



From the Editor

After we published our plea for help in our last briefing, we received many positive responses from you. We thank you for your generosity on behalf of the children of 'Home of Joy and Happiness' in Guangxi. In this issue we share few success stories of past programmes, and introduce you to the needs of a home for old folks in Henan province.



Elevator Improves Services for Old Folks

We reported, in early 2017, the news of the need for an elevator in 'Ando Old Folks Home' (Ando) in Xiu Jiang, Shanxi. You kindly responded with donations to support the programme and as a result an elevator was installed in the winter of 2017. The installation of this elevator made it possible to use the upper floors of the building to accommodate more needy old folks, and to allow flexible movement for the less mobile.



One year after the installation, Ando now has more than 30 old people in the care of the Sisters. Most of them are left-behind old folks. Four of them have been admitted free of charge because they are disabled and do not have family support.

In the home, these elderly are provided with room and board. They are involved in exercises and recreational activities.



Elderly doing exercise in the front courtyard



Volunteers visiting left-behind elderly

Ando also recruit volunteers to pay visits to left-behind elderly in nearby villages. Annual staff-development programmes will also be launched to improve the skills and knowledge of the staff so they can continue to improve the services.

Cupping performed for an elderly to ease pain



The newly installed elevator

Hope Reignited • Fruit be Shared

Dear responsible person,

I want to thank you for your support which has made it possible for me to finish my graduate studies. This is my story. When I began my graduate programme, things went well at first. Then my father suffered a terrible work related accident. Shocked I felt by the fact which also presented a serious challenge for me to continue with my studies. I could have gone to work as my undergraduate programme had prepared me for the job market, but to do so would mean I had to give up my studies. I had no financial means to pay the tuition for the three-year programme I so cherished. Nevertheless I pressed on. I started a campaign to find a way out and experienced many scornful looks in the process. Often time I felt helpless, dejected. I began to doubt whether 'truth, goodness, beauty' really exist in this world.

It was during such a time when Sr. Gong suggested that I should contact you for help. You accepted my request for help, a turning point in my life. I truly felt the existence of warmth and kindness. You not only helped me to accomplish my academic pursuit, but more importantly, it totally changed what I value the most in life. I now believe that I shouldn't just focus on developing my own abilities, but I should do my best to help others. I resolve that from now on, I will take concrete action to influence others in a positive manner. I will do everything within my ability to pass on the compassion shown towards me; to help make it possible for more people in need to have a fair chance for better education; to make more people feel that there is warmth, and that they are loved.

Once again let me express my sincere gratitude for your support. I wish you all the best!

Guan Shou-dong
Nov 2018



Learn to be Grateful • Love in Return

Dear responsible person,

Wishing you all well!

I am a student from Shashi, Hubei whom you have helped. I was fortunate to be admitted to a university last year, and I am on the path to accomplish my dream of attaining a better future for myself.

My father left home when I was a child and to this date he has not turned up. My mother was then left with the responsibility to care for the family. Besides myself, she has to take care of my grandmother who was paralyzed. My mother's health became poor after years of hard work and she is no longer able to take on jobs that required physical strength. The cost of me going to university would have added so much more to her already heavy burden.

Your assistance not only has helped to alleviate the family's financial burden, it also raises my confidence, heightens my awareness towards my duty as a person, and makes me grateful for those who helped me.



I promise I will, with deep gratitude, finish my studies and will become a contributing member in the community. I will do this as a tribute to the kindness you have shown me.

Your loving care has encouraged and strengthened me. I am no longer in fear of vicissitudes in life. Once again I want you to know that I, a student you are helping, will not let you down. I will pass on and return this love you grant me by helping others.

I wish you all good health, and may God be with you always!

Zhou Ling-en
July 2018



Call from Afar ...

Item no : 6001

Respectful responsible person.

I am the principal of the Ren-ai Old Folks Home in Henan. Our home is in a four-storey building built by our congregation in 2007. Currently there are 30 old folks living in the home with a staff of nine.

When we first started, we didn't have any funding. The beds, wardrobes, chairs, etc. were all second-hand donations. After more than 10 years of use, most of them have been repaired time and again and have become broken. Although they have posed risks to home safety, we have to make do with them.



The shabby and worn out furniture

We hope to improve the living conditions for the old folks in our care by reducing the potential for mishaps, and providing them a more comfortable and safe environment. However, this replacement cost of RMB50,250 (HK\$58,490) stops us from proceeding further. We do charge a fee for service; yet since our targets are old folks who do not have family support, the fee is lower than what other institutions in the area charge. In fact, six of the residents only pay half because they are from deprived families. We therefore do not have the resources to purchase and replace the items below.

Our parish priest has encouraged us to reach out for your help. I pray that you will accept our plea for assistance to purchase these items to improve the living condition of the old folks in our home.

Sr. Song
Dec 2018

	Item	Qn	Price	Total (¥)
1	Nursing bed	8	1,200	9,600
2	Single bed	32	600	19,200
3	Wardrobe	30	500	15,000
4	Bedside cabinet	30	140	4,200
5	Table	15	150	2,250
Total				50,250



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.