

MORE THAN
JUST



AN TA JOB

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WITH ABOUT 40,000 PASSENGERS PASSING THROUGH
OUR BUS STATION EVERY DAY, MY COLLEAGUES
AND I ARE ALWAYS KEPT ON OUR TOES.
”



When I started work in the Finance department of one of Guangzhou's largest bus stations 10 years ago, I thought it would be like any other number-crunching job – boring and rather mundane.

How wrong I was.

Life in Guangzhou Xin Tian Wei Transportation Development is anything but. With about 40,000 passengers passing through our bus station every day, my colleagues and I are always kept on our toes. Sometimes, we encounter difficult situations involving pickpockets and thefts, other times we encounter heartwarming incidents which renew our faith in humankind.

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I recall one such incident.

An elderly lady from Zijin, Guangdong was in Guangzhou to visit her relatives when she fell victim to pickpockets. She was frantic because she did not have any money to buy the bus ticket home. Our Security Supervisor, Zou Du, immediately took some money from the "Care and Assistance Fund" which was set up in 2009 to help passengers in need and bought her a meal and a ticket. The elderly lady was so grateful that she broke into tears and even wanted to kneel down as a show of thanks.

With that simple gesture, strangers became friends.

Another wonderfully touching story I recall involves an old man who arrived one afternoon from Xi'an during a storm. For hours he waited, but none of his friends turned up. By the time

night fell, the old man was beside himself. He was a stranger in a strange land and didn't know what to do. My colleague, Wang Qi Lun, calmed him down, hailed a taxi for him and paid the driver out of his own pocket.

The old man never forgot the kindness that was shown to him.

Four years later, Qi Lun was walking through the bus station when he heard someone shout: "It's him!" He saw a 70-year-old man rushing towards him with both arms outstretched and when he reached Qi Lun, he grabbed him and said: "I've finally found you! Thank you, young man. I've been searching for you for four years!"

How amazing is that? Four years and the old man never forgot a simple gesture from a stranger. This episode still brings a tear to my eyes when I think of it.





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Working in Guangzhou Xin Tian Wei Transportation Development has rewarded me with many wonderful experiences but none quite as rewarding as the close relationships I have cultivated over the years with my fellow colleagues. In fact, we are so much more than just fellow workers – we are family.

And as all families do, we band together in good times and bad, supporting one another through tears and laughter.

This bond was tested in 2011 when one of our colleagues, Lu Xian Hui, a general worker at our Company, was diagnosed with a bone tumour in his hand. The first operation cost him nearly RMB10,000. A year later, he suffered a relapse, which required a second operation that cost up to RMB50,000. This was an enormous amount for a young man from a rural village.

We immediately conducted a donation drive for Xian Hui and raised RMB12,000 within a few days. Xian Hui was extremely touched when he received it.

He has since recovered and resumed work with gratitude and everyone's blessings, more hardworking and committed than ever.

A bus station is a place of transit, where people move in and out. But sometimes, in-between the hurrying from one destination to another, we find that life is more than just about transient acquaintances and that the new friends we've made may give us new meaning in our different journeys through life.

