

LiA Blog Post – Week 5

Hospital Volunteer in Taiwan

NGO: The Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation

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IMPERIAL

Continue to work in the elderly care centre



Continued my tasks from previous weeks, I helped measure and document elders' blood pressure and body temperature (and more detailed body index on Monday), collect lunchboxes, and distribute snacks during the break. I assisting running the classes by looking after the elderly, picking up balls and organising chairs during the games, and teaching them how to make artworks. For being there over several weeks, the elderly, although a bit shy in the beginning, started to chat more with me (so I also improved my Taiwanese).

Assisting senior volunteers with IT issues



Because I got closer to the senior volunteers (and probably because they knew that it was my last week), they started to ask me if I could help them with IT issues, such as re-login into their new or reset devices, resetting password, downloading videos, and deleting unnecessary files since their storage was full. While teaching them how to deal with those

problems, it reminds me of my grandmother. I felt regretful to be a bit impatient when assisting my grandmother with similar problems, and this experience made me miss her even more.

Finding photos for honourable volunteers



Because the 20th anniversary of the Taipei Tzu-Chi hospital was approaching, the Department of Humanities was preparing a video to commemorate 30 honourable volunteers. Since the photos of the honourable volunteers were taken a long time ago and only have physical copies, I worked with my colleagues to find the photos of those 30 honourable volunteers by flipping through the batches of documents. Because I had never met the honour volunteers in person, I could only search for their photos by the names in the figure legend. Luckily, I found one photo of an honourable volunteer, whose photos were rare, using her tiny name badge (with almost undecipherable characters) in the photo. My colleagues were surprised by how I found the photo, and I was praised for my good eyesight.

Peripheral Blood Stem Cell (PBSC) Donation



During my inpatient visit during the previous week, I witnessed a gentleman doing a peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donation. Because I just learned about transplantation in the Immunology module before the Spring break, in addition to witnessing the actual donating process, I decided to take my blood sample and have my HLA sequence added to the donor database. Even though I haven't done the actual transplantation, I felt a sense of achievement throughout the rest of the day after taking my blood sample.

Medical Delivery Service



On Sunday, I was lucky enough to have a chance to participate in the medical delivery service, an activity that usually requires medical training, to Ping-xi. Working alongside Dr. Cheng, the vice superintendent, I realised that the most important thing in medical delivery is not professional medical knowledge, but the care of patients, which Dr. Cheng and the volunteers demonstrated throughout their conversation with the patients.

Last Day

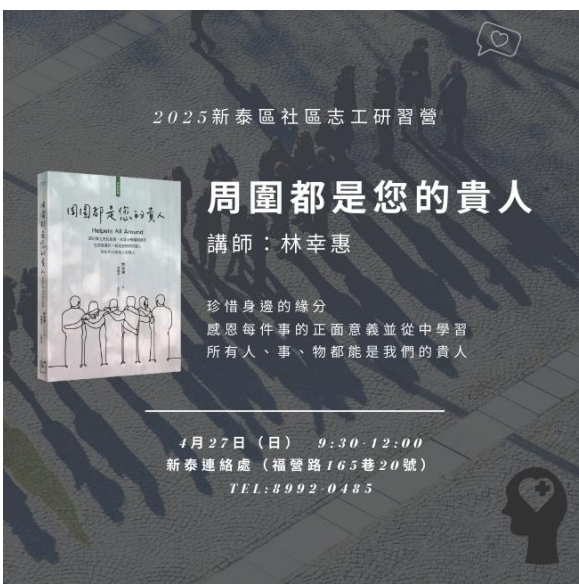


On my last day, as a Taiwanese custom, I prepared gifts for my colleagues who helped me throughout my LiA journey. However, to my surprise, I received a lot more gifts from them. We took a group photo in the Department of Humanities together.

Online work

Because the Spring break is a bit shorter than 6 weeks, even though I also worked on weekends, I asked my supervisor if there was anything I could help them with virtually.

poster design



Because my supervisor was going to hold a book sharing event, she asked me to help designing a poster for the Instagram post.

For designing this poster, I read the abstract of the book and wrote a hook for the event.

video editing



Because the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) was going to host the 20th annual newborn babies reunion, I was asked to make a video.

I worked with the social worker, who shared the photos, personal information, and messages the parents wrote to the nurses. I spent a lot of time and effort on this video because several photos and messages were added afterwards.

Because there are photos and personal information of the babies, for their privacy, I could only show the beginning of the video, which was 6 minutes long.