



From the Editor

Your generous responses to our last issue's appeal for help made it possible for Tong-de Hospital in Huozhou, Shanxi Province to install an elevator, so desperately needed, to fix the many problems they faced without it. We, and the staff of Tong-de Hospital want to thank you wholeheartedly for your kind and generous support. In this issue, we will share with you a few success stories, and introduce you to the needs of a handicapped youth in Hebei Province.



Donated Equipment Helps Improve Medical Service in Village

In March 2016, we reported on the plight of the **Guzhai village clinic** in **Xingtai, Hebei province**. For over a decade the doctor had to operate in a primitive environment, and had to make do with crude medical tools. With your generous donations, they were able to make important and badly needed improvements to the clinic. Below is a summary of their report:

Guzhai village clinic



Many Thanks!

To refurbish the clinic we installed: new doors and windows; new ceilings; burglar alarm; new roofing; intravenous drip tracks; heating; hardening of the floors; bricks for the walls; electrical lighting. Other things we added are: beds; sofas; bedside tables; air-conditioning; desks; medical cupboards; water heater; a surveillance system; fans; kitchen table and wares; a computer; and a second hand vehicle.

Cross infection measures between wards now meet government regulations. The result is a comfortable, safe, and bright environment for the patients. The doctor's working and rest areas are now separate so the doctor can have some privacy.

All these improvements are well recognized by the villagers. They have more confidence in our clinic, so more people come to us for treatment. We want to thank you all for your kind support.



Medical drug cupboards



New ceilings



Doctor's bedroom



Second hand vehicle



Capacity Building for Me & You

One of the missions of the Mainland Service Desk is to help in human development. We achieve this through scholarships, or by providing frontline workers opportunities to attend seminars, workshops, and short-term studies.

Sr. Lin has worked for years to help children from poor families to improve their studies. She took part in several management courses we provided since 2013. In 2015, she decided to make use of what she had learned and started an 'education centre' in her home province. She shares this story with you:

Sr. Lin and the parents participating in a training course



● It's been a long journey from first learning about the dire situation of people in mountainous regions until I began to help them the best I could. Equally arduous has been the task of developing from a 'one person show' to what is now a team effort. Through it all, I have accumulated much experience, but only because of the grace of God, help from Caritas-HK, and the many benefactors along the way.

● Two years ago, we started an 'education centre' and through it: we draw people's attention to the plight of the underprivileged; we teach skills and impart knowledge to help people mired in poverty; we teach parents how to communicate with their children; we teach children how to develop concentration and memorizing skills - right now we are working with a special needs school and a kindergarten to help the children develop such skills. Similarly, workshops and talks are regularly held for parents.

● The centre has also utilized electronic platforms and organized blogs: to discuss and disseminate useful information; answering questions from parents and children; helping students with their homework.

● I am always reminded that, 'We should be like a candle, to kindle, to emanate heat and light; we should shine, and we should provide warmth'. Caritas-HK's candle has shown me the way.

● I want to thank you and Caritas for your trust, caring, and support. We will work doubly hard in the ensuing days to serve more people, to pay back to the society.



Students attending a class

Renovated Kindergarten - Kids' Enjoyable Garden



The design of the kindergarten within and without



Learning in a spacy classroom



Large toys to provide exercise and fun



Toy-shelf



In our March 2017 issue, we reported the needs of the newly built Little Angels Kindergarten in Yi county, Hebei province. With your generous response we were able to acquire the equipment they requested. Below is a summary of their report:

● The addition of colour printer, video recorder and notebook computers greatly increases teaching efficiency. Use of television, projector, electronic whiteboard helps the children with their learning.

● Larger slides, toys with tunnels provide good exercise and fun for the children; gym play mattresses enhance safety for the children; the installation of 'shelf for toys' helps the children learn how to sort them and to care for them, a skill that can be applied to other situations.

● Large electronic cooking pots, double door steamer, exhaust fans are all valuable and necessary items for the kitchen; an automatic hot water dispenser provides easy access to drinking water for the children, and it is safe.

● We are now the best-equipped and most beautiful kindergarten in the area. Your contributions have helped raise the quality of our teaching. The children are happier and eager to learn and more parents want to enroll their children in our kindergarten.

Call from Afar

Item no : 5701

Dear Responsible Person of Caritas-HK,

I am Tian Qing-qing, now 28 years old. I was seriously burnt when I was barely 3 years old, and my parents abandoned me. The Sisters from Lining Home took me in making it possible for me to have 17 surgeries. Still, there are lots of scars on my body, and my right hand is badly deformed. When I started school, other students would call me names such as 'chicken claws', which made me very sad. After I finished junior secondary school, I took up studies in 'child education', which helped me change my character. I became more open, livelier, and I won many awards in drawing, dancing, and recital competitions. After I finished my studies, I started to work in the Lining Rehabilitation Centre to teach children who suffer from cerebral palsy. The children and their parents liked me a lot, and so did the Sisters working in the centre, who also encouraged and supported me to study social work at a higher vocational college.

I then married a village doctor. He had a limb amputated because of an automobile accident when he was 17. Now he has an artificial limb on one leg. My husband is running a small clinic in a small village, so he does not have many patients. His average monthly income is about 2,000 yuan. We have two sons who are attending kindergarten. The monthly tuition fees are about 900 yuan. There is nothing left after paying for food. My husband's parents have been supporting us financially since we got married, and help look after our children even as they are still working to make ends meet. Our parents are getting older, the children have to go to school, and we are still not self-sufficient, so we are desperate!

I really want to work. I submitted many applications to kindergartens and they all showed interest, until the interview when they saw my condition. They were afraid the children might get scared and they turned me down.

I am thinking of running a small business of my own. Ours is only a village of 3,000 inhabitants so there are no strict city rules. I can sell kebabs, ice cream, and other snacks on a mobile wagon. There is little overhead in this sort of business. The start-up cost is about RMB12,300 (Editorial: about HK\$15,185). It would cost about 500 yuan a month for the ingredients. If every things works out I should be able to make about 150 yuan a day, peddling near primary and secondary schools. We can then become self-sufficient and will not have to depend on the parents and Sisters. We will be so grateful! The Sisters encouraged me to write to you for help, and I pray for your answer.



Qing-qing had her wounds treated in the hospital



Qing-qing and her 2 sons

Tian Qing-qing,
10 May 2018

	Item (1 unit for each)	Price (¥)
1	Mobile wagon	5,000
2	Ice cream maker	4,000
3	Blender for soy milk/ fruit juice	1,000
4	Small snack machine	1,500
5	Kebab grill	400
6	Sealing machine	400
	Total	12,300

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.