

Kitty Leung:

Continuation of her husband's love



“Facing the sudden death of her husband and still at a loss, her deed to donate her husband’s organs to continue his goodwill to help others is greatly

admirable. The emotional journey of Kitty Leung is worthy of careful perusal.”

It was many years ago when Ms Leung agreed to donate her late husband’s organs, but looking back now, she still filled with mixed emotions.

Around ten years ago in a seemingly ordinary day, Ms Leung was tending housework while waiting for her husband, who was working in the industrial sector, to return home. The phone rang and it was a call from related parties, informing her that her husband had an industrial accident. Struck by the news and with a blank mind, she rushed to the hospital immediately. While her husband was being rescued, Ms. Leung could only wait in anxiety.

Tormented by the apprehension for a couple days, Ms. Leung and their children could only sit in the hospital ward and watch the husband who filled with pipes, holding his hands and wishing miracle would happen. Unfortunately, despite repeated efforts of the doctors, her husband could not be saved. The hospital had to tell Ms. Leung eventually that he was brainstem dead, and could only be sustained by machines. Even worse, the situation could not last long, and organ failure would gradually begin. Ms. Leung knew that brainstem death was untreatable, and her beloved husband would inevitably step to death after a while of machine-sustained life.

During such a great change within a few days, we could only imagine the blow to Ms. Leung at the time. However, life went on, not to mention the children that needed to be raised. Thus Ms. Leung made the difficult decision to pull the breathing machine and donate her husband’s organs, so that his generous spirit would continue and his love would leave some help behind.

The consolation was that this crucial decision was fully supported by the whole family: Ms. Leung obtained consent from the elderly of the family; her children also believed it since their father’s condition could not improve, it was a good deed to donate the organs to help others. On the other hand, Ms. Leung checked her husband’s body after donation, and found the medical staff had kept their promise: the incisions were treated nicely and did not cause much damage to the body due to organ donation, which was a big relief.

Bringing hope to others and reliving an excellent life

The significance of organ donation is that, it not only brings rebirth to the ill recipients, but also benefits their whole family, and helps the patients go back to work. This alleviates the burden from their family and the society. On this impact, Ms. Leung has a deep impression.

Ms. Leung recalls that, the day her husband was admitted to the hospital, another 13-year-old boy was hit by a car and sent to the hospital as well. The mother of the child sat outside the emergency room at the same time with her and waited in agony; she held the shoes of the child and cried in such a distressing way, that Ms. Leung can still recall the anguish and misery clearly. Later, when the mother learnt from the doctor that the child could not be saved, she gallantly decided to donate her child's organs to help others. Eventually, this child remarkably donated five organs and a pair of corneas, which helped seven patients in need and affected seven families! The benevolent act of this mother inspired Ms. Leung greatly, and indirectly influenced her decision of donating her husband's organs.

Ms. Leung said that, donation of healthy organs after one's decease can help sick patients and bring rebirth to their families. In addition, the donated organ is like the continuation of the donor's life, which can help someone with another excellent life. This bears tremendous significance. However, after this experience, she also understands deeply that the idea and significance of organ donation need to be instilled and educated at an early age. She does not deny that some of the elderly friends do not approve organ donation; they have some strong conservative ideas that after death the body should be kept as a whole with all the organs remain. To change these notions and ideas, and replace them with ideas that corpse and organs will not be carried away after death, persistent effort of education will be needed.

Support Organ Donation with Personal Action

Ms. Leung is very supportive towards organ donation, and has herself signed up the organ donation certificate and registered as an organ donor online. She said that before her husband's accident, the idea of organ donation never crossed her mind. This is probably because Chinese take the matter of death as a taboo, and "organ donation" seems something remote.

However, after the accident, her view of life has also changed: life is capricious, and one needs to treasure people and matter in hand; after death, the body will inevitably deteriorate and decay. Ms. Leung said that if an organ donor does not mention his/her intention to the family during life time, the family members would not know how to handle the problem after they pass away. As a result, Ms. Leung said that she had told her children to donate her available organs after she passes away, and to cremate her body and scatter the ashes in a garden, thus returning back to nature.

Thank you card and little gift: Symbols of gratitude from the recipients conveys a lot of emotions

Through the transfer of the Organ Donation Coordinator, Ms. Kitty Leung received thank you cards and small gifts from two of the organ recipients. Ms. Leung said, it doesn't matter whether to meet the recipients or not, but the thank you cards could show the relatives of the donor that the recipients are not just alive, but also enjoy wonderful lives. This would be the biggest reward to the family of the donor. Ms. Leung said that she was very touched by the thank you cards and gifts, since, as a family member, she only granted consent to the donation of her husband's organ, but would not expect to receive the gratitude of the recipients. The thank you cards carry unspoken gratitude, and the stories in it carry the value of life and the great love of organ donation with it.