



From the Editor

We have received many positive responses to our appeal for help in our last issue and we thank you on behalf of 'Home of Charity' for your kind support. In this issue, we will share a few of the programmes we implemented and report on the needs of a group of single parent children in Inner Mongolia. We pray for your continuing support.



An Eye Clinic in Hebei Benefits Many Locals



In the 1980's, **Huangerying village in Hebei province** was an early starter in rural industrialization. Today there are more than 120 electrical cable manufacturers in the village and the population has grown to 23,000 including some 8,000 non-local workers. Health support services, however, have not kept pace with this rapid development and cannot meet demand. There are 5 health clinics in the village, but none treat eye disease.

An electrical cable factory usually employs about 30 workers. Investigation showed that on average, a factory had at least one case of work-related eye injury every two months. Without timely and proper treatment, such injuries could result in serious damage to the cornea that would cause vision impairment.



Apparatus for eye examination



Nevertheless, many of the young villagers were in sales in the cities to promote electrical cables, leaving their children and old parents behind. The result was a lack of timely attention to their needs for medical treatment. There was no programme to educate the elderly on eye hygiene, and there was a long delay for proper treatment when eye disease developed. Furthermore, about 50% of the 5,000 students have eye problems such as myopia, strabismus, astigmatism..... and there was no clinic to treat eye disease.



Treating patients with newly installed equipment

In 2020, the sisters of **Delan Congregation**, with help from Caritas-HK, founded the first eye clinic in Huangerying. Three sisters, who are optometrists, managed the clinic and provided diagnosis for eye disease; correction for eye problems; prescription for eye glasses; eye protection and rehabilitation services. In the first four months of the clinic's operation, 42 patients alone, whose eyes were hit by airborne particles, were treated. The demand for the clinic's service is high, and it is well received by the villagers.





Sandplay Therapy Helps Children Overcome Psychological Problems

The Guanling Children Service Center in Liaoning province was established by the Cana Integrated Family Services Center. It offers a range of support services particularly to the left-behind children in the local communities, which includes after class tutorials and other enrichment activities. Psychological counselling service is available as well, and 'Sandplay' is an effective therapeutic approach to helping children who are unable to adequately communicate their feelings.

In 2019, Caritas-HK sponsored Sr. Wang, a social worker and psychologist from the center, to attend a one year 'Sandplay Therapy' course. Below is a thank you letter from Sr. Wang:

Sr. Wang and her mentor



Thank you so much for sponsoring me to attend the Sandplay Therapy course. Now that I have graduated from the course and am certified as a senior Sandplay Therapist, I am back at work in the center. I have started using sandplay in my treatments to help reduce the pain for those who suffered from psychological shock.

During the Winter break, I led sandplay group sessions to benefit a total of 40 children. In the Summer children's camp, I led individual sessions as well. A total of 42 children benefited. In March, I worked with people from other social service organizations to conduct a 'teach the teacher' course on 'Sandplay Therapy' to help more people understand this therapeutic approach. We now have 2 sandplay chambers: one in Guanling Center, the other in Cana Center.

Sandplay is one of the therapeutic treatments for children through play. It is a very good approach to treat children's psychological problems.

Children instinctively like to play, therefore they are attracted to sandplay therapy.

Through play, reality and ideals combine in what is life, they are able to amply express their feelings.

It opens a door for the therapist to the children's inner world, so that he/she can offer help.

Sr. Wang



The tools of sandplay therapy



New Beds for an Old Folks Home in Shanxi

The Lisa Old Folks Home in Changzi, Shanxi Province was established in 2007. The high quality and low cost services provided by the sisters are very much appreciated in the community. Yet, the ability to serve more people was constrained due to insufficient space. Expansion to the home began in 2018, and was completed last year. As a result, the capacity for old folks increased from 50 to 70.



The problem is: many beds had no safety rail guards and were so old that they were on the verge of falling apart and needed to be repaired, but the sisters did not have the means to purchase new beds. With help of Caritas-HK and support from Rosary Church in HK, the needed beds were purchased in 2020. Below is a thank you letter from the sisters:



Old beds in the old days



As I look at the old folks resting in the comfort of their new nursing beds, I can't help feeling excited.

Many of them too, were very excited: with wide open eyes, they surveyed the new setup and they were thrilled. They were also thankful.



New beds and new facilities



Work is so much easier for the staff; much time is saved adjusting beds, raising or lowering them! We are truly thankful.

The old folks have been praying for our benefactors every day since the project first started.

Call from Afar ...

Item no. 6801

Dear Caritas-HK, greetings!

We are religious sisters from the village of Xiaobalagai, Inner Mongolia. The population here is a little over 6,000, with about 60 children in single parent families in the community. Some parents are divorced, and some children are orphaned. They lack loving care and security. Some children are autistic, many feel inferior, anxious, depressed, envious, or rebellious , causes for psychological imbalance for the children. They suffer in their studies, and they are often socially alienated.



A talk for parents



Tutorial class



Visit to a museum

We founded the Home of Care and Love in 2015, hoping to provide these children with enrichment activities and let them know they are loved and cared about. There are 13 volunteers in our group who care for 45 children. We help them with their studies, class assignments, and some basic necessities. We also arrange for experienced psychologists and teachers to provide single parents with talks and guidance for good parenthood.

Most of the children live with their grandparents who are sick or in poor health. They have no source of income, and often they can't afford the tuition, or the cost of room and board, which makes it so much more important for us to lend a hand.

Since we started, parishioners began to help by donating one yuan each per month. They are peasants or labourers, and they make very little. Their meagre offering does not meet the needs of the children we want to help.

Our current needs are books, a projector and computers for a computer class. We also need funding for monthly activities. We need RMB 62,300 to keep the programme going. So far we have raised RMB5,470, and we are still short by RMB57,030 (HK\$ 68,410). Noticing our difficulties, our parish priest suggested we seek your help.

Sister Yang
Dec, 2020

| Item | | Amount (¥) |
|-------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Bookshelf x 2 | 1,200 |
| 2 | Filing cabinet x 1 | 600 |
| 3 | Books (300) | 9,000 |
| 4 | Projector x 1 | 2,700 |
| 5 | Computer x 6 | 21,000 |
| 6 | Printer x 1 | 3,000 |
| 7 | Desk x 2 | 1,000 |
| 8 | Family allowance (3 yrs) | 7,500 |
| 9 | Daily necessities | 3,500 |
| 10 | Monthly gathering x 12 | 9,600 |
| 11 | Counselling fees | 2,400 |
| 12 | Training for volunteers | 800 |
| Total | | 62,300 |

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.