

Kuanshan



Chinese Medicine Doctors' Weekly Visit

May 2, 2012

The Chinese Medicine Department of Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital was established in August, 2011. As soon as the department's clinic started accepting patients, there was an overwhelming influx of patients. Demand for its services quickly increased. To help to divert the patient flow, the department organized a weekly clinic at Luye County. Dr. Yi-Ying Sheng, department head of Chinese Medicine at Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital extended a special invitation to two other Chinese Medicine doctors, Dr. Ruo-Wei

Huang and Dr. Yun-Rong Chiu to join the weekly clinic at the village. By May 2 2012, most doctors had already visited the village three times and acquainted the local people. The locals arrived early, chatting and socializing while waiting for their treatment. The clinic became a platform for neighbors to deepen their friendships.

Wednesday Commitment Needs No Reminder

After the Chinese Medicine Department of Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital was established, the doctors who have been working hard to provide medical services to the remote areas took over the responsibility of the Health Bureau' Chinese Mobile Medical Plan



Dr. Yung-Rong Qiu (right) posed herself close to patients to gain patients' trust.

last December. They have been quietly preparing for this year's mobile medical services. They ran into many difficulties at the beginning of the preparation process, especially in selecting the site for the clinic. They finally decided to have the clinic set up at the community center near the temple at Reh Yuen Village in Luye County. Mobile clinic services are usually organized at the health centers and not the community centers. However, after numerous discussions, the Chinese Medicine Department and the Accreditation Unit decided and agreed on the community center site for the convenience of elderly patients and patients with mobile difficulty. The chosen site is the usual gathering place for the villagers. It is easy for them to be there and exchange greetings.

Considering that some patients may come to the hospital and other patients may stay at the village, Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital decided to have Dr. Yi-Ying Sheng, department head to stay at the hospital while Dr. Ming-Huei Hsu, Dr. Ruo-Wei Huang, Dr. Yun-Rong Chiu and nurse Pei-Yi Wu go to the clinic at the village.

After everything was settled, the Chinese Medicine remote mobile clinic service officially started on April 11, 2012. The clinic hours starts at 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday. There will be no reminders. All staff meets at the back of the hospital,



Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital's Chinese Medicine Doctors provide treatments to the remote communities. Photo depicts a doctor doing acupuncture.

and get ready to leave for the clinic. It takes about 20 minutes to drive from the hospital to the community center at Luye's Reh-Yuen Village. Everyone comes early because they do not want the patients to wait too long. However, every time they arrive, the patients would have already lined up. The doctors first evaluate the severity and needs of the patients and then prioritize their time to be seen. While waiting for their turn, the patients chat with each other. That also helps them to forget about their illness and their pain.

Doctors and Patients Are Connected Heart to Heart

Because of the limitation of the clinical environment, some patients are treated on their seats. The narrow space



No enough space to place treatment beds, Dr. Re-Wei Huang decided to do acupuncture for patients in seats directly.

can only accommodate two treatment beds. One bed is at the corner diagonally across from the registration area. One doctor remarked, "It's alright. That way I can stay close to my patients." When she sits in front of the computer to input medical information, she can look across two steps away, and she could tell the patient's condition and needs. Because the distance between the doctor and the patient is so close, the patient can really relax and receive treatment. Some treatments require privacy, so later the Chinese Medicine Department and the Community Development Association arranged a more private space for those patients.

At the clinic site, everyone has the

same thought, that if they can see one more patient, then they can reduce the pain for one more patient. The clinic would usually finish around noon, then the doctors have to return to Kuanshan Tzu Chi Hospital to see patients in the afternoon. As they visit the village and actually enter into the people's living environment, they enable more patients to receive better and more convenient medical services. The villagers have gained confidence in the doctors, and the doctors have developed kindness for their patients. The relationship between the doctors and the patients has grown closer each time during the recurring mobile medical clinics.