · 7 years ago

Visit TZU CHI USA 360 Web Channel - <http://www.tzuchi.us/video/>  
No matter who you are, where you are, or how you say our name, the Tzu Chi Foundation is always ready to help. Can you say 'Tzu Chi'?

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- Shining Star**  
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- Apoyo constante con la distribución de alimentos en Washington DC**  
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542 views · 7 days ago
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- Delivering Love and Compassion to the Fort Myers Community**  
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English-version Event Videos or Informational Videos

- Tzu Chi USA's 2020 Year in Review**  
Tzu Chi USA 360  
881 views · 1 year ago
- Amor Transforma Desesperanza: Alivio de...**  
Tzu Chi USA 360  
283 views · 4 years ago
- Tzu Chi USA Footprints of Love - 2016**  
Tzu Chi USA 360  
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Tzu Chi USA 360  
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#### Our Climate

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# AFTER HURRICANE IAN

## A Journey for Relief and Resilience

Written by Adriana DiBenedetto



On October 10, 2022, 13 days after Hurricane Ian struck, Fort Myers Beach in Florida is still in a state of disarray. *Photo/Jaime Puerta*

**O**n September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian crashed ashore along Florida's Gulf Coast, bringing dangerous lashing winds, heavy rainfall, and thunderous ocean waves that fueled catastrophic storm surges – some areas even seeing 12–18 feet of storm surge inundation above ground level. As it continued to unfurl in some of the most severely impacted areas, Hurricane Ian was reported to have produced a 1-in-1,000-year rainfall event, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Witnessing the suffering in the aftermath, Tzu Chi volunteers rose to action without delay, mobilizing relief efforts, and launching an assessment of needs. Within one week, a team of volunteers from Tzu Chi USA Southern Region's Miami Service Center began visiting areas impacted by Hurricane Ian in Florida, including Naples and Everglades City.



## Community Partners Come Together

In Naples, floods inundated countless beloved homes, destroyed roofs, and knocked out power. While utility companies had been working around the clock ever since to restore electricity, getting reconnected wouldn't be that simple for many residents.

Taking a disaster assessment team from Tzu Chi USA's Miami Service Center through Naples and Everglades City, Collier County's Growth Management Deputy Department Head, James French, explained the situation: "The water would wick up in the drywall, [so] we know it's in the electrical panels. And so although services have been restored from the electrical utility and water and sewer utility, the problem is you can't generate power within the home."

Considering the challenges facing the families whose homes incurred damages, French pointed out their courageousness

and solidarity, saying, "They are heavily impacted, but they're really the backbone: The heart and soul that carry this community every day." With much of the water having receded, community residents had begun the heartbreaking task of stacking their flood-damaged belongings out on the curb. In Everglades City, Tzu Chi relief volunteers found that one family slept on a wet mattress, in lieu of a shelter, because it was already at capacity.

Tzu Chi USA Southern Region Executive Director Sean Lo, volunteer Shuyi Bai, and Miami Service Center volunteers Mingzhe Lin, Changzhi Cai, and Judu Su, were soon joined by one of Tzu Chi's collaborators in relief, Zack Stokes, the Regional Partnerships Manager of the American Red Cross, South Florida Region. Stokes and Tzu Chi volunteers had driven to Lee County, devastated by the hurricane, then headed west to Pine Island. It marked the first time the area had been opened to volunteers since the disaster, with the only bridge in or out destroyed in Ian's wake.



A photo taken on October 11, 2022, reveals how Hurricane Ian's dangerous lashing winds knocked down trees in Arcadia, Florida. *Photo/Jaime Puerta*



Hurricane Ian brings destruction to Pine Island, Florida. *Photo/Qinhua Luo*

When the car pulled into the streets of St. James City, the southernmost region of Pine Island, residents cleaning up their damaged homes became emotional when they noticed the volunteers' presence. Their hearts were heavy as it was without having to recount the situation – survivors had worked hard for their entire lives, only to lose everything in an instant. Because of the severity of this disaster, several volunteers came to speak with survivors and document their immediate needs.

