

Topic : Make Recycling a Way of Life

Hello. My name is Debby._ I am a student at TzuChi College of Technology, and am majoring in Nursing. While attending TzuChi College, I also serve as a Tzu Chi Volunteer. I would like to tell you a few things about one of the more important activities I take part in as a volunteer: Recycling!

The Tzu Chi Compassion Relief Foundation believes in promoting environmentally friendly lifestyles and sustainable use of natural products. Tzu Chi Volunteers have developed recycling missions around the world involving more than two hundred thousand volunteers. Over the past ten years, the amount of paper, alone, that has been recycled by Tzu Chi missions equates to some 14 million trees! When plastic containers are recycled, they are turned into “humanitarian blankets”, and used to aid persons who have suffered from various disasters. In this way, Tzu Chi beliefs have been put into action as a means to preserve the environment, as well as in a way that shows compassion for others in need. When a Tzu Chi volunteer picks up a plastic bottle, it not only reduces the amount of pollution on the earth, but also decreases our internal greed. It is both a practical and spiritual act.

Tzu Chi Volunteers learn that it is our duty and mission to live in harmony with nature. The founder of Tzu Chi, Master Cheng Yen, believes that this goal can only be fulfilled by our own actions. For centuries, human beings have exploited natural resources as if they are unlimited. We seldom perceive that all nature’s creatures are equal and deserving of our respect. However, the attitude of a Tzu Chi Volunteer works to break this poor habit. Master Cheng Yen says, "When I walk on the ground, I am always afraid that my feet may hurt the land." She believes that all creatures interact to create a natural balance, and that we have to cherish and embrace every living being, no matter if they are an animal, insect, or plant.

Through recycling, Tzu Chi Volunteers come to learn that human beings are surrounded by nature, that we are only one part of nature, and our actions should not be those of a conqueror, but those of a loving family member. I truly believe recycling efforts will make the world a better place now and for future generations. Let’s work together to make recycling a way of life.