

The Sutra of Infinite Meanings: Chapter on the Ten Merits

The Power of Fifty Cents Goes Worldwide

The Power of Fifty Cents

Before going to the market everyday, each of the thirty housewives saved fifty cents to help people. This was a reminder for them to do good deeds every day.



In 1966, Master Cheng Yen led her four disciples, two elderly bodhisattvas, and thirty housewives to officially establish the Buddhist Tzu Chi Merit Association at Puming Temple.

“The Sutra of Infinite Meanings
comes from the home of all Buddhas,
goes to the hearts of all sentient beings,
and abides wherever Bodhisattvas practice;
its Ten Great Merits nurture all living beings.”

Helping the Suffering with Fifty-Cent Donations

In 1967, a blind elder named Li A'pao was living out of a thatched hut. Master Cheng Yen was worried, as despite not being able to see, he was still starting fires in the hut. To prevent the risk of fires, Tzu Chi spent 4,200 Taiwanese dollars to purchase land and build a house for him. This was the first Tzu Chi housing project.



Li A'pao lived alone in a thatched hut made of reed, surviving on government aid of 100 Taiwanese dollars every month. When Master Cheng Yen visited him, he was squatting in a corner of the hut, starting a fire. In front of him, there was an old pot on top of three bricks, while the flames rose and fell. It was quite a dangerous situation. Apart from giving 200 dollars of monthly living allowance for the elder, Tzu Chi also built a house out of hollow bricks and cement for him in Nanhua Village (located in Ji'an Township, Hualien). In March, 1968, Li A'pao passed away, and another elder living alone by the name of Liao Huo moved in. The housing in Nanhua Village was the start of Tzu Chi's effort in building housing for poor elders who were living alone. Since then, small, individual housing projects continued.

Global Contruction Project Statistics

(as of March 31, 2022)

246 Schools

21,565 Permanent Houses

7 Churches

4 Buddhist Monasteries &
Temples

9 Mosques

15 Institutes for Children

159 Nursing Homes

8 Medical Facilities

19,213 Public Facilities



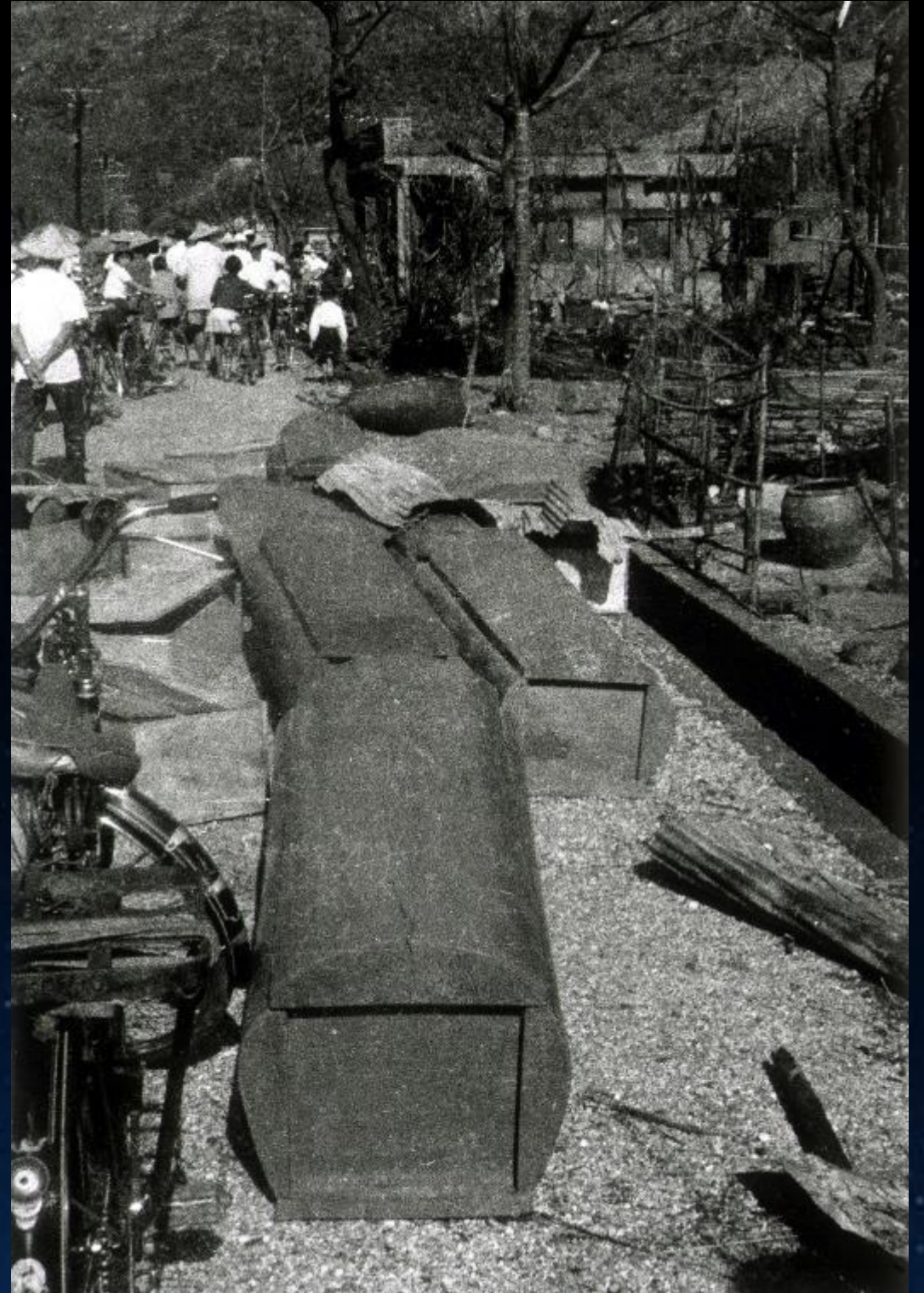
Fire in Da'nan Village

On the night of the Mid-Autumn Festival in 1969, a fire broke out in Da'nan Village of Beinan Township, Taitung County. 148 houses burned down, and forty-two people died. After hearing about it, Master Cheng Yen personally led commissioners to visit. This was Tzu Chi's first disaster relief distribution.



