



## From the Editor:

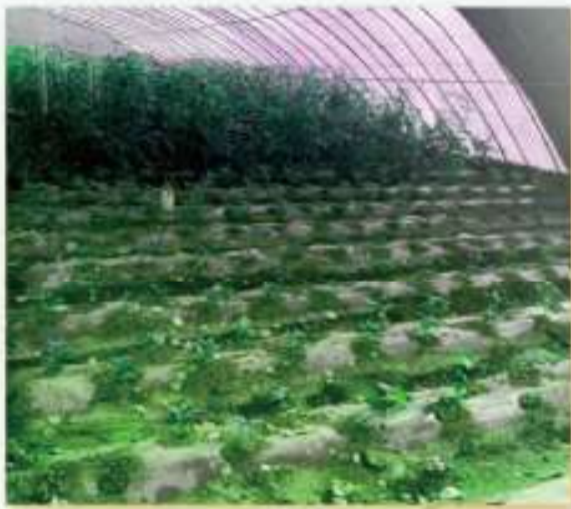
First and foremost, we thank you, on behalf of the seniors at the Tianji Social Service Center in Jilin, for your generous responses to our appeal for help in the last issue.

In this issue, we will continue to share some success stories of our past programs, and to raise your attention to a serious problem that has been plaguing many rural communities in the mainland: the lack of awareness among parents in rural areas about sexual abuse of children, and the inadequate protection for children against such atrocities. An NGO in Shaanxi took note of this problem and started to do something about it. We would like to draw your attention to it.

## Greenhouse in Gansu Feeds Children & Elderlies

Many Thanks!

Last year, we reported that 'Home of Charity' in Gansu needed help to rebuild their seriously dilapidated greenhouse. With your kind support, we soon raised the funds needed to implement the project. Below is a thank you letter from the sister in charge of the project:



Different kinds of vegetables can be found here

The greenhouse we built 20 years ago was in such a poor shape that it was beyond repair. As a result, we needed to fall back on what we had been doing before we had the greenhouse; to ride our tricycle to town some 20 kilometers away every few days to buy the vegetables we needed. With your help, we now have a new greenhouse, and are again able to grow the vegetables for the children and elderly in our care.



The sister and the children

The relatively capable children sometimes will give us a helping hand in the greenhouse in times of cultivation. They have an enjoyable time there. The greenhouse does not only offer stable produce supply to us, but also a place of happiness.

We want to thank you, Caritas, and the benefactors from Hong Hong for your help. Every day now our children and elderly, and the staff can have fresh vegetables and we no longer have to take the tedious trips to town to get our supply. We thank you wholeheartedly for your support.

## A Graduate's Reciprocal Love for the Needy

Starting from 2002, the beneficiaries of Caritas Scholarship Program are asked to promise that they would, within 6 months of their graduation and employment, make contributions to help others in need. They were asked to commit to donating RMB1,000 a year for the same number of years that they have been helped. Below is a thank you letter from the referee of one of the graduates:

Dear Caritas,

Greetings!

We thank you for your help to Guo Kang Kang 4 years ago, then a student, for him to finish his university education. He started working in Datong after graduation, and has been fulfilling his commitment of helping others after his graduation. He has been sending me 1,000 yuan each of the last 4 years so I can use that money to help others in need. Below is how the money has been used in the past years:

In 2016, we visited seniors and children living in mountainous regions around Hongge township in Sichuan. We bought them 500 yuan of food and 500 yuan of clothes.

In 2017, we helped 3 elderly folks who live alone. We bought them 200 yuan worth of food, 500 yuan for electric heaters, and 300 yuan of a commode chair.

In 2018, 500 yuan was used to help a child who was injured in an explosion. Another 500 yuan was used to help a young man who was seriously injured after falling into a septic tank.

In 2019, 700 yuan was donated to a cancer patient, and 300 yuan to an elderly person who lives alone for his medicine.

Above is a summary of how Kang-kang's contribution was used, and I thank you on behalf of Kang-kang and the folks who benefited from his efforts.

