

Vietnam-11th Large Scale Tzu Chi Free Clinic

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Beginning in 1998, volunteers have been holding free clinics regularly in poverty-stricken areas in Vietnam to help people in need of medical attention. Owing to their hard work over the past ten years, they have gained trust from the local government and inspired love in many local people.

On April 11 and 12, 2009, 320 doctors and volunteers from Taiwan, Malaysia, and Vietnam worked together to hold the 11th large-scale Tzu Chi free clinic in Vietnam. The clinic was conducted in Duc Hue, Long An Province, in cooperation with the local Red Cross chapter. In addition to the free medical services, 2,034 families each received supplies worth 220,000 dong (US\$12) and a red envelope containing 100,000 dong (US\$5.60).

The free clinic was held at a local school, where doctors had to make do with simple and crude conditions. Over 3,000 people came to receive treatment in eight fields, including dermatology, pediatrics, dentistry, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and gynecology.

There was a 15-year-old girl who not only helped set up the venue but also volunteered at the medical station. Since three years ago, when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, Tzu Chi volunteers had been helping and caring for her. Inspired by the volunteers' love, she came to offer her services at the free clinic. When the event was about to end, she shared with others how she had fought with cancer and how grateful she was for being able to serve others by helping out at the medical station.