



Mainland Service Desk, Caritas-Hong Kong

From the Editor

Our last issue brought out many positive responses from you. On behalf of the old folks and staff of Mount De-lai Home for the Aged, we sincerely thank you for your generosity. We continue to share with you, in this issue, results of similar projects in various provinces on the Mainland that you have supported, and to appeal for your help with the needs of a hospital in Shanxi province. We pray for your support.



Van Delivery Service to Help Needy Old Folks

We reported in our 51st issue the work of 'Vincent Home of Universal Love and Care' in Xingtai, Hebei province. We reported on how the volunteers of this grass root organization make regular visits to needy old folks in over 200 villages scattered in the mountainous regions of this part of the province. They desperately needed a van that could carry the volunteers, and more importantly the materials they deliver, to the needy.



Many Thanks!

We appealed for your help on their behalf. Even though we managed to raise only half the amount needed to acquire such a vehicle, that was enough to encourage them to reach out to other donors who helped make up the difference. With the acquisition of such a vehicle they now can carry out their services to the elderly in a much more timely manner. Below is an excerpt from their 'Thank You' letter :

In May of 2017, we finally completed the purchase of a vehicle. It has now been put to good use: criss-crossing the countryside, providing services to some 200 villages scattered across about 10 counties, many of them in the mountains. Volunteers bring them food, clothing and other necessities. They visit them, help them with personal hygiene

This van is indeed a valuable gift to the poor and a guardian angel for the volunteers. It not only improves the effectiveness of our work significantly, it also boosts the morale of our volunteers. Whereas in the past we either had to rent or borrow vehicles which were usually substandard and inadequate for carrying both passengers and materials - often time they had poor shock absorbers, causing motion sicknesses for the volunteers. The new vehicle has more power, is more stable, safe, and more comfortable to ride. It provides our volunteer a stronger sense of belonging, pride, and the satisfaction that we are changing for the better, and that we are able to serve more people.

We will show our gratitude to Caritas-HK's support through our continuous hard work to bring God the Father's love to the poor and the disabled, and to warm their hearts

From Withdrawal to Pulling Oneself Together and Helping Others

It was 10 years ago in Mindong, Fujian province where Wu Pin-hua, a 17-year-old in a wheel-chair, lived in a gloomy, cramped wooden hut with her mother, grand-parents and a mentally handicapped elder sister. Pin-hua broke her legs in an accident and the lack of post-surgery physiological treatment resulted in her losing the ability to walk. Relying on a wheel chair, or shuffling a few steps with the aid of a 'walker' was all she could manage. Because of this immobility, she quit school after finishing primary 4. All she could do was to stay home and watch television all day which made her feel dejected. Her mother was the only bread winner in the family of 5. She did not know what to do to help Pin-hua get out of her quandary.

When Caritas-HK learned of Pin-hua's plight, she was taken to a local hospital with the help of a volunteer for further assessment, which confirmed that with proper treatment she could regain much of her mobility. With help from several sources, arrangement was made for her and her mother to accompany her, for a month long treatment in the hospital. In addition, Pin-hua was taught how to continue doing rehab exercise at home after release from the hospital. Caritas-HK took care of the cost for the whole treatment, as well as the cost for food, accommodation, transportation to and from the hospital.

A month of treatment in the hospital, and the follow-up treatment at home made a difference. A year later, Pin-hua was able to walk again using only a simple crutch. She then resumed her study in private tutoring in a local orphanage.

Fast forward to 8 years later - when Caritas-HK's personnel visited the orphanage, we saw that Pin-hua was a totally different person. She is now spirited and full of confidence. While still needing a crutch to move about, she was able to assist other handicapped children, even to help them with their therapeutic exercises. She has become a full-time staff, and is enjoying her work and life in the orphanage immensely. It is so heartening to witness the growth and change in Pin-hua.



Pin-hua spongefeeding a disabled kid



A solar power heater installed at the rooftop

Improving Facilities to Provide a Sweet Home for the Aged

In the 50th issue of this bulletin, we reported on the needs of 'Ren-ai Home for the Aged' in Inner-Mongolia. Your generous support and donation provided us the needed funds to purchase the necessary equipment for the home. Below is an excerpt from their 'Thank You' letter:

- With the printer, we can now keep a good record of the old folks in our care. It is no longer necessary to travel over 3 kilometers to town to have them printed, saving a lot of time and effort.



- The tricycle we used to have for transportation was a real challenge for the old folks. It is such a blessing now that we have this electric car. Whenever we are riding on the car, we can't help saying "Thank you, Thank you!"

- Our home is located in an industrial zone where we had to pay a higher rate for electricity. Now, with the solar power heater we can save more than 200 RMB a month.

- With the old-folks allowance, the elderly can now each enjoy one egg a day. We can add more vegetables and fruits to their diet on a weekly basis. As a result, they become healthier, with fewer illnesses.



- The washing machine saves us a lot of time and effort, leaving us time to do other chores.



Elderly doing exercise in the morning



- Because our home did not charge the helpless old folks under our care, we could not afford much of the necessary equipment to do an adequate job. We are so fortunate to have Caritas-HK's help, and are so grateful for your timely assistance, which gave us a ray of hope at our time of need. We'll work doubly hard for God's blessings.

Call from Afar ◻◻◻

Item no : 5601

Dear Responsible Person of Caritas-HK,

The Catholic Huozhou Tong-de Hospital in Shanxi province is a non-profit medical establishment founded by our congregation. The hospital includes many specialties: Internal medicine; surgical unit; traditional Chinese medicine; ophthalmology; pediatrics; hospice. We have 90 beds and a staff of 118. We are well known for: providing good services with low cost; we don't charge a registration fee; and we do not accept 'red packets'.

Our hospital was established in 2008. The building is five stories tall, yet we did not have sufficient funds to pay for the provision of an elevator. For the nine years we have been in operation, it has been a problem for our patients. Often family members have to carry patients up and down the stairway, which in itself is a safety issue, not to mention the inconvenience caused to the staff members. It is now a matter of urgency for us to install an elevator. But the cost for the installation is RMB 190,000 (about HK\$237,500), a sum we can hardly afford.

Since our hospital is still in its infant stage, and the little revenue we generate is barely enough to maintain the status quo, and to support other social missions. For example, our hospital ophthalmology section was designated by the medical authority as a centre for 'cataract treatment'. Each year between 300 to 400 cataract patients come to us for treatment. It costs RMB 2,468 for each operation, of which the government pays 68%, with the balance paid by the patient. Since most of the patients are single elderly and cannot afford to pay, we often have to bear the cost ourselves. We operated on about 2,000 patients in the past 9 years, with no complications in any of them. But the cost we had to absorb amounted to tens of thousands RMB.

To address the 'safety' issue, and to serve our patients better, we desperately need to install an elevator. With encouragement from local priests, we now write to you for assistance. We pray and hope you will look favorably on our request.

Sister Zhang
1 December 2017



Helping a patient walk down stairs



Elderly having a difficult time climbing the stairs



Manual handling of patient increases the risk of injuries



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.