



From the Editor

After publishing our last issue, the service centre in Guanling was able to open for the children as planned. This was possible because of your positive responses regarding the needs of the children left behind in villages by parents who sought work in the cities. We thank you for your support.

In this issue we'll share with you, as usual, several successful cases and bring to your attention another group of children left behind in the village and their need for books to help broaden their education. We pray for your kind response.

Helping a Clinic in Shaanxi to Attain 'Co-operative Clinic' Status



The three doctors, who are sisters, provide medical service in the village

A clinic operated by a group of nuns in Zhangnan village, Weinan, is the only facility that provides medical care to a community with a population of approximately 5,000. The clinic has been in operation for more than ten years. Because of the dedication and loving care of the nuns, the clinic has been well regarded by the villagers and on average receives about 600 patients a month.

In 2011, the sisters applied for the facility to be designated as a 'Co-operative Clinic', a status that would allow it to offer improved and better service. The officials, however, turned down their application because while the sisters provided good service, the clinic environment was deemed somewhat lacking. For example, the floor of the clinic was lower than that of the street rendering water to flow inside when it rains. This situation not only affected the normal operation of the clinic but was also a hygienic hazard. The place had to be renovated to an acceptable standard before receiving the designation of a 'Co-operative Clinic'.

The budget for such a renovation was RMB 220,000. The local Catholics raised RMB 40,000, and the clinic itself managed to raise RMB 70,000. The sisters wrote to Caritas Hong Kong to seek help. With your generous support, the necessary amount was raised and the renovation work was completed in 2012. As a result, the clinic was granted the designation of 'Co-operative Clinic' by the officials that same year and patients can now claim refunds for their treatments in the clinic from the government. The sisters, doctors, and the villagers all want to express their gratitude to the benefactors.

A Home for Disabled Youth to Become Self-sufficient

Liming Home is in Ningjin county, Hebei Province. This is an orphanage that was founded some twenty years ago by the Teresa Congregation. It provides care to more than a hundred children and young adults with varying degrees of disability whose ages range from infant to 30 years old. Two-thirds of these young people live inside the orphanage and have different needs: nursing, convalescence, lessons in life skills.

In order to expand their services, the sisters set up the first communal home in the nearby Gaoyi county in 2008. All things around this home are organized according to the needs of a family so the children can learn and experience life as if living in a family. They learn to cook, house clean, and cooperate. This simulated family living model has proved to be extremely helpful in the development of the children. It provides the children with a taste of what a home might be like.

In 2012, the sisters planned to set up another home in Tangqiu town, Ningjin county. The original plan was to have just one house for the project when a local entrepreneur expressed his willingness to support, not just one house will be built but 3 that make up three homes! Besides, an additional 3-storey multi-function building, all fitted with environmentally friendly heated floors, will also be built for use by the children and the staff. With combined funding from this kindhearted local entrepreneur and Caritas-HK, this project came to fruition and the Liming Youth Rehabilitation Centre was opened in December of 2013.



A courtyard inside the campus



An activity room



The Liming Youth Rehabilitation Centre in Tangqiu



The 3-storey multi-function building



A dining room

The Centre was properly registered with the government in 2014. In addition to housing youths from Liming Home, the facilities are open to other disabled youths in the community so they too can learn how to live independently. Each of the three communal families can accommodate 12 to 14 members, for a total 42 youths. This number will expand to 60 when in the future it will include day care service.



A sister and several children saying hi



Celebrating mass in a hall

To help facilitate the development of the youths' independence, each 'family' is an entity separate from another. Each has its own kitchen, toilet, bathroom, living room, bedroom, workshop equipped with conveniences for the disabled. Twice weekly the children make their own decision as what they want to eat, and cook for themselves. There is a balance in each 'family's' make-up with physically and mentally disabled members so they can better complement one another in their activities. They learn to go shopping for food in the market and to take public transportation. There is notable growth in the children under this arrangement. Some of them have matured enough to become assistants to the "parent" (the Supervisor at each "family"), taking on extra responsibilities and participating in running the home: overseeing etiquette, personal hygiene, order and cleanliness and liaising with volunteers.

The Centre keeps a record to track each person's development and assessment of his/her ability to interact with people inside and outside of the 'family'. The sisters' goal is for the Centre to become a model in the country for helping people with disabilities.



The children are having a fun time in the campus



The children were greeted by young visitors during X'mas

A Voice from Afar



Dear Responsible Person of Caritas Hong Kong,

Wish all is well with you!

Item no : 4501

Our village, Fen-shui, is on the west side of Wanzhou, Chongqing. It has a population of 8,000 people. Besides farming, many of us also work in the cities, leaving behind about 1,000 children who live with their grandparents.

Children here have precious little to read outside of textbooks. Many schools do not have a library, or if they do they don't open them to the students because they think it is too much trouble to do so. Public libraries? That's a pipe dream in Fen-shui.

For more than 10 years, Wanzhou Diocese Social Service Centre has been caring for children left behind in the village by their working parents and it is keenly aware of the lack of reading materials for these children. We are planning to open up a 25 square meter reading room. Besides promoting reading, we also plan to provide the children with cultural activities, particularly activities that entice them to read more.

We are working with an organization that is experienced in promoting reading in rural areas in the selection of books, and in the planning of promotional activities that will be directed at different age groups to get the best results.

For pre-school children, we will have scheduled comic book story telling sessions; puppet shows performed by parents or elder siblings. For primary and junior middle school students, they will participate in performances of folklore, folk songs, recitations, and singing songs that they compose themselves, guessing games and charades. During the long summer and winter school breaks, they will be shown quality movies. They will be given free postage to encourage them to write to their parents working in the cities and they will be encouraged to read together with their grandparents. All these activities will be organized in a manner to instill a culture of reading in the village and for the children to grow up in a healthy, joyous environment.

This program will cost over RMB 60,000, which is not a trivial sum for our center. We are therefore writing to you for help.



Wanzhou Diocesan Social Service Centre

10 May 2015

Budget item	Amt. (¥)
Books	20,000
Additional books for next 2 years	3,000
Library renovations/ Notice boards	4,400
Book shelves/ Chairs/ Stationery	9,000
Computer + Projector	7,100
Funding for activities	8,000
Wages for librarian (12 months)	9,000
Staff training	600
Cost for utilities (water, electricity, transportation of books)	2,200
Total (HK\$79,125)	63,300

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.