



Protect the Earth in Action with Love

Occasionally, I would visit the intensive care unit in the hospital and witness patients in critical condition with arms and legs bound by restraints. It was necessary because some restless patients would unconsciously or inadvertently disconnect their vital medical supply lines. This will not only endanger their own lives, but require the medical staff to reconnect them. These procedures are painful to the patients and are difficult on the patients' families or bystanders.

During my visit to Taipei in September, it was heartwarming to see the Tzu Chi Hospital medical staff treating patients with genuine love. With great care and creativity, our nurses invented nine specialty products for patients using "green" materials. Among them is a highly customized blanket that shields the patients' arms and legs from the cold catheters. With the blanket, patients in coma can be attended without the worry of safety.

In addition, the nurses designed containers for storing drugs from converted manufacture's package materials. Another example is the use of recycled materials as fillers in between test tubes for stability and cushion. Those recycled products are very high quality with fine workmanship, and they meet the clean and safety standard. This is not an easy task.

The ingenuity of the nursing professionals turns medical waste into useful products. It not only reduces waste but also extends the economic and useful life of such resources. More importantly, it is their great intention after being inspired by the hard working Tzu Chi recycling teams. The medical teams are carrying out their mission to recycle available resources into useful supplies.

In order to earn smiles from patients, doctors perform puppet shows while pharmacists collaborate on making it a performance. These kinds of warm spirit and special human touch have injected a progressive environment in the medical delivery system. As a result, new job seekers are coming on board to join the Tzu Chi hospital workforce. A caring and loving environment is created by the many colleagues and everyone effort – "giving without asking for anything in return."

The Tzu Chi Hospitals' medical staff with kind hearts and great love is truly a Bodhisattva – caring for the patients, and sympathizing the sufferings of the human beings and the earth. It is an action of love, to respect the universe and to cherish the mother earth.

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