



The Sunshine Smile

Ever since the waterpark dust explosion in June, 2015, I have been concerned with the young survivors whom had to go through such a horrible ordeal. Although many of them were successfully discharged under the good care of the medical professional, I cannot but to worry whether they are ready for the long and arduous rehabilitation ahead. During my travel in September, I met with several survivors. They were more optimistic than I anticipated. Their smile unburdened my worries.

However, the burned scars under the pressure garment aches, itches, and bleeds and tears when dressing. I asked one of the boy, “I see you twisting and turning, is it because of the pain?” “It hurts and itches like worms crawling under my skin, and the twists and turns relieve the discomfort,” He replied with a smile. “Are you relieved inside?” I asked. “I am grateful,” he responded. He was grateful for all the sincere care and aids when he was hospitalized. I reached out



to feel the pressure garment, the texture was hard to the touch. I can only imagine how hard it must be to wear the garment for a year or two.

A women, as I recall, was doused with gasoline by her husband four years ago, resulted in serious burn on her upper torso. She was immediately sent to Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital, where she cooperated keenly to therapy and rehabilitation. She spent a year inside the pressure garment, enduring the itching discomfort, and was only allowed to remove it when showering. Fortunately, she recovered so well that one cannot tell she was a burn victim. Those burn scars are only visible to the touch. I used her as an example, encouraging the young survivors to endure the suffering, leave the trauma behind, and embrace the sunlight. I also urge Da ai Technology to speed up their research on the new fabric that would significantly improve the comfort and ventilation of the pressure garment.

When the tragic accident occurred, Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital mobilized immediately to receive incoming patients, stood in the frontline to save lives. These medical staff could not have done it without the support from their family. Even the child of a nurse said sensibly, “Burn is painful. They need my mom, so mom has to work.” Our community volunteers continued the care after these patients were discharged, keeping them company at all time.

One should give without expecting anything in return. Watching the survivors recover to health is the best reward for our medical staff and volunteers!