On September 26, the day of the Mid-autumn festival, Typhoon Elsie struck. A little after 11 p.m. that night, a burning ember led to a fire in Da'nan Village of Beinan Township. At the time, Tzu Chi had only been founded for three years, and it was still known as the Tzu Chi Merit Association. The conditions were still quite challenging. Master Cheng Yen was concerned that the weather was getting cold, and the survivors had few belongings, so she decided to provide aid.

When Master Cheng Yen personally led seven commissioners to assess the damages, they saw caskets everywhere on the street. It was truly an unbearable sight. This was the first major disaster relief project for Tzu Chi. Tzu Chi gave out cash aid, clothing, and spent 20,000 Taiwanese dollars purchasing blankets for the 148 households of survivors.



Statistics of Tzu Chi's Social Services in Taiwan

(as of March 22, 2022)

277,753 referred cases

2,208,852 visits to households needing long-term assistance

2,129,973 home visits

358,621 cases of emergency aid

100,145 school financial aid recipients

85,303 New Sprout Scholarship recipients

8,631 cases of home improvement assistance

73,648 households of disaster relief care recipients

Awakening the Rich among the Poor

To raise funds to help Master Cheng Yen build a hospital, sister Gao Ai applied for a street cleaning job and swept the Huajiang Bridge for several years. She raised 300,000 dollars and donated a hospital ward.



Sister Gao Ai (right) was certified as a Tzu Chi commissioner in 1982 and was given the Dharma name Jing Mu. In the early days, she pushed a two-wheeled cart and sold fruits on the street. Despite the hardship, she wholeheartedly worked hard to earn money to give. With strong determination, Gao Ai changed her family relationships and donated eight million Taiwanese dollars over time. She continues to exercise her altruistic potential. This is a rich life.



Role Model of Rich Among the Poor

Tzu Chi volunteers Xie Minghe and Chen Zhao are a married couple who sell pan-fried buns in front of their house. Living frugally, they have donated 20 million dollars.



Since joining Tzu Chi, they also changed the filling of the buns into vegetarian filling. Now they are both over eighty years old, and their dedication is truly very precious. This all began from a kind thought. The couple lived frugally with the goal of following Master Cheng Yen and doing good deeds.

An Elderly Commissioner's Wisdom

“I am illiterate, but I use drawings to record each donation I received clearly.”



▲早期的慈濟委員多為家庭主婦，秉持師志、難行能行地勸募會員；委員張金葉師姊以象形圖案記錄會員，克服不識字的困擾。

Zhang Jinye is ninety-one years old and illiterate. Back when Tzu Chi was planning to build the Tzu Chi Hospital, to help raise funds, with a pure heart and wisdom, she created her own way of drawing to record each donation she received. She created a legendary chapter in Tzu Chi's journey of great love.

“The first merit is inconceivable.
As the source of the Way,
faith gives rise to merits and virtues.
This sutra can enable all Bodhisattvas
who have not yet developed Bodhicitta
to develop Bodhicitta.”

Awakening the Rich Among the Rich

In 1983, to raise funds for Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital construction, Tzu Chi held the first charity bazaar. Many people donated jewelry, artwork, and calligraphy for sale. The event was bustling with people, and it was a touching sight to see so many kindhearted people eager to contribute.



In 1979, Master Cheng Yen announced plans to build the Tzu Chi Hospital, but it was not well publicized. In 1983, the first hospital fundraising charity bazaar was held at the Airmen Activity Center (Jie Shou Hall) in Taipei, drawing many kind people to join.

