



# IT'S MY LUCK TO TAKE CARE OF THE NEEDY

**Hsu Shu-Chuan, Head Nurse, Operation Room Department,  
Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital**

On June 28, 2015, I was on duty that Sunday. At 7:40 am, my cell phone rang and Night Shift Vice Head Nurse Meijuan, said to me, "Please come to the International Meeting Room." As I arrived at the hospital, I learned many seriously burnt victims from the explosion incident were admitted and volunteers had been accompanying victims and families. Superintendent Chao had prepared apples to volunteers after the morning sutra session, to bless them with health and peace. I felt the warmth of Tzu Chi volunteers who had given us the support when that was most needed.

At 8:20 am, Chief Secretary Ms. Chiao, Deputy Supt. Chang Heng-Chia and I went to visit the victims. I was dismayed to find the names of many young victims from 17 to 27 on the roster. These young teenagers are at their early adulthood, but have to

deal with the consequences that changed their lives. It seems like they are destined to walk the long path as it flashes in my mind. I prayed for them to recover: “You are our hopes of the future, may you recover fully.”

At the intensive care units, I heard cries of pain and suffering where many victims were being administered with pain killers. There was one lying awfully quiet without a word since admission. Worried nurses described to me that this patient works at the military. I felt like I wanted to talk to him to sooth his fear.

The day after the incident, many third parties including representatives from the government health departments, local authorities, personnel from Formosa Fun Park office, the news media, and patients’ friends and families arrived accordingly at the hospital. At 6 pm, the waiting room was packed with concerned individuals. A “Family Care Booth” was set up by the hospital in the waiting area to provide needed care and support, along with hot tea and meals to warm their hearts and to demonstrate our commitment to care for their families.



On June 30, 2015, I received a request from plastic surgeon Lu that starting July 1st, two operating rooms were needed daily for skin grafts on twelve patients. I coordinated with my vice head nurse Pei-Santo collaborate logistics and materials. All the available team members were mobilized to prepare for the tasks. A mobile burn unit equipped with necessary supplies was assembled to shorten the time required for skin grafts in between patients.



During operations, the air-conditioning in the operation room was tuned off to ensure patients who lost the ability to adjust to surrounding temperature due to skin damage could survive the procedures. As a result, the operating team was sweating during the entire operation. Facing the situation, operating surgeon Lu Chun-Te, Director of Plastic Surgery, thought his sweating was nothing compared to patients' skin burn. The operation team had successfully performed every skin graft procedures for victims.

On July 11th, 2015, when I made the rounds with Doctor Wang, we found increasing patients' smiles and confidence. It was a miracle after twelve continuous days of treatment and care. At the beginning, some patients asked to be transferred but their family members insisted to stay with Tzu Chi hospital; their decisions were proved to be correct in hind sight.

Many of my friends and family, including my spouse, worried about my health during the ordeal. Even though it was hard work, I feel like I am fortunate to give them all I have - a simple thought to help others.