



From the Editor

We want to thank you whole heartedly on behalf of the old folks at The Lourdes Home for the Aged for your generous response to our plea for help in our last issue. In this issue, we will share details of a couple of programmes that have already been completed, and raise your awareness to the needs of a centre for left-behind children in Guangxi province. We seek your continued support.

Care for Rural Left-Behind Elderly in Hebei

There are many elderly folks in villages around Hengshui, Hebei province who are left behind to fend for themselves despite their old age because their children had to leave to seek employment in the cities. No one is around to offer assistance when they need it; so, they often feel lonely.

To help uplift their spirit, the **Mindao Convalescence and Recreational Centre** devised a programme for the elderly of 10 Hengshui villages, which is comprised of organized activities such as: basic physical examinations, talks on health, gatherings, personal consultation and outings. A typical function benefits between 70 to 100 participants, with the villages themselves paying for the local expenses.



Elderlies attending a health talk



Doing physical exercise

News of this programme has spread and generated much admiration in other villages around Hengshui.

Taking an out trip



It is expected it will spread further to benefit more left-behind elderly folks.

Visiting a local museum



Matching Scheme Inspired Self-Reliant Fundraising



Ren-ai Convalescence Home is in Erliahaote, Inner Mongolia. The sisters there have been providing free food and shelter to elderly in the home and none of the 17 in their care had any money to pay the sisters. To make ends meet the sisters relied solely upon donations from benefactors, inside and outside of the country.

To encourage the sisters to become more proactive in fundraising activities, we have developed a fund matching scheme to provide 'yuan for yuan' the amount raised, up to RMB 30,000.

This challenging fundraising scheme motivated the sisters to quickly form a Fundraising Committee. They came up with a number of fundraising activities reaching out to parishes and various church groups: individuals, getting sponsors for running in Marathons, etc. Eventually they reached the goal of RMB 50,000. With that, plus the matching fund from us, they gathered enough not only to cover one year's operating cost for the home, but can as well afford purchasing rehabilitation equipment for the residents.



Primary school students making dumplings for the residents



A wheelchair donated to the home



Fundraising activities at various places



Rehabilitation Equipment Installed

This was an important experience for the sisters of the Ren-ai Convalescence Home. They now have a Fundraising Committee that is actively engaged in searching for sponsors and in exploring different methods of acquiring financial support. The sisters have become a lot more confident in the home's future development.



Call from Afar ◻◻◻



Item no : 5901

Dear Officers-In-charge,

I am the manager of the 'Service Centre for Left-Behind Children' in Lingjiao Village, Wuzhou, Guangxi province. Many parents in our village are working in cities, leaving their children behind to be cared for by their grandparents, or by relatives. Some of these children, there are about 30 of them in the village, don't get to see their parents for several years at a stretch. This lack of parental love, care, and guidance has created a significant void in their childhood development. They have lost confidence, become rebellious, hopeless, self-pitying loners, and as a result do poorly in their studies. The younger ones spend much time crawling on the floor, or being carried on the backs of their grandparents who are busy with running errands. The dullness expressed in their eyes is heart wrenching.

In 2017, we established the 'Home of Joy and Happiness' with the aim of providing these children a place to be together for companionship, a room for reading, and a place for after class studies with guidance. We organized outings, games, and special interest groups to help bring them out of their sad states. After a year of such endeavours, the children showed significant signs of improvement.



Making crafts with the kids

A four-year old child, Qiao Qiao, would hide or scream whenever she saw a stranger but is now perfectly comfortable with us. This happened only after more than half a year of us paying close attention to her to gain her trust. Most of the children were not interested in doing their class homework but this has now changed. Lin Lin, a boy who turned on the TV immediately after returning from school and spent the rest of the evening watching TV, is now motivated to do his homework and is active in group activities. We have noticed significant improvements in the children's studies, their self-confidence, and their polite manners.

Because of poor financial resources, our centre's operating budget has fallen short, and we need hardware to enhance our services. It would be helpful if we could add the following items for the centre: a desktop computer; a printer; a video projector; children books. We also need funding for winter and summer camps for the children, birthday parties, field trips, and special interest group activities. To achieve these, we need a budget of RMB56,950 (HK\$65,460). Our spiritual director suggested us to appeal to you for help. We are writing this to you and pray that you would grant our request.

Kids participating in outdoor activities

Sr. Shen
October, 2018



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.