After sharing thoughts and plans at a distribution site set up by World Central Kitchen in Pine Island, Stokes led Tzu Chi volunteers to visit Bokeelia, a community in Lee County with a population of roughly 2,000. Homes were closer together here, and the damage was severe. Many people were engaged in cleanup, while more locals took a breather on porches momentarily,

taking in the immensity of the task at hand. Stokes would continue to offer more disaster relief information in the coming days, while the Tzu Chi assessment team resumed their in-depth surveying process in preparation for following disaster relief operations.

While speaking with survivors who came to the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) for information, the volunteers learned that the nearby Cape Coral neighborhood was badly hit. Many of the homes there were built in the 1970s, and the flooding caused by the hurricane had swamped the entire neighborhood. When the volunteers arrived, the roadside was littered with discarded items that the flooding had soaked through. Much of the initial cleanup effort for survivors' homes seemed to have been completed, as several trucks now worked on repairing roofs and exteriors.



Tzu Chi volunteers visit Bokeelia, a community in Lee County that Hurricane Ian severely impacted.  
*Photo/Qinhua Luo*

As volunteers approached Mark Mueller's house, he invited them in to check out the home's interior. Outside the house, there was a layer of mud left by the flood water. Inside, some items were nestled on top of closets and bookshelves in an effort to save them. He told volunteers that the neighborhood was alerted before the flooding, and local residents placed some of their belongings up as high as they could, taking shelter in advance.

What they needed at the moment, however, was to clean up and make repairs. Community members also expressed disappointment: With the increased severity and frequency of natural disasters, insurance premiums have become more and more expensive. Thus, many people in

the neighborhood do not have insurance coverage, and they are worried about the cost of the upcoming restorations.

Assessment continued in Caloosa Mobile Home Community, a manufactured home community located in North Fort Myers, where many locals work at the nearby beaches. The hurricane not only battered the beach, but also cut off many residents' sources of income. Among the organizations providing aid in the community was Samaritan's Purse, which had been helping survivors repair their roofs. The organization's representatives also graciously introduced Tzu Chi volunteers to a community leader named Angelica Ramon.

For the average person, grasping what a disaster does to a community can be difficult. But in Fort Myers' Caloosa Mobile Home Community, Ramon shared that Hurricane Ian's impact is evident in one of the most essential utilities of the modern home: A fridge. Despite levels of flooding that destroy most home appliances, Tzu Chi volunteers were not likely to find them among the debris out on the curb.

"You're not going to see a lot of fridges, because people don't want to throw it out, even though it's damaged, because they don't have money to buy [one]," Ramon explained. What people need most now are fundamentals like ovens, refrigerators, and toilets, she said. In addition, there were many school-age children in the neighborhood who are now in urgent need of learning tools.

For families that face the grueling path to recovery, explained Zack Stokes from the American Red Cross, providing them with financial assistance "is an extremely important part of [the aid] operation." He further explained that "[it] can go towards home repair; it can go towards repairing their cars, many of which have been destroyed in the flood or wind; hotel rooms that they can go and get away while they're cleaning up their homes." These expenses are just to name a few.

## Compassion and Relief Are Our Common Goals

As Hurricane Ian survivors arrived at the Lee County DRC, each had a story to tell. Molt came to the Tzu Chi table with a lady whose facial expression spoke volumes. While she filled out her data, Molt showed the volunteers a video a friend recorded



Community leader Angelica Ramon leads Tzu Chi volunteers through Caloosa Mobile Home Community in North Fort Myers, Florida. *Photo/Qinhua Luo*



Tzu Chi volunteers survey Hurricane Ian damages in Fort Myers, Florida, on October 21, 2022.  
*Photo/Tzu Chi Media Team*

of the hurricane-induced flood surge that furiously destroyed the neighborhood across the street from him. The flooding was like a wave, instantly inundating the whole area, with residents retreating to their roofs for safety if they could.

