



## From the Editor

We received many positive responses to our last issue's appeal for the Andao Elderly Home in Shanxi province. On their behalf we thank you whole heartedly for your generosity. We will continue to share a few success stories in this issue, and introduce the needs of a special school in a Shaanxi village. We pray for your kind support.

## A Fun Place for Children of Beijing's Migrant Workers



Let's sing together

Many children of migrant workers live in the suburbs of Beijing and attend schools that are poorly equipped. There is little after class support and no proper guidance for them. There is no one there to help them with problems they face in their studies. As a result, they lack self-confidence; they don't have the social skills to interact with others and do poorly in their studies. Some foreign businessmen working in Beijing have taken note of this, and decided to do something about it. They set up a centre for these children where they can participate in recreational activities and play games.

The centre was aptly named 'Five Loaves and Two Fish'. A group of volunteers, many who are foreigners, are actively involved with the centre. They provide tutoring classes and organize extracurricular activities for the children.



Teachers and their students



English class for children



English class for mothers

The children have started to show significant improvement in their studies. Being exposed to foreign volunteers, the children gain confidence interacting with strangers. Furthermore, this exposure helps to enhance the children's command of English. As they become more self-confident, the children also become livelier.



Visitors from Hong Kong and the children at the centre

Many of the children's mothers were domestic helpers for foreign business people, and English classes were conducted for them to make their work easier. In addition, the centre is planning to expand their service to the elderly next year by providing them with recreational facilities to create a community filled with warmth.



Caritas-HK funds many students on the Mainland every year. The cost to support each student per year is: primary student HK\$650; junior middle school student HK\$850; senior middle school student HK\$2,500; between HK\$4,000 to HK\$7,000 for a student who attends a tertiary institution, depending on the needs of the individual applicant. Because of your support, these students will be able to continue their studies and open up whole new lives. Below are two letters of thanksgiving:

To my dear benefactors of Caritas-HK,

Wishing you all well! I am a 2nd year student in a higher vocational and technical school, studying midwifery. Even though I was born in a poor family in a remote mountainous region, I always had high expectations for myself, and my parents taught me that if I don't want to live a life toiling in the field like them I must seek opportunities in the outside world; and I must study hard. No matter how difficult it was, they worked very hard to make enough money so I didn't have to stop studying to help the family. Instead, they encouraged me to study hard. Unfortunately I didn't do well enough to be admitted into regular senior middle-school, and I had to settle for the vocational and technical track of education. Still my parents continued to encourage me to study hard. Then my father developed problems with his hips, which made it difficult for him to work, still he insisted on working long hours every day to make ends meet. I must thank my parents, for they have sacrificed so much for me! I must also thank all you kind hearted people for your help when I most needed it.

So that I will not fail your expectations of me, I will work step by step to realize my dreams. I will not yield to difficult challenges; I will continue to set a high standard for myself; I will live frugally; I will work hard to acquire the skills needed for my special field of midwifery. My work as a midwife is to bring new lives to the world and I must become a person who is always positive and constantly on the lookout for improvement.

Clouds bring out the immensity of the sky. Waves highlight the power and energy of the ocean. Your support raises me to be my best. I will become more mature, and I will be like you - a person with a kind heart, a person to spread warmth. I very, very gratefully thank you for your support!

Tian Ao-II  
21 July 2017

Vocational  
High School  
2nd year

Subject:  
Midwifery

Thank you so very much!

Dear Caritas-HK,

Greetings to you all! I graduated from Hebei Normal University in July, 2016, majoring in Chinese Language and Literature. It was because of your help that I was able to complete my studies. I want to thank all of you, my benefactors, for your kindness!

After I graduated from senior middle-school, I was so full of joy and I eagerly looked forward to studying in university. But the exorbitantly high tuition for university, plus the fact that my parents were not financially well off put a damper to my enthusiasm. While my parents borrowed from friends and relatives for the tuition fund, I worked odd jobs to make money to contribute. But the situation didn't look good; my parents were poor peasants; my younger brother was still in junior middle-school; and my mother had fallen ill. Then Sr. Lin came to my assistance. She had heard about the dire situation I was in, and decided to help me to continue with my education. This was the best that I could have hoped for. I was filled with emotion and gratitude, when Sister Lin handed me the money for tuition. I saw in her eyes loving care and expectation. I accepted the money with both hands, and resolved that I would study hard; I will be successful and I will pay back my benefactors.

Throughout my four years in university, I was fully aware that this opportunity had not come easily. I studied diligently and worked hard to accomplish a high standard. I worked part-time jobs to supplement my financial needs. I won the opportunity to gain practical experience by teaching in school classes while pursuing my university degree, and won an award in 'Excellence in Practical Experience Programme'.

With yours and Sr. Lin's help, I graduated in 2016. I now teach in a middle-school in Shijiazhuang. I will forever remember the help from Caritas-HK and from Sr. Lin. Only because of your help I am what I am today. I will do my best to help other needy children in future as a way of repaying Caritas-HK and Sr. Lin. I thank you for teaching me so much!

Nan Ding-ding  
5 May 2017

Fresh  
Graduate

Career:  
Secondary  
School  
Teacher

Repaying  
Society  
With  
One's  
Acquired  
Skills



# Call from Afar ...

Item no : 5401

Dear Responsible person of Caritas-HK,

Greetings! Xinyue Centre is situated in a rural village in Shaanxi province, and is the only school for special needs children at village level run by civilians. This school was established and managed in 2006 by us - Sisters of Franciscan Mission. The school serves children with special needs from poor families in the villages.



The children participate in day-trips during weekend

Many of these children are from broken homes and are usually cared for by their grandparents. These children have never received any prior rehabilitation treatment or training, but after being admitted and treated in the center, they showed significant improvement. Seeing the smiles reappear on their parents' faces is our biggest reward.

Individual training session

We used to have 52 students, but it dropped to 36 last year because some parents could not afford the tuition fees. It costs RMB 1,400 to care for each student, which includes food, boarding, and transportation. This is less than half that of a similar school run in the cities. Even though each student is only charged RMB 1,000 per month, it is still a heavy burden for many of the families. As a result, some villagers withdrew their children from our school and left them to idle in their homes. We have witnessed significant improvements in these 16 children enrolled in the program, now we see all has come to naught. As educators, we deeply feel the pain, and a sense of helplessness. [Editor's remarks: The education allowances per year for 16 students are RMB 16,000 (HK\$ 19,520).]

We now appeal to Caritas-HK for help. Please help these children with their tuition fees so that they can continue their education and grow up to become useful members in the society.



Balance training



Girls' bedroom



Looking forward to  
your response

Sr. Tong  
August, 2017

A student visitor from a primary school helps a child draw picture

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.