



From the Editor

Since our appeal to you on behalf of the villagers of Daying Parish and Fufeng Clinic, we have received many positive responses. We deeply appreciate your kindness.

In this issue, as usual, apart from sharing with you several successful cases, we will share with you the needs of another clinic in a village in Hebei province. Again, we pray for your generous response.



Exercise Equipment for Elderly to Help Alleviate Pain



Many of the elderly residents in the Lixa Seniors Home in Changzhi, Shanxi suffered strokes and became immobile. The medical doctors recognized that the patients needed exercise equipment to help them improve their mobility. Because of this need, the sisters responsible for the clinic wrote to Caritas-HK for help. You responded favorably to our report on their needs and with your help the equipment requested for the clinic was purchased. With the equipment now in place, they have opened a rehabilitation centre in the elderly home. Below is a report from the sisters:



Thanks to Caritas-HK for helping us to open this rehabilitation centre, not only for the elderly, but also for the community as a whole. It has instilled in them hope, happiness, and the impetus to improve their health. Using the equipment, and with assistance from the sisters, they have experienced significant improvement in their abilities in just a couple of weeks.



We now have at least 3 to 4 patients from the community coming to the centre for treatment each day. The results are beyond our expectations and are much appreciated by the elderly as well as the villagers in our community. It also brings us much happiness to witness their health steadily improving. The old folks are very thankful to the centre and to the benefactors who made this possible.



Rehabilitation and exercise equipment for elderly mobility

Help Xian Migrant Children Grow Up Healthy and Strive for Improvement



Due to the nation's rapid economic development, many peasants from rural areas have become migrant workers in big cities. For example, between 2010 and 2011, 1.7 million peasants moved into the city of Xi'an in search of jobs. While this increased the income level for the peasants, it also created many problems. Typically they settled in already crowded areas where the rent is low, and all sorts of facilities are lacking. These neighborhoods are filled with people of mixed backgrounds, making it difficult to police. Children who accompany their parents have no access to the public school system because they don't have the proper identity to live in the city. Their academic level is far below that of city dwelling children.

Trying to improve this situation, the Xi'an Catholic Social Service Centre set up a service centre in 2013 in Yuhuazhai, a community of about 90,000 migrant workers and their families, so as to serve these children. Now the centre is providing services to 91 families, benefiting more than 200 persons. A few key staff in the centre plan and execute the services, with help of young volunteers from tertiary education institutes.

After three years of operation, there is a significant and noticeable improvement in school performance of the children who take part in the centre's activities. They have become livelier and more self-confident, and their relationship with parents has improved. Besides being popular in the community, the service centre is also well recognized by the government. In May 2015, the centre was registered with the Bureau of Civil Affairs under the name of Shaanxi Xiaoci Social Work Development Centre.



Choir singing



Summer camp



Learning to use the computer



Hobby classes



Major issues faced by migrant families

- Majority of the parents are illiterate / semi-illiterate, who are not able to provide guidance for their children in their studies.
- Living in a small dwelling, there is no space left for the children to study at home.
- Few job opportunities for women and husbands as sole breadwinners makes it difficult to have ends met.
- Due to limited knowledge and few resources, it is extremely difficult for them to assimilate into city life.



Parent-child activities



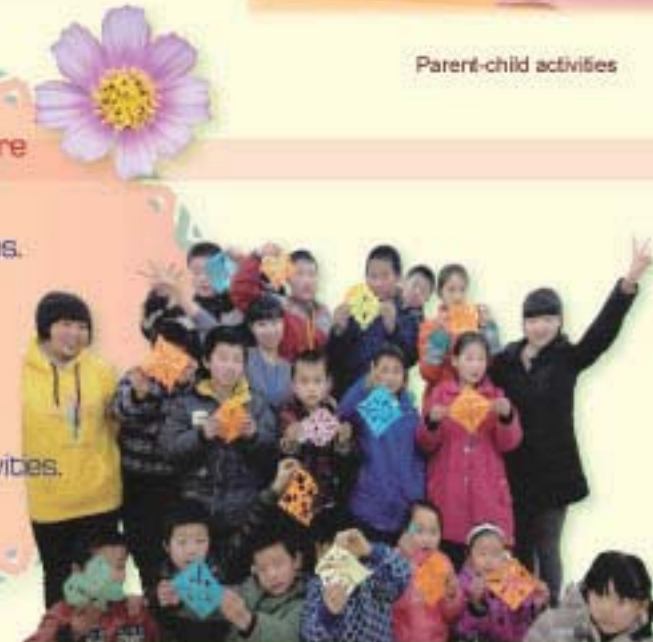
Doing homework



Children's art exhibition

Services offered by Shaanxi Xiaoci Social Work Development Centre
(Xiao-ci implies love between parents and children)

- Home visits and guidance for special needy cases.
- Parenting classes for the family.
- Child care and tutorial guidance.
- Classes/activities of interest to children.
- Activities to promote parent-child relationships.
- Summer/winter camps, outings, and festive activities.



Winter camp

Voice from Afar

Item no : 4801

Dear brothers & sisters of Caritas-HK:

I am a licensed medical doctor in Zhangguzhai village, Xingtai, Hebei. I, together with 2 sisters, have served this community since 2003. Before we started, there was no clinical service in this community. The parish church provided us with a 40 m² room, and with 2,000 RMB from our congregation to stock up on a supply of medicine enabling us to start our practice. In all these years, this room has been our office, where we eat, rest and pray.

Zhangguzhai is a poor community of about 1,800 villagers. The income level is extremely low and the economic situation is dire. We must charge low fees - 5 yuan per person on average - for our services so the villagers can afford them. For the very poor, we have to serve them free of charge. Since ours is the only clinic in the community, we have on average 70 to 80 patients visiting us every day. Everything: physical examinations, dispensing of medicine, inoculations ... all have to be carried out within the confined space of this room. There is not even a partition for patients to change, and a definite shortage of beds to administer intravenous injections. It is hot in summer and cold in winter.

Last year we had a lucky break. To help us continue our service, the village provided the land and built a 120 m² house for us. This enables us to separate our living and working quarters, leading to better environment and service for the patients. However, we still have to provide for the final touches: tiles for the floors, painting of the walls, the ceiling, examination room, bedroom, kitchen, toilet, installation of secured windows and doors, some basic equipment, and a second-hand minivan to pick up medicine in the city. The total cost comes up to 180,000 yuan.

This is an astronomical sum for us. Exhausting all possible resources, our congregation managed to raise only 22,000 yuan. With the 8,000 yuan contributed by the villagers, we are still short by 150,750 yuan (Editor remarks: About HK\$181,626). Our parish priest suggested we write to you. We beg for your help so we in turn can help the villagers who need our services.



A consulting room with simple setup



Doctor's bedroom



A small kitchen built outside the clinic

	Item	Amt. (¥)
1	Roofs & ceiling	17,000
2	Wall tiles, plastering & paint	26,500
3	Floor leveling	29,700
4	Doors & windows	9,750
5	Desks, cabinets, sofas & chairs	8,200
6	Beds & hang cabinets	3,600
7	Chairs for intravenous injections	10,500
8	Medicine cabinets	4,500
9	Closed-circuit monitoring system	8,000
10	Air-conditioning system	18,000
11	Fans, boilers & lighting	10,000
12	2 nd hand van	30,000
13	Labour fees	5,000
	Total	180,750

Sr. Zhang
Nov 1, 2015

Looking forward
to your response

For enquiry, please call on 35892259 or 35892500, or leave your message at 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.