



From the Editor

Our last issue's call for help received inquiries and donations, for which we are thankful. On behalf of Qing-qing, we'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity. In this issue, we'll continue to share with you a few programmes that have been completed, and we'll introduce the needs of an old folks home in Hebei Province. We pray for your continuing support.



New Equipment Enhances Children's Ability to Learn

Since its opening in 2009 in Zhaixi, Hebei Province, the **Ming-xing (Bright Star) Kindergarten** has established a good reputation because of its well qualified and dedicated teaching staff. The kindergarten has more than 200 children in its care. Previously there was a serious shortage of equipment and resources to help provide a better teaching environment: only one television set shared by all the seven classes; no larger size toys for the children to play with; and a lack of air-conditioning in the classrooms which made bearing the extreme temperatures difficult for the children in both summer and winter.



Use of TV for teaching

When we brought this to your attention in our 42nd issue, your kind responses made it possible to acquire many of the necessary resources for the premises. Attached is an excerpt of a 'thank you' letter from a sister in the school:



Many Thanks!

With the donation we received, we purchased the toys and teaching equipment as listed in our application for funds. This brought a lot of excitement and joy to the children, and the teachers. It helped resolve the difficulties they previously encountered.

Children showing their drawings at the playground



We can now store children songs, animations and other educational materials in flash memory cards and show them to the children on television sets. Large size toys such as slides, mushroom shaped houses... bring much fun and joy to the children. These larger size toys also allow them to do exercises for muscle and body development, conditioning for a child's healthy growth. Air-conditioners provide the children a comfortable environment in both summer and winter. The parents are extremely pleased. These additions to our facilities also make us well prepared for the expansion of our service.

Thank you so much for your help. It's been a wonderful gift for us, and for the children! We will do our utmost for the disadvantaged children amongst us to contribute to their happy and healthy growth.



Use of big toys to help children do exercise



Donated Equipment Provides Warmth and Comfort for Old Folks Home



Anfu Home for the Aged in Wangjiacun, Baotau, Inner-Mongolia is the only old folks home in the village, accommodating about 70 old folks. It was established in 2005 by the local sisters. The charge is substantially lower than those charged by similar establishments in the city, even free for about 30 individual suffering from illness or with no means of support. With few resources at its disposal, the home could not afford much-needed equipment to do a proper job. The home was constructed with poor quality material and as a result, it was not able to provide proper protection from the elements; for example, in winter, when the temperature dropped to minus 30–40 °C. The fact that it was poorly equipped and furnished added to the work load of the 20 sisters, and was a cause for many work-related injuries.

The sisters wrote to Caritas-HK for help in 2014. With a donation from Hong Kong benefactors and funds raised in the Mainland by the sisters, many improvements have been made to the premise in the last couple of years, which helped upgrade the residents' quality of life.



Adding Insulation to the walls



Insulation installation completed

New facilities

Results



1. Sprinkler system for fire prevention
2. Installation of insulation
3. All windows double-paned
4. Other new facilities:
 - CCTV monitoring system
 - Bells for emergency calls
 - Bathing bed & large wash machine
 - Cooking utensils & tools for cleaning
 - A second-hand vehicle

* Now fewer blankets are needed during winter ! *



The seniors are going out for a trip

1. Risk of fire reduced
2. Sand kept out during sandstorms
3. House kept warm during winter
4. Hot water baths for bedridden patients
5. Workplace safety improved
6. Workload reduced & staff work 6 days a week
7. More time for sisters to pray and study for improvement



CCTV Monitoring



Bathing bed and chair



Tools for housekeeping and cleaning



Fire alarm system

Resident's Comments

Daughter of a Resident

Uncle Zhang :

Uncle Hao :

Mrs Han :

- I'm 86 years old. The sisters are full of love and patience. They treat us like family. The whole environment here is wonderful; the vegetables are grown by the sisters themselves so we don't have to worry about eating them; the hygiene here is excellent because the sisters take good care of the whole place. I am particularly pleased because this place is now kept warm - I don't even need to use my cotton quilt any more.

- This is my 9th year in the home. With the newly added facilities, it's just like a brand-new place! It is such a wonderful place, filled with love, warmth, and kindness. The sisters can now bring our medicines right to our beds much sooner. I couldn't have received more from my own children. I won't be tired of this place, not even if I were to stay here for 100 years.

- My mother came to the home in 2006. She has a problem with swallowing food, and it used to take the sisters more than an hour to feed her each meal, standing up. My mother has been bedridden for 10 years, and yet she's never suffered from any bedsores. We as her children could not have done better if she had stayed at home. I'm so touched by the good work of the sisters! With the addition of the fire alarm and sprinkler system, bells for emergency calls, my mind is at ease all the more.



Emergency call system installed in the residents' rooms



Call from Afar ...

Item no : 5801

Dear Responsible Person of Caritas-HK,

Blessings! The Lourdes Home for the Aged in the city of HeJian, Hebei province, was established in 1997. Officially registered in 2013, the home has a staff of 23. Our main mission is to take in and care for old folks who have nobody to depend on. Currently, there are 83 residents. 38 of them are without families; 12 of them are extremely poor; 2 of them are physically handicapped; only 31 residents can afford to pay some fees. And for many years we depended on the generosity of donors who contributed to our cause.

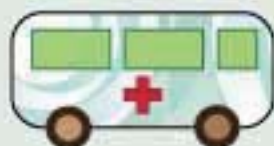


The home was initially in a small single-storey building. With help from many generous donors, we moved into a three-storey building last year, but in a remote location far away from the city of HeJian - 50 kilometers away. Transportation is a big problem. In previous years, many of our old folks died when they were struck by sudden sicknesses and we were not able to take them to a hospital in time for treatment. We were heart broken and felt totally helpless when looking at their desperate eyes to witness their departing.



We are doing our best to raise funds to purchase an emergency van. Such a vehicle would cost RMB 180,000. Since 70% of the old folks in our care do not pay for their stay in the home, we have a very limited source of income, and we simply cannot afford the purchase of such a vehicle without help. With much effort, we have managed to raised only RMB 80,000.

Furthermore, 50 of the old folks in the home are not capable of taking care of themselves. But they need to have baths every day during the summer. Bathing old people is one of the most accident-prone tasks, but the risk can be significantly reduced by using a 'bathing bed'. We need two such beds for the number of old people we have in the home. The total cost for the aforementioned facilities is about RMB 110,000 (HK\$ 129,412). We pray you would grant us our request.



Sister Lou
May 2018

Item	Amount (¥)
1 Emergency van x 1	100,000 *
2 Bed for bathing x 2	10,000
Total	110,000
* Amount required after subtracting self-raised fund	

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.