



## From the Editor

We have received positive responses to our last issue's appeal for help. Because of your generosity, we will soon be able to set up a Centre for Family Service in Lanzhou. We thank you on behalf of the beneficiaries. As usual, in this issue we will share some past successes, and draw your attention to the needs of an orphanage in Gansu province. We pray for your continuing support.



## New Equipment Helps to Improve Patient Care



Measuring heart rate



The Sacred Heart Clinic in Feng village in Langfang city, Hebei province was established in 2018. It is managed by three religious sisters who are qualified medical doctors. The clinic provides services to three villages with a combined population of 3,000. Most of the villagers are old folks and children.

In the past, villagers only came to the clinic for minor illnesses. For any illness that required blood or urine tests, they needed to go to hospitals in the down town. For those elderly patients who were unable to move freely, their children would have to take time off to accompany them for these visits. It was a time consuming, tedious and costly proposition. As a result, tests were often postponed until it was too late. This dire situation is highlighted by an increase in the number of deaths from stomach cancer in recent years, as an early diagnosis is essential to curb the deadly disease.

The sisters realized it was necessary for the clinic to acquire the equipment to provide these urgently needed services, but the meagre fees they charged could never cover the cost of the equipment. In 2019, Caritas-HK came to their assistance by donating: equipment for testing blood clots; a Carbon 14 breath analyser; an infrared pain relief machine and a motorized tricycle. Below is a thank you letter to the benefactors:



Blood test

Many Thanks!

*Since the procurement of the blood clot analyser, we have administered more than 100 tests for patients which helped prevent strokes and blood clots in the brain. With the C14 breath analyser, we provide, in a month, tests to about 20 patients with stomach problems. About 30 patients per month on average are receiving infrared pain relief treatments. The treatments greatly reduced their pain and discomfort .....*

*The motorized tricycle makes it possible for us to make home visits, about 10 times per week, to patients who can't come to the clinic for treatment. It also enables us to make scheduled visits to 20 patients with mobility disabilities so we can monitor their blood pressure, blood glucose, and cholesterol onsite.*



The electric tricycle

# Shanxi Rural Services Centre Engenders Communal Harmony



Qiang-cheng, with a population about 3,600 people and 1,000 households – is a village in Changzi city, Shanxi province. About 600 of the villagers are 65 or older. 800 of the villagers belong to the youth and adolescent category. Like most rural areas in the country, many of the young people in Qiang-cheng have left to work in cities, leaving behind the old people and the very young. Many of these old folks spend their days hanging around aimlessly and they look abandoned. They were expected to look after the very young, who were left behind by their parents. But there is little these old folks can do other than keeping an eye on the little ones to check that they are safe. They are unable to help them with their studies. The children felt they had no one to share their feelings with, be it joy, sadness, loneliness, bewilderment. They had nobody to turn to for support when they encountered problems. This same situation contributed to a high divorce rate among married couples, often due to lengthy separation.

The Parish priest of Qiang-cheng found a vacant house in the village, and he had a plan for it. He sought help from Caritas-HK to fund a **Community Centre** in 2019 to promote well-being in the local communities. The centre has a library, a function room, a study room, a room for consultation; and a nun is appointed to manage the centre. Below is extracted from a thank-you letter by the parish priest:



## Elderly Service



Checking blood pressure



Social gathering

For the old folks, we have a group of 40 who were trained to organize activities such as: home visits, birthday celebrations, gathering to share meals, visits to scenic spots. Blood pressure testing service is also available. Some elderlies even participated in greening the community. Such activities have enriched the lives of the old folks, and the centre has become the focal point of their daily lives.



## Youth Service



Reading and learning together



A talk on family education



Calligraphy class



For youth and children, the centre is a focal point as a drop-in for after class activities. They come here to study, to play, to read, and for other recreation. Quarterly youth camps, each accommodating 30 to 40 are planned. A social club has been formed for university students. We have positive feedback from the grandparents who told us how happy they are with the progress they noticed in their grandchildren.



## Family Service



For families, a core group of married couples have taken the lead to promote 'harmony in the family'. They led discussions in pre-marital preparation and healthy marital relationship. They organized wedding anniversary celebrations and offered guidance for couples facing relationship difficulties. Examples of their work included a number of instances where they helped women who had miscarriages to recover from their traumatic experiences. They have also helped couples on the brink of divorce to mend their differences.

Learning to improve communication



Birthday celebration



Going out for a trip



Participating in greening the community



Outdoor activity



Summer camp - learning to take care of oneself

# Call from Afar ...

Item no. 6701

Dear Caritas-HK, greetings!

At the time of the founding of our 'Home of Charity' in 1994, it was a common practice for people to look down on females. Many baby girls and handicapped children were abandoned. Home of Charity's mission was to take in and take care of these abandoned children. We cured many of the sick children, who became perfectly normal. Many of them were adopted by loving families. We still have 13 children in the 'home' today. Some are mentally challenged, some are blind, some suffer from cerebral palsy. There are also six homeless elderly and infirmed individuals among us today.

The 20-year-old greenhouse



There are 5 sisters and volunteers here to look after them. Their work includes: feeding those who can't look after themselves; keeping the place clean and hygienic; teaching and educating the children; and assisting them with therapeutic exercises. We thank God and our benefactors for their kind provisions: funds for the children's education, food and other basic needs.

Our home is located about 20 kilometers from the nearest town, in a remote rural area bordering on the desert. In winter, when it is -20 degrees it is treacherous for us to go to town in our tricycle to shop for food - mainly vegetables. In order to be more self-sufficient, we built a 30-meter by 10-meter greenhouse in 2000. However, it worn out over time even fixing has been done for several times.



A greenhouse beyond repair



We plan to rebuild a new greenhouse which will provide between 6,000 to 8,000 cattles of vegetable each year. The cost for rebuilding is about RMB 127,000. We managed to raise RMB 44,000, but we are still short by RMB 83,000 (Approximately HK\$97,647). We pray Caritas would consider lending us a helping hand.



The residents of the Home of Charity

Sister Yang  
Sept, 2020

Looking forward  
to your response

For enquiry, please call on 35892259 or 35892500, or leave your message at [mainland@caritas.org.hk](mailto: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.