



From the Editor

With your positive response to our last issue's plea for help, Wuguanfang Kindergarten will soon become the proud owner of a school minivan. On behalf of the teachers, students and their parents, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your kind support.

In this issue we will share with you, as usual, a few of our success stories and introduce to you the needs of a home for the elderly in Inner-Mongolia.

Care for Elderly & Kids to Help Build a Harmonious Society in Tianjin

The Mainland's aging population is growing quickly. To address this demographic shift, the government has been encouraging young families to care for their aging parents at home. However, the lack of support measures poses a challenge on how to make this work. Another challenge at the other end of the age spectrum is the pressure parents have from the perceived 'need' to help their children to be competitive so that they will not lose out right from the 'starting' block. This pressure in turn is felt by the children resulting in their loss of interest in reading and studying. To address these challenges, the Tianjin Diocese' Social Services Center, with help from Caritas-HK, started a series of programmes for the elderly and children in several communities in the city.



Public talk on health issues for elderly



Visiting the elderly

Volunteers have been organized to visit the elderly, and to hold talks for them on topics related to health and physical exercise. They also conduct psychological and mental health talks and introduce techniques to workers serving the elderly. Six 'Loving and Caring Supermarkets' have been set up as platforms for volunteers to collect materials from corporate and individual donors, and to deliver them to elderly in need. More than 300 households have benefited from the programme.



Activities to introduce the kids to reading

As for the children, the programme's main objective is to stimulate their interest in reading. With cooperation from schools, reading clubs have been formed where children regularly acting out plays that promote reading habits. Counselling for children is also provided. More than 200 children have taken part in these activities.

The success of this programme pioneered by the Tianjin Diocese' Social Service Center attracted the attention of the media and was reported to the public. The programme is now well recognized by the government and business enterprises that routinely donate to the cause.

A Story of 'Returning Love for Love' from a Group of University Graduates in Fujian

Aixinzija (Home of Loving Heart) is an orphanage in Fujian Province that takes in abandoned handicapped children. It also helps to find sponsors for young people from poor families to continue their studies. To date, as a result, 11 young people have completed their university education. They have all endeavored, within their abilities, to fulfill their agreement to support other needy young people who face similar difficulties. The agreement is that when they start working after graduation they should make a donation (1,000 RMB) each year for the same number of years they have been sponsored to help a needy young student, as a way to return the love they received. Below is a report from Aixinzija:

Responsible Person of Caritas, greetings!

To date, we have 11 beneficiaries who, because of help from Caritas, have graduated from universities. They are: Lin Zhen, Lu Miao-dan, Lin Xiao-feng, Wang Li, Wang Lei, Miu Jie, Xu Yao, Wu He-song, Wu Xiao-qin, Zheng Yi-qian, Han Maio-kun. They have all contributed in their own ways to the programme they have benefited from. For example, Lin Zhen is now studying in a graduate programme with support from Wang Li and Wang Lei - all three of them were recipients of Caritas' help towards obtaining their undergraduate degrees.

Lu Miao-dan, Lin Xiao-feng served for 3 years at Aixinzija without salaries after graduating from university - for 3 years they were paid only a monthly stipend to cover expenses. They were not paid a salary until the 4th year of their service.

Xu Yao is working, but the job is of a provisional nature and the pay is not sufficient to fully support herself. So she still lives in Aixinzija and helps out as a volunteer on her days off. Wu He-song, Zheng Yi-qian, Han Miao-kun all found jobs after graduation and they have been fulfilling their commitment of each contributing 1,000 RMB a year to Aixinzija to help four of our children in their primary studies. That left us with Miu Jie, who unfortunately has not found a steady job since graduation. In addition his family is in a rather difficult financial situation. Because of that we agreed that he could postpone his commitment for the time being.

On behalf of the graduates who benefited from the programme, we want to thank all our benefactors for their help. Please kindly advise us if we need to improve on our reporting or on the execution of commitments made by those who benefited from the programme.

Respectfully yours,
Aixinzija
12 July 2016

A Thank You Letter from a Special Child

Zhang Neng-qi is a 13 year old from Fujian Province who was born with cerebral palsy. Even though he was not able to control the movement of his limbs, he was a smart kid, and he liked studying. When he was little his parents searched far and wide looking for a hospital that could cure his disease. Despite costing his parents all their savings in this pursuit, he still wasn't able to become self-sufficient. That started to change when they found the Bo-ai Children's Convalescence Home in Xuchang, Henan Province. There the caring instructors administered programmes and exercise routines for him that helped him to attain self-sufficiency, and to improve his study. His father died four years ago, and that's when we found him. Below is a thank you letter he penned himself:

Dear Caritas Hong Kong, greetings!

I am Zhang Nengqi. I am 13 years old and my home is in Fujian Province. I have been living in Xuchang Bo'ai Children's Convalescence Home for seven years now. When I first got here, I couldn't do anything on my own. After a year's training, I began to walk, to dress and feed myself, and I began Grade One. During the most critical phase of my treatment, my father passed away. My family could no longer afford the cost for my treatment. It was at this critical juncture the grandpas, grandmas, uncles and aunts of Caritas extended to me their helping hands. I am in 4th grade now, and I can walk very well. I am very grateful to you, and I am grateful to all my caring teachers.

Salute!

Zhang Nengqi
3 June 2016

感谢信
尊敬的香港朋友您好，
我叫张能奇，家在福建，今年13岁了。
我在许昌博爱儿童康复园康复了7年。我来的时候什么都不会，经过一年的康复训练，
我会走路，自己穿衣服，自己吃饭。我开始学一年级了。在我学习和康复最关键的时候，
爸爸因病去世了。当家里没法供我的时候，
明爱的爷爷奶奶叔叔阿姨伸援手，
我今年已经上四年级了。在走得很好了。我很感谢你们。
感谢所有老师对我的关心。



Call from Afar

Item no : 5001

Dear Responsible Person of Caritas Hong Kong, greetings!

I am the director of Ren-ai Old Folks Home in Erenhot, a small town in Inner-Mongolia. We have been caring for the homeless elderly folks for the past 20 years or more. We have 17 disabled elderly persons under our care now.



The Renai elderly home

We have an electric water heater, but the electricity rate is very high. At 1 RMB for each kilowatt-hour, we only use it for bath water for the old folks. We have a washing machine - it was an old unit donated by a parishioner and it often malfunctions. Our only means of transportation is a small electric powered tricycle, originally meant for hauling small items. We use it to take the old folks to the hospital for treatment. There is nothing to lean on during the ride; it is cold in winter, when it snows or when it gets windy. It is very hard for the old folks.



Elderly doing exercise in the morning

We would like to improve on our service. We hope to be able to purchase some of these needed essentials. But when even our sustenance depends upon donations, this remains our dream. Our parish priest suggested we appeal to your organization for help. We hope our prayers will be answered.

	Item	RMB
1	Computer x1	5,200
2	Printer x1	3,600
3	Washing machine x 2	6,600
4	Solar power water heater x 1	3,800
5	Electric power vehicle x 1	35,000
	Total: (about HK\$63,765)	54,200

With respect,
Sister Chen
12 May 2016



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.