



## From the Editor

Let me begin by wishing our readers a Happy, Healthy, Safe, and Auspicious New Year. I also want to thank you on behalf of the elderly in Shanxi province for your kind responses to our call for help in our last issue.

In this issue we would like to share several successful past programmes with you and introduce the needs of a service center for left behind children in Liaoning province. We pray for your continuing support.

### Water Shortage No Longer a Problem for Poor Households in Sahongkou, Yunnan

Sahongkou is an ethnic Miao village in a remote cold mountainous region of Yunnan with a population of more than a thousand people. The villagers and their animals used to suffer from a water shortage for drinking and irrigation. In a community such as theirs, rain at the wrong times can adversely and significantly impact their farming activities and livelihood.



The villagers are satisfied with the newly built water storage tanks



Families in the village who are financially better off were able to afford their own water storage tanks, but this was not a viable option for the poorer families. For these poorer folks they had to make daily trips of three to five kilometers to fetch the water they needed. The cost of building each storage tank was about RMB 7,000 – mainly for the buying and delivery of materials, as the villagers would provide the labor themselves. But that was an amount they could ill afford. Finding out about their predicament in 2011, a local priest wrote, on their behalf, to Caritas-HK for financial assistance.

Help soon poured in from generous people, and by the end of 2011, 17 water storage tanks had been built in Sahongkou village. The villagers no longer suffer from water shortages, and they are deeply grateful to the far away benefactors for their generosity.





# Tuition Assistance Helps Children Realize Their Lifetime Dreams



Each year Caritas-HK cooperates with partners in different parts of the Mainland to provide tuition assistance to poor children so they can continue their studies. Our partners include school headmasters, charity groups, priests, and nuns, among others. In this issue we would like to share with you a couple of cases – one from a school principal in Hunan province, and another from a charity group in Hebei.

## Responsible Person of Caritas Hong Kong,

I am the headmaster of Chima Secondary School in Chima city, Changsha. Through Father Li's recommendation, 26 of our students have been receiving help from you for several years. Each year, the school and Father Li would ensure that the students and their parents are invited to a ceremony during which the education allowances from Caritas are solemnly handed to the individual recipients.

Because of your timely assistance when it was most needed, it has been possible for many of them to continue with their studies, and has kindled in them the hope for a brighter future. The parent of Mei-yun whose both legs are paralyzed; Ping-an, whose parent is suffering from a serious chronic disease; Ye, who has lost both her parents and is living with her aged grand-mother..... Each year they accompany the children to the school, not just to receive the funds, but also to show their deep gratitude to Caritas, to Father Li, and to the generous benefactors. Often times their eyes filled with tears as they expressed their thankfulness. We always remind these children to value the opportunities given to them, and to be thankful. I am pleased to say they have not disappointed us and all have shown solid progress in their studies.

Here I have some good news to share with you. One of the students whom you supported, Wan-li, sat in this year's university entrance examination and has come through with flying colors. He has been accepted into the prestigious Hunan Normal University. I hereby express, on behalf of the school's staff and students, our gratitude to Caritas and to our kind benefactors for all you have done for us. We sincerely hope your kindness will spread far and wide, and your good deeds will become greater!

Headmaster Wang  
August 2014

## Responsible person of Caritas Hong Kong,

Below is a report on the situation of two students who received assistance from Caritas:

Yuan-yuan's father is an HIV carrier, and her mother is the sole bread winner in the family. When she was admitted to a university four years ago, something to be celebrated, it nevertheless presented the family a dilemma - how could they afford it? Then Caritas stepped in to help, and as a result of that Yuan-yuan was able to continue with her studies.

Zhi-hui's father is also an Aids patient. Her younger sister and brother were seven and four years old respectively when she finished junior middle school. There was no way she could have continued with her studies without Caritas' help.

Yuan-yuan has now graduated with a diploma in electrical engineering from the Tangshan Technical and Vocational Institute, and she is actively looking for a job. In her own words, "The University opened my eyes to a whole different world, providing me with a bright future. Like other kids, I was offered the 'right' to pursue knowledge and happiness."

Zhi-hui has now obtained a certificate in kindergarten education. Because she was helped by others to get to where she is, she wants to do the same to help others. She decided to give her first few paychecks to a family with an HIV carrier, so the child of this patient can continue studying. This promise was fulfilled last month when she presented to the Langfang Charity Group a sum of 2,400 yuan, her pay for 3 months, for this purpose.

Sister Yang  
August 2014





# A Voice from Afar .....

## Family Service Centre Fushun, Liaoning

Offering Help to  
Left-behind Children  
in Guanling Village

Item no : 4401

With the huge number of migrant workers in the country, it was estimated in 2013 there were more than 60 million children left behind by their parents in the villages. **Liaoning** has about 450 thousand such children, and about 5,300 in villages surrounding the city of **Fushun**. Even though it is a policy of the government to care for such children, the reality is that the needs far outstripped the government's ability to provide. **Guanling village** is a typical case in point. This village is nearby a convent of the Fushun Diocese. It has a population of about 1,400 people - 300 households. Many parents in the village are migrant workers in big cities, leaving behind them about 50 small children who are cared for by their grandparents.

Because of the lack of parental care, these children tend to be introverts. They are prone to be tensed, easy to anger, and in general, rebellious. Their guardians and teachers have a difficult time managing them. Not a few of them would lose interest in their studies, or simply drop out of school altogether.

The sisters from the said convent have set up a family service center this March to provide counselling and care services in the village to the needy. At this stage, the focus is on women, and children, especially left-behind children. Examples of services include: tutorial/interest classes, talks on protection of children from abusive adults, and counselling service for the children. The center has a computer room where the children can take advantage of free internet to stay in contact with their parents working in the cities. Designated persons will also make scheduled phone calls to teachers and parents to keep abreast of the children's development. Home visiting will be arranged if necessary. The center will source help from other parties in case of need. This project provides care and services to about 50 children and 100 parents.

3-year Budget for Left-behind Children Project		
Item		Cost(¥)
1	Meal	18,000
2	Teaching facilities	
	Books	18,000
	Boards, stationary, paper, printing	25,500
	Sports facilities	6,000
	Internet fee	2,400
3	Computer x4 + Projector	17,000
4	Teachers' allowance x4	72,000
5	Volunteers' allowance x2	3,600
6	Fees for various activities	9,000
7	Water/electricity/tel. fees	7,200
Total		178,700

The aforementioned project will last for 3 years and the estimated budget is about RMB 178,700. The sisters have raised RMB 16,200 by themselves and the center is still in need of RMB 162,500 (about HK\$203,125) for running the project. The sisters have written to Caritas Hong Kong for us to help.

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](mailto: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.