

Planting a Good, Kind Seed

Tsai Feng Tsai

When I was ten years old, I lived in my grandma's house. She was the most loving and kind grandma. She tried to do everything for us. My parents had huge debts. They needed someone to protect us and take care of us so they could go to work. The responsibility fell to my grandma, who was old and blind.

My hero is my grandma. She made me more sensitive to everything. She taught me that it was possible to be a giver instead of a taker. When we lived together under her roof, she woke us up early in the morning for school. She taught me how to cook food for my siblings, and she taught me how to wash our clothes.

I witnessed a disabled person doing everything that ordinary people do in their life. My grandma's home was very organized and orderly. She could always find what she was looking for. She was a great cook. Our food always tasted better than everyone else's. I still miss her food.

Maybe you are wondering how a blind elderly woman could be so important to me. She helped me understand why my parents had to leave. She was a woman of strength. She never gave up. She always stood tall and still. As a result, I became a very independent, strong, and giving woman. I spend weekends volunteering at the Tzu Chi Foundation and helping people who have hardships and difficulty.

Every time someone thanks me for the help that I have provided, it reminds me of my grandma, who devoted her life to us. My grandma planted a good, kind seed inside my heart and mind, so today the seed has grown into a big tree and the tree knows to take good care of everything under its shadow.



Tsai Feng (Zoe) Tsai, originally from Taiwan, lives in New York City and takes classes at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. She lives with her mother, brother, and his two daughters. Her sister-in-law passed away recently, so they now look after each other.