



## From the Editor

Many of you responded positively to our last issue's appeal for help and we thank you on behalf of the single parent families in Baotou, Inner-Mongolia for your kindness. In this issue, we will share news of some successful programmes you have helped make happen, and introduce the needs of an old folks' home in Shandong province. We pray for your continuing support.



## Both Staff & Old Folks Benefit from New Equipment

In Sept 2018, we reported on the needs for an emergency van and beds designed to safely bathe bed-ridden old folks. Your generosity made that a reality. Below is an excerpt of the thank you letter from a sister:

Adjustable wash bed



We purchased the adjustable wash bed in 2019, and they have been put to good use. They are easy to use; they make bathing safe and more comfortable for the old folks - especially the bed-ridden ones; they help eliminate bad odor and are more hygienic. Moreover, they reduce the stress of the carers' job, resulting in a happier crew, and making recruitment easier!



We encountered some hiccups with the ambulance because of changes in government policy: since we are not officially a medical institution, we are not authorized to acquire an ambulance - the fact that we have qualified medical doctors onsite did not help. We managed to get around it with a 'substitution'. A 'welfare vehicle' was purchased this January. This vehicle is not much different from an ambulance. They are functionally equivalent except for the guard lamp on top of the vehicle - a 'welfare vehicle' does not have one.



Families no longer have to worry about timely delivery of their loved ones for urgent hospital treatments, neither do they need to worry about our location being a little remote. These additions make our home much more popular with the old folks and their families. We thank Caritas for your help!



Mini van for service delivery



## Left-behind Elderly Can Now Count On Support

In our Sept 2019 issue, we reported on the needs of a group of sisters serving left behind old folks in **Baotou, Inner-Mongolia**. With help from benefactors like you, the sisters were able to acquire the equipment they needed. Below is a thank you letter from the sisters:

Thank you and the benefactors for making it possible for the smooth development to provide services to the needy seniors in our community. Your generosity also inspired our local friends to contribute to our cause. As a result, we are able to purchase the equipment needed to serve the left behind old folks.



A mini van for service delivery



Care services for elderly people

The van is the most important item on the list. It is an immense help in delivering materials to the needy seniors: rice, cooking oil, milk, winter clothing and other daily necessities. Without our own van, it was very challenging for our volunteers to deliver these items in a timely manner. We had to borrow tricycles which were in short supply in high farming seasons and because of that, we had to change plans often. Tricycles are also dangerous when maneuvering during snow or sand storms.



Your donation enables us to provide support for the needy old folks. Through our acts of love, they feel there are shoulders to lean on. They feel joy; and we can see the long absent happiness on their faces return which in turn make us happy. We feel that we not only give but also receive.



Once again, we want to thank Caritas for lending us a helping hand. May God bless you!







# Care for Life & Protection of the Unborn

Item no. 6901

Statistics show that for every 100 unmarried young women in China, 4 of them may get pregnant. Most of them choose abortion to end the pregnancy and some even commit infanticide. Those who decide to keep the babies, unless they have support from their families, often face discrimination from people around them.

To stop such tragedies, Taiyuan Diocese Social Service Center started 'Maria's Home' in 2015 to provide support for unwed mothers. The center has helped 21 unwed mothers between the age of 15 to 25 in the past 5 years.



A talk on protection of the unborn



Looking forward to your response

## Maria's Home

### Services for Unwed Mothers

- Safe and secure accommodation; regular checkups during pregnancy through to delivery; psychological and confidence building consultations to prepare them and the babies for their future.
- After giving birth the mothers and their guardians are given another year of support for a smooth transition back to society.
- If necessary, the home will also work with, or refer them to relevant social service providers for further psychological consultation or other additional support.
- The home also provides online education programmes for young people to prevent unwanted pregnancies; promotion of love and care for life; and a hotline for young people who seek help.



Promotional activity in the community



The cost to provide these services exceeds 200,000 RMB a year. The home actively solicits financial support within the diocese, however the amount that can be raised through this venue is rather limited. It wrote to Caritas for help in 2018, and with support from benefactors, they have sufficient funds to last till the end of 2021. We look forward to your continuing support.



# Call from Afar ...

Item no. 6902

Dear Caritas-HK,

Greetings! I am a sister in Yinzhou, Shandong province. Like many remote regions in China, many of our youth went to the cities for work, leaving their elderly parents in the villages. Some of these elderlies are plagued with sickness, some have no children to support them, and have to live on a meagre 80 to 120 RMB monthly subsidy from the government.



Some seniors come to the church for free meals

We started a programme in 2009 to visit these seniors in need. Some of them suffered from leprosy and some did not have children to support them. There were only three of us at the beginning. Then we were joined by volunteers, and by 2020, we had grown to more than 30. To formalize our service, we set up an organization which named 'Fu-ai Seniors Service Center'. It gained recognition and support from the community. In 2013, we registered as a non-profit organization with the Civil Bureau.



Helping a senior to keep the house clean

More than 100 seniors, scattered over 8 villages now benefit from our services. When we visit the elderly, we chat with them; cut and shampoo their hair; clip their nails; and clean their living quarters. We bring them medication, food, winter clothing, and other daily necessities. But, most importantly, we bring them respect, dignity, and we invigorate hope in them. We raise fund in the parish, but the amount we could raise was insufficient as our parishioners are peasants and laborers with limited means. Another big problem is the distance between the folks we serve. It is a huge challenge whenever we need to deliver materials to them. Each time we have to borrow a motor vehicle from the parishioners, and they are often not available when we need them.

We need to have our own vehicle and other material support to do a proper job. Such a vehicle would cost us 124,000 RMB (i.e. HK\$149,458). It is something we cannot afford. Our parish priest suggested we write to you for help. We pray you will support our request.

Item	Amt. (¥)
1. Mini van	98,000
2. Computer	3,800
3. Printer	2,300
4. Training	5,950
5. Daily necessities	9,000
6. Presents	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,050</b>



Helping a senior to put on socks

Sister Li  
Jan, 2021

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.