

# Mainland Brief



Issue no. 19  
December 2008  
Mainland Service Desk  
Caritas-Hong Kong

## From the Editor

It's been more than half year since the earthquake in Sichuan. The theme for this issue is to brief you on Caritas-Hong Kong's post-quake relief and reconstruction undertakings. We'll only share with you in these pages highlights of our work, leaving the details to future issues of the "Mainland Brief".

As we say good-bye to 2008, we also like to wave good-bye to disasters - be they human, or nature instigated. We wish all those who suffered from the quake to fully recover from their losses and take on vigorous new lives. We wish each and everyone of you a Happy New Year! Peace be to all !

## Millions of Dollars Help Quake-struck Victims



The May 12th Wenchuan earthquake registering 8 on the Richter scale impacted millions in Sichuan, Gansu, Chongqing, and Shaanxi, with casualties including tens of thousands of fatalities. The Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong then quickly collected donations to help the quake victims. As at 31 December 2008, the donations amounted to HK\$35,610,000. Caritas-Hong Kong was delegated the responsibility to dispense funds on the relief programs. In the seven months since the quake, we have started 27 programs (see page 2 for details). 11 of these involve emergency relief, 8 reconstruction, 2 purchases of equipment, and 6 are rehabilitation related. Of the 27, 13 have been completed, while 14 are still work in progress. The total amount already spent or budgeted: HK\$18,876,242. More than 8,700 families, and 60,000 individuals have benefited from the programs.

Our partners include Mainland based social service organizations, local government officials, Mainland Universities, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, local Catholic social service centers, and local Catholic Church members. Zhonghua Construction Foundation Ltd. (a non-profit organization of Hong Kong professionals) also provided us with free services on major reconstruction programs that required professional evaluation, audit, and supervision.

It is estimated that it will take at least 7 to 8 years to complete the major reconstruction projects in heavily hit areas. In the meantime, we are still evaluating a number of applications for assistance. We'll be prudent, but we'll continue to take on projects to our utmost ability, within the constraints of our limited donated funds. We pray that you will continue to pay attention to the needs for reconstruction in the quaked zone. Caritas-Hong Kong will keep you posted on the status of the on-going projects via future issues of this bulletin.

