



From the Editor

We want to thank you on behalf of the old folks and the volunteers who serve them in Baotou, Inner Mongolia - your positive responses to our last issue's appeal for help is most appreciated. In this issue, we will share information about a few programmes your generosity helped accomplish and we will introduce the needs of a community service centre in Shaanxi Province.



New Amenities Provide More Comfort for Seniors

Fourteen years ago, a group of nuns in Fushun, Liaoning, founded a home for the elderly there. 50 old folks live in this home, with 12 of them being cared for free of charge since they do not have families to support them. The home is well recognized in the community for her excellent services. However, due to a shortage of funds, the home was not able to replace the old facilities and was fined for having failed to install fire and other hazard prevention systems to satisfy government regulations. The sisters approached Caritas-HK for help. The benefactors made it possible for them to make the improvements. Below is a summary of the report on the programme from the sisters:



Newly installed CCTV system for security purpose



A smoke detector on the ceiling



The newly installed fire hazard monitoring system was approved by the government, and we are finally spared the heavy burden of paying a fine each year.

The exhaust fan significantly improves the hygiene of our kitchen. With the installation of the purifier, our water is now safe to drink which has helped to improve the health our old folks.



Ionic water generator

The addition of a computer and printer is a great help in boosting our efficiency. From all of us here, and the old folks, we want to thank you for your generous support, and we will always remember you in our prayers.





Home of Dreams © A Comfortable Nest for Left-behind Children

In China, as the younger generation moves from rural to urban areas for work while leaving behind their children, “left-behind children” has become a grave social problem. In 2015, there were more than 1.4 million such children in Shaanxi province alone. 66 of the 192 students in a primary school in Wuguanfang, Xi’an city, for example, were left behind children, deprived of parental love and care. These children performed poorly in school; they lacked self-confidence; they had low self-esteem; and they are seriously in lack of a sense of security. With your kind support, the sisters founded in Wuguanfang, Xi’an the ‘Home of Dreams’, a home to address the needs of such children. Below is a report from the sisters:

Many Thanks!



Your donation made it possible for us to purchase the needed facilities and equipment for the ‘Home of Dreams’ which was officially open in Feb 2017. With all these in place, we were able to expand our service from just a few, to more than 35 children. The children in our programme have shown marked improvements in many areas of their life.

Now the children’s performance improves at school. They become more self-confident. They actively participate in interest groups through which they discover their own talents and strengths. Their parents are very delighted to see the positive changes in their children.

With assistance from tutors, it takes the children less time to finish their assignments. The children are encouraged to read books, and to write reports on what they have read, an exercise that broadens their knowledge and helps them to become more capable of expressing their thoughts.

Activities and games are organized during weekends to help build team spirit and problem solving skills. They are taught how to play an electronic organ, to dance, to do oral recitation... They are given the chance to perform in organized events.



Children participating in various activities organised by the Centre



Left-behind children didn’t have the opportunity to go places - their grandparents, often frail, could not take them out. As a remedy, we organized field trips and basketball tournaments to give them a chance to get outside of their small confine. The children love and are excited about such activities.

We provide them the proper guidance to instill in them a healthy value system. We identify their individual needs and tailor-make a development programme for each of them.



We organize regular video conferences for them to communicate with their parents who are working in remote locales to ensure they maintain a strong parent/child relationship.

The significant improvement in the children is notable. We thank God for his great love and care for us, and we thank Caritas-HK for your support and your trust in our work. We will continue to do our best to improve our service to the children.



A girl talking with her mom online

Call from Afar ...

Item no : 6301



Dear officer-in-charge,

I was assigned to Dongkeng town, Shaanxi 3 years ago. When I first arrived, I saw all sorts of problems and challenges. With a population of 30,000, many young people here had to work in the cities to make a living, leaving behind the elderly folks and young children, both belong to groups that are vulnerable and need special care. There is plenty of hardship around this underdeveloped town that borders a desert in the north-western part of the country. Support for the old and the young were in extremely short supply.

In order to better serve the community, I studied to become a certified social worker. I encouraged my parishioners to visit the elderly on a regular basis, and engaged the children in activities during their school holidays. Lately, with the help of a religious sister who is a registered doctor and a qualified traditional Chinese medicine practitioner, I plan to set up a community centre to provide rehab treatment and recreational activities for the elderly. There will also be a library, and rooms to hold classes and enrichment activities for the children. To this end we have been soliciting and gained support from the local government.

We need 270,000 RMB to modify our existing building, and to purchase some needed equipment for the programme. We conducted a fundraising campaign in the town which raised 20,000 RMB only. We are still short by 250,000 RMB (HKD 277,778). My Superior encouraged me to seek help from you. We hope that you will give consideration to our plea.



Left-behind children in Dongkeng



Fr. Li
Aug, 2019

A volunteer
visiting an
elderly

Item		Amount(¥)
1	Roofing & windows	106,400
2	Flooring & wall paints	33,400
3	Desks & chairs	5,500
4	Lighting & electrical wiring	2,600
5	TV set & audio equipment	6,800
6	Drinking fountain	3,200
7	Rehab equipment	105,102
8	Books and book shelves	7,000
Total		270,002

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, Block A, 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.