

MEDIA PITCH

Ren Ci nursing home residents get ready for Chinese New Year with free dental checks provided by Tzu Chi volunteers

Singapore, 10 January 2023 – While we hear corporates doing good through their corporate social responsibility initiatives, fellow charity, Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation (Singapore) has been one of our long-standing community partners to serving a good cause of ensuring good dental health among the seniors under our care.

Initiated by Dr Eugene Tang, Dental Lead of Singapore's Tzu Chi International Medical Association team, the provision of free dental care in our nursing homes came to a halt in view of the safe management measures during the first year of the pandemic. It resumed briefly in mid-2021 but was suspended again due to the variants and situational measures.

As the nation progress in the new normal, Ren Ci welcomes the Tzu Chi's volunteers who have made painstaking efforts to resume the dental outreach so as to help ensure good oral health which has a far greater impact on the well-being of the nursing home residents, than just tooth loss. Imagine unbearable toothache that can make chewing uncomfortable which may often affect nutrition and cause further periodontal diseases or oral ulcers.

"The care staff at the nursing homes are able to monitor the oral health of the residents but they cannot administer dental treatments. Moreover, many of the residents are physically immobile, or may have other ailments that make trips to our clinic a challenge. Therefore, bringing the dental care to the nursing homes ensures that even bedridden seniors can receive dental checks and treatments," said Dr David Lim.

The pandemic has disrupted routine dental screening in our nursing homes. The return of dental care service performed by Tzu Chi's volunteers and staff led by Dr David Lim, a resident dentist at the Free Clinic under its Foundation, is both timely and significant ahead of the upcoming festivities, so that our residents can enjoy their favourite slew of snacks and goodies.

The services include the screening of residents' oral hygiene and dental cleaning as part of their health education programme called **CASA-MODAL** (**C**lean **A**nd **S**creen **A**ll **M**ouths **O**f **D**isability facilities **A**nd **L**ong-term care facilities). Tzu Chi Foundation will also provide follow-up treatments such as extraction and provision of dentures for residents. Since the start of this partnership, over 800 Ren Ci's nursing home and chronic sick residents have benefited from Tzu Chi's dental services.

"Time naturally exposes the teeth to more wear and tear and ideally, regular oral checks are important. Dental screening by the bed is beneficial for our residents, especially the less mobile and bedridden ones. We welcome back the Tzu Chi's dental volunteers to check on the oral health of our residents and prescribe treatments for them," said Dr David Ng, Clinical Director of Ren Ci Hospital.

Last Christmas, over 80 residents at Ren Ci @ Bukit Batok St. 52 nursing home received Tzu Chi's dental screening over a three days period. The team will return in March to serve another group of residents. Ahead of the upcoming lunar new year, 87 residents at Ren Ci's Ang Mo Kio nursing home will have their oral hygiene checked this month.

We warmly invite you to witness Tzu Chi's dental team in action.

Date: Friday, 13 January 2023

Time: 10:30am onwards

Venue: Ren Ci @ Ang Mo Kio



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About Ren Ci Hospital

Established since 1994, Ren Ci Hospital is one of the few charity healthcare institutions in Singapore to provide high quality and affordable medical, nursing and rehabilitative care services for the community, based on the principles of loving kindness and compassion. Ren Ci plays an integral role in supporting the healthcare needs of the elderly through adopting holistic way of delivering person-centred care.

Besides giving hope to the frail elderly by helping overcome their disabilities and teaching their families to care for them at home, Ren Ci also partners various community groups and social enterprises to give dignity back to the elderly.

About Tzu-Chi Foundation (Singapore)

The Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation is a global non-profit humanitarian organisation founded in 1966 by a Buddhist nun named Dharma Master Cheng Yen in Taiwan. Its missions of charity, medicine, education, humanistic culture and environmental protection has brought relief to over 100 countries.

In 1993, Tzu-Chi Foundation (Singapore) was established, with the organisation's work starting with the Mission of Charity and the goal of relieving poverty, before gradually expanding into the Missions of Medicine, Education, Humanistic Culture, and Environmental Protection over the years. The heart of Tzu Chi is embedded in its name: in Chinese, "tzu" means compassion and "chi," relief.