

Special Report 1

# Life in Full Blossom

## Rose Parade Float Honors Organ Donation

By Ching-Fang Tseng, Li-Hui Hsu, and Tzu Chi U.S.A.





*One More Day...  
If they can live one more day,  
it would be a precious gift for the patients and their families.  
A tragic traffic accident caused an 18-year-old  
on the brink of brain death.  
The boy's family, still suffering from the trauma signed an  
agreement of organs donation for their loved one.  
Over 60 patients received new lives because of the generosity.  
It brought joy and happiness to more than 60 families.  
Attachment versus great giving, despair versus hope,  
tears versus laughters.  
This is a fascinating story of an organ donor from Taiwan,  
across the Pacific Ocean to join the Rose Parade  
in Pasadena, California.  
His story has beamed to the world  
in brilliant colors.  
Love is always there...*



“One More Day,” if there is one more day to live, it would be a precious gift for the patients and their families.

The Rose Parade is held annually at Pasadena in California on the New Year’s Day. This festivity has a long tradition for over one hundred years. With the advancement in technology, the event was broadcasted live to all over the world. The 123rd Rose Parade was held on January 2, 2012. The parade consists of 44 floats, 21 marching bands and 20 equestrian units. Along the parade route, there were thousands of people cheering and celebrating the coming of a New Year.

One of the parade floats, numbered 41, themed “One More Day” was awarded with Judges’ Special Trophy. This floral float was orchestrated by Donate Life America. This year’s donate life float has 72 donor families participating in this event. One of them was the family of Chih-Chien Hsiao, who was the first organ donor of the Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital. In the history of Rose Parade, this was the first time a non-American organ donor and family joined the event as a participant. The family of Chih-Chien Hsiao, who came from Taiwan, was also involved in the makings of the float. Chih-Chien’s spirit of great giving lives on and is alive on the stages worldwide. It marks the general recognition of organ donations in Taiwan.

## Donate Life Parade

On October 1, 2011, Tzu-Hui Tseng, CEO of Tzu Chi Medical Foundation, USA communicated with the CEO of the Tzu Chi Medical Foundation in Taiwan, Chin-Lon Lin. Following the conclusion of Tzu Chi International Medical Association in September, they recommended the portrait of Chih-Chien Hsiao, the first organ donor at the Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital, to come into light at the 2012 Rose Parade. The float was put together by the Donate Life America, and Chih-Chien’s family was invited to share their experience and take part in decorating the float.

Tzu-Hui stated that this was the first participation of any case from overseas. Prior to this, participants were from the United States only. Not only was the donor from Taiwan’s Tzu Chi Hospital invited for the year of 2012 parade, there were also two donors’ families, one from Japan and one Canada. Chih-Chien was nominated by the Tzu Chi Foundation for the following reasons: firstly, Chih-Chien’s story was made into Da Ai TV series titled “My Darling”. It was a story about how Chih-Chien donated his organs after a traffic accident and how his family walked out of the tragedy. Secondly, Chih-Chien’s age and his accident may be used as a meaningful topic for educational purpose. Lastly, after making the decision for Chih-



**The love of organ donation connects Tzu Chi USA headquarters, families of Taiwan donor Chih-Chien Hsiao, and representatives of Tzu Chi Medical Foundation to have decorated the rose parade float together to show to the world.**

Chien, his parents were involved with Tzu Chi volunteering work, and eventually became commissioners. More importantly, by knowing the story of Chih-Chien and his family, one can observe how Tzu Chi's volunteer medical team cares for patients and their families. It also demonstrates the compassion and wisdom of Master Cheng Yen.

Though the deadline of registration was near, it was still necessary to ask for the family's permission beforehand. The Cultural Distribution of Tzu Chi Medical Development had asked Tzu Chi Organ Procurement Organization (TCOPO) to hand over the processing to the coordinating nurse Tsui-Tsui Yu. Once Mr. and Mrs. Hsiao heard the invitation,

they were proud of Chih-Chien. They felt honorable and gladly accepted the invitation.