Molt sadly recounted that he lost five friends due to the hurricane. Before he could finish his account, his companion called out to him, scarcely having the emotional energy to finish her application. Molt completed the paperwork and then helped her stand up. With tears in their eyes as well, volunteers made a firm vow to give survivors real help.

As is true for all of Tzu Chi's emergency relief missions, this disaster assessment and registration process required devoted and collective effort. As more Hurricane Ian survivors came to register or learn about possible aid, volunteers listened intently as they shared experiences, hugging each other as they parted, and expressing mutual

gratitude and encouragement. Disasters have no mercy or compassion, but people do. All the organizations at the DRC worked shoulder to shoulder, their aim to help as much and as many as possible.

## Aid Gets Underway

What had been one of Florida's famous vacation destinations, an oceanfront paradise, was now in ruins. In some areas throughout the Fort Myers Beach community, only engineering crews were out and about, driving the streets as they formulated their repair and cleanup plans. Given the aftermath, the urgent need for timely disaster relief was evident.

To ensure that volunteers' coming distributions would run as smoothly as possible, a team led by Tzu Chi USA Southern Region Executive Director Sean Lo had driven to the Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) Arcadia Child

Development Center early in the morning. RCMA's relationship with Tzu Chi began with Hurricane Irma in 2017 when Tzu Chi reached out to RCMA's Corporations and Foundations Development Associate, Jay Robison.

RCMA's care recipient families were affected to varying degrees by Hurricane Ian. Most families lost power, and food and water supplies also became a concern. To help households in need of support in the aftermath, RCMA developed a food and water supply plan for the next 12 weeks. In order to achieve this on a larger scale, Robison wrote to Tzu Chi, and volunteers responded immediately. After consulting with RCMA, it was unanimously decided to distribute their care in the DeSoto County area, which had experienced flood damage due to the hurricane.

At RCMA's Arcadia Child Development Center, the assessment team was warmly received by Gloria Padilla, the Community Relations Manager, and staff members Hilaria Cuevas and Irma Chappa. Padilla has been working with RCMA for 14 years and believes that emergency cash cards from Tzu Chi USA will help buffer the small things so families can focus on the bigger ones:

**A lot of families might not have this opportunity: To be able to purchase [mundane but essential] items, and something that's this little, could be so much. And we have families that have diabetes, that have high blood pressure, that have... issues that might not ever get addressed. It is up to us, and it is up to you to help our families, our community because they are in dire need.**

**Gloria Padilla**

*Community Relations Manager  
Arcadia Child Development Center*



Five years after Hurricane Irma in 2017 and the first disaster aid distribution in Collier County, Florida, Tzu Chi volunteers return to southwestern Florida for the Hurricane Ian relief mission in 2022. Photo/Youbin Huang

Tiare Holman and Marisol Balderas, family support workers at the Arcadia Child Development Center, also invited the volunteers to visit their homes, which Hurricane Ian had impacted. With widespread damage done to many communities in Florida after Hurricane Ian, municipal resources are strapped, leaving many residents to fend for themselves. Balderas, an Arcadia resident, showed volunteers that the storm ripped off her home's roof. Yet, she and her family still lived there, even days later. "There's not a lot of places for people to stay," she explained.

The Tzu Chi team also traveled around the neighborhood to further document the gravity of the disaster's impact. As they passed by one house, a woman piled flood-damaged furniture outside, trying to arrange them in a neat and orderly manner. She greeted the volunteers, and after hearing the team's intentions for the community, she invited them inside. As she walked, she lamented that it was once such a cozy house. Now, the floor and walls had all been torn down due to flooding from the hurricane.

As the volunteers were readying to leave, they noticed a sign that read "Home, Sweet Home" hanging by the entrance. "I put it up to remind myself to be hopeful, to stay happy," the homeowner told volunteers.



