



Dalin

Dental Service for the Disabled in Southern Taiwan

July 28, 2013

8 am, several staff of Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital got on a bus and headed to Chia Yi Shien Private Chia Yi Center in Lutzao Township. It's a place for handicapped children and adults. Mr. Hsin-Kun Hsu the driver, is a staff at the General Affairs of Dalin TC Hospital, never misses a chance to attend free clinics.

At the clinic site, Mr. Chien-Li Kao, a staff of the Engineering Office at Dalin TC Hospital arrived early by himself. On his van equipped all kinds of medical appliance, pharmaceuticals, and even dentistry tables. The dentistry tables have been to a lot of free clinics, big and small.

Dozens of suitcases put in line. While being open, everything a dental clinic needs pops out, even medical history records. Dental assistants started to arrange the environment for the treatment later.

"Ah...Open your mouth. Let's pull bugs out. You'll be pretty then."A dentist



The General Affairs staff of Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital attend the free clinic on their own off time.



The Engineering Office staff carry the equipment into the car.

of Chiayi TIMA (Tzu Chi International Medical Association) speaking softly to a center attendant while treating. It wouldn't be easy to persuade these handicapped attendants to follow the directions. They didn't understand what's going on so they'd fight hardly first. So the dentist, the dental assistants, and even the volunteers had to be more patient than usual. Some might spit on you to resist dental treatment. The free clinic team had now many experiences that they would know some skills to interact with them, and to gain their trust.

"I have participated the TIMA free clinics monthly started last year. But there're still so much to learn." Ms. Si-Ting Lin, an administrative at Dalin TC Hospital said. She continued, "First, colleague Ms. Ding Chi provides me some paper materials to study. I come to the clinic site some things are different from the materials that I have to react quickly. Doing and in the same time learning. I'd ask

when I get a question." Ms. Siao-Chuan Chang indicated that "Been to the free clinics makes my view of life wider. Free clinics take me to meet versatile kinds of people and voluntary jobs mean a lot to me." She then said, "If we don't come here to help them (the handicapped), it's really very difficult for them to go see any doctors. Their carers too."

Yu-Ching Lin at the Medical Records Team brought her two kids to the clinic. They're 3rd grader and 5th grader. This was their second time to the dental free clinic. They delivered medical records back and fro.

"It's better to show kids by doing than just telling them." Staff Mr. Chang and Ms. Lin shared that it's a good way to educate kids by taking them to voluntary events. The two siblings understood that there're different kind of people, they wouldn't treat the center residents with disgust. Also, they could sympathize their feelings toward seeing a dentist.



All Tzu Chi volunteers and voluntary Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital staff cooperate to assist the Chia Yi Center residents for dental treatment.



When a dentist finishes a case, dental assistants quickly clean and sterilize equipment and environment.

Equipment for temporary use might malfunction from time to time. At this kind of moment, thanks engineering volunteer Mr. Jiang-Sung Lai to fix the problem. His job in the hospital was to fix things though not dentistry appliance. But his profession would allow him to find out how to fix it.

“Well done. Wonderful! The big bug in your mouth is out.”When the treatment is done, the center residents turned nervousness into relaxation. What a lovely face! All who attended the free clinic felt their contentment by give time and effort to help the needy.