

All the Good You Are Doing!

The Ideal World

What would you like your kids to be doing when they get home from school?

Ideally, you or someone you trust is there to greet them. They have a small snack, work on their homework. Then have some play time (hopefully with another person, not a machine). Perhaps spend some time reading a good book. Have dinner with the family, finish up their homework and then off to bed.

For many poor families in Hong Kong, the reality is far from ideal.

The Reality

Take for example, 9-year-old Ming. Ming leaves at 7 AM for her 20-minute walk to school every morning.

Ming's mother is a newcomer from the mainland. She works 12 hours a day at a seafood store in Mong Kok. She has no time to take Ming to school or pick her up at the end of the school day.

So what does Ming do? The primary three student comes home to an empty apartment after school. She's home alone until her mother gets off work at around 8 or 9 o'clock. Sometimes she watches TV for too long and does not start her homework until late. Sometimes she's more disciplined.

Ming's mother feels helpless. She does not make enough money to hire a helper or pay for half-day child care services.

According to the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the number of people living below the poverty line has increased to 1.26 million by October 2010, about 18% of the population.

When you are poor like Ming's family, you just have to live in a world far from ideal.

The Silver Lining

But there is encouraging news! Your support of the HOPE worldwide Centre for Kids in Shek Kip Mei helps make the world of hundreds of kids like Ming a little closer to ideal. The Centre is a safe place for the kids to come to after school and especially during their long summer holidays. It is also a place where parents, kids, staff and volunteers build a caring community around each other.

Read about it inside this newsletter.

Bet you didn't know that you were doing so much good!

Thanks to you, one more mother does not have to feel helpless. One more child can learn and grow in a safe place.



2010

Autumn NEWSLETTER

Bringing hope, changing lives

A Safe Place

Come to the HOPE *worldwide* Centre for Kids any weekday afternoon between 3 and 4 pm and you will feel a distinct change in the atmosphere.

Before 3 o'clock, the place is quiet, interspersed by voices coming from meetings. One quarter of the centre is office space where our staff of 17 quietly fulfills their respective responsibilities. Then at 3:30 pm the office doors are gently shut, the door bell starts to ring incessantly, and an inescapable buzz of children takes over the place.

Welcome to the HOPE *worldwide* Centre for Kids in Shek Kip Mei!

The centre is located in one of the districts with the greatest concentration of low-income families. Every weekday afternoon, 20-30 primary school kids come to the centre to get help on their homework from staff and volunteers. Parents in these families maybe too busy, or simply cannot help their children with the demands of school work. And all of them do not have the means to hire tutors. Having a place like the centre for their children to get help is a great relief to the parents. At the centre, not only do the children have staff and volunteers to give them a hand, they have each other. Some review and study together...and even get full marks together!

Beyond the Boundaries of Shek Kip Mei

Children from these families seldom venture outside of their immediate neighbourhoods. The cost of transportation, even public transportation, is a burden. Some have even never been on Hong Kong Island!

On weekends and especially during the long summer holidays, the centre provides outings to different parts of Hong Kong to broaden these children's horizons. Thanks to you, our supporters, we can provide these outings either free or at a nominal charge. The excursions are both educational and fun. For example, on an outing to Stanley Market, the children needed to find foreigners to carry out a simple interview so they could practice their oral English skills. By the end of the activity, the children were much more confident and fluent speaking English.



“Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.” -- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

After participating in the centre's Character Success Programme, there was a clear change in Ka-lok's behavior. After his music lessons, he started to put away his instrument without being told. What's the big deal about picking up after yourself? It's a matter of character – responsibility, to be exact. In 2008, we began the Character Success Programme, based on the curriculum of “Character Counts!”, the largest character education programme in the US. The children learn the six pillars of character – trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship, through activities and interactive games. With so much focus on the Hong Kong Prince/Princess Syndrome, it has been encouraging to see some of these children transform before our eyes.

See all the Good that You are Doing

Thank you for all the support you have given to HOPE *worldwide* and the Centre for Kids. Everything you do, whether it's volunteering or donating, helps change the lives of families and children like Ming. Because of you, one more mother does not have to feel helpless. One more child can learn and grow in a safe place.



Our wonderful and very patient centre staff: Gloria Yau, Athena Cheung, and Andrew Leung (L to R). They are the ones that keep the kids happy and the rest of us sane!



Individuals and corporations come together to give to the children. Here, centre members assemble their own telescope before going star-gazing.

Between 20-30 children come to the centre every school day to work on their homework, and get help when needed.

Worth Repeating

- “The Centre staff are friendly and helpful. When my daughter signs up for an activity, you even call to remind us to come. I have not experienced this in other centres.” – Parent
- “My son loves coming to the centre!” -- Parent
- “The centre is a community. The parents have a wider circle of friends. They often help each other. For example, when a mom cannot pick up her child, another mom will pitch in and help. When they meet one another here, they often exchange useful information as they chat.” -- Andrew Leung, centre staff
- “I got 100 on my dictation!” -- Centre member
- “You give us hope that our children can have a better future because there is someone here to help.” -- Parent
- “Without the centre, we would have no place to go for fun and for help with our homework.” -- Centre members



Builders of Character: Ella Ng and David Chung of the Character Success Programme. Besides working with kids, they also conduct workshops for parents so we are all working together for the good of the children.



