



On 13 December in the morning, Tzu Chi NZ was opened for the award-winning students to collect their certificates and scholarships. Telea of Manurewa Intermediate School came with her mother, Mrs Telea thanked Tzu Chi for the scholarship, she said the grant is very important to the family and that Telea can use the money toward her high school education.

Campbell thanked the teachers of the school for doing a great job for the students during the lockdown. A shy student thanked Tzu Chi quietly for the scholarship which she intends to use on her school fee. The parent cried happy tears and hugged Tzu Chi volunteers.

Another parent indicated that now they can buy a computer which she could not afford previously. 8 years-old Pales came with her mother and her younger siblings. Having three young children, this was a difficult year for mother due to Covid-19 and the lockdown. She thanked Tzu Chi for helping the community.

In total Tzu Chi NZ spent \$28,000 in 2021 on Scholarships. 67 students from 4 schools were awarded.



## Christmas Food Parcel Distribution

Tzu Chi NZ held four food parcel distributions from the beginning of the Delta outbreak until the end of 2021. All food parcel distributions were carried out by contactless drive-through means.

18 December was the last distribution of the year, many cars lined up outside Tzu Chi before the food distribution started. Food items in the parcels were common daily necessities. Tzu Chi volunteers had carefully researched about what are the much-needed items. Some recipients of food parcels were not new, while some recipients learnt about

Tzu Chi food distribution through words of mouth; Tzu Chi NZ also put up notices on several places including schools, Tzu Chi NZ's website, the city council's website, budgeting services, and the ministry of health. With Christmas coming up, Tzu Chi NZ put in extra effort intending to help these pandemic affected people this festive season. 21 volunteers put on their Christmas hats delivered wishes and love to everyone.



Tzu Chi encourages people to donate as much (or as little) as they wish. A mother came to collect the food parcel with her three children. When a Tzu Chi volunteer approached them with a donation box in their hand, the mother gave each of her children a coin to put into the box. This mother has a lot of wisdom for seizing the great opportunity to educate her children about giving, and for the children to experience the joy of helping others.

On the contrary, there was a driver who drove directly to collect the food parcel who rudely ignored Tzu Chi volunteers' greeting. Volunteers approached the driver trying to explain the spirit of the bamboo bank. But the driver did not even open the window, and although they spoke loudly they were not sure if the driver heard them.

The driver left immediately after collecting the food parcel. But he drove back again to put a few coins into the donation box and he waved at the volunteers. During the food distribution event, Tzu Chi volunteers observed different attitudes in people. However, they trust that despite the different attitudes, there is great love in everyone. They learnt to fulfil their responsibility without asking for a return and not being affected by the attitude of people.

An elderly man came to collect food parcels on behalf of his friends. He said that his family and another four families put a coin into the bamboo bank, and make good wishes every day. He brought along all their bamboo banks. Tzu Chi volunteer gladly took his bamboo banks and gave him empty bamboo banks to take home. Many food parcel recipients also came to return their bamboo banks. Some people put some coins into the donation box and waved at the volunteers.

"Thanks for your love, Merry Christmas!" Tzu Chi volunteers observed the seed of compassion has grown stronger in the donation recipients. The purpose of coin donation is to instigate kindness and generate love in people. Every coin is equivalent to a kind thought.