Awakening the Rich Among the Rich

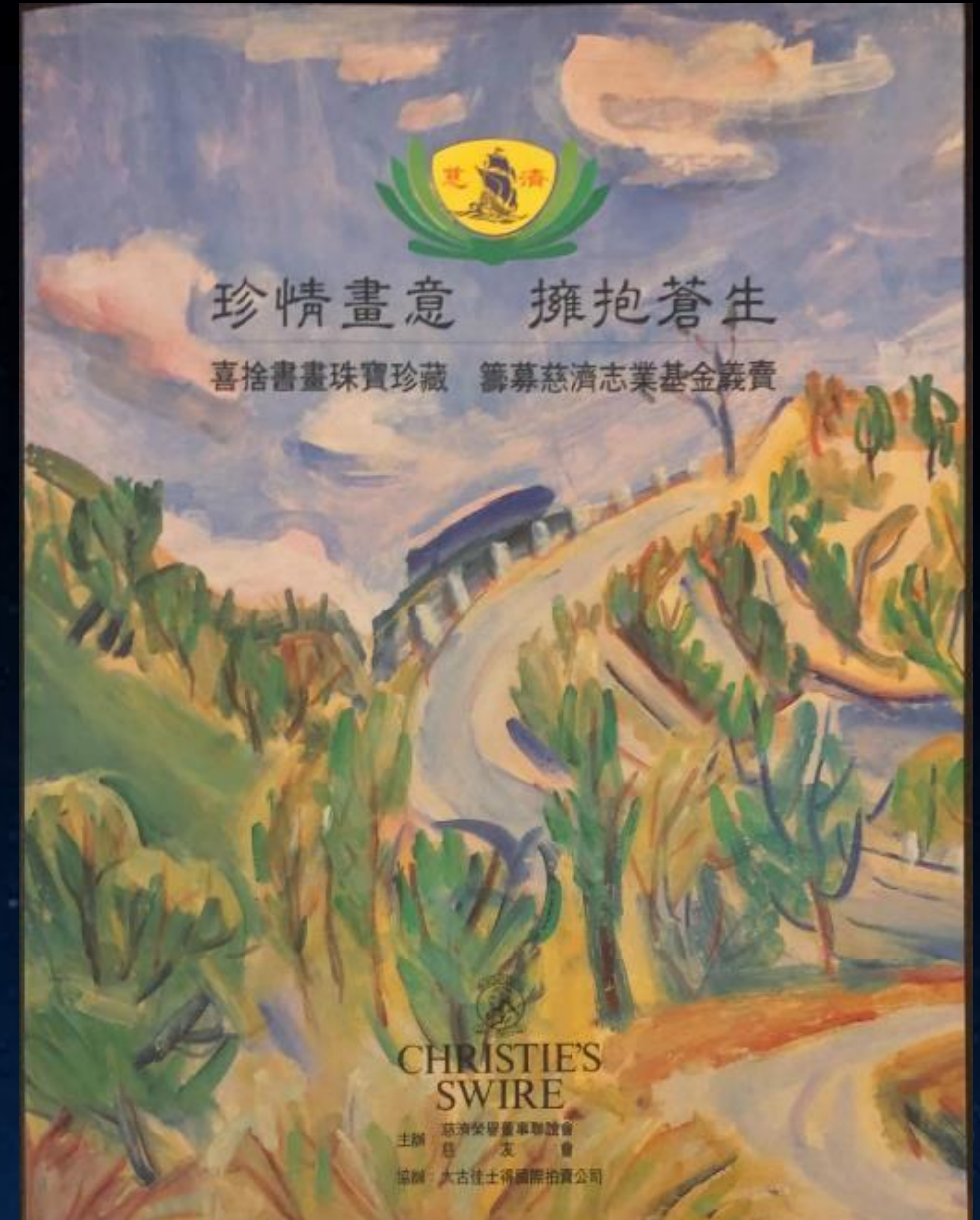
Aside from kind hearted people from all walks donating artwork and other precious goods, a few film and TV stars also enthusiastically supported the event. Here, a performing artist hosted the auction for an art piece of Guanyin Bodhisattva.



The charity bazaar was from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The bazaar was bustling with people, especially during the auction at 2 p.m. Several famous performing artists of the time all came to support.

Awakening the Rich Among the Rich

On March 10, 1994, Tzu Chi Honorary Board Members and the Friends of Tzu Chi started a jewelry and artwork charity auction at the Xinguang Art Exhibition Hall, donating all proceeds to Tzu Chi's charity mission.



Awakening Rich Among the Rich

In the afternoons of March 12 and March 13, many kind hearted people gathered at a charity auction at the Xinguang Art Exhibition Hall. This was a “competition in doing good,” and the historical event bore witness to the cycle of love and kindness created through giving and attaining.



Awakening Rich Among the Rich

There is a Buddhist saying that goes, “It is difficult for the rich to learn the Way.” For most people, giving financially is easy, but dedicating effort and attention is difficult. However, the members of the Friends of Tzu Chi and the honorary board members did them both.



The project was first started by sisters Li Jiaying (left) and Li Jiahui. They originally planned to hold a flea market among the Friends of Tzu Chi, selling name-brand clothing and accessories donated by the members. Then, they thought, why not hold a charity auction on jewelry? After announcing their ideas, many businessmen’s wives enthusiastically supported.

Paving a Path of Love

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, on May 31, 2021, Tzu Chi announced the donation of 5 million Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines to Taiwan. The vaccines can help save lives. Master Cheng Yen said that although she does not know where the money will come from, she knows where the love will come from.



“The second merit is inconceivable.
One Dharma can give rise
to thousands and millions of meanings.
Thousands and millions can repeatedly give rise to more,
thus continuing in this way on to infinite meanings.
By fully grasping one principle, we can grasp ten thousand.
By taking in a single teaching, we can take in ten thousand.
We diligently read and study each word and each line
to understand infinite wondrous and subtle principles.”

One Gives Rise to Infinity



75% of Myanmar's population are farmers. When Cyclone Nargis made landfall in Myanmar in 2008, it destroyed everything the farmers worked for. Tzu Chi volunteers brought rice seeds and hope to the survivors.

Many Grains of Rice Make a Bushel; Many Drops of Water Make a River



At the distribution ceremony, U Thein Tun heard the story of bamboo bank and began to encourage people to save a handful of rice every day.

Before he cooks every day, U Thein Tun saves a handful of rice for charity. He began spreading the concept of “saving a handful of rice every day” from village to village. Not only does this help villagers in need, but it also inspires people to do good deeds and pass on the blessings.



