

Helping Grandpa Shih: Quixotic Spirit

Grandpa Shih has been taking care of Grandma Shih, who underwent a stroke for more than 10 years. The work took him a lot of time, so that he could no longer go singing with his friends, and he felt the pressure to go back even when he goes grocery shopping. In fear of his health condition and fatigue, he asked A-Hui, our social worker for help.

A-Hui came twice a week to help bath Grandma Shih. Grandpa Shih could finally take a short rest. However, Grandma's situation worsened a few months later: she was not able to recognize people and her pressure sore expanded as big as a palm. Since she was more and more frequently hospitalized, Grandpa Shih's health deteriorated. Having no social interaction, he fell into dementia. Once he almost caused a fire accident, for he forgot to turn off the stove.

Our social work supervisor suggested that Grandma Shih be sent to a 24-hour care center. Yet, Grandpa Shih refused because he would feel lonely if Grandma was not by his side. After our negotiation with Grandpa, he finally agreed to let Grandma live in the center.

We have not stopped caring about Grandpa Shih as well. When we visited him, we found his dementia deteriorated, that it took him a long while to produce a simple sentence. We encouraged him to contact his old friends or participate in activities in the community. However, Grandpa Shih was too shy and he walked away from the crowd. Finally, our social worker looked for help from his sister and daughter, pursuing him taking blood pressure for elders in the community health station. Fortunately, Grandpa's friend become more and more, and he brings back his smile as well.

