

# LiA Blog Post – Week 3

## Hospital Volunteer in Taiwan

NGO: The Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation

Chia-Hsuan Chang



佛教慈濟醫療財團法人

**台北慈濟醫院**

**Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital,**  
Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation



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SCHOLARS

**IMPERIAL**

## Continue to work in the elderly care centre



I continued to work in the elderly care centre. However, because of two days of international guest visit and the monthly reunion of the “cared-family,” I only went there for two days. Like previous weeks, I helped measure and document elders’ blood pressure and body temperature, collect lunchboxes, distribute snacks, and look after the elderly during both active and inactive activities. This week, I also helped distributing materials and assisting elders making artwork during recreational workshops.

## Monthly reunion of the “cared-family”



The “cared-family” refers to families that receive Tzu-Chi foundation’s financial or material support. Every month, the cared-family reunite in the activity centre. Snacks and fun activities are organised to encourage and enlighten the families. This month, besides the snacks prepared, the volunteers organised events related to sustainable recycling for the families to learn about the importance of recycling while having fun. They learned how to

make flower decorations using unused plastic bags, and played fishing games incorporated with knowledge about recycling. I worked with a senior volunteer to assemble the poster stand and prepare the fishing game. Even though we both didn't know how to assemble the poster stand and were only given the materials, we successfully made it by looking up image of finished product online and through trial and error.

## International guest reception: Elementary school from California

A group of faculty and students (around 10 people) from an elementary school in California visited Taiwan for for a sister school contract with a Tzu-Chi founded elementary school in Hualien. During their visit, they also came to Taipei Tzu-chi Hospital. Volunteers who can speak English and I gave them a tour around the hospital. During the tour, I had a chat with the two students about their experience in Taiwan. Because we are closer in age, I was able to chat with them as a friend, and I hope this would make their trip not merely following the adults who chat among themselves and therefore more memorable.

## International guest reception: Scottish urinologist



On another day, an urinologist came visit the hospital for professional networking with Dr. Tsai, who is also an urinologist, and asking for funding for the charity he runs. While James (a volunteer who usually gives a tour to international visitors) and I gave him a tour around the hospital, I had a chat with him and learned a lot about how it is like to be a doctor in the U.K.. Because I am particularly interested in cancer immunotherapy, I also had a chat with him about urinological cancer therapy while we visited the chemotherapy centre.

## Preparing medical equipment for outdoor activities



Because the hospital was going to hold an outdoor religious event with more than 20,000 participants, the Department of Humanities (who is usually in charge of managing the medical equipment and medicine) need to prepare medical equipment for the activity. My supervisor and I went to the pharmacy and the storage room in the basement to prepare the equipment and the medicine.