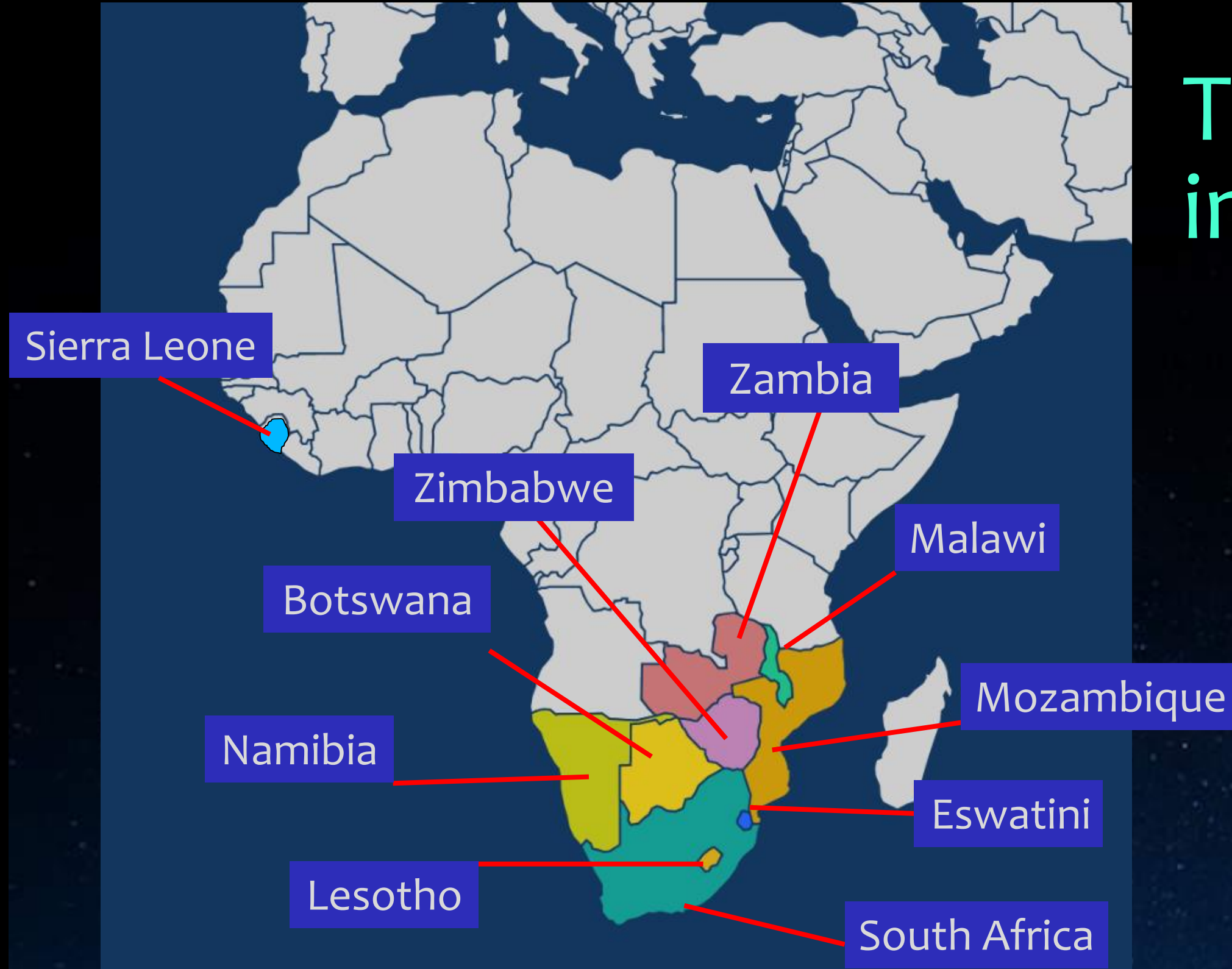
A rice seed can inspire compassion; a kind thought can spread hope. With the spirit of the rice bank, we set aside a handful of rice into another container whenever we cook. The rice that was saved can be used to help others in need.



As of 2021, 226 villages and more than 50,000 villagers had joined the rice bank movement. Every month, they collected a total of 4,000 kilograms of rice, which could be used to help 250 poor families.

“The third merit is inconceivable
With it, we can attain freedom, transform others,
and manifest the power of our vows.
Although we have afflictions,
it is as if we have no afflictions.
Although still in cyclic existence, we have no fear.
Though continuously fettered by 108 grave illnesses,
we have compassion for sentient beings
without focusing on ourselves.
We are like a master boatman whose body is ill;
if he has a sturdy boat,
he can still help others cross.”

Tzu Chi in Africa



Fifty Cents Helps the Poor Realize Their Riches

There are fifty-five countries in Africa. However, many are in food crisis due to poverty, war, global warming, and extreme climate patterns.



Taiwan has been donating rice to the impoverished in Africa since 2011. As of 2020, the rice has benefited more than 5 million people. Every rice bag was printed with “Love from Taiwan.”

Fifty Cents Helps the Poor Realize Their Riches

Tzu Chi has been working in Africa for more than twenty years, helping the poor and suffering. From South Africa, volunteers have reached Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and other countries, mobilizing local volunteers as their main workforce in charity work.



Since the Syrian civil war broke out in 2011, many refugees fled to Turkey, Jordan, and other nearby countries. Tzu Chi volunteers sent love to the refugees.



On January 23, 2015, Tzu Chi volunteers in Turkey collaborated with the government and established El Menahil School in Sultangazi and provided financial assistance to the refugee children. The volunteers collaborated with teachers from Syria, and together they comforted the refugee children, gave them a chance to study, and restored hope to their previously turbulent life. In May, 2018, the Ministry of Education in Turkey officially recognized the El Menahil International School.

With love in our hearts,
there will be no hatred.
We aim to bring love into
the hearts of the children
in El Menahil School to
bring peace to the world.

