

Disaster Relief Fund-Raising for Hurricane Sandy

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In late October, 2012, Hurricane Sandy, a hurricane reaching a maximum of 1,600 km in diameter and was nicknamed “Frankenstorm”, devastated the East Coast of the U.S. In the U.S. alone, a total of 131 people were killed and damage amounted to \$65 billion. New York, a world’s economic center, was left in ruins. As winter approached, the temperature dived below zero. Known as a world superpower, the U.S. had yet to accommodate almost 40,000 disaster victims, and many more awaits the government’s relief supplies that were yet to arrive. Fortunately, the blue and white arrived in time, serving hot meals amid the cold nights. Under the appeal of Master Cheng Yen, Tzu Chi members worldwide launched a series of projects, and Tzu Chi Medical Mission also echoed the appeal and delivered their love across the Pacific Ocean.



The employees of Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital gathered at the lobby during praying hours and sang their prayers out loud.

Bamboo Bank of Love

Images Da Ai T.V. attained and broadcasted conveyed the tragedy of Hurricane Sandy. Tzu Chi volunteers traversed into the disaster zones, delivering relief goods, hot meals and cash cards, as well as raising funds locally to assist the disaster victims. At 1:20pm on November 14, Supt. Ruey-Ho Kao led the entire hospital staffs and volunteers, approximately 200 people, sang the song “Prayer” to pray for peace worldwide.

“Although Tzu Chi volunteers in Taiwan could not cross the ocean and assist locally, but we can deliver our love through the bamboo banks,” Supt. Kao said. “A single good deed can counteract a thousand disasters. Everyone should do a good deed in a time like this.”

Hospital employee Ching-Chiang Liu who just came back from Austin, Texas, said that the East Coast was ravaged by the hurricane. While in the U.S., Ching-Chiang Liu, his month-old grandson and mother-in-law in her eighties, all participated in the fund raiser. He and his family deeply believe that those who help others are the blessed ones, and he was grateful that he could participate in Taiwan’s fund raiser “Pooling Together Everyone’s Love to Help Sandy Survivors” right as he returned.



Supt. Ruey-Ho Kao (second from right), Vice Supt. Ji-Hung Wang (first from left), Vice Supt. Wen-Lin Hsu (second from left) and Chief Secretary Hsin-Chu Chen are the first to donate their bamboo banks.



Hospital volunteers donate enthusiastically as Supt. Kao holds the donation box.



Brother Ching-Chiang Liu, returned from the U.S. only recently, sharing his overseas fund raising experience with participating employees.

Although the news of the fund raiser was broadcasted only recently, it received a widespread support from the hospital employees and a total of 45 heavy bamboo banks were raised. Other employees and volunteers donated all the cash they had in wallet and wrote down their blessings on small prayer cards. The love of the crowd converges into a warm current, perfect for warming the hearts of the disaster victims in such a bitter cold winter.

As Love Blossoms in Dalin

On November 30, Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital held a fund raiser for the disaster

victims of Hurricane Sandy. The staffs of the medical room set up stalls in the hospital lobby to sell accessories for four consecutive days; Volunteer Shu-Ching Lin donated several hundred blankets, which was particularly useful in such a cold rainy winter; Jing Si Bookstore set up stalls too to promote Tzu Chi humanities. Knowing that these goods would be transported to the East Coast of the U.S., Volunteer Ming-Yueh Huang called her high school classmates all the way from Pintung to Chiayi to support the event. Every small action accumulate, only to deliver warmth and care to the disaster victims amid the bitter cold winter.



The accessory stall of the medical room, Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital, was well received by the staffs and locals.

Deliver Love to Guard Health, Doctors Sell Vegetables for Charity

Due to the positive reception, Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital decided to hold another flea market fundraiser. Marinaded bean curds, delicious sandwiches, organic vegetables, onion pancakes, and other second hand merchandise the volunteers raised attracted the hospital employees and patients alike.

The organic vegetables Volunteer Tsung-Lieh Chen offered did not have a pleasing appearance, but it was definitely the center of attention. “It is even better if insect bites, a proof of no pesticides!” people said. Vice Supt. Lai Chun-Liang grabbed his favorite turnip and was telling everyone that it has a milky flavor when stewed, which is warm and fragrant. Vice Supt. Chen Chin-Cheng later joined the vending just as his wife came to the hospital to handle some affairs. As his wife approaches, Vice Supt. Chen made every effort calling out, “hello lady, your husband love this very much, why don’t you buy some”, while pointing to the vegetables, which raised some laughs among the crowds. Vice Supt. Jui-Teng Chien was vending the vegetables while explaining to the customers “this is for the donation to the U.S.”. When his patients recognized him, he just laughed, “no



Vice Supt. Jin-Cherng Chen (second from right) was promoting his favorite organic vegetables to his wife (first from left).



