

## We Care and Give Back

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**“ I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40).**

### The first step – take action

The culture of Do It Yourself (DIY) in America was amazing to me when I had my first classic Volkswagen Beetle. Back then, you could literally get every part through mail-order. The Bug could last forever if you kept replacing parts. One day the turn signal electronics finally failed on me. As a poor student, \$120 to replace it was a big expense. I decided to take apart the electronic control box and found transistor components in the laboratory and fixed it by myself. I felt so proud of myself and I brag about it till this day.

Many people are good in theory but little experience. The lesson I learned is that I can do anything with a little practice. I encounter similar incidents in my life constantly. Keep on learning and ask for help. I have enjoyed the outcome in the end even though it may have taken several attempts.

### Volunteer to Serve

When our children were young, they engaged in many sports activities. There was strong participation from parents, children, and volunteers. Somehow the group worked together in practice, competition, and other events. Both children and parents had fun in the end. As we know, the criteria in college applications include community service, extra-curricular activities, and essays in addition to test scores and grades. Sports are good for parents and children to do something together.

As Friends of Parents enters our second year, we are happy to see steady turn outs and strong participation. In addition, we also formed a team of co-workers that I am proud to be part of. Our goals are to grow with children and to enjoy the relationship. A reporter interviewed Bill Gates Sr. last year asking him how he raised such a successful son. The father replied that he did not know. However, he said they did attend the parenting classes held in the church. I think, what really matters, is the willingness to learn in acknowledgement of our own shortcomings.

#### Pass it on as a Good Samaritan

Soon after I got my driver's license, I was eager to explore the city. Having a good ride and returning at dusk, I got a flat tire on the highway. I was all by myself, I had no tools, and the dark set in. I was getting desperate. Just then, an old couple stopped and took me to a nearby service station. From there, I went home safely. I knew the Good Samaritan story back then. It could be interpreted in many ways, but it had deeper meaning to me at that moment. I also remember that we received lots of help from the church where we held our wedding – the flowers, the reception refreshments, and abundance of blessings. As poor students, we could not afford any of these. We are greatly appreciative. To this day, I continue to learn. Be thankful. Learn from the Good Samaritans whom I do not even know their names.