Tzu Chi's Hurricane Ian cash card distributions reach Arcadia in the morning then Fort Myers in the afternoon on October 15. *Photo/Tzu Chi Media Team*

## Keeping Hope Alive on the Journey to Recovery

When Hurricane Ian survivors arrived at Tzu Chi's cash card distribution on October 15, they didn't quite know what to expect, or the depth of the care they would feel. The day's first distribution had taken place in Arcadia, with another following in Fort Myers that afternoon. Both communities were hit hard by this calamity – and families are still recovering from the experience in many ways beyond the tangible. But by the time the event had ended, people felt better despite their trying situation.

In the first round of disaster aid, a total of 235 cash cards were distributed. Volunteers planned to continue holding relief events in Fort Myers every subsequent weekend through November.

**I brought my friend here, she lost everything. She got out with the clothes on her back and her purse, and she's sitting in my car. Her eyes have all welled up because she can't believe your kindness. May it come back to you all tenfold.**



**Michael**  
*Care Recipient  
Fort Myers, Florida*

The cash cards, a signature disaster relief item provided by Tzu Chi USA, are debit cards pre-loaded with funds for care recipients' immediate use. During these two events, cash cards were valued at \$800-\$1,200 per household, depending on its size. This is a marked increase from many of Tzu Chi's previous disaster relief distributions on account of inflation and rising costs, as well as the severity of the damage caused by Ian.

In addition to the cash cards, care recipients received warm eco-blankets made with DA.AI Technology, which recycles reclaimed plastic bottles into cozy fabric. And everyone had a chance to share their experiences through the hurricane and what life has been like since.

**We lost our belongings, our property, but we still have our life – and thank God for you all for coming out to give us hope.**



**Tiare Holman**  
*Care Recipient  
Arcadia, Florida*



The relief effort in both cities proceeded in collaboration with multiple parties, including FEMA; the American Red Cross, South Florida Region; and the Boys and Girls Club of Lee County. It involved volunteers from the Tzu Chi USA Southern Region Office and the Miami and Orlando Service Centers. Days of assessments preceded disaster relief distributions and revealed current estimates that 80% of Fort Myers must be rebuilt entirely.

When Hurricane Ian survivors came to the distributions on October 15, they hardly knew what to expect. Relieved to receive financial assistance, they also felt touched by the distribution ceremony, the prayers, the singing, and how it all rekindled their hope. That's the first reaction, but many also felt more:

**The second thing is the most important – it's that we will pay this forward. I will do everything in my power. And if I can help in any way, I will save my pennies, and all of what I have, and I will pay it forward.**

**Karen Awis Ebbert**  
*Care Recipient*  
*Fort Myers, Florida*

On October 22–23, the loving support of volunteers brought some immediate and welcome relief to households affected by Hurricane Ian in Florida once more. Through two heartfelt distributions in the cities of Fort Myers and Naples, a total of \$733,100 in cash card aid benefited 838 impacted households. Tzu Chi volunteers hosted another emergency financial aid distribution on October 29, 2022, and again on Sunday, October 30.

Love and care abound at Tzu Chi's relief distribution in Fort Myers on October 30, 2022. Photo/Qihua Luo



Describing his experience during Hurricane Ian, Fort Myers resident Vincen Williams recounted, "I was in the water for ten hours up to my neck, helping elderly people that couldn't get out, with the alligators... everything was in the water, snakes." After a harrowing rescue effort, reality hit: Vincen, like so many of his neighbors, had lost everything. But, on October 30, he received an emergency cash card from Tzu Chi in Fort Myers. With his young children in tow as he waited for his turn, he recalled his emotional response while watching Tzu Chi volunteers: "I kind of had a tear in my eye. I'm a kind of tough guy, but it kind of broke me down."



