



Feelings Exchange on Christmas Eve

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On December 24, 2013, a day known as the Christmas eve, bursts of laughter came from the neurosurgical and neurology ward. A group of nurses wearing Christmas hats sang the Christmas Carols like Jingle Bells and Silent Night. They rolled out a Christmas tree, each held a blessing card for patients in hand, and delivered their blessings to the bedside of every patient.

They were, in fact, hosting a small event where everyone was encouraged to convey their genuine thoughts to one another.

A Blessing to Our Colleagues and Patients

Is it to spread the gospel? No, it is a way these nurses came up with to share their feelings.

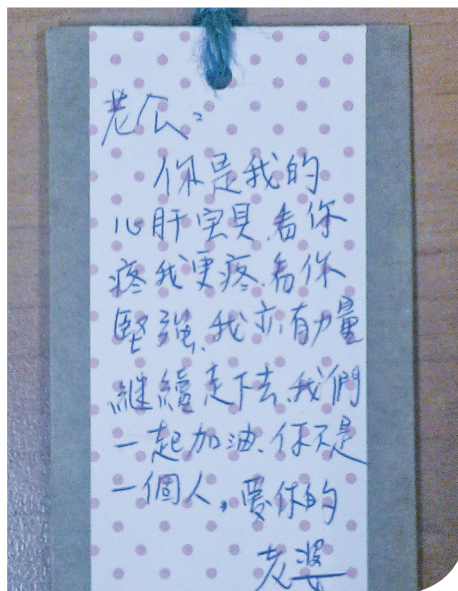
Chien-Jou, who was in charge of the leisure activities in the ward, said: "It's a pure thought to cheer up our fellow nurses in the beginning. Because some staff in our ward experiencing difficulties like having a family member sick in bed or passed away. What can we do for them after all these miseries and sufferings?" "Every year we have a Christmas party in our ward. Can we do something this year to demonstrate our blessings and empathy for them, so that they know they are not alone?"

She then continued, "I have these ideas in mind and no way to execute them, so I raised the issue during ward meeting. I thought my superior would reject the idea, since it may disturb our patients and poses risks of infection control, and all of my colleagues may feel bothered by the idea to stay behind, as most of them are already exhausted by the end of the day and cannot wait to go home. I raised my hand during the incidental motion to present my idea, and, surprisingly, my superior agreed and my colleagues too! We immediately came up with the theme. as "Christmas Prayer Eve".

The Power of Consolation

On the day of the event, the day shift nurses were in charge of explaining the details of the event to their patients and family and ask if they are willing to participate. Those who were willing to participate each received a card to write their blessings. The event kicked off at 6pm. At first we decided to divide into teams and visit each ward to sing and to deliver our blessings, but at the last moment we changed our mind. Each team, once divided, only consist of two to three people, which can be fairly awkward. We then all stood in the corridor and sang Silent Night with an appropriate volume.

At first, patients and families peek their head out, and soon smiles blossomed on their faces. Some of them began clapping with the rhythm, some hold out their cards, stood by the doorway and said: "Here you are. We've been waiting for so long!" The smiles on their faces made all the effort worthwhile.



Head Nurse Chia-Lun Yu read the card for family members who were too embarrassed to read it.



After the event, the nurses encouraged each other.

Although our voices were not the best, we did it together so it was fun. Not only were the patients and their family solaced, we felt a warm embrace from the mutual encouragement and support.

With Passion and Tenderness

A patient who was treated for brain tumor had been hospitalized on numerous occasions. His wife wrote a card that moved us all. When we hanged the card onto the Christmas tree, I could not help myself but to read it out aloud:

"You are my darling. Your pain is my pain. Your strength carries me forward. Let us walk together. You are not alone. Love, always."

We believe that all of our handwork is worth it if we can bring warmth and comfort to our patients and their family.

After the event, we hanged all the cards written by our patients and their family onto the Christmas tree, so that the family members, patients and nurses who walk by could read the cards and the blessings it carries.

We wish to increase the positive energy in the ward, for patients, for their family and for the nurses, as well as injecting a pure stream into the current workplace. Tzu Chi Hospital is not a sweatshop, but a cradle that trains Tzu Chi nurses with passion and tears.



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最近心情很複雜因家中最愛的長輩生病了而且病的很重~而他就是養我長大我爸爸!他是一個勇敢的義消總是擔任著救災的使命,即使在生病住院前一還仍前往花蓮七星潭救落水的遊客,他也是一個好爸爸當我晚下班回家時會急著叫我去吃飯,怕我餓肚子,知道我不會煮飯下班時間不一定又要顧小孩所以即使我已出嫁仍然要我們一家大小回家吃媽媽煮的飯菜,他也是一個媽媽心重認定的好先生,與媽媽很少有爭吵情況雖個性比較急但非常疼老婆,再來他更是小孩子和小孫女心中的消防阿公,對我家這兩個寶貝疼愛有加即使工作再累當小孩回到家一定會帶他們去村子裡散步及開車出去兜風看小孩子喜歡的火車...和去七星潭撿石頭玩推高~有關他一切的一切在我腦海裡揮之不去.....就在10/20那天趕到現在他再也不會再和我說話了~因他生病了,這段時間裡我不知哭了多少回,每當想到他淚水就會不自主的流下來,心頭不免一陣刺痛~因我真的很愛他...就在我最難過的這些日子有育嬰停留的好姐妹待地下來花蓮看我和爸爸,就連好姐妹的爸爸也下來看爸爸,真的很感動.....謝謝妳!當然還有謝謝我的公公也是大老遠跑來.....謝謝你.還有這段時間在

Aside from Christmas Eve, the nurses in the ward often give a timely encouragement to each other. The photo illustrates a nurse, who received a card from her fellow colleague, writing her thoughts on her Facebook.