### **Cross Culture Learning Between One Legacy and Tzu Chi**

The high-ranking officials from a donate life organization – One Legacy – were invited to Hualien to attend Tzu Chi International Medical Association (TIMA) between 2007 and 2009. In 2007 TIMA Convention, the CEO of One Legacy, Thomas Mone met with TIMA CEO Dr. Lin (he was then the superintendent of Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital) and Director Ming-Che Lee of the Organ Procurement Centre in Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital share



**From 2007 to 2009, representatives from One Legacy had been invited to attend the TIMA annual conference.**

their experience. Officials of One Legacy were deeply moved by TIMA's Tzu Chi medical humanities and the Silent Mentor program from Tzu Chi University. One Legacy's Community Relations Specialist, Sabrina Ho, had worked in Tzu Chi Free Clinics in the USA and attended TIMA several times, so she was familiar with Tzu Chi medical mission. In May of 2010, Dr. Ming-Che Lee from Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital, coordinating nurse Min-Hui Shih and coordinating nurse Tsui-Tsui Yu had also visited One Legacy in the USA. They also participated in a campaign, "Walk for Organ Donation". Volunteers from Tzu Chi Foundation (USA) have engaged in Rose Parade floats decoration for many years. Close interactions among Tzu Chi

medical mission, Tzu Chi Foundation (USA) and One Legacy made it possible for this year's participation to Rose Parade.

As the deadline approaches, many documents and forms needed to be completed and processed. One Legacy's Sabrina Ho collected Chih-Chien's photos and stories, including "One Legacy: Invitation Letter for Organ Donor", "Rights for the media to report on One Legacy" and other English documents. During this period, the Chinese translation and the contacts with the family were handled by Ching-Fang Tseng. Corresponding by emails, Ms. Ho discussed with Ching-Fang about the Chinese translation of this year's theme. They concluded to adopt Ching-Fang's suggestion, "For One More

Day”, as the One Legacy theme for all Chinese media. Chih-Chien’s portrait and story, along with seventy one other donors, were published on the “Donate Life: Rose Parade” webpage.

### Organ Donation, Act of Great Love

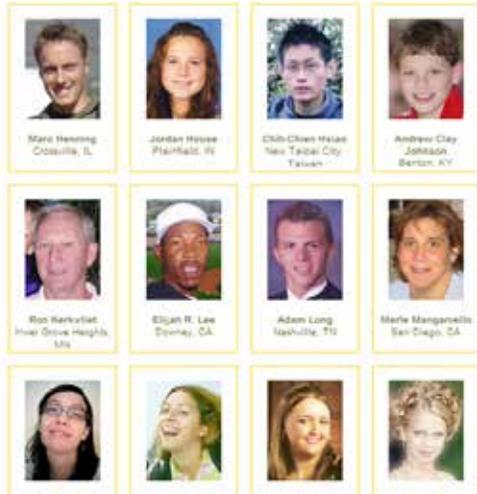
Initially, representatives from all four Tzu Chi hospitals’ organ transplant teams planned to attend. However, Dr. Ming-Che Lee could not make it because of scheduled surgeries. Dr. Wen-Yoa Yin of Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital was also in the similar situation. On this trip, there were six team members and four family members including father Sheng-Hsien Hsiao, mother Sheng-Hui Hsu, twin sister Yu-Chieh Hsiao, grandpa Kuo-Bin

Hsu. In addition, there were two Tzu Chi volunteers. One of them is a social worker Tzu-Ching Lin who supported the entire process of Chih-Chien’s organ donation and the other is coordinating nurse Hui-Lin Lai from Tzu Chi Hospital in Taichung. In 2012, the Rose Parade was held Monday morning on January the second at Pasadena, California.

The day of Rose Parade was very festive. People gathered and stood along the parade route. The float Chih-Chien’s family took part in consisted of six giant clocks. The centerpiece clock was ten-meter tall, reminding people to treasure each day we live. Twenty eight passengers were on the float. They represented donors and recipients. Seventy-two floral portraits of donors were on the float. Whichever gift they had left, organs, tissue



Director of Surgery Dept. at Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital Dr. Ming-Che Lee (back row, 4th from left), coordinating nurse Min-Hui Shih (front row, 1st from right) and Coordinating nurse Tsui-Tsui Yu (front row, 2nd from right). In May of 2010, they were accompanied by Tzu Chi USA to visit One Legacy to learn and exchange experiences.