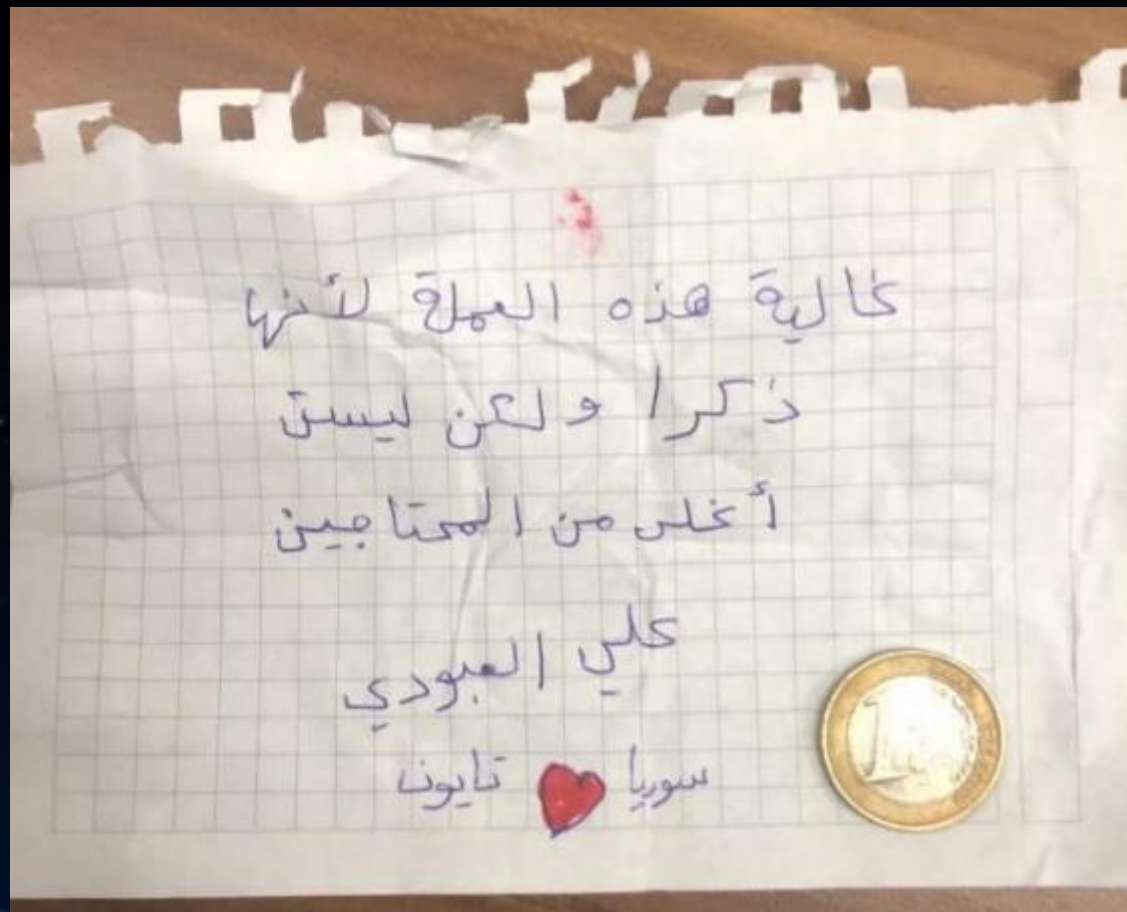


Local Tzu Chi volunteers shared the story of the bamboo bank to encourage the Syrian refugee children to save their spare change to do good. In this way, they learn to repay kindness with kindness. Even with limited strength, they were still willing to give to help others in suffering.

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck Hualien, Taiwan on February 6, 2018. It led to collapsed buildings, cracked road surfaces, and casualties and injuries. The El Menahil School began fundraising efforts, and students donated to help the Hualien earthquake survivors.



Turning Hate to Love



Ali, from El Menahil School, donated his one euro coin that he had cherished for three years for Tzu Chi to purchase COVID-19 vaccines for Taiwan. Ali also wrote a letter that read, "This one-euro coin matters to me a lot because it was a beautiful memory for me. However, it is not any more precious than those in need." Tzu Chi has taught the students about sharing and love.

The spirit of 50 cents has traveled with Tzu Chi to over 128 countries and regions. This spirit is a cycle of love and kindness. It also brings light and hope in darkness, like a firefly.

“The fourth merit is inconceivable.
With it, all Buddhas will protect us and
keep us in their thoughts.
Although we have not yet delivered ourselves,
we can deliver others.
All Bodhisattvas are our companions on the path.
We are like the newborn prince of the king,
who is very young and not yet able to
manage the affairs of the state.
However, he is already respected
by his ministers and citizens,
and the king and queen love him and
regularly converse with him.”

The Orphans of Asia

Northern Thailand is mountainous with infertile land. With difficult transportation, rainy autumns and summers, and dry winters, the people there lived in poverty.



From 1949 to 1954, after the second Chinese civil war, youths from Yunnan, Guangxi, and Guizhou have stumbled across multiple mountains to Northern Thailand. They could not return to their homeland, nor could they make a living in the new land. Further, they were undocumented.

The Orphans of Asia

The lack of teachers in Northern Thailand was also a major concern when it comes to education. In terms of health, Northern Thailand is considered a malaria-afflicted area, and tuberculosis is also quite common. The children were malnourished, lacking in protein and vitamin intake, and were short and skinny.



This group of refugees was not recognized by the Thai government, and they were also restricted to living in the infertile mountains in Northern Thailand. In addition to having difficulties making a living, their second generation still face the issue of being undocumented, and the education of the third generation was also a concern.



