

## About Tzu Chi

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation  
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Tzu Chi Foundation was established in 1966 by [Venerable Dharma Master Cheng Yen](#) on the poor east coast of Taiwan. Over the years, the foundation has been contributing to better social and community services, medical care, education and humanism in Taiwan and around the world. From the first 30 members, housewives who saved two cents from their grocery money each day to help the poor, the foundation has volunteers in 50 countries , with 502 [offices](#) worldwide.

Master Cheng Yen firmly believes that suffering in this world is caused not only by material deprivation but, more importantly, also by spiritual poverty. She feels that the lack of altruistic love for others has been the root of many problems in this world. Thus, the foundation's guiding principle on charity is to "help the poor and educate the rich."

[Tzu Chi's missions](#) focus on giving material aid to the needy and inspiring love and humanity to both givers and receivers. In addition to charity, the foundation dedicates itself in the fields of medicine, education, environmental protection, international relief work and the establishment a marrow donor registry. It also promotes humanistic values and community volunteerism. Through helping those in need, Tzu Chi volunteers take on the path of bodhisattva practices, the way to Buddhahood.

### The Tzu Chi Story

*Spreading Love Around the World*

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