



The Basics

- Tzu Chi Foundation was established on April 14, 1966 by Venerable Master Cheng Yen in Hualien, Taiwan with thirty members.
- Currently, Tzu Chi has over four million supporters worldwide.
- Tzu Chi concentrates its 4 missions in Charity, Medicine, Education, Culture, and now International Relief.
- Volunteer activities of Tzu Chi have expanded to include environmental conservation, bone marrow donation, community volunteer service, and international relief.
- Tzu Chi Canada was founded in 1992 and has over 13, 000 members across Canada.
- Tzu Chi Canada offices are located in Toronto, Ottawa, Mississauga, Montreal with the branch office in Vancouver.
- There are over 9,000 members in Greater Vancouver.
- Tzu Chi has established 37 volunteer service stations including hot meal serving for the homeless, food banks, centres for the disabled, and street cleaning.
- Tzu Chi offers scholarships to UBC, Douglas College, University of Toronto, and York University, and provides bursaries to 6 school districts in the Lower Mainland.
- The City of Vancouver awarded the “2004 Cultural Harmony Award” to Tzu Chi Canada on November 30, 2004.
- Mayor Larry Campbell and the City of Vancouver will declare September 4, 2005 “Tzu Chi Day” during the opening ceremony of the Taiwanese Cultural Festival on September 3, 2005.



International Relief Work: Sri Lanka

- Tzu Chi arrived in the Hambantoto District in the southeastern part of Sri Lanka on December 29, just 3 days after the tsunami hit.
- The Hambantota district was on the most affected areas and one of the poorest in the country.
- Tzu Chi volunteers from various countries going to Sri Lanka to assist in the relief effort did so at their own expense.
- The Canadian Tzu Chi Relief Team departed for Hambantota on January 24, 2005.
- From December 29 to February 15, Tzu Chi completed the following in the Hambantota District:
 - Erected a "tent community" for 300 families to provide disaster victim residence.
 - Medical volunteers treated over 27, 000 disaster related patients.
 - 30,000 deliveries of large-scale provisions were made to five cities in the Hambantota District.
 - Completed the design plan for permanent housing.
 - Made 500 residential house-calls to show personal concern for victims treated in emergency clinics.
- The Tzu Chi Foundation remains to operate in Sri Lanka today.
- As of February 17, 2005, Tzu Chi's fundraising efforts have resulted in collecting \$56 million worldwide, \$2 million of that from within Canada.
- Construction of over 900 permanent houses is underway and will be completed by December 26, 2006—the one year anniversary of the Tsunami.