Master Cheng Yen said,
“We must do what should be
done!”

On January 29, 1994, the minister of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission of the Executive Yuan, Mr. John Chiang (formerly surnamed Chang), visited Master Cheng Yen at the Jing Si Abode, asking Tzu Chi to help elderly veterans who had been stranded in Northern Thailand.

The Orphans of Asia

After visiting Northern Thailand for assessment, Tzu Chi designed “Three Year Poverty Relief Project for Northern Thailand” to help improve the living conditions for the refugees and the quality of education for the children so they could eventually be self-sufficient.



In 1994, Tzu Chi Foundation went to conduct an assessment in Northern Thailand. In 1995, the “Three Year Poverty Relief Project” began, and the plan included building Great Love Villages, improving agricultural technology, adopting nursing homes, caring for the poor, and providing scholarships. As the project drew to an end, Tzu Chi then began planning for the Chiang Mai Tzu Chi School.

“The fifth merit is inconceivable.
If we can uphold, recite, transcribe, and
never deviate from this sutra,
we can extend our present resolve forever,
always remain in accord with the sutra,
and lead sentient beings to joyfully believe and
accept the teachings.
Though we have not yet distanced ourselves
from worldly matters,
we will still be able to
demonstrate the great Bodhi-path.
We are like a newborn dragon, only seven-days old,
who can already gather clouds and
bring down the rain.”

The Orphans of Asia

Tzu Chi made regular visits to the nursing homes in Ban Mai Nongbua and Phatang and provided the nursing home residents with financial assistance.



The Orphans of Asia



As part of the Three Year Poverty Relief Project in Northern Thailand, Tzu Chi invited agricultural experts to give workshops every year and donated tea trees and fruit trees saplings. Choui Fong Tea Plantation located near the Thai border in Chiang Rai was the most successful case. Not only does it have two tea plantations now, it also produces 12 tons of tea leaves every year. It has become one of the top tea factories in Northern Thailand.

The Orphans of Asia



In 1998, Chen Shizhong, a volunteer in Bangkok, led the villagers to cut down bamboo to make pipes and bring water down from the mountains. Then, they split the bamboo and used it as replacements for rebar for the foundation of the roads. They worked in six stages, and after more than 2 months, the 1,300-meter-long of “road of great love” in Huay Hok was finally completed.

The Orphans of Asia

Master Cheng Yen shared, “We must help them become documented so that they can truly take root locally.” After much work, the refugees finally received their documentation and were able to turn their lives around; they were no longer orphans without roots.



The Orphans of Asia

Tzu Chi Foundation Vice President Wang Tuan-cheng and others reported on the progress of the Three Year Poverty Relief Project to Master Cheng Yen.



“The sixth merit is inconceivable.
It enables us to be free of
the afflictions of birth and death.
We can end all suffering and disasters,
no different from the Buddha, the Tathagata.
Though we cannot yet abide
at the ground of stillness,
we have the wisdom to eliminate delusions
and grasp truths.
We are like a prince, who, though still young,
can manage the affairs of state and
lead the government.”

Chiang Mai Tzu Chi School

Only education can turn their lives around.



The work in Northern Thailand also led to the establishment of the first Tzu Chi School outside of Taiwan, the Chiang Mai Tzu Chi School. The school follows the Thailand school system and provides bilingual instruction in both Chinese and Thai. It is open for enrollment for both Thai and Chinese students. Construction began in 2002, and classes began for the elementary school division in 2005 and the middle and high school division in 2008.

Chiang Mai Tzu Chi School provides a high quality learning environment with Tzu Chi's humanistic culture. It further blends in traditional Thai customs and etiquette.



As the number of students grew year by year, it also drew the attention of the Thailand Moral Center. Since 2005, the center has continued to send representatives from education and medical fields to Taiwan to observe and learn from Tzu Chi with the hopes of revitalizing the moral culture of the Thai public.

Chiang Mai Tzu Chi School Graduate Career Paths as of 2019:

Science and Technology: 51

Legal and Business: 84

Culture and Education: 74

Healthcare: 13

Other: 37

Total Graduates: 259

Careers of the four classes of graduates, including those who entered the workforce after high school, include: teaching, engineering, farming, design, architecture, business, tourism, military, translation, Tzu Chi Foundation work, nursing, animation, photography, law, and so on.

“The seventh merit is inconceivable.
With the amazing power of the Six Paramitas,
we can spread love throughout the world
with the mind of great compassion and
enable everyone to be free
from all kinds of suffering.
We can attain non-arising patience and
eradicate afflictions.
We can transform sentient beings according to
conditions and ascend to the seventh ground.
We are like a fierce general
who vanquishes the king’s enemies.
With the enemy eliminated, the king is delighted.”

Typhoon Morakot

In 2009, Typhoon Morakot affected Taiwan and brought record-breaking rainfall, which devastated river banks, mountains, and low-lying areas in Southern and Eastern Taiwan.



On August 7, 2009, Typhoon Morakot made landfall on Eastern Taiwan. Since August 8, Nantou, Chiayi, Tainan, Kaohsiung, Pingtung, Taitung, and other regions began facing flooding, landslides, broken bridges, damaged dikes, traffic cut-off, and agricultural damage.

Typhoon Morakot

This typhoon caused a once-in-a-century flood in Taiwan, and it destroyed the livelihoods of many families. Many also lost their homes and families, facing immense tragedy.