Your support... take kids... this to the... Museum o... broadens... horizons, n... the fun they

You have made the Centre what it is today – a community, a safe place, a place where young lives are being changed everyday!

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Numbers


- **HK\$ 12,000 or less** – Monthly income for a family of four. Hong Kong's unofficial poverty line.
- **1.26 million** – Number of people living below the poverty line (as of October 2010).*
- **64,000** – Increase in the number of poor people from 2009.*
- **24.5%** – Percentage of children living in poor households (2009).#
- **1,312** – Number of children served in 2009 through the HOPE worldwide Centre for Kids.
- **70** – Number of activities and events in 2009 at the HOPE worldwide Centre for Kids.
- **2,890** – Number of volunteer hours performed through the centre in 2009.

* Analysis of Statistics on the Poor, First Half, 2010, Hong Kong Council of Social Service
underprivileged_child_life_report2009, The Boys and Girls Club Association of Hong Kong


Thanks a Million!

The current HOPE worldwide Centre for Kids in Shek Kip Mei has been serving the Shum Shui Po community for over 10 years. We are so grateful to many individuals and corporations for your time, talent, and financial contributions. You have made the centre what it is today – a community, a safe place, a place where young lives are being changed everyday! We cannot possibly list all the volunteers by name here but you have our deepest gratitude. The corporations listed here have either sent their staff to volunteer or made in-kind or financial donations. Thanks a million!

- Citi
- Disney Media Distribution
- Target Sourcing Service Hong Kong Limited
- VF Asia Limited



← Activities such as rock climbing are part of the Character Success Programme that builds the six pillars of character in our centre members.



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→ fun while
character.



Let's Do Some Good!

Volunteering Opportunities in Hong Kong

If you are a positive influence, if you are energetic, if you like kids, check out the following volunteering opportunities.

| Date | Time | Programme | The good you will do |
|--|--|---|--|
| Now until June 2011 | Mon – Fri 4-5:30 pm or 5:30 – 7 pm | Homework Tutoring | Be the hero and guide the kids through difficult homework problems and exam periods. Frequency flexible |
| January 29, 2011 | 8 am - 5 pm | Character Success Programme – Survivor! | Teach and model values of respect and citizenship to the kids while taking them on an adventure outing. |
| February 19, 2011 | 10 am – 1 pm | Outing to Yakult Factory | Help us accompany centre members to the Yakult Factory. You may get your horizons broadened too! |
| Every Friday in February and March, 2011 | After 4 pm | English Paired Reading Programme | Come and share the joy of reading (in English) with our kids. Some books focus on character-building so the kids learn about good character while they improve on their English reading skill. |



For inquiry, call 2776-6829, or email enquiry@hopeww.org.hk.



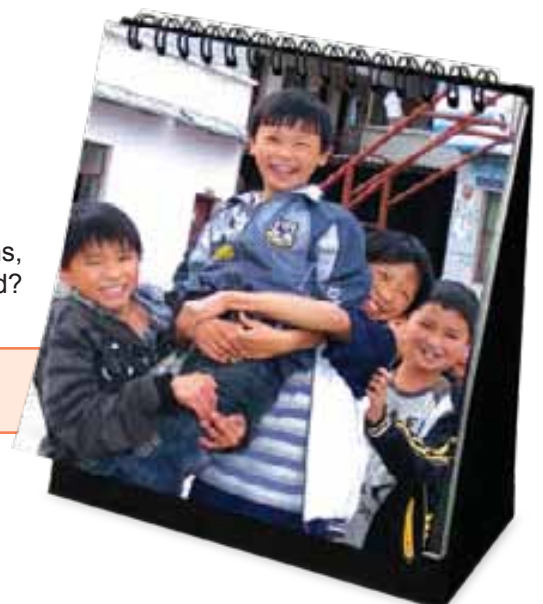
If you are good at expressing love and concern, there are many single elderly in Hong Kong who need you. We provide the necessary training. We will announce the next volunteering opportunity for serving the elderly in the first quarter of 2011. Check our website and Facebook page for the latest updates.

Volunteering Trips to China

If you don't mind traveling tough (just a little) and simple accommodations, come and experience China's countryside and also do some good. Interested? Call or email Christina Chan at 2915-3992, knchan@hopeww.org.hk.

December 25-31

Kunming and Yuan Yang County, Yunnan Province





Mickey Would Approve....



A child's one-day admission ticket to Hong Kong's Disneyland is HK\$250.

Our guess is that if you have younger children, you have taken them to this world famous park. Feeling their excitement and seeing their smiles as they go through the land of magical adventures is