



Food Parcel Distribution

20 October 2021

Auckland went into lockdown in August due to covid19, during these two months, the price of goods and oil has gone up due to inflation. The rise of living expenses caused many people to get into financial difficulty. Tzu Chi NZ decided to do one more round of food parcel distribution. Tzu Chi notified care recipients about the food parcel distribution by email and informed care recipients to do online registration before the event.

Auckland was at alert level three, Tzu Chi NZ arranged for contactless drive-through food distribution. On 30 October at 8 in the morning, 15 volunteers wore masks and face shields, got ready for the food distribution. The car number plate was used for registration, food parcel applicants just need to drive into the car park, Tzu Chi volunteers checked the car number and placed the food parcel into the car boot.

The whole procedure was completed in a few minutes. Tzu Chi volunteers wrote a big Maori word "Kia Kaha" (stay strong) on the whiteboard. At the same time, they also reminded care recipients to eat vegetarian "Respect animals, love vegetables and fruits". Tzu Chi volunteers hope to get people to include more vegetarian food and less animal flesh in their diet. Food parcel recipients expressed their gratitude by raising their thumb, some shouted thank you, and some briefly honked their horns.



13 November 2021

Tzu Chi NZ organized another food distribution on 13 November. It was a rainy day, volunteers put on their raincoats and diligently performed the food distribution task.

27 November 2021

Tzu Chi NZ organized another drive-through food parcel distribution event on 27 November. Tzu Chi volunteers worked cooperatively from planning, registration, purchasing and packing to distribution.



Cars lined up outside Tzu Chi before the event started. Tzu Chi volunteers followed Covid-19 SOP accurately and executed their job without fear. Working under the sun for two hours, the volunteers put a smile on their faces constantly. "Please open your car boot", the volunteers placed the food parcel into the boot and gently close the boot. People were touched by their sincere and respectful attitude.

Michelle drove from Bombay to collect the food parcel. While waiting in the queue, the volunteer told her Tzu Chi's bamboo bank story. She was touched and grateful. This is the third time she had come to collect a food parcel. Tzu Chi volunteer further told Michelle about Tzu Chi's "one vegetarian meal a day" programme and was delighted to know that Michelle is a vegan. Evajoy was touched after reading the story of Tzu Chi in the leaflet inside the food parcel, she sent an email to Tzu Chi NZ indicating her wish to donate.

Tzu Chi volunteers in New Zealand follow the teaching of Master Cheng Yen, seizing every opportunity to inspire love in people, and to make them into someone willing to give and rich in the heart.

Christchurch Scholarship Award Ceremony

Every year Tzu Chi NZ volunteers travel to Christchurch to award scholarships to the students. Due to the pandemic, Tzu Chi NZ now courier the certificates to Tzu Chi volunteers in Christchurch, the volunteer will then award the certificates at the ceremony. Further, instead of issuing a cheque to each student, Tzu Chi NZ now transfers money directly to the school's bank account.

19 November 2021 Tzu Chi Christchurch volunteer Lin awarded scholarships to Linwood College in the morning and St James School in the afternoon. Lin went to the school to work with the staff in preparing for the ceremony, taking photographs and et cetera. While in Auckland, eight volunteers joined the virtual ceremonies. During the opening, the Tzu Chi presenter delivered a briefing on Tzu Chi's philosophy and mission. And the Tzu Chi NZ CEO Ping Wang gave a speech which encouraged the students to continue working hard and to develop a positive outlook about 2022.

Linwood College Assistant Principal Katie Stanton greeted everyone in fluent Chinese. She also thanked Tzu Chi for the love, care and generosity. In the afternoon, St James School Principal Rose Firth-Scott led the young pupils to waive their hands to Tzu Chi volunteers. The parents of the award-winning pupil were grateful for the scholarships. According to Tzu Chi CEO, there had been a drop in applicants for the scholarship due to the pandemic. Before the closure of the ceremony, everyone prayed for an end to the pandemic.