



Kuanshan

**Love and Compassion,
the Best Medicine**

January 3, 2013

A patient, who had been resisting treatment due to difference in religion, finally changed her mind under the attentive and assiduous care of the Kuanshan Tzu Chi Medical Team. Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital integrated and utilized the limited medical resources, successfully treated the patient and discharged her from the hospital. Not only did they fulfilled the wishes of the patient's family, but also demonstrated the potentiality of healthcare in remote areas.

On December 17, 2012, the emergency room of Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital received an eighty-one year old patient Grandma Chiang, who had left side paralysis from a stroke, pneumonia-induced pulmonary effusion and respiratory failure, arrhythmia, cramps and continued declining blood pressure...

Grandma Chiang was admitted into a hospital in Tainan on Dec. 1. She exhibited dyspnea during her seventeen-day treatment. Her physician recommended endotracheal intubation, to which the family refused. They did not want to prolong Grandma's suffering at the end of her life, but nor did they give up treatment.



After two weeks of rehabilitation, the daughter happily laughed as Grandma, who always displayed painful expression during rehabilitation, can now walk slowly.

Finally, the family decided to transfer her to Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital, the nearest medical institution to her hometown, Taitung, and the decision, unbeknownst to all, sparked a miraculous change to Grandma's condition.

Grandma, who belongs to the Bunun tribe and is unmarried, lives in Kanachan Village, Haitutuan County, with an adopted daughter working in Tainan. A dozen years ago, Grandma accidentally sprayed pesticides into her eyes, and coupled with cataract, her sight deteriorated rapidly

and became completely blind five years ago. Her adopted daughter, concerned with her inconveniences, decided to bring Grandma to Tainan to take care of her. She also quit her job and instead looked for part-time jobs or domestic OEM.

Grandma's adopted daughter has three children who were all in schools, and the financial burden, with the addition of Grandma, became significantly demanding. The news of her husband suffering from the terminal stage of nasopharyngeal cancer three years ago further added to the load. Fortunately, she encountered Tzu Chi volunteers and since then received 5,000 TWD monthly support. The sum might not cover the family's overall expenses, but it was a timely relief.

Attentive Care Cross Religious Boundary

Grandma had a stroke coupled with pneumonia last October, and the excruciation drastically reduced her weight to as low as 28 kg. After the transfer to Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital, Grandma's eating condition and nutritional status improved under the care of the dietitians. Grandma had bedsores all over her back and hip from lying in bed, Nurse Practitioner Shu-Ping Wu said, and Grandma was verbally hostile when the



During a medical round, Dr. Yung-Tsung Hsiao explained in detail Grandma's illness and treatment plan.

nurses cleaned her wound. Grandma is a devoted Catholic and regarded every medical staff in the hospital as evil in disguise, and her adopted daughter was under scrutiny for transferring her to this hospital. Upon the attentive care from the medical team day and night, treating wounds, cleaning feces and accompany her to rehabilitation every step of the way, Grandma finally let down her guard and appreciate the nurses' efforts. Sometimes, when satisfied with the services, Grandma would even say, "This is great!"

Seventeen days in Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital and Grandma was nursed back to health. The staff, upon receiving the news that Grandma will be discharged on Jan 15, was joyous and gratified. At the first glance of Grandma, in her new self, everyone felt nothing but surprise, as the new refreshing hairstyle designed by a Tzu

Chi volunteer complemented Grandma's face, render her a different person than she was when she was admitted, ill and feeble. It was the timely insight of the physician, identifying the importance of treatment during the acute phase of stroke and arranging rehabilitation schedule at short notice, which allowed Grandma to progress from sit-to-stand training to walking with aids.

Grandma's stepdaughter, observing the gentle treatment and care to Grandma, revealed both her love for Grandma and the fatigue from life's predicament. Yet, there was no complaint. "I was adopted and raised since I was a two-month old baby," she said, "Thanks to Nursing Practitioner Yung-Tsung Hsiao and Dr. Nurse Practitioner Wu of Chest Medicine. Their diagnosis and treatments

effectively controlled the chest infection. The nurses' attentive care helped the wound to recover. The patient guidance of the physiatrists allowed Grandma to walk in such a short period..." Tears filled her eyes as she spoke while sobbing. She was afraid of losing her adopted mother at first, but surprisingly she regained her health.

Patients in Eastern Taiwan tend to go with the flow in the face of crisis, the attending physician Yung-Tsung Hsiao pointed out, yet infections can often be treated and cured. "We should give patient a chance and do not give up easily," he said. "Although the medical equipment are lacking in the remote regions of Eastern Taiwan, integrated treatment can still contribute to the health of its populace."(Text/ Photo: Hui-Fang Chen)



After two more weeks of treatment, Grandma had recovered and was about to be discharged. Supt. Win-Him Poon heard the good news and came to congratulate.