“Little Chrysanthemum” was Chih-Chien’s nickname. Coincidentally, his floral portrait was adorned and bordered by pink chrysanthemums.



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### 2012 FLORAGRAPH

#### CHIH-CHIEN HSIAO

Organ, Eye & Tissue Donor  
 Age 18 ~ New Taipei City, Taiwan  
 Date of Donation: 12/1/05  
 Buddhist Tzu Chi General Hospital,  
 Taipei Branch

Honored by [Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation](#)

Chih-Chien Hsiao was a life-loving and sociable freshman at the Chinese Culture University in Taipei, Taiwan. In 2005 a tragic accident took his life as he rode his scooter to school. His mother, Shen-Hui Shu signed the organ donation consent form reluctantly, and on Dec. 1, 2005, CHIH-CHIEN donated his heart, liver, kidneys and tissue, benefiting over 60 recipients. One day, Shen-Hui was watching a TV program about organ donation. The young man on the screen was the recipient of CHIH-CHIEN’s liver, who said, “I want to thank my donor. Because of you, I will live courageously.” Shen-Hui then realized the miracle her son had helped to create.

Chih-Chien’s Story

Being the youngest boy in the family with one older brother and a twin sister, CHIH-CHIEN Hsiao had a vivacious and outgoing personality. He was much loved among his relatives, especially his mother, Shen-Hui Shu. CHIH-CHIEN and his mother would often go to social events, such as baking classes, together.

Chih-Chien was 18 years old and a freshman at the Chinese Culture University in Taipei when on Nov. 28, 2005, a tragic accident took his life as he rode his scooter to school.



**The story of the brave is detailed on the webpage**

**Chih-Chien’s anecdote can be found on “Donate Life, Rose Parade” website**

**Donor: Chih-Chien Hsiao (Donated organs, tissues and corneas)**

**Age: Eighteen-year-old from Taipei, Taiwan**

**Date of donation: December 1, 2005.**

**Location: Taipei Tzu Chi General Hospital**

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or corneas, life and time were recaptured for many recipients. Chih-Chien's father, mother, grandfather, and his twin sister were joined by the social worker Tzu-Ching Lin, coordinating nurse Hui-Lin Lai and Tzu Chi volunteers in the United States. On the stand, they witnessed the picture of Chih-Chien radiating his love on Colorado Boulevard. As the float passed right in front of them, tears of pride and sorrow trickled down their cheeks. Chih-Chien's grandpa proudly asserted that his grandson's courage and family members' wise decision had emanated great love to help others and prolonged many precious lives. Chih-Chien's mother Sheng-Hui was immersed in joy. She said, "Chih-Chien's nickname is Little Chrysanthemum. His floral portrait is adorned in pink chrysanthemum." His sister Yu-Chieh said that when the float passed by, she was looking at her brother's picture. He's done a great deed and let the whole world

know about it. She was proud of him and blessed to have him as brother.

The Hsiao family understood that although Chih-Chien had passed away, but his organs are still alive in someone else's body. Just one decision had let sixty patients to get a new lease on life. Sixty families recaptured their hope. Through the world famous 2012 Rose Parade, this touching story of life presented great love of Taiwan to the world. Meanwhile, it also accepted kind wishes from the world.

Many courageous organ donors signed an agreement of love before their final goodbye. Family members, social workers, teams of transplant professional and the recipients all witness this circle of beauty and kindness – that a new lease of life is reborn through the spirit of great giving. The floral portraits on the float signify the departure of life. A living body will decimate eventually, but the spirit of great love last forever; their stories live on.