Sr. Xu  
9/1/2020

## A Thank you Letter from a Special Child in Shaanxi

Xinyue Rehab Center, the first civilian school for rural children with special needs in Shaanxi, was established in 2006 by the local sisters in Shaanxi, and Caritas has been involved in fund raising to support the center every year. Below is a thank you letter written by a capable student:

Dear Uncles and Aunties,

I wish you well and thank you for your support and care.

The students at Xinyue are mostly from poor rural families. We are able to attend school here because our parents with your help are able to pay for our tuition. We thank you for your support and for your care. Our teachers taught us how to take care of ourselves, to clean up our rooms, to fold our clothes, to help our younger schoolmates dress and put on their shoes. We also learn to be polite to others. I hope you will be able to come visit us sometime.

Christmas is approaching fast. In advance, we want to wish you

A Merry Christmas!  
May you be healthy!  
May your work be smooth!

Wang Yu  
Sun Flowers Class  
15/12/2020

尊敬的叔叔阿姨  
您们好！谢谢你们的  
帮助和关心。

我们心悅的学生大多是农村  
的，家里穷。爸爸妈妈在您的  
帮助下，交了学费，我们才上学了，谢谢  
你们的帮助和关心。在老师的教导下，  
我们学会了照顾自己，学会了打扫房间，  
整理衣物，学会了帮助小同学穿衣、  
穿鞋……学会了对人要有礼貌。希望你  
们有时间来看我们。

圣诞节快到了，我们提前祝您们：

圣诞快乐！

身体健康！

工作顺利！

向日葵班：王宇

2020年12月15日

# Call from Afar

Item no. 7101

As reported by the education web page in the Mainland, there is an average of one instance of a child being sexual abused each day, and 90% of the cases involve girls aged 7 to 14. However, only 1 in 7 cases are reported. In other words, for every case reported there are 7 unexposed cases.



A 2020 survey conducted by **Shaanxi Renai Children's Aid Center** (SRCAC) found that there is a lack of knowledge and awareness among parents in rural areas on how to protect their children from sexual abuse. Rural parents do not have an adequate understanding that 'child sexual abuse' is a serious problem. It is a taboo subject to bring up in conversations. Parents and children have no exposure to sex education, and have no concept of the need to protect their children from sexual abuse. There is a void when it comes to properly conduct sex education in rural areas. People are usually ill-informed through hearsay. Many girls are horrified with menstruation. They wouldn't aware either or not they have been molested sexually.

The experiences of being sexually abused have a long term negative impact on children's mental and physical development. **A sexually abused child, if not suitably consoled, may bear a scar that can last a lifetime.** SRCAC has decided to do something about it. They are going to implement a program in rural Shaanxi and Gansu with the following keypoints:

- (1) Develop a **Child Protection Resource & Guidance Package** on sex education for children;
- (2) Recruit 20 workers from NGOs in Western China each year and train them to be **instructors on sex education**; and develop **a supporting network**;
- (3) Deliver, **at village level, sex education classes that involve both parents and children**;
- (4) Set up a Wechat group which link communities, schools, NGOs and parents for sharing information;
- (5) Introduce sex education programs in rural schools;
- (6) **Case referral** to relevant agencies where necessary.

Item	Quantity	Budget(¥)
Child sex education resource & guidance package	5,000	61,000
Child sex education instructor training program & network development	20	16,000
Promotional programs & classes for parents & children in villages & schools	400	32,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>109,000</b>

This program is expected to reach **5,000 children** and **1,000 parents**. The budget is RMB109,000 (= **HK\$132,927**) **per year**. Total budget for 3 years is RMB327,000 (= HK\$398,781). SRCAC has been working hard to raise funds, but the pandemic has made it difficult to reach this goal. They need your support to make this program a reality.



Looking forward to your response!

For enquiry, please call 35892259 or 35892500, or leave your message at [mainland@caritas.org.hk](mailto:mainland@caritas.org.hk) or 51737210. To show your care, you may **whatsApp** the picture of the bank slip (**Account no.** of Caritas-0HK : **HSBC --- 002-206118-002 or ICBC --- 701-010-036579**), including your contact information at 51737210, or write a crossed cheque payable to "Caritas-Hong Kong" and send it to: Mainland Service Desk, Room 505, Caritas House, 2 Caine Road, Central, Hong Kong. Please write down your contact information on the back.