Supt. Ning-Sheng Lai (second from left) making popcorn for people to savor.

surgery today, just selling vegetables!” With the relaying effort of all three vice superintendents, the vegetables were soon gone. Everyone left with their bags full and a bright smile on their face.

Supt. Ning-Sheng Lai used his lunch break to assist in the lobby, making



Well marinated bean curds is a delicacy known in Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital.



Volunteer Shu-Chin Lin donated her blankets to raise funds, an item that was particularly favored by most.

popcorns with a stainless steel pan donated by the volunteers. “Come”, you waited the longest, so you should have some more!” He said to a child who waited in line with his mother for so long, just for a bag of tasty popcorn. The mother was happy to spend the money,

giving the child a chance to enjoy the happiness of donation.

“Make way! It’s hot!” Amid the excitement, a fragrant savor emerged. It was the hospital’s favorite dish - marinated bean curd. Well marinated bean curd, still sizzled with white smoke, was made by Li-Mei Deng of the Engineering Room, who marinated the bean curd by following a complex procedure since 6 am. Soon, 48 kg worth of bean curds were swept away! The reputation of the dish through words of mouth was well deserved.

The Convergence of Love

Supt. Shou-Hsin Chien, who empathized with Master Cheng Yen’s concern, launched a in-hospital fundraiser. Vice Supt. Shu-Ting Chuang then ran to all departments to negotiate necessary volunteers to ensure a smooth operation.

On the morning of 13 Nov., all hospital employees received an email from the Superintendent Office titled “Love for Hurricane Sandy”, and soon assembled in the lobby. Supt. Chien, led by example, donated a hefty bamboo bank. “The U.S. Tzu Chi Volunteers, who were cooking hot meals in a cold winter night during blackout with only flashlights for lighting, were more than admirable,” Supt. Chien said. “Now is the time to



The lively lobby of Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital.

converge more love to help the disaster victims through their predicament.”

The medical staffs who were on break came to participate, so were the administrative departments, forming a long line to donate their love. Dir. Ling-Yu Jao of the Medical Affair, Dir. Chuan-Min Weng of Engineer, and Dir. Hui-Ching Li from Finance Office all brought their subordinates and their bamboo banks to the scene. Chief Chen Yu-Fang of Admission Discharge Center and his mother Cheng Li-Mei donated a year worth of bamboo bank; Dir. Chang Liang-Kai of Preventive Medicine Center brought four major bamboo banks filled with the love of two dozen staffs.

As the empathetic love spread across the wards, many patients came and participated in the fundraiser. Lady Chu in her seventies, came on a wheelchair with tear in her eyes, donated a coin and made a wish, hoping that she would recover one day. Dir. Chia-Yi Lin of Social Work donated on Lady Chu's behalf as a blessing. Lady Chen, who is married from China to Taiwan, brought her two year old daughter to donate. “I am so surprised that the gentleman from ‘All About Health’ showed up and gave a bamboo bank to my daughter!” she laughed. Many people, after their donation, requested a photo with Supt. Chien, looking just like a fan meeting.

Our Generous Hospital Staff

After the voluntary donation, the lobby is lively once again during the fundraiser on Nov. 28. Every staff members collaborate with Yi-Te Family, which consist of Tzu Chi volunteers, and presented stalls of various splendid items that include agricultural products, hot meals, and even club exhibitions. Calligraphy Teacher Li Li demonstrated his skill, the badminton club donated two boxes of rackets, and the agile ones fought over sport bicycles. Many people complained, “we are just not fast enough!”

Dir. Chi-Hua Chen from Pharmacy donated boxes of quality clothing for others to cherish; staffs from Anesthesiology marinated hundreds of tea eggs that were sold out before noon. Vice Supt. Shu-Ting Chuang walked around the venue peddling for each stall, which attracted numerous donations.

