



From the Editor

Your response to the call in our last issue was overwhelmingly positive. We quickly raised the funds needed for the improvement program at the 'health care unit' in Nangao Village. On behalf of the sisters, staff, and patients in the clinic, we thank all of you for your wonderful support.

This brief shares with you a few programs that have been completed. We will also call your attention to the needs of an orphanage in Shanxi Province and appeal to you for support.

Library in Chongqing turned into a Children's Paradise



Children at the library door



Video watching session

Zhongxian County in Chongqing has a population of over one million with more than 75% of the population made up of workers who migrate to make a living and leave their children at home to fend for themselves. Needless to say this has a negative impact on the development of the children. Realizing that something had to be done, a group of grass root individuals set up a 'self-reliance center' for the handicapped. This center, the 'Self-reliant Public Library', housed in a 40 square meter storefront, was nearly shut down due to lack of funding. However, with the help of benefactors arranged through Caritas Hong Kong, it remains operational today.

With funding from these benefactors, the center was not only able to continue as a library, it developed additional activities to raise the children's interest in learning and acquiring new skills. Talks on various topics were also arranged for workers to enrich their cultural life and learn about their rights.

Last year, the center provided more than 5,000 'headcount' of services and it is evident that the children have benefited from it. It also raised awareness of the special needs of children left behind by parents who work in the cities. This has improved the harmony in the community.

New Toilets Helped Children in Fujian Orphanage Become More Self-reliant

Aixin Zhi Jia, or 'Home of Loving Care', in Tashan town, Ningde city, Fujian province is an orphanage established in 2005 that takes care of abandoned handicapped children. There are 40 children living in this orphanage that is housed in a donated property. Since 2011, due to lack of maintenance caused by lack of funding, the partition walls for the toilets had become dilapidated. With financial assistance from kind hearted benefactors, Caritas was able to help repair the facilities by using water resistant material and installing handrails and wash basins in appropriate places. These improvements made it possible to train the children to become self-reliant in going to toilet, taking a bath, and washing their own used utensils after a meal. This is a significant improvement for the children. The staff and the children want to express their deep appreciation to the kind-hearted benefactors.



Children learn to wash their own clothes



Children wash bowls after meal



Children on wheelchairs can use the toilet independently, and take bath in spacious bathroom after renovation

12 Years of Kindness : Passing on the Baton of Love

Thank You
Letter from
a Student

Dear Responsible Person of Caritas Hong Kong,

Wish all is well with you!

Since my father's passing away when I was still in primary one, it was you that have been supporting me so that I could continue with my studies; from primary school to junior high school, and now I have just graduated from senior high school. I want to solemnly say to you, "Thank you." I will never forget the support you have provided me all these years. To this day, I have yet to meet with you, but I shall return in abundance all your kindnesses.

This summer I have been working as a volunteer in an orphanage. Through toil and sweat I have been able to realize a joy that is worth a fortune to me. There are many ways of passing on 'love', but no matter which way is chosen, when it is done genuinely, it is priceless. All the more I want to thank you for the way you chose to pass on this 'love' when I was desperately in need of help so that I could happily finish my schooling like other children.

I will begin my university studies in September having been accepted by Beijing University of Chemical Technology. With the recommendation of the orphanage, I am so fortunate that a new benefactor has agreed to support me in my studies.

My dear benefactor, I wish there will come a day when I can stand in front of you, and say it in person, "thank you!" And I promise, when I have the ability to do so, I will pass on this baton of 'love'.

I wish that all your wishes will come true, and you will be healthy!

Chen Yun
25/7/2013

Each year, Caritas Hong Kong supports hundreds of children in the Mainland so they can attend school. The cost per year for each primary student is HK\$610, HK\$850 for each student in junior high, and HK\$2,500 for each senior high school student. In the past year, 346 primary and high school students have received our financial assistance. It is through support from individuals like you that we are able to carry on with this service. We thank all the benefactors for their generosity.

A Voice from Afar ...

Bethany Home

Item no : 4101



Here we are, after class

The Bethany Home, built on an area of 2,000 square meters, was established in 1997 in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, housing 33 handicapped children who were abandoned by their parents. There are 13 staffs to take care of them.

Yet, the original construction no longer meets the need of the growing children. The rooms for boys and girls are right next to each other, which is inappropriate for these teenagers. Adding to this inconvenience is the fact that the toilets are outside of the building. The situation becomes particularly critical at the end of summer or winter breaks when the children who are boarders return 'home' from their families. Some of them have to be put up in the staff quarters.

The government, while recognizing the contribution of the home to the handicapped children, nevertheless has issued many warnings deeming 'Bethany' too crude to be adequate for the children. Moreover, a bigger problem for the children is that they do not have 'huji' - the right of abode in the area. The government has made improved housing a condition for granting the right of abode to the children. The problem of 'huji' can be solved if Bethany improves on the living space for the children, and installs proper 'fire safety' equipment.

Bethany Home has also been providing services and guided exercise to help other handicapped children in the community in their recuperation. However, due to the lack of space, they are able to help only 20 such children. Additional space would allow them to increase this number to 50.

This improvement program will cost RMB260,000 (Editor's note: about HK\$325,000). We pray for your generosity.

'Bethany Home' Improvement Program Budget (RMB)			
Boy + Girls Quarters	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
Bathrooms & toilets	2	40,000	80,000
Small kitchens	2	15,000	30,000
Study rooms	2	15,000	30,000
Guest rooms	2	10,000	20,000
Dormitories for girls	2	10,000	20,000
Supervisors' bedrooms & storage	2	10,000	20,000
Fire safety equipment/doors/windows	2	22,500	45,000
Recreation room	1	15,000	15,000
Total			260,000

We look forward to
your concern ...

If you need further information on the above, please call 35892259, or 35892500, or send a message to mainland@caritas.org.hk. You may show your care by action.

Just send us a crossed cheque made payable to "Caritas-Hong Kong" with the related particulars marked on the back, together with the contact information. Please send it back to : **Mainland Service Desk**, Room 505, Caritas House, 2, Caine Road, Central, Hong Kong.