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# The Dreams Come True Program for ALS Patients in Taiwan

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# Living with ALS—and Wishes to be Fulfilled

*As we know . . .*

- ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease.
- It causes a wide range of disabilities, affecting the muscles under voluntary control.
- After the diagnosis, many ALS patients and families seize the precious time to fulfill their long overdue wishes.

# The 2011 Dreams Come True Program

- In 2011, Taiwan Disability Alliance held The Dreams Come True Program, providing 30 opportunities for people with disability to realize their dreams.



# The 2011 Dreams Come True Program

- Several ALS/MND patients participated, and shared their life stories.



# The 2011 Dreams Come True Program

- Three Stories of ALS patients having their dream come true:
  - Visiting the highest mountain of Taiwan
  - Having a belated wedding party
  - Moving back home

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1.

Seeing Mt. Jade

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# Seeing Mt. Jade

- Mr. Cheng was born at a small village under Mt. Jade — the highest mountain of Taiwan.
- He has always thought that, someday in his life, he would climb up to the top Mt. Jade to enjoy the breathtaking views.



# Seeing Mt. Jade

- About a year ago, Cheng started having symptoms of ALS, but fortunately he is still able to speak clearly and walk for thirty minutes without assistance.
- His compromised wish is to go to the entrance of Mt. Jade National Park, as long as his health permits.
- He passed medical evaluations for taking the excursion to a high altitude.





# Seeing Mt. Jade

- Plan for the trip was meticulously made:
  - Consultations with primary doctors, respiratory therapists, nurses, social workers, and other medical professionals.
  - Arrangements of midsize shuttles and ambulances, etc.



# Seeing Mt. Jade



The ALS patients and their families  
(Mr. Cheng is the third from the right)

# Seeing Mt. Jade

The ALS patients, the families  
and the whole attending crew



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2.

A Belated Wedding Party

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# A Belated Wedding Party

- Years back, Ling married Yun against her family's objection due to her husband's older age.
- After they married, Yun was diagnosed of ALS.
- Yun was once in a critical situation, and his conditions continued to deteriorate.



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# A Belated Wedding Party

- Ling has the regret that she and her husband did not have a wedding banquet, or take any bridal photos at the time they got married.
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# A Belated Wedding Party

- The Program not only helped the couple to take bridal portraits, but also threw a birthday party in honor of Yun's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.



# A Belated Wedding Party





# A Belated Wedding Party



# A Belated Wedding Party



Through the process, Ling had a reconciliation with her family, and received the warmest wishes at this belated wedding party.

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3.

# Su-lan's Journey Home

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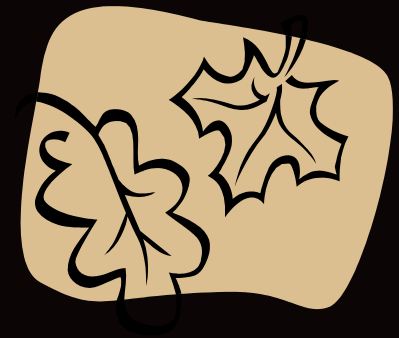
# Su-lan's Journey Home

- Su-lan was an elementary school teacher when she was found to have ALS.
- The disease changed her many life plans.
- After her parents passed away, she moved to a care center.



# Su-lan's Journey Home

- Su-lan's health has been declining since a year ago.
- Having lived under 24hr care for more than 10 years, her wish now is to move back home, in the removed country of Taiwan.



# Su-lan's Journey Home

- The plan of taking Su-lan back home:
  - Fundraising
  - Preliminary investigations of medical resources around her hometown
  - Holding meetings with those concerned





# Su-lan's Journey Home



# Su-lan's Journey back Home

- Many volunteered to help Su-lan get back home.





# Su-lan's Journey Home

- Every effort was made to ensure the supporting networks and resources function smoothly.



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*Concluding Remarks:*

On Behalf of Taiwan ALS/Motor Neuron Disease Association

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