The fundraiser moved many non-Tzu Chi participants, as everyone wanted to contribute their share to the disaster victims of Hurricane Sandy. Terminal cancer patient Ning donated handmade soaps; five year old Tsai donated his bamboo bank; and the hospital contractors joined the fundraiser with homemade beads. Supt. Chien



Supt. Shou-Hsin Chien (right) introduces a delicate vase made from four color cards by Ching-Hua Luo, a patient of Heart Lotus Ward, and was donated by his widow Yu-Lan Chen for the fundraiser.



As it approaches Lunar New Year, people are particularly fond of the calligraphers' Spring festival couplets



Head Nurse Yu-Ju Li of Emergency Room, Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital, was peddling with a loud speaker.

purchased the four-color-card vase made by Ching-Hua Luo, an ex-patient of the Heart Lotus Ward, while his fan purchased the vase with twice the amount with an added request - to write a blessing card for his friend in the hospital. Love converges and sparkles an even greater energy.

The Accumulation of Love and Compassion

On the noon of Nov. 14, the song “Love and Care” echoed in the lobby of Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital. The entire hospital staff and volunteers assembled in the lobby to participate in the praying for the Hurricane Sandy victims, singing in unison with genuine empathy. As the predicaments of the victims flash across



Supt. You-Chen Chao(center) launched fundraisers while the hospital staff and volunteers were keen to participate.

the screen, the sight was unbearable.

Supt. You-Chen Chao and Chief Secretary were the first to donate as an example for the many staff who followed. “The caucasians lived a prosper life,



The hospital staff gathered together to convey their support to the Hurricane Sandy victims.

and yet now the tremendous contrast. Anyone can live a blissful life today and poverty the next day. We should all be empathetic and raise fund and love, accumulate the power of good to guide the U.S. disaster victims through the hardship.” Supt. Chao said.

In addition to the hospital staff and volunteers, many patients came on their wheelchair to contribute, forming a long line simply to donate their deepest prayer. The fundraising box was kept in the lobby so the flow of love can be incessant.

The song “Love and Care” echoed throughout the hospital lobby. The hospital staff, patients and visitors, with their palms closed, showered in the power of love and compassion. They were generous to donate their love and dedicate their sincere blessing to the disaster victims.

Incessant Thoughts of Love and Charity

Yuli Tzu Chi Hospital, on their vegetarian day once a week, held a sharing on 9 Nov. “It is a bliss to be able to help others,” Supt. Yu-Lin Chang said. “In many cases, we discovered that the care recipients changed from taking to giving, which illustrated the fact that charity is indiscriminate. The disaster victims in Myanmar donated rice in return, while us, living in life without fear, should actively contribute our love. It is not about the amount, but rather, a stream that flows without stop.”

With Supt. Chang led by example, the staff responded with passion. Vice Supt. Yen-Pi Chen, Dr. Sen-Chia Li and Dr. Chin-San Li came forward as first



Supt. Yu-Lin Chang of Yuli Tzu Chi Hospital (stand) held a sharing on the vegetarian day, inviting all staff to contribute their love.



Dr. Sen-Chia Lee(left) happily donates the money he carries that day.

in line. Furthermore, other staff began adopting their own bamboo banks after the event to continue their “one good deed a day”, to pray for the world with a pious heart, so the whole world can feel the warmth of compassion.

Drip by Drip, Love Accumulates

Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital, located in Taitung, might not feel the urgency for relief aid in the U.S., but they are never slow when it comes to aiding others. Supt. Win-Him Poon launched a fundraiser during the hospital meeting on Nov. 15 and donated TWD 10,000 as example for others. He called to his colleagues to show their love, donate despite amount to help the disaster victims to rebuild their home.

In addition to the fundraiser for the hospital employees, donation boxes made by the social workers were placed in hospital lobby service counter and third floor ward respectively, encouraging patients and their families



Kuanshan Supt. Poon and Head Nurse Ai-Lun Wang (second to left) hold the donation box to receive donations from the hospital employees.



Hospital Employee Yung-Chin Chuang (right) adopted a bamboo bank after donating towards Hurricane Sandy, praying for the world with one good deed a day.

to be empathetic and participate in the fundraiser.

The fundraiser lasted a week. Although the amount was nothing spectacular, every coin is filled with the love of this genuine small town. To ensure the donation could be utilized in time, Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital immediately transferred the money back to Tzu Chi Foundation, wishing to hasten the rebuilding of the affected areas by Hurricane Sandy.