



Mainland Service Desk, Caritas-Hong Kong

From the Editor

We have received many kind responses to our last issue's appeal. Your support is most critical to continuing the services we can provide to many organizations that are struggling due to the current pandemic. We are grateful for your kindness on behalf of the suffering girls in Shaanxi whom you have so generously assisted. In this issue, we will share stories of several completed programmes and introduce the needs of a Family Services Center in Gansu. We pray for your continuing support.



Amenities Improve Quality of Life for Elderly

In December 2017, we reported on the needs for amenities at the **Mount Dalai Home for Old Folks** in Hebei Province. The most important and urgent needs were heaters for the winter, and an elevator because their five-storey building was difficult for the old folks to navigate without one. With the help from HK benefactors, the sisters' request was realized. Below is their thank-you letter:



Many Thanks!



Our home is in a five-storey building. The 1st floor is for dining, has a kitchen, and there are also a few guest rooms. The 2nd and 3rd floors have dormitories, dining and activity areas for the old folks. The 4th floor has living quarters for the staff, and the 5th floor is used for a variety of purposes such as storage, an office and function rooms.

Without an elevator, the movement of elderly would have been severely constrained. Serving meals to the old folks was a big challenge for the staff too. Without an elevator, staff efficiency was low and the quality of service suffered. With the help of HK benefactors, the newly installed elevator has greatly enhanced the quality of our service and raised our staff's efficiency.

The Northern climate makes our home very cold in the winter (-18° C) and very hot in the summer (40° C). Quite a few of our elderly folks got sick from the extreme elements. Your help with the installation of the air-conditioning system greatly improves our living conditions. The old folks and the staff in the home now enjoy warmth in the winter and coolness in the summer, with a significant and positive impact on their health.

The improvements increased enrollment from 17 to 25, and we are quite sure there will be more. The government has recognized these changes and is helping us with our application to become a 'two-star' home. We sincerely thank you for your help! We will remember you in our prayers and send blessings!



The elevator enables elderly to move around and join different activities

Home of Joy for Left Behind Children in Guangxi

In December 2018, we reported on the needs of Home of Joy for left behind children in Guangxi province. Your donation made it possible for them to acquire the equipment they needed for their various activities. Below is an excerpt from their thank-you letter:

Striving to Excel Reciprocal Love

Dearest Uncles and Aunties in HK,

Time flies, I am in my senior year of middle school now! I write to express my gratitude to you all.

I was born into a poor family. Both my parents are peasants. To make ends meet, my father had to become a migrant worker to support our family with his meager, unstable income. His job is tough and the hours are long. Because of this he developed multiple health problems. My mother does not have a paid job because she has had to work fulltime to look after the whole family.

My sister was born handicapped and has been bedridden for 20 years. The entire household chores, no matter how dirty and difficult, rest on the shoulders of my mother. My brother is studying in Guangxi University; I am studying at Fu'an No. 1 Middle School; my sister is studying at Lujiang Middle School; and the youngest brother is still in primary school. My youngest brother lost both his biological parents when he was a toddler and my parents adopted him.

While such vicissitudes are beyond our control, we are fortunate to have benefactors like you to help us. Because of your support, I am able to continue my schooling after my primary education. I strive to excel in my studies because I don't want to disappoint you who so generously support me. I have worked hard and I am pleased to report that my results are among the top in my class. I am also willing to help my classmates solve their homework difficulties whenever I could. I want to thank you again, and I will remember your support and care, and will always treasure your warmth.

Luo
Aug 2018



Celebrating birthdays with kids



Making handicrafts

During winter breaks, our children used to stay indoors and sleep a lot, or they spent a lot of time watching television and playing TV games. They weren't interested in helping with house chores at home, nor were they keen to work on their school assignment. We then hired some teachers and volunteers who planned and organized eight full days, each filled with interesting activities to keep the children busy: tutoring for English and other subjects; lessons on social etiquette; introduction to ancient Chinese texts on good student behavior; drawing and painting; music; and team sports.



Kids communicating with their parents via the internet



Watching motivational films

The center not only provides help for the children's studies, it also helps them in areas such as sports, games, reading books of interest. Using the computers at the center, the kids can also communicate with their parents who are working far away from home. The children are now much livelier. They are no longer shy, and are more confident with strangers. Many grandparents have said they no longer worry about their grandchildren's study because the kids now stop by the center to work on their assignments. Once finished, they go to play.

Still, because of limited resources there is only so much we can do. But we will do our utmost to help these children to develop and have a happy childhood.

Children showcasing their handicrafts



Call from Afar ...

Item no. 6601

Dear Caritas-HK, greetings!

I am a religious sister from Lanzhou, Gansu province. In 2014 when I visited a small community where there were 21 families, it was found that 13 of them were broken families with parents divorced leaving many children with a single parent. In fact, what was just described is only the tip of an iceberg. For example, there were over 6,000 divorce cases in Lanzhou in 2013, an increase of 19% over the year 2012. Moreover, there was also an increased number of people suffering from depression and domestic violence. Such situations also brought to our attention that there was no organized mechanism in place to help these families. This realization gave us the idea of forming a service that addresses those problems.

With a background in our spiritual training, we began to learn psychology and family consultations. 4 sisters then started to provide our parishioners with free consultations, hold talks on family education, and arrange activities to promote parent-child relationship. Our services have received a lot of positive feedback.

We now want to start a 'Family Services Center' in Lanzhou which can broaden our service to prevent and stop tragedies before it's too late. The center will provide a range of services that include: general psychological consultation; pre-marital guidance; courses in topics of public interest; workshops on marriage and family lives.

We got the professional credentials and have identified a suitable location for the service center. We have also successfully registered with the government. What we need now is the funding to pay the rent, to purchase equipment and furniture. We have raised over 70,000 yuan of the 200,000 plus yuan needed. To be exact, we are short by RMB 157,100 (HK\$ 176,517), the amount needed before we can start our services.

Our parish priest suggested we seek for your assistance. We pray and hope you will grant us your support.

Sister Cao
April, 2020

Marriage counselling



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 your contact information on the back.

	Item	Amount (¥)
1	Cost for project activities	36,600
2	Renovation & rent	70,000
3	Office equipment & furniture	65,500
4	Expenses for visits & talks	10,400
5	Allowance for counsellors & utility fees	50,530
	Total	233,030



Parent-child activities