Typhoon Morakot

Xiaolin Village of Jiashian Township, Kaohsiung, was completely engulfed by the landslide caused by the storm. 462 people were buried alive.



Typhoon Morakot

Tzu Chi volunteers immediately began disaster relief efforts, comforting survivors, assessing damages, holding distributions, cleaning, and holding medical outreaches.



Master Cheng Yen clearly laid out the three phases of disaster relief work: the emergency relief phase, the mid-term recovery phase, and the long-term recovery phase. She also laid out six major goals of physical stability, mental stability, stability in housing, stability in schooling, and stability in livelihood, as well as restoring stability to the forests and mountains. She decided to help the affected by building permanent housing for them, so that they could live peacefully and the damaged mountains and forests could recover.

Typhoon Morakot

After the typhoon, the Taiwan High Speed Rail ran free for groups of volunteers going to Southern Taiwan for disaster relief.



Typhoon Morakot

Volunteers from Northern Taiwan brought cleaning tools and went to Pingtung to help with clean-up efforts.



Tzu Chi volunteers were among the first to arrive and the last to leave, providing hot meals, cash aid, and comfort to the survivors. They collaborated with local police and firefighters to help survivors evacuate and stayed with them during the difficult times.

Typhoon Morakot

“Love is always here.”
Taiwan Railway’s Linbian Station was filled with mud after the typhoon. Tzu Chi volunteers came to help clean up. During the cleaning, someone slipped and fell into the mud, and people reached out to help the person up.



Typhoon Morakot

Brother Lai Songyong helped with the clean up. With muddy hands, he humbly put his hands together and thanked the people who also helped.



“The eighth merit is inconceivable
With it, we can establish various skillful means
to enable others to form aspirations.

Once their faith has developed,
we lead them to courageously progress.

With minds unwavering,
we lead them to strengthen their aspirations.

If someone previously did not believe
in the existence of transgressions or blessings,
we can practice this sutra's teachings
to inspire their faith.

We will fortify our observance of precepts and
patience as we practice the Paramita of giving.

We will attain unsurpassed Bodhi and
purify Buddha-lands.”

Shanlin Great Love Campus

To enable the villagers move in by the lunar new year, the construction team worked around the clock in multiple shifts, rain or shine, and completed the houses in eighty-eight days.



The Shanlin Great Love Campus broke ground on November 15, 2009. But in fact, a “Cash-for-Relief” project was also launched before this, letting the survivors build their own homes while providing them with work and income to support their families. People joined the cash-for-relief project, working 36,703 shifts.

Shanlin Great Love Campus

To build the Great Love housing in eighty-eight days, volunteers joined to work more than 110,000 volunteer shifts.



Tzu Chi volunteers are united in spirit with Master Cheng Yen. All disciples strove to fulfill Master Cheng Yen's mission. They truly hoped that the survivors could move in early, so they all mobilized. Tzu Chi built a total of 1,280 houses across six locations. In the Kaohsiung Shanlin Great Love Campus alone, Tzu Chi built 1,006 houses.

Shanlin Great Love Campus



Phase one of construction began in 2009. Phase two of construction began in 2011.

Tzu Chi completed a total of 1,002 permanent houses, one elementary school, two churches, six classroom buildings, six senior centers, and one community center.

Shanlin Great Love Campus



When the survivors moved into the new permanent housing, Tzu Chi prepared eighty-eight gifts for each house including kitchen countertops, appliances, wardrobes, furniture, pots, pans, bowls and other daily necessities for people to start their new lives in the Great Love Campus.

Shanlin Great Love Campus

Tzu Chi respects the villagers' faith and built churches on the campus grounds. Here, members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church attend a worship service.



Tzu Chi built three churches for the indigenous group to maintain their own faith and sense of belonging. The church stands in a campus rich with Tzu Chi-style buildings and lotus designs, and the spirit of great love transcends the boundaries of religion.

Shanlin Great Love Campus



In the Shanlin Great Love Campus, the Minzhu Great Love Elementary School was rebuilt. For the survivors, it was as if the original Minzhu Elementary School that was destroyed by Typhoon Morakot had been reborn.

The school was built on the south side of Shanlin Great Love Campus. There are twelve regular classrooms, six multipurpose classrooms, a kindergarten, a library, school archives, a field, a basketball court, and a parking lot. It is built with a steel frame, and it is also a green building with water reclaiming features. It also has large areas of greenery and plants.

“The ninth merit is inconceivable
With the power of vows,
we can ascend to the ground of excellent wisdom.
With the unhindered power of eloquence,
we can attain purity;
our past karma and severe obstructions
will all be completely eliminated at once.
We can magnificently achieve
all Paramitas in sequence,”

“...enter the great practice of retaining and upholding and gain the power of diligence. We can enable sentient beings in extreme suffering to achieve liberation.

Our goodness will pervade the lands of the ten directions.

As we engage in spiritual practice according to the Dharma, we attain the Path and the fruits.”

Tzu Chi Flags and Logos

The Tzu Chi logo on the flag takes the shape of a lotus flower. In the middle is a ship of compassion that delivers people from suffering, and the eight petals surrounding it representing the Eight-Fold Noble Path.



慈濟會徽整體為蓮花意象，其「花果並生」意即慈濟團體中時時下種、開花，日日花開見果。

法船：
代表慈航普渡。

八瓣花瓣：
代表慈濟人時時依八正道而行。
(八正道：正見、正思惟、正語、正業、正命、正精進、正念、正定，八種盡離邪非法之正法)

Tzu Chi Flags and Logos

Since providing aid for the floods in Bangladesh in 1991, Tzu Chi began its international disaster relief efforts and has provided aid to 128 countries/regions so far.



