

No Longer Alone When Joining Others to Help in Rehabilitation

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“My selfish wish to have fun is what caused this accident. Although I am the one with injuries, my parents are hardest hit because they have to care for me,” confessed Zheng whose childish face was full of regrets and shame.

Zheng was going to be a junior high this fall. On June 27, 2015, she and other classmates attended the event at the Formosa Fun Coast when an explosion happened. She was ambulated to the Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital at 12:28 am with 2nd and 3rd degree burns covering 40% of her body. Under the care of the burn unit staff and her fighting spirit, she recovered smoothly. She was discharged on July 31, after 34 days of hospitalization and a full assessment of her condition by her attending physician Dr. Lin Chung-Chiao.

During her hospitalization, she underwent numerous wound debridement procedures and multiple skin grafts on her bottom limb and



Hugging her dad, Zheng speaks of her regrets.

left hand. She expressed tenacity and optimistic throughout the ordeal, and was grateful to others who cared for her. “When I was in the ICU, my family was always here during morning and evening visiting hours. They prepared and brought lunches or dinners and I am so thankful for them.” Zheng expressed her appreciation to her family members as well as to the nursing staff, “They painstakingly cleanse our



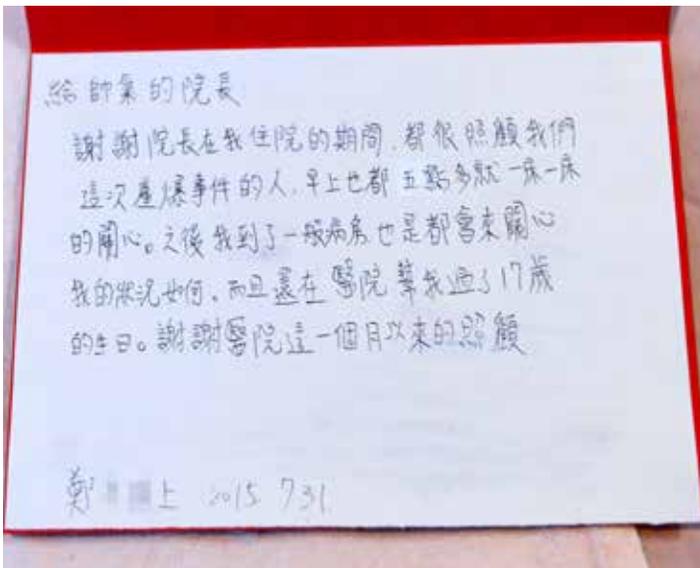
Nursing staff helping Zheng get ready to be discharged, wishing her smooth road to recovery.

wounds to prevent infection. During dressing change, they always spoke of encouraging words to support us when the pain seemed unbearable. They were our cheerleaders and we see all the hard work they have done.”

Doctors are like our parents. After taking over the treatment of the dust explosion young victims, Superintendent Chao You-Chen would make his rounds and visit the ICU patient’s everyday around five in the morning regardless of his busy schedule. All these small gestures did not go unnoticed. Zheng said, “He cared about our injuries. He asked if we had any discomfort. He was kind and friendly like a father.” The day of her discharge, Zheng handwrote a card and walked over to Chao’s clinic

office hour to pay her appreciation to “Chao Dad”. She handed over the card with both hands and said, “Thank you Chao Dad for checking on us daily. When we see your smile it was as if our own dad was smiling at us. I will try to get better so that I can help others for their recovery.” Chao was delighted by her maturity and positive thinking.

Zheng was an outgoing individual who quickly became a part of the extended family with the nursing staff. She became the little sister to the nursing staff of comparable age. Zheng was jubilant on her 17th birthday and the day of her discharge when the department manager and her medical care team prepared a special cake to celebrate with her.



Before her discharge, Zheng pays a visit to “Chao Dad” (Superintendent Chao You-Chen) at his clinic with a hand-written card to show her appreciation.

The day before her discharge, the medical team visited her home to assess home safety, environmental health condition, mobility route, wound care and proper bathroom setup, etc. Volunteers also mapped and estimated her route to return home via public transit. All these assessments were geared to help her transition to normal life a little easier.

To reduce her parents' concern, Zheng gave her 100% cooperation during rehabilitation. “If I don't

recover, then I would become a burden to my dad and mom. It would be more difficult for them. If I am diligent about my rehabilitation, then it will make my parents' life easier." Zheng was confident about her road to full recovery. She also encouraged other victims to start their rehabilitation as soon as they are able. "We can even form our own rehabilitation group! We can chat and walk or talk as we squat. Someone will always be with you and you won't be alone."

When asked about what she thought of the incident, Zheng's tone turned solemn and calculating. "We must be aware where we party in the future. Try to avoid unsafe activities and places otherwise we will just make our parents worry." An unexpected dust explosion put her through indescribable pain. However, this painful experience also made her recognize her parents' concern and became a more accommodating and understanding person.



The day before discharge, the medical team conducted home visit to evaluate suitability of Zheng's living situation.