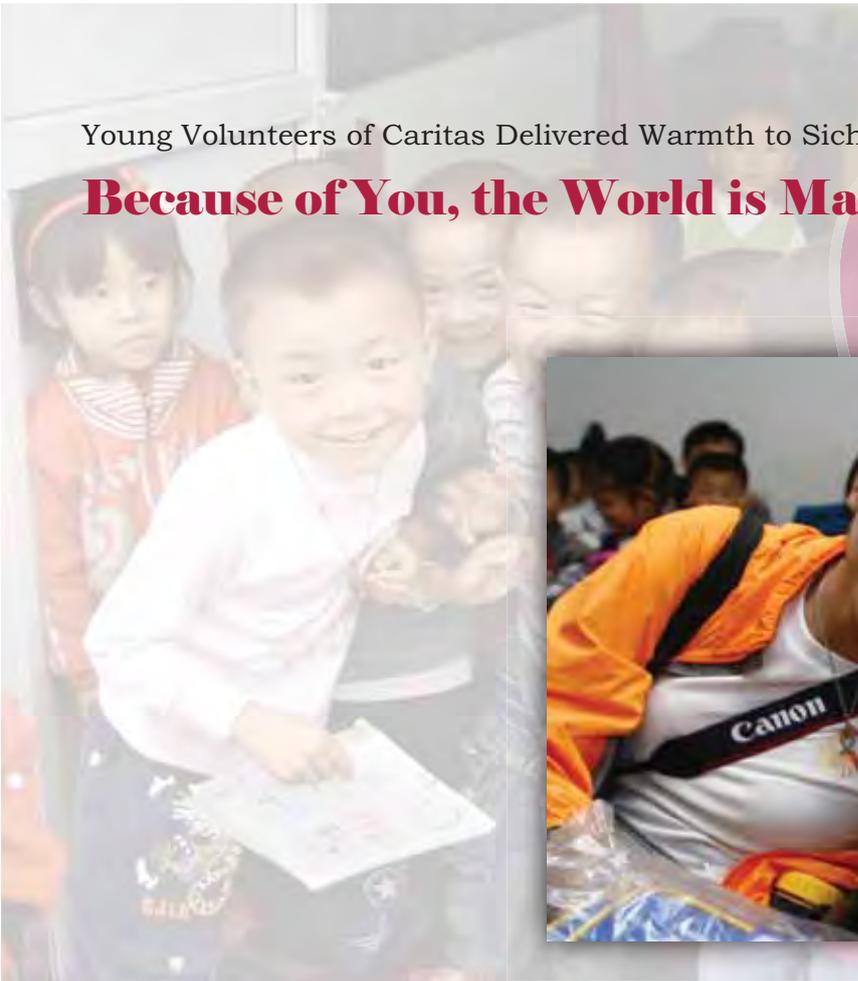




## List of earthquake projects by Caritas-Hong Kong (up to 31 December 2008)

Item	Quantity	Examples
(1) Emergency Relief Service	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Medical necessities sent by volunteers of local Catholic Social Service Centre</li> <li>(b) 75 tons of rice and living necessities to victims in Mianyang city, Sichuan</li> <li>(c) Tents and quilts for earthquake victims in Panzhuhua city, Sichuan</li> <li>(d) General emergency relief to earthquake victims in Longnan, Gansu</li> <li>(e) Living allowance for 120 teachers (whose quarters were collapsed during earthquake) of 2 collapsed schools in Chongqing city</li> <li>(f) An ambulance for The Third People Hospital, Mianyang city, Sichuan</li> <li>(g) Books for children living in the temporary shelters in Mianyang, Sichuan</li> <li>(h) Farming equipment and basic necessities for the earthquake victims in Beichuan city, Sichuan</li> <li>(i) 300 farming equipment for the earthquake victims in Mianyang city, Sichuan</li> <li>(j) Quilts and mattresses for the quake survivors in Guangyuan and Beichuan, Sichuan</li> <li>(k) Plastic covers, medicines and daily necessities for earthquake victims in Youxian district, Mianyang city, Sichuan</li> </ul>
(2) Reconstruction Project	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Schoolhouse reconstruction and facilities for a kindergarten in Longnan city, Gansu</li> <li>(b) Relocation and house reconstruction for 72 households in Sushan village, Tianshui city, Gansu</li> <li>(c) Bridge reconstruction project for Yishan village, Datan town, Guangyuan city, Sichuan</li> <li>(d) Clinic reconstruction for 4 villages in Xiushui town, Mianyang city, Sichuan</li> <li>(e) Improvement of water facilities for 11 villages in Tongkou town, Beichuan county, Sichuan</li> <li>(f) Relocation and house reconstruction for 62 households in Xinglai village, Qingshui city, Gansu province</li> <li>(g) Reconstruction of houses for 23 households in Longnan city, Gansu and Hanchong, Shaanxi</li> <li>(h) Disease prevention and rehabilitation center in Tongkou town, Beichuan county, Sichuan province</li> </ul>
(3) Installation of Facilities	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Books and bookshelves for 2 quake-hit secondary schools in Qingchuan county, Sichuan</li> <li>(b) Medical equipment and computers for a special education school in Mianyang city, Sichuan</li> </ul>
(4) Rehabilitation Service	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) "Sunshine plan in the campus" in quake-hit area in Wenxian county, Gansu</li> <li>(b) Psychotherapy for the earthquake victims in the quake-hit area, Sichuan</li> <li>(c) Establishment of a post-disaster community support centre in Deyang city, Sichuan</li> <li>(d) Construction of a rehabilitation and vocational training centre for the handicapped people after the quake in Pangshan township, Sichuan.</li> <li>(e) Caritas Volunteers delivered warmth to Sichuan</li> <li>(f) English language training in Hong Kong for 20 teachers of Beichuan Middle School, Sichuan</li> </ul>

## Because of You, the World is Made More Beautiful...



A group of youth from Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Service for Young People (Lei Muk Shue center) went to Sichuan from 4 to 8 October 2008. They visited quake victims in the temporary shelters; students at Yuhezhen Middle School; students at Chunlei Elementary School; and students at the Mianyang School of Special Education. The volunteers played and worked with the students. The laughter of children filled classrooms and playgrounds everywhere they went.

What is most touching is a song the volunteers learned in Hong Kong while preparing for the visit. They sang this song in every classroom they visited – as a present for each student. They may not have achieved a “great” deal from their visit, but the fact that they visited, and that they presented the students with a show of love and care, rekindled their sense of hope, and the expectation for a new life. Following are a couple of excerpts from the hearts of volunteers and students:



### Hope is nourished in these smiles

It is October 7th, 2008. It's cloudy. It's rainy. We, a group of “Longqingju” volunteers, have arrived at Chunlei Elementary School in Xiushui County. We are here to visit the students after the devastating earth-quake.

The first thing that struck me is a vast fence, green in color, surrounding a field filled with rubbles. At the far end of the fence, there stands the school building, half in ruin. My gosh, this place was almost leveled by the quake!

The playground is muddy. Inside the hurriedly erected school made of planks, one can hear the raindrops hitting the roof loudly. Water marks are clearly visible on the grey walls, a sign that the place was half submerged in water only recently. The chilly wind, the cold rain – they make my heart heavy.

The quake may have shaken the whole school to devastation, but the children... wearing broad smiles, rush from all directions of the school to meet us, to welcome us, with open arms. The “rock” on my chest disappears. I put aside my sadness that plagued me earlier. In the face of all these smiles, all their laughter, I feel the power of life, and hope for the future.

by Yuki (a volunteer)



## Thank you for your love

Dear Volunteers of Caritas-Hong Kong,

During these difficult times, it's not only the teachers that gave us so much care and support, there is also "you". You've given us much love. Nature may have been unforgiving. But you have been most kind. You have come all this way, from afar, and you have come to show us children who suffered from the quake love and care. You have brought us hope. It matters not how hard I have to study, I'll be strong. To return your love, I'll work doubly hard, so I'll be able to serve the Motherland when I grow up.

Dear uncles and aunts, thank you for your love. Because of kind-hearted people like you, the world is made more beautiful. Your presence today show to me this world is filled with love. Thank you! Thank you for writing the song: "You Are The Most Special" for us. This is truly a beautiful song. I hope, when I grow up, I'll be like you. I'll be like you to help those who are in need. I want to thank you for the precious presents you brought us today.

We are very happy to have you here with us today, and hope that you'll be here again. We are poor, we are a long ways away from most places, but we are warm-hearted. Do come back to visit us. Let me, on behalf of everyone here at Yuhe Middle School, thank you, and wish you all safety and good health!

Zhang Fen

A 7th grader at Yuhe Middle school



## We need your generous support!

You can send us a crossed cheque made payable to "Caritas-Hong Kong" with "Support on Sichuan quake victims" marked on the back, together with the contact information. Please mail to: Mainland Service Desk, Room 505, Caritas House, 2, Caine Road, Hong Kong.

Official receipt will be issued by Caritas-Hong Kong for tax-exemption purpose. For enquiry, please call 35892259 / 35892500. You can also email to [mainland@caritas.org.hk](mailto:mainland@caritas.org.hk) for more information. Thank you.