



FUND RAISING FOR FIRE PREVENTION EQUIPMENT FOR DELAI SENIORS HOME IN HEBEI

Ji-fan is a village in Yuan-xi county near Shijiajuang, Hebei province and has a population of more than three thousand people with one thousand 65 years of age or older. Most of its young people are working in cities, leaving behind the old folks to fend for themselves. They spend most days inside their gloomy little shacks with no one to care for them, often going hungry, and there is little care for their health.

In 2001, a group of nuns started the Delai Seniors Home to address the needs of some of these old folks. The service provided by the sisters gained trust from the villagers and their work was well respected. However, due to the lack of space and other limitations they were able to take in only 17 seniors, far less than what was needed. In 2016, with help from overseas faithful, a 5-story new wing was built. The lower three levels were designated as living quarters for seniors; the 4th for activities and office spaces; and the 5th dormitory for the staff. It was not until 2019, with help from Caritas-HK, an elevator and heating were added, making it possible to accept more residents. Today, there are 35 seniors in the home with plans for more in the future. With the additions and improvements in the home, it was recognized and rated a 'Two Star Senior Home' by the local authority in 2020.

However, due to a lack of funds, only sprinklers and smoke detectors were installed on the 2nd and 3rd floors, while 4th and 5th floors were equipped only with fire hydrants. Strictly speaking, the premise didn't meet government standard, and was not certified by the fire department. With the government's recent tightening of 'fire prevention' standards and enhanced supervision, the sisters were told to fix it. Without the necessary financial resources, they have been stalling. But in June 2021, they received an ultimatum that they have a year to rectify this shortcoming or else the home will be closed.

Per fire department's guidance, Delai Seniors Home should:

- install sprinklers, smoke detectors, emergency lighting, fire hydrants, fireproof doors, dual power supplies, smoke escape windows, and fire alarms in the 1st and 2nd floors of the old building, as well as the 1st floor of the new building

- install similar installations in the control room, the water pump and electrical power rooms
- In addition: a room for electric power distribution; a path for fire engines in the front of the buildings; remodel rooms, doors and windows that do not meet emergency exit standards.

The cost to implement all these will be RMB 509,522.

Yuan-xi is a poor county. Delai already provides its services at a lower rate than other senior homes in the region, with some admitted free or at reduced rates. Even though the sisters do not get paid, the revenues generated barely pay for the wages of the staff, water, electricity, and other operational costs. There is no savings or reserves for a rainy day to speak of. In order to keep the home viable and to continue serving the needy seniors, the sisters have been scrambling for the last 6 months to raise funds needed to avoid closure. They have managed to raise RMB 85,062. That, plus a subsidy of RMB 100,000 from the government, leaves a shortfall of RMB 320,000 (**HK\$395,062**). In desperation, the sisters wrote to Caritas-HK for help.

**PLEA TO OUR BENEFACTORS:
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SUPPORT TO DELAI SENIORS HOME!**

To show your care, you may email or WhatsApp the picture of the bank slip, including your contact information at mainland@caritas.org.hk or 51737210. Official receipt will be issued for tax deduction. The bank information is listed as follow:

Bank: HSBC

Account no.: 002-206118-002

Account Name: CARITAS-HONG KONG

Bank: ICBC (Asia)

Account no.: 701-010-036579

Account Name: CARITAS-HONG KONG

For enquiry, please contact Ms. Lo at 35892259 / 35892500; or email: mainland@caritas.org.hk ; WhatsApp : 51737210 ; Address: Room 505, Caritas House, no. 2 Caine Road, Hong Kong

Pictures of Delai Seniors Home:



Delai Seniors Home



A party outside Delai



The seniors enjoyed the shade outside Delai in summer time



The seniors made dumplings



Being recognized as "Two-Star Senior Home", the sisters took a picture outside Delai happily



Recreation Room at Delai