



June Issue 2020



## Buddha Bathing Ceremony

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year Tzu Chi NZ branch celebrated the Buddha Bathing Day virtually with 2 online Buddha Bathing Ceremonies.

- 9 May Tzu Chi NZ branch in Auckland for all volunteers.
- 10 May Tzu Chi Foundation in Hualien for all its global volunteers.

On 9 May New Zealand is still under the level 3 lockdown, Tzu Chi NZ volunteers cleaned the prayer room diligently, and decorated the prayer room in adherence to the two metres social distancing measure. At 1:30 pm, volunteers arrived and performed Buddha Bathing ritual in the ceremony. Tzu Chi NZ branch used Google Meet and broadcasted the event to all New Zealand Tzu Chi volunteers.

On 10 May, Tzu Chi Foundation in Hualien broadcasted the Buddha Bathing ceremony at 7 am (11 am NZ) on its Da Ai Television channel and website. Tzu Chi volunteers from 54 countries were connected to the live broadcast led by Dharma masters in Hualien Taiwan. Regardless of distance, volunteers were closely connected in the heart.

After the global event, Tzu Chi NZ branch carried out a lighting the inner lamp ceremony. Tzu Chi volunteers in training from Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan participated, they received lit candles passed down to them from senior volunteers, symbolising the continuation of the Tzu Chi spirit for generations to come, may we all follow in our master's footsteps and take on her works to heal the earth and never give up. 10 May was also Mothers' day. The younger Tzu Chi volunteers gave their thanks to NZ Tzu Chi senior volunteer like she is their mother, bringing a tint of Mothers day celebration to the event.

---



## Tzu Chi COVID-19 Financial Aid Program

New Zealand went into level 4 lockdown at midnight on 25 March, the entire nation went into self-isolation. The impact of the economy after lockdowns is huge, many people lost their jobs. The New Zealand government implemented a wage subsidy scheme, but the scheme only covers New Zealand citizens and permanent residents. Many short-term workers and non-residents were deeply affected.

Tzu Chi NZ carried out "COVID-19 Financial Aid Program" to help these mostly young workers. A total of 127 applications were received when the deadline ended on 27 April. Among them 12 applicants were not qualified, but due to their special condition, the committee referred them to another charity scheme. The applicants came from 12 different countries including China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, France, England, Italy, America, Singapore, Turkey and Jordan. 71 applicants were accepted while one applicant was accepted by another charity scheme.

Due to lockdown and in adherence to maintain social distancing, the committee conducted the interview by telephone. Among the applicants, one was stranded in New Zealand due to increased airfare. The disqualified applicants were those who lost their jobs due to their immigration status and those who lost their job for reasons not related to COVID-19.

On 11 April Tzu Chi NZ received a letter from Miss Yang, a Chinese national who expressed her gratitude to Tzu Chi for rebuilding her school in 2008 after the great Wenchuan earthquake. Little did she know that she would need help from Tzu Chi again 12 years later in another natural disaster.





## Food donation to Flat Bush School

Since the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of level four lockdown, Maori and Pacific Islander families living near Tzu Chi NZ branch were badly affected. Many were out of jobs and were having difficulty feeding the family. On 23 April, Tzu Chi NZ branch received a letter from Flat Bush School principal Banapa Avatea, requesting help for their pupils; among them 25 pupils and their families need emergency food assistance.

When the government loosened restrictions after entering level three lockdown, six Tzu Chi NZ volunteers immediately worked on the food assistance project which included purchasing, packaging and delivering the food parcels. The contents of the food parcel included milk, bread, jam, corn flakes, biscuits, potatoes, carrots, pasta, apples, canned corn and canned tomatoes.

Due to social distancing, purchasing food involved long queuing, further, some food items like can food and potatoes were very heavy, the task was not easy particularly during the lockdown, even noteworthy was that two of the volunteers were senior. On the morning of 28 April at 11, the food parcels were delivered to Flat Bush School, Mr Banapa was grateful and delighted.



---

## Donation of Personal Protective Equipment to fight against COVID-19

Due to a global shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) amid the covid-19 pandemic, Tzu Chi NZ donated PPE to various organizations and individuals such as community hospitals, family doctors, age care facilities, nurses, dentists, Buddhist masters and Taiwanese community organizations. The PPE included surgical masks, goggles, face shields, temperature guns and etc. Tzu Chi NZ delivered the donations from 5 May to 12 May, and then again from 15 May to 2 June, in total 30 donations were done.

Miss Pan from Auckland Hospital thanked Tzu Chi for the donation, although there is enough PPE for all medical staff in the hospital, extra face masks are needed for the patients particularly the kidney dialysis patients and the family members accompanying them.

Tzu Chi volunteers delivered donations to Dr Wu at The Doctors Clinic. The Doctors clinic has about 40 medical staff. During level 4 and level 3 lockdown, the clinic prepared a temporary clinic in the car park, all patients with respiratory health problems were being seen separately. Dr Wu was very grateful for the donation.



Tzu Chi volunteers also delivered donations to Tamaki health, Meadowbank Medical Centre, Epsom Medical Centre, DW Family Doctors, Glendowie Dental Centre, Dental Wellness Centre and Manurewa Greenstone Clinic. The donations were greatly appreciated, COVID-19 is causing a global shortage of PPE, some of the medical staff had been using old and worn off protective gear because there was no replacement available

Volunteers also visited age care centres including Lansdowne Rest home in East Auckland, Whangarei Rose Garden Rest Home and Ons Dorp Rest home Care Centre. Miss Tsai of Whangarei Rose Garden Rest Home contacted Tzu Chi NZ branch for masks when they were running short. She was very grateful for the donation.

