



## From the Editor

Your generous response following the last issue of this brief gives us confidence that the library in Fen Shui Ling village will soon be operational. On behalf of the villagers we want to thank you for your kind support.

In this issue, we will share with you a couple of success stories, as well as bring to your attention an application for educational assistance from Henan Province.

## Renew Hope for Life in an Orphan



Dou-dou with a smiling face

Dou-dou, who was born without a nose, was abandoned outside the Daming Orphanage in Hebei Province before she was even a year old. Furthermore, her face and neck were badly disfigured from severe burns prior to her abandonment.

As she grew, her grief deepened because of her appearance. Little children would start crying when they saw her face. She would lower her head whenever she ventured outside. "I can't even bear to look at myself in the mirror, so why won't others be scared of looking at me. Classmates would stay away from me. I don't want to go outside. Life is so meaningless. I will stay inside with the Sisters, because nobody laughs at me here." Dou-dou stopped going to school when she was 15.

However, with help from Caritas-HK and a few kind-hearted people, Dou-dou underwent more than ten surgeries, an unbelievable ordeal for anyone who has to go through such procedures. After the surgeries, she began to appear normal. She is now 20 years old, and we can see brilliant smiles on her face. She is confident in dealing with others, and is full of confidence in her future.



# Helping Villagers in Gansu with Water Shortage Problem

Malutan Village and Shanggou Village of Gulang County are two poor villages at the foothills of Gansu Province's Qilian Mountain Range. These native inhabitants of Qilian had to move down from the mountains some thirty years ago because of severe water shortage. The population of Malutan is 380, and Shanggou's population is 200. These two villages combined own 2000 cattle, and about 500 mu (0.33 square kilometers) of farmland. In recent years, being hit with droughts, the well they depended on began drying up quickly. Life got tough.

The villagers sought help from specialists. After some investigation, it was recommended that each village drill its own well, and each well would have to reach a depth of 200 meters to guarantee sustained supply for their basic needs. The cost for each well would be about 200,000 yuan. The government was willing to supply 35,000 yuan to each village for the project. Villagers of Malutan were able to raise 69,000, while Shanggou Villager raised 76,000 yuan, still far short of the amounts required.



Exploring water resources



A drainage system built for irrigation of fields



Construction of greenhouses



Well drilling at the site

The Catholic Service Center approached Caritas-HK for help on the villagers' behalf, and with donations from kind hearted folks, the wells were completed in 2013. The villagers are extremely grateful for the selfless help from the benefactors.

A blessing ceremony





# Call from Afar .....

Item no : 4601

Caritas-HK provides tuition assistance to almost a thousand primary, secondary and university students on the Mainland every year. This year again we received close to a hundred applications. We pray for your attention and help.

Dear Responsible Person of Caritas-Hong Kong,

I had a happy family: a caring husband, a beautiful daughter, and later on the addition of a good looking son. In fact he was so handsome we named him Shao-Shuai (Young Handsome). Then he was diagnosed autistic when he was 3 years old. At first I did not believe it, and was then at a loss, followed by despair. We spent all our savings plus another 100 thousand yuan in borrowed money for his treatment in the hope that he may be cured. However there was very little to show in terms of improvement in his conditions. In order to make more money to pay for our son's medical treatment, my husband started working as a construction worker, but the earning was never enough to make a difference, and the worst thing was that he hurt the muscles of his waist so badly he can no longer do labor intensive work. He can now only work as a security guard, which pays very little, to support our family of four.

Through the intercession of friends, Shao-Shuai was accepted into Boai Health Institute and after two years of care at Boai, he has been transformed from an easily agitated and rambunctious child into one who is now able to express himself in simple matters, and has become a child who is able to sit still to learn in classes. I am very touched, and I am thankful for the hard work of the teachers to bring about this change.

Now is time for Shao-Shuai to get into a kindergarten, and my daughter to study in high school. This will cost several thousand yuan a year, and I have no idea how we can get this kind of money. Meanwhile Shao-Shuai gets sick easily, and still needs continued convalescence treatments that cost money. The principal of Boai Health Institute recommended that we write to Caritas-HK for help. We hope your organization can provide support for our two children to continue with their education.

Mother of Shao-Shuai  
July 1, 2015

We look forward to  
your response ...

For enquiry, please call on 35892259 or 35892500, or leave your message at [mainland@caritas.org.hk](mailto:mainland@caritas.org.hk). To show your care, you may write a crossed cheque payable to "Caritas-Hong Kong" and send it to: **Mainland Service Desk, Room 505, Caritas House, 2, Caine Road, Central, Hong Kong.** Please write down the item no. / purpose of the cheque and your contact information on the back.