At all distribution sites, Tzu Chi flags would be raised to represent the ship of compassion. As the flags stand there flying in the wind, it is as if the ship of compassion was there, bringing hope to the survivors and faith, resolve, and courage to the volunteers.

Tzu Chi Flags and Logos



Crossing the Oceans

Tzu Chi Flags and Logos



Over the mountains



In ice and snow

Tzu Chi Flags and Logos



To the places of suffering

At disaster relief
distribution sites

“The tenth merit is inconceivable.
With it, though still in the state of ordinary
beings, we will be able to make great vows.
We will densely accumulate roots of goodness,
which benefit everything,
and teach the meaning of the Dharma
to immerse and nourish what is parched.
If sentient beings are ill,
we can give them Dharma-medicine.
Our loving-kindness can enfold all sentient beings
and our grace can nurture all sentient beings.
We can gradually be seen
ascending to the ground of the Dharma-cloud.”

Great Love Across Borders

All religions deserve to be learned from, protected, and respected.

Across Religion and Race



In 1993, sister Liu Sumei began Tzu Chi's work in Indonesia as a small seed. Tzu Chi has now spread across Indonesia, with the Four Missions fully in place and offices in eighteen cities.

Angke River was known as the black heart of Jakarta, the most polluted river in Indonesia. In late January of 2002, severe flooding drew the international disaster relief team from Tzu Chi. Apart from disaster relief and free medical clinic, they began clearing the river and restoring hope for people living along on the banks.

Across Religion and Race



Since 2003, Tzu Chi Foundation formed a connection with Nurul Iman Islamic Boarding School, donating 50,000 tons of rice through Tzu Chi Indonesia. Tzu Chi transcended the boundaries of religion, race, and nationality, enabling Buddhism and Islam to create a harmonious chapter of love together.

In 1998, the Nurul Iman Islamic Boarding School was established for youths to study for free, and also provided free meals and board. It attracted youths all across Indonesia to come, including children of the poor and orphans.

Across Religion and Race



Since October 2003, Tzu Chi Indonesia regularly donated fifty tons of rice every month. The Tzu Chi International Medical Association also held free medical clinics for the faculty and students and helped build new school buildings.

Across Religion and Race



Tzu Chi Jing Si Hall and Tzu Chi Hospital in Jakarta, Indonesia.

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in 2020, Tzu Chi Indonesia began distributing PPE across twenty-five provinces in Indonesia, benefiting 183 institutes, 897 hospitals and other healthcare facilities. In 2010, only 0.5% of the population identify as Buddhists, but Tzu Chi Indonesia raised 1.3 billion Taiwanese dollars during the pandemic.

Relief for the Pandemic in Indonesia



PPE Donation

2,348,100 surgical masks

1,000,000 test kits

40,220 N95 Masks

90,901 protective coveralls

198 ventilators

12,960 liters of disinfectant

1,731 disinfectant sprays

as of May 27, 2020

Relief for the Pandemic in Indonesia



Aid transcends race and religion. Apart from distributing PPE, Tzu Chi also collaborated with the government and police to distribute 35,000 packs of living necessities.

Relief for the Pandemic in Indonesia



The pandemic transformed the public's understanding of Tzu Chi. CEO of Tzu Chi Indonesia, Liu Sumei (Dharma name: Tzu Han) was named one of the “Top 10 Most Outstanding People” in Indonesia by Infobank and The Asian Post, and she was the first foreigner to win such a recognition.

Across Religion and Race



Faisal Hu, a Muslim, once stayed in the Middle East and also went to study in Libya all by himself, before finally settling in Turkey and doing business there. His extraordinary journey led him to dedicate himself for all people in suffering after knowing Tzu Chi, especially for the Syrian refugee children who survived war.

Across Religion and Race



In 2014, Syrian refugees numbered in the millions in Turkey. There were refugees begging on the streets and starving children scavenging the trash. What was most heartbreaking was that on the streets of Istanbul, we could see children that were out of school and selling bottled water and napkins or loitering and playing soccer.

Across Religion and Race



Faisal Hu and his wife Nadia Chou vowed to bring these children back to school. They visited each family, identified 450 children who dropped out of school, and helped them get back into school. They started the El Menahil School for these children, the first school for refugees that was established in Turkey.

Across Religion and Race



Before Tzu Chi USA was officially established in 1989, Tzu Chi volunteers had already begun paying attention to the needs overseas. In 1994, they began to care for impoverished communities in Tijuana, Mexico, starting a new chapter of care for Central and Southern America.

Across Religion and Race



Puebla, Mexico was struck by a magnitude 7.1 earthquake on September 19, 2017. Many old buildings collapsed, leading to severe casualties. Tzu Chi volunteers spent two months assessing damages, doing home visits, and creating a distribution list. On December 3, volunteers and medical professionals from twelve countries/regions went to hold distributions and free clinics for the survivors.

Across Religion and Race



After the earthquake of 2017, Tzu Chi volunteers from Taiwan and the USA went to assess and provide relief. They spent three months in Mexico, holding cash-for-relief projects and distributed cash cards and food. They inspired many locals to join as volunteers. Since then, they continued to hold free clinics three times a year in Mexico.

Across Religion and Race



In the impoverished Haiti, there was constant social unrest. On January 12, 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit, and 230,000 people died. Tzu Chi USA's disaster relief team established a disaster relief coordination site in the Dominican Republic, and prepared 3,000 medical kits to send to Haiti. For more than ten years, Tzu Chi continues to care for the poor in Haiti without rest.