Ms Tsai further mentioned a box of warm clothes donated by Tzu Chi two years ago came to good use during the lockdown. They have a new dementia patient moved in just before the lockdown, the elderly did not bring warm clothes with him because it was not cold when his family brought him in. When the weather became cold, he had nothing to keep warm, luckily the centre has a box of clothes donated by Tzu Chi.





## Tzu Chi Hamilton branch – masks donation

Tzu Chi Foundation has been providing continuous support to medical frontliners in the form of Personal Protective Equipment amid the COVID-19 pandemic. On 9 April Tzu Chi Hamilton branch donated 200 masks to Victoria Clinic in Hamilton.



## Community Influenza Vaccination

On 16 May Tzu Chi NZ branch held a community influenza vaccination event at Tzu Chi NZ's recycling centre. The Ministry of Health arranged two pharmacists Vicky and Yan Gao from Unichem Pakuranga Pharmacy to administer the influenza vaccination.

Tzu Chi volunteers were given duties from filling form, registration, payment as well as ensuring proper social distancing throughout the event. And has also adopted the government's contact tracing app on site, to allow visitors to scan a QR code to check themselves in and out of the Tzu Chi facilities using contact-less technology.

People aged 65 and older are eligible for free government-funded influenza vaccinations. The rest of the population were charged \$20. Due to COVID-19 there were more people coming for the injection this year. There were a total of 43 flu jabs recipients, among them 34% of the recipients had the injection for the first time.





## Caring Cloth Mask Campaign

With the gradual lifting of the epidemic blockade, New Zealand slowly returned to its original pace of life, but the government still urged everyone to be cautious. In this epidemic, people over the age of 70 belong to a high-risk group. The threat of the new corona virus has not receded. As the cold winter time is closer, it means the flu season has arrived.

Tzu Chi NZ cared about the health of the community residents, prepared a batch of mask filters, and launched the Caring Cloth Mask Campaign during the third alert period, inviting people who are interested in sewing to pay their love together.



Volunteers make masks with beautiful and comfortable cotton cloth, which can protect and keep warm, beautiful and environmentally friendly in winter. Thanks to the New Zealand branch of the World Chinese Business Women's Association, the Taiwan Women's Association responded to the Tzu Chi and spurred a warm response from members.

In mid-June, volunteers from various communities in Auckland began to provide services. Volunteers will give the cloth masks and filters to the elderly. The elders in the community are very happy and grateful to the Tzu Chi NZ for their thoughtful thoughts and thanks for their care and attention.





---

## Donating books to East Tamaki School

In New Zealand, primary school pupils are required to borrow a book home each week, this is to create a culture of reading for young people. On 10 March Tzu Chi NZ branch received a letter from East Tamaki School requesting for book donation. Due to financial constraint, the school is unable to replace old books and replenish lost books. The school hopes that Tzu Chi can help to buy them 290 new books.

On 23 June, seven Tzu Chi volunteers went to East Tamaki School to attend the book donation ceremony.



A hundred over students and teachers attended the ceremony, Laisne't and Zarvahny gave a presentation about Tzu Chi Foundation and a briefing on Tzu Chi's contribution and care to the school over the years.

Sarah Mirams the principal expressed gratitude to Tzu Chi in her speech. She also thanks Tzu Chi volunteers for supporting and helping in their Garden in Table programme. The programme started in 2009, it is an eco-friendly project gives students knowledge on harvesting fruits and vegetables. Tzu Chi volunteers had helped with weeding, planting, cooking and donating organic soils.



---

## Emergency food assistance

On 19 May, single mother Koven came to Tzu Chi NZ branch asking for food assistance. She had received a food parcel from Tzu Chi NZ branch many years ago, and had also attended Tzu Chi Christmas gatherings before.

Koven used to work before the lockdown, although she received financial aid from work and income, but they had used up everything when she came to Tzu Chi. As Koven turned up without any notice, Tzu Chi volunteers were not prepared for the request, however they managed to source her sixteen cans of canned food which we had remaining from the Flat Bush School donation.



## Care recipient follow-up – Ilaise

The home visit group established a care group in May, the purpose is to extend further assistance and follow-up care to Tzu Chi's care recipients with the hope that they will one day become a donation contributor instead of a donation recipient. Many people were out of jobs due to COVID-19. The home visit group was concerned about Tzu Chi's care recipients and checked each of them by phone call.

Among them is Ilaise family. The home visit group had donated food parcel, washing machine, microwave oven to the family in June 2019. Ilaise and her husband look after seven grandchildren. During COVID-19 they had a problem feeding the family even though they had financial aid from the government. But the biggest problem was their oven stopped working.

On 27 May, Tzu Chi volunteers visited Ilaise family with food and daily necessity. They also brought two footballs for the children. Tzu Chi volunteer Huang, is an electrician, after checking the oven he found the oven was beyond repair.

On 2 June, the volunteers delivered a good second hand oven to the family. Ilaise had weight issue and her husband suffer from diabetes, arthritis, and heart problems. While installing the oven, Tzu Chi volunteers briefly introduced the history of Tzu Chi Foundation and encouraged Ilaise to try vegetarian food for healthy choice.

Before saying goodbye to Tzu Chi volunteers, Ilaise thanked Tzu Chi by saying that she was very thankful for Tzu Chi caring for them like family and the comforting smiles warmed her family.




台灣佛教慈濟慈善事業基金會紐西蘭分會  
Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation NZ  
9 Springs Road, East Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand | +64-9-2716976

Hamilton Branch: 11 Halcione Cres, Hamilton, New Zealand | +64-7-8541496

---

 [www.facebook.com/TzuChiNZ/](https://www.facebook.com/TzuChiNZ/)

 [info@tzuchi.org.nz](mailto:info@tzuchi.org.nz)

 [www.tzuchi.org.nz](http://www.tzuchi.org.nz)