



March Issue 2020



Tzu Chi Scholarship Distribution

This year there were three schools participating in the Tzu Chi Scholarship programme, 48 students received. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, Tzu Chi decided to replace the big award ceremony with 3 smaller ceremonies at each school to limit social interaction. The three schools are Manurewa Intermediate School, Dawson Primary School and Mayfield Primary School.

◎Manurewa Intermediate School

On 8th of February, 12 Tzu Chi volunteers went to Manurewa Intermediate school to carry out the scholarship award presentation ceremony. Volunteers handed the certificates, scholarships, copies of Jing-Si Aphorisms, and bamboo banks to 22 students, with wishes and blessings to them. One of the recipients, Tiaara Diamond, happily shared that she enjoys attending school, arts and playing basketball. Her mother thanked the volunteers for the scholarship and caring for the students.

"The meaning behind a scholarship is more than money, it is a reassurance to the students that hard work eventually yields success. This can positively influence the students in their future undertakings." Vice principal Tanya Brook thanked Tzu Chi on behalf of the school, and also senior teacher Rita Brooking for making this possible.

Ms. Alison, a teacher of the school, said "Most of the students receiving this award today are entering high school this year, it is a very important year for them. I have known the students for two years and I know this scholarship award means a lot to them." The ceremony ended in a heartwarming atmosphere, with words of encouragement from the volunteers, teachers, friends and family to the students.

©Dawson primary school

On 14th February, six Tzu Chi volunteers carried out the Tzu Chi Scholarship award presentation ceremony in Dawson Primary School. They were welcomed by the Principal, Ms. Angela Funaki with a warm smile.

The ceremony was held in a library, Tzu Chi volunteers shared with the students about the history and philosophy of Tzu Chi. This was followed by the awards presentation with volunteers handing the scholarships and gifts to the students. Principal Ms. Angela Funaki said in her speech "The most important message today is about giving, when you are able to help others in the future please do not forget to help." She encouraged parents to use the scholarship money wisely and to work with the school in providing the best education for their children.

The ceremony ended with Tzu Chi volunteers leading everyone to pray for mother earth with sign language -Love and Care for all and a joyful Maori song from the school.

©Mayfields Primary School

On 21st February, Tzu Chi volunteers held the scholarship awards ceremony at Mayfields Primary School. Tzu chi NZ implements the scholarship scheme for schools in low income areas to assist students with financial struggle and also to recognise their hard work.

Love and care from the parents is a great motivation for the students. The moment recipient Ceece-Leah Hape received the scholarship, his parents came to the stage and sent their blessings with a Samoan lolly necklace.

Dubs Rai, the school principal said,"Tzu Chi NZ has helped over a hundred pupils in the past, Tzu Chi scholarship is one of the most important education funds for Mayfields." Dubs was also thankful to Tzuchi for bringing the concept of love and care for our mother earth.





Christchurch Tzu Chi Scholarship Distribution

Tzu Chi NZ places great emphasis on education and therefore implemented the scholarship for students who are struggling financially.

This year the scholarship was awarded to students from three Christchurch schools. There were 12 students from Linwood College, 5 students from St James Primary School, 3 students from Rowley Avenue Primary School, and a student, Azariah, who just arrived Christchurch from Auckland, coming to a total of 21 students. The award presentation ceremony was held in Linwood College.

Josephine Barlow, the principal of St James School thanked Tzu Chi for helping many pupils since 2014. The scholarship gave the students incentives to study hard, at the same time it helped some families to pay for the uniforms.

Deputy Principal of Linwood College, Katie, thanked Tzu Chi volunteers in her speech and said: " It is a great honour to be able to attend such a special event, with students from three schools gathered at the same location." The ceremony was able to run smoothly thanks to the assistance and cooperation from Katie.

Tzu Chi volunteers introduced the history of Tzu Chi and the story of bamboo banks to encourage students to cultivate the habit of savings. They could use the money to help themselves if they have any difficulties in the future, or help other people in need. The CEO of Tzu Chi Foundation NZ, Ping Wang, handed the certificates, awards and gifts to the students, congratulated and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

The ceremony ended with students, teachers and family praying for our mother earth with the song - Love and Care for all.



©Sharing from students

Student representative Azariah is an energetic student with a positive vibe. He was studying in Auckland Manurewa Intermediate School and the family recently moved to Christchurch to take care of his grandparents. He was glad that he was able to attend the presentation ceremony.

One of the recipients, Kavish, said: " Many things happened to me in 2019, thank you to the school and Tzu Chi, and the care from auntie. I have now transferred to another school to start a new life" We believe Kavish will be able to overcome any obstacles with the love from teachers and family members.

Irae from St James School was the first student arriving at the ceremony location. It is her second time receiving the scholarship from Tzu Chi foundation. Irae's mother said: " Irae likes to study and does her homework right after school." Irae promised the volunteers, with a big smile on her face, that she will work even harder next year and hope to see Tzu Chi volunteers again.

Love and care for South Auckland prison inmates

Tzu Chi NZ extended their love and care to prison inmates at the Mt Eden Correction Facility since 2014 July and at Auckland South Correction Facility-Wiri since 2015 August. In 2018 the programme was suspended temporarily as the correction department went through an organisation restructure. In 2019 when South Auckland prison planned a mentoring programme, the prison management company, Serco New Zealand invited Tzu Chi again to participate in the program.

Case one

5 July 2019 Tzu Chi volunteer met the first inmate along with the counsellor. The visit was guarded by a prison officer, the volunteer was at ease throughout the visit.

He is from the Cook islands, got into trouble due to bad influence from his peers. He is interested in rugby and wood work. Under the suggestion of the mentor, he is considering applying for a free course while serving his term. He hopes to start a new life when he gets out of prison. But he said he is hesitant to go home because he wants to avoid friends at home who may bring him back to the wrong path. Tzu Chi volunteer listened attentively to him and wished him well.

Case two

On 2 August, Tzu Chi volunteers met the second inmate along with the counsellor at the South Auckland prison. He is originally from mainland China and was sent to prison for drug trafficking.

He became more friendly and trusting when Tzu Chi volunteer met him again on 1 November, which is a good sign. He shares his challenging childhood life that lead him to believe that money will bring him happiness. During his time in prison, he has spent a lot of time thinking and reading. He is now remorseful and hopes to become a better person. He also learnt to control his temper to become more considerate while forming new perspectives about life and values, he realises now that money is not the path to happiness and ensured he will not make the same mistakes as he did in the past.

Mentoring voluntary organization acts as a bridge between the inmates and the prison management that gives the inmates a better chance to re-enter the society successfully.

Working Together to Mitigate Disasters

**How can we live in peace and safety every day?
We can only accomplish this through our own effort, by protecting the earth and creating blessings in our lives.**

Loving reminders from Tzu Chi

2020.03.21



The illustration shows a child with a large, green, leafy headpiece and small wings, holding a smiling Earth globe. The child has a serene expression. The background is light blue with soft clouds and a pink heart.

CHOU-YIN



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