

# Handmade Craft to Make Life Better

By: Yia-Mei Chiu, Psychiatry Dept. Nurse Practitioner, Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital



After graduated from two-year vocational college, I suddenly had a sense of emptiness in my mind. I did not know what to do next. By coincidence, I saw a cute money purse of my patient. Then I searched online and learned that it was called “Clasp Purse.” I gathered some information and invited some of my good friends at work.

But the answer was “You do it first. We will follow after you have done it successfully.”

Therefore, with a passion and absolutely no joke, I secured all the materials from a craft store and learned to do it online. The first attempt was a failure. I failed on the second attempt even after some modifications. The third trial was also failed. I lost count of the many failed purses. Finally, I finished my first clasp purse. I looked at it. It was not perfect but I felt so touched. I really did it! After seeing my success, my colleague wanted to join.



Working with a companion is better than working alone. So two of us bought materials and tools together. We researched how to hand sew it exquisitely, and decided which shapes we should make. When more and more products were done, the other colleagues started asking us if it is difficult to make; and if they can learn with us?

I actually felt very happy and content with all the recognition and compliments. Although we experienced some obstacles along the way, we learned and accomplished the task without any instructors. We spent about one year making clasp purses. We put away all the materials due to the preparation of nurse certificate examination.

A life is a combination of many phases. The period of making clasp purses was a beautiful memory for me. During this time I realized that as long as we have a will, we have the potential to do it. It is not difficult at all.