In 1992, Venerable Huili embarked on a journey to Africa. He established the first “Amitofo Care Center” (ACC) in Malawi during 2004, dedicated to caring for African vulnerable children and where more than 85% of world’s HIV-positive children live. Today, many years later, the founder continues with his compassionate practice of Buddhism in Africa traveling to all corners of Africa, and helping countless precious young lives. Nowadays, he is known as the “African monk” or “Monk dad” in the eyes of thousands of children.

On the everyday streets, the virus of this pandemic is ruthless and heed no warning but the barrier of a mask gives it troubles. In the consultation room, the patients line up but the end of the line is not visible. As Swadini’s vulnerable children campus medical building are filled up, Dr. Du Jicheng, the head of the flying medical team in the Kingdom of Swadini, led a delegation to the south of the border to provide free consultations for children in the shelter. The medical team departed from the capital at 6:30am in the morning and arrived at the shelter campus at 9am. As soon as the squad members got off the car, they moved out and positioned the supplies quickly with no hesitation. Just watching their movements, you could sense the familiarity and understanding they possessed through the intensive practice and accumulation of experience in the emergency medical field. Such efficient and precise preparations brought a valuable lesson to the school children, allowing them to actually understand and experience the difference between professionalism and undisciplined behavior. After the preparations were made, the children lined up for consultations. The young doctors who had just arrived, did not know that the children could understand Mandarin, and tried to communicate the symptoms to children in English which led to much frustration. The shelter campus reception staff asked with a surprised look and expression, “Why don’t you ask the children about their symptoms in Mandarin?” The whole process of consultation between the doctors and patients was witty and funny. When a child was asked about the symptoms of their “sickness”, the child blurted out in response, “I have been doing poorly on the exams.” The doctor was stunned and answered with a remark of; “You just need to read more, and concentrate in classes or while studying,” this interaction brought much fun and laughters for the children.

After completing basic consultation and treatment, two physicians were sent to conduct two separate health courses for the boys and girls in their adolescence. In the short time frame of a morning, the doctors of the medical team completed the health diagnosis and education courses for the children in the children shelter campus left these children imprint memories of their efficiency and high professionalism.

Under the skillful hands of chef mom lunch was prepared and the new doctors were surprised that in such a barren land where the campus built they could enjoy such a delicious and authentic vegetarian food.

Everyone has their own home-work, responsibilities and missions to face. The couple, coach Wang and Tingting, who have served at Swadini ACC for more than five years, and Namibia ACC for four years have decided they will return to China to take on family responsibilities. During their service, Coach Wang carefully taught children Kungfu, and Tingting assisted in managing the children’s lives, establishing a deep relationship with everyone, which made their separation to ACC a harder one. At five o’clock in the morning when the sky was still dim, the children’s dormitory was already bustling. The teachers were waiting outside their rooms as the children shouted out the window, “I love you!” “we’ll miss you!” Everyone waved their hands and said goodbye! Watching the car leave, some children couldn’t help crying! Things are not never ending this life education. We wish that Coach Wang and Tingting continue their happy life, and for their hard work that positive things come their way. Thanks to every teacher and volunteer who has worked hard together in the past and thank you to every partner in the team who persevered! Because of you, these children’s lives have become more colourful.