Tzu Chi's aid on October 30 at the Boys & Girls Club of Lee County in Fort Myers was the most extensive Hurricane Ian relief distribution thus far. Seventy-one volunteers from across the nation provided \$523,900 in aid to 566 impacted households. With Halloween the next day, the volunteers decorated the venue with small ornaments to enkindle a warm and festive ambiance, offering sweets and games for little ones at the event to enjoy as well. As of November 5, 2022, a total of \$2,227,400 in relief benefited 8,235 Hurricane Ian survivors.

After disasters, it can be a long road to recovery. As Floridians face the difficult

task of rebuilding, Tzu Chi USA is here to help with continued aid for families and individuals in need. We pray that the relief Tzu Chi volunteers bring will help ease the distress of survivors as they persevere onward and ensure they know their Tzu Chi family is here for them.

**May the love in each of us converge into a vast ocean of hope, which can then be given to everyone in the world without end.**



*Dharma Master Cheng Yen* 🌿

# THE ABILITY TO GIVE IS A BLESSING; THE ABILITY TO LET GO IS WISDOM

*Acts of kindness from each one of us are like the nectar of love that can enrich the hearts of many.  
Master Cheng Yen's Teachings | Translated and Compiled by the Dharma as Water Team*

**O**n September 18, an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale struck Chishang, Taitung. It instantly shattered the ground, tilted and shifted bridges, and even damaged sturdy buildings. This event truly showed the power of nature.

The government of Taiwan collaborated with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) Charity Foundation, Tzu Chi, and other agencies to undertake and assist disaster relief efforts. Faith Corps teams from across Taiwan, as well as repair teams with construction experiences in Taiwan gathered in Hualien and Taitung voluntarily. They were then dispatched to different areas to survey and gauge how much material to prepare, and how many shifts of people were needed. Then, they took their posts and began reconstruction. There were many things to do at that time, and the efforts would continue on for a while. This was a great endeavor for Tzu Chi volunteers.

When there is suffering in this world, Bodhisattvas cannot bear to see it, so they mobilize and contribute both resources and effort. At these times, people feel the call of duty, so they overcome many obstacles to give of themselves. Many do not take a day off from volunteering; instead they take a day off from work to volunteer. Some volunteers own businesses, and they choose to close their doors and businesses for a few days in order to go volunteer. This selfless love is truly beautiful. Tzu Chi's compassion is long-lasting, and the love of Bodhisattvas is extensive. This is a true form of truth, goodness, and beauty.

The volunteers who helped after the September 18 earthquake were very attentive and mindful. As they were carrying out the repairs, they noticed that a family had certain tiles from many years before. It was very difficult to find the same tile to repair the damage. However, they not only tried their best, but also mindfully found a kind of tile with similar style and color as the original. In this way, the family would not see a mismatched tile color and recall the panic of the earthquake.

The volunteers repaired the damaged wall, hoping to heal the wound in the heart of the disaster survivors. For this, I am truly very grateful.

There are also endless things to be grateful for. For instance, people from overseas heard about this disaster, and they prayed and gave their blessings to Taiwan. Many children around the world donated to the bamboo bank to help with the disaster relief efforts. In this way, love and blessings were accumulated every day. These people remembered that Taiwan often gives to the world as well, and now, it was their turn to give. All of these efforts are very touching.

Being able to help others is a blessing, and by giving of ourselves, we are creating blessings for ourselves. We must vow to help others no matter where the disaster or source of suffering is. As we give resources to others, we attain blessings ourselves. If everyone has the aspiration to create blessings, we can all be blessed and joyous every day. With such an auspicious atmosphere, it is as if we are protected by blessings.

