

Care and Relief for Landslide Survivors in Snohomish County

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation
Thursday, 01 May 2014 16:13



On March 22, 2014, at 10:37 am, a devastating landslide occurred four miles east of Oso, Washington, engulfing a small community within seconds. The gigantic landslide covered nearly one square mile of the rural neighborhood, and destroyed homes and roads in its path. As of April 25, 2014, the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed 41 fatalities from the landslide, with two more people remaining missing. After the landslide, families were housed in temporary shelters in Arlington and Darrington.

Upon hearing about the landslide, Tzu Chi volunteers in Seattle immediately contacted the Red Cross, and met the Red Cross personnel at the shelter in Darrington to express their concern and readiness with assistance, but were informed that for the moment, the Red Cross had ample supplies for the affected residents. As the situation for directly and indirectly affected residents was clarified, the Tzu Chi volunteers were invited to participate in "one-stop" relief aid events on April 11-12, and again on April 18-19.

Warming hearts without heaters



On April 11, the Seattle Tzu Chi volunteers headed to the relief stations at Darrington and Arlington with blankets, copies of Jing Si Aphorisms, bamboo banks, and cash cards of varying amounts: \$500 for families with destroyed homes, \$300 for those whose homes were less seriously damaged, and \$100 for those indirectly affected. Although the distribution point at Darrington did not have any indoor heating, the hearts of the recipients were warmed by the love and care of the volunteers.

One of the recipients was Tarya, who had lived at the disaster site for 30 years. Despite severe damage to her home, Tarya had decided to stay and rebuild her life. The timely support from Tzu Chi filled her with gratefulness, and she told the volunteers that she would make sure others affected by the disaster would also come to receive their support.

Another recipient not only saw his home completely destroyed by the landslide, but it also took the lives of his wife and granddaughter. As he sat down with the Tzu Chi volunteers, upon reading the first line of a Jing Si Aphorism, he could not hold back his tears. The volunteers stood by him, listening to him telling them about his loss, and comforting him for a long time.

A daily detour of 120 miles

Care and Relief for Landslide Survivors in Snohomish County

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation

Thursday, 01 May 2014 16:13