**Donate Life float was awarded the Judges' Special Trophy. Love radiates on Colorado Boulevard in California, United States. Photo depicts the mother (left) and twin sister decorates Hsiao's floral portrait.**

## The story of Organ Donor Chih-Chieh Hsiao

Chih-Chien was a vigorous and passionate freshman at Chinese Culture University in Taiwan. He died in a 2005 traffic accident while riding a motorcycle to school. His mother painfully signed an agreement to donate his organs. On December 1 of 2005, Chih-Chien donated his heart, liver, kidney and tissues to benefit more than sixty patients. One day, his mother Sheng-Hui Hsu was watching a television program about organ donation. She noticed that a young recipient, a beneficiary of her son's organ, said on TV, "I deeply appreciate my donor. Because of you, I will live on with courage." On that day, Sheng-Hui felt the miracle in the result of her son's donation.

This is the story of Chih-Chien. That year, Chih-Chien just got admitted to the Chinese Culture University of Taiwan. He was smart, considerate and outgoing. Not only was he a likable young man among his parents and elders, he was also popular in school. Although he had an elder brother and a twin sister in the family, he was like his mother in personalities, so he developed a close bond with Sheng-Hui Hsu. Chih-Chien would accompany his mother to her cooking and flower arrangement classes. While Chih-Chien was still at an adolescent age of 18, his life came to an end abruptly and



unexpectedly.

On November 26, 2005, Chih-Chien rode his motorcycle on his way back to school and got into a severe accident. After the catastrophic accident, someone found his body, called the police and sent him to the hospital. His Glasgow Coma Index had gone down to 3. The doctor at the Emergency informed the family that Chih-Chien had come very close to being "brain dead". This blow was hard to swallow for the family. At that time, Sheng-Hui wanted to transfer Chih-Chien to a different hospital for treatment. However, the attending doctor recommended Chih-Chien not to transfer because he was in a critical condition. In the end, Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital was willing to accept Chih-Chien and grant his mother's wish.

Once transferred to Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital, Chih-Chien's condition had gotten worse. Social worker Tzu-Ching Lin explained his status to the family and recommended organ donation. After

hearing their suggestion, Sheng-Hui was very emotional and upset toward the hospital. She refused to communicate with social workers. The Vice Superintendent of Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital, Dr. Yao-Jen Chang, along with the attending physician, explained and analyzed the patient's condition to the family. Eventually, Mrs. Hsiao signed the organ donation agreement. Afterwards, while Chih-Chien was still on the verge of the last breath, family and friends continually talked and encouraged him to sustain as long as he could so he could save others. In the end, Chih-Chien successfully donated his heart, liver, kidneys, corneas, skin, tissues and four limbs. In total, over 60 patients benefited.

After Chih-Chien's organ donation, Sheng-Hui became withdrawn and isolated. Tzu Chi volunteers, social workers, family and friends were all concerned and worried about her health. But she refused to take phone calls from anyone. One day, she came across the blog from Chih-Chien's twin sister Yu-Chieh by accident. She discovered that her daughter has suicidal tendency because Yu-Chieh was preoccupied with the death of her brother. Unexpectedly, she came to life then told herself that she could no longer shelter herself from the world because there were two more

children in need of her attention. Sheng-Hui had come around. She started watching Da Ai TV programs. There was a show on TV about organ donation. Sheng-Hui checked and realized that the recipient of a liver happened to be the beneficiary from her son's organ donation. The recipient said on TV, "I have much gratitude for the donor. Because of you, I will live my life with courage." Sheng-Hui was deeply moved. She understood that Chih-Chien's life had been preserved as the result of his great love. Chih-Chien in effect had saved many peoples' lives. And his spirits of great love touched the hearts of thousands of people. Afterwards, with the encouragement from Tzu Chi volunteers, Sheng-Hui and her husband moved on and took part in many Tzu Chi activities. They had enrolled into volunteers training classes and transformed love for their son into great love. They witnessed the enormous consequence from organ donation and actively engaged in promotion of organ and bone marrow donation. They solicited contributions, gave public speeches and shared their own experience. They were no longer crouching and weeping in their own corner. They had turned the corner! Losing their son has brought about the fountain of kindness and goodness. And it will continue, forever.