Currently, we are witnessing imbalances of the four elements around the world. There is Hurricane Ian in the United States, floods in Thailand, and an earthquake in Mexico. Tzu Chi volunteers have reported that they are ready to assess the disaster and provide disaster relief. The sources of suffering in the world lie in the disasters in many places that are the result of climate imbalances, and in man-made calamities caused by people's unsettled minds. In places where there are Tzu Chi volunteers, people can be helped. But in places without Tzu Chi volunteers, no matter how serious the disaster is, we can only lament; who can provide help? We always look to see if there are people available in neighboring countries who can provide help. I still hope that Bodhisattvas can extend their compassion and spread great love in this world.

We must not miss out on doing good deeds. The actions we take accumulate to give our lives value. The ability to give is a blessing; the ability to let go is wisdom. We must cultivate both blessings and wisdom so that there will be a group of Bodhisattvas wherever we are. When everyone is filled with blessed causes, blessed conditions, blessed fruits, and blessed retributions, then naturally, we will have happy families and harmony in the society. So, I hope that everyone will be mindful. 🍀



# Illuminations

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

## **KARMIC FRUITS MUST MATURE**

**Question:** *“My father loved to help communities by paving roads and building bridges, so he could not comprehend why he had to suffer from the retribution of cancer when he didn’t do anything wrong.”*

**Answer:** *“The karmic fruits in the present are due to karmic seeds in the past, and the present karmic seeds will become the karmic fruits in the future. Although he had cultivated good causes in this lifetime, the karmic fruits have yet to mature!”*

## **CULTIVATE BLESSINGS TO BE GROUNDED**

**Question:** *“How can we live a meaningful life?”*

**Answer:** *“When we are in good health, we should cultivate more blessings; when our surroundings permit, we should form more good affinities and not waste time. In this way, we will naturally feel grounded in life.”*

## **DON'T LET DISCURSIVE THOUGHTS DERAIL YOU**

**Question:** *“I have a lot of discursive thoughts, and I am unable to settle my mind. What should I do?”*

**Answer:** *“It is impossible to think about nothing. However, when it comes to thinking, we should not worry about our thoughts too much. Instead, we should earnestly focus on what is in front of us. Discursive thoughts are normal, and do not necessarily mean your mind is unsettled. If you keep thinking you are unsettled, you are actually adding an extra layer to your afflictions.”*



# Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation Global Relief Efforts

by Scarlett Liu, Sophie Song, Ida Eva Zielinska



 Chile

On September 18, Santiago Service Center volunteers celebrate Chile's National Day with the community. To promote vegetarianism and protect the Earth, everyone makes a vegetarian version of traditional Chilean pies as part of the festivities. *Photo/Santiago Service Center*



 Mexico

Tzu Chi holds a full-day free dental clinic at the Tijuana Service Center on October 8. Local doctors participate in helping treat the dental problems of impoverished care recipients. *Photo/Matt Serrano*



 Mozambique

Volunteers at the Tzu Chi office in the Nhamatanda district of Sofala Province distribute cornmeal on October 6 to alleviate local food shortages. The distribution benefits 1,161 residents, most of them elderly. *Photo/Jose Jorge*



On October 8, Tzu Chi volunteers visit the impoverished residents of Metuchira Tzu Chi Great Love Village in Sofala Province, bringing sweet potatoes harvested from the Tzu Chi Great Love Farm in Metuchira. *Photo/Jose Jorge*



 Taiwan

A magnitude 6.8 earthquake hit eastern Taiwan on September 18, damaging many houses. Tzu Chi assists disaster recovery by calling on construction and engineering professionals from across Taiwan to join the volunteer team rebuilding the homes. *Photo/Zhang Yangchuan*



 Poland

Tzu Chi volunteers from Poland previously brought washing machines to the Little Prince Children's Hospice Center in Lublin. On September 17, they return to bring diapers to help keep the sick children clean and comfortable. *Photo/Chen Shuwei*



 Cambodia

On September 8, with the Mid-Autumn Mooncake Festival approaching, Tzu Chi volunteers visit the National Borey for Infants and Children in Phnom Penh to bring joy to disabled orphans. They also provide clothing and flour to make moon cakes for the children with the staff. *Photo/Huang Shuzhen*



With regular distributions, Tzu Chi has been caring for the residents of the Dangkor Landfill in Phnom Penh, who rely on scavenging for their livelihood. On October 8, Tzu Chi volunteers return to hold their fourth annual distribution there. *Photo/Huang Shuzhen* 🍃



# Tzu Chi USA Relief Efforts

by Scarlett Liu, Sophie Song, Ida Eva Zielinska

## Providing Disaster Relief



After a flood of a scale unseen in decades strikes eastern Kentucky, Tzu Chi USA Midwest Region volunteers from Chicago hold distributions in the hardest-hit counties of Jackson and Hazard over the Labor Day weekend, September 3-4. *Photos/ Qiu Bonian*



A thunderstorm ignited a fire at a riverfront condo in Brown Deer, Wisconsin, north of Milwaukee, on August 20. Tzu Chi USA Midwest Region volunteers from Milwaukee and Chicago go to Brown Deer on September 17 to hold a disaster relief distribution. *Photo/Yue Ma*



On October 2, Tzu Chi USA Northwest Region volunteers revisit the Last Chance Community hard hit by wildfires more than two years ago, bringing two new container houses. Moved, residents give them pots of flowers in gratitude for their continuous support. *Photo/Zhu Wenguang*

## Celebrating Anniversaries and Fundraising



The Tzu Chi USA Central Region Dallas Branch holds a 30th-anniversary party on September 10, where Tzu Chi volunteers and cherished guests commemorate the milestone joyfully. *Photo/Zeng Yanxi*



September 9, 2022, marked the 12th anniversary of Tzu Chi USA Mid-Atlantic Region's Food Pantry in New Jersey. More than 30 volunteers celebrate with a distribution that benefits 248 disadvantaged families. *Photo/Zeng Yanxi*



Tzu Chi USA National Headquarters hosts annual charity concert fundraising events on October 15 and 16, with 750 guests attending to support Tzu Chi's missions. *Photo/Shuli Lo*

## Promoting Vegetarianism and Protecting the Environment



Tzu Chi USA Northwest Region volunteers participate in the Vegetarian Expo held at Discovery Meadow Park in San Jose, California, on September 17. They promote reusing and recycling, environmental protection, and vegetarianism to mitigate climate change and pollution. *Photo/Rong Changming*



Tzu Chi USA National Headquarters in San Dimas, California, holds its second Farmers Market on October 1. Stalls are also set up on the campus to help visitors learn about environmental protection and green living. *Photo/Chen Haijia* 🌱

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	MA	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	MI	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	NV	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: 818-727-9272		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	VA	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	WI	Madison Office	1019 Starlight Ln, Cottage Grove, WI 53527	608-960-1962	
IN	Chicago Chinatown Service Center	215 W 23rd St., Chicago, IL 60616						
IN	Indianapolis Service Center	2929 E. 96th St. #E Indianapolis, IN 46240	317-580-0979					



# #GIVING TUESDAY

## WE DID IT!

In just 24 hours, you helped Tzu Chi USA raise nearly \$1.89 million on November 29, GivingTuesday 2022! From the bottom of our hearts, we thank each of you for showing overwhelming generosity on this global day of giving and helping us put compassion in action. We're humbled, inspired, and in the coming months, ready to bring real relief to human suffering as we always have.

So, keep our mission close to your heart and mark your calendars for GivingTuesday 2023, taking place next year on November 28, 2023. Learn more about Tzu Chi USA and GivingTuesday.



[tzuchi.us/GivingTuesday](https://tzuchi.us/GivingTuesday)



**Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation**

1100 S. Valley Center Ave.

San Dimas, CA91773

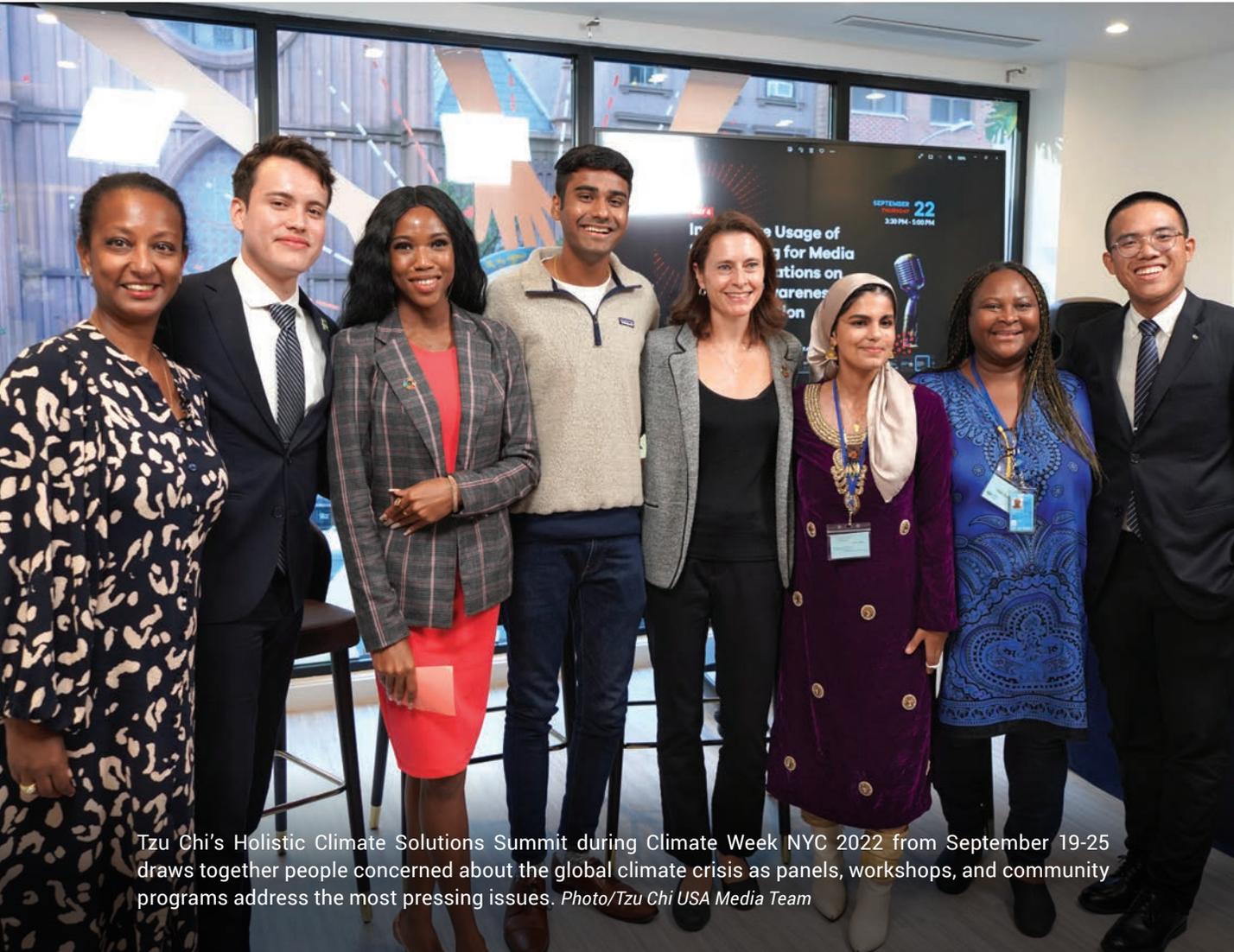
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Tzu Chi's Holistic Climate Solutions Summit during Climate Week NYC 2022 from September 19-25 draws together people concerned about the global climate crisis as panels, workshops, and community programs address the most pressing issues. *Photo/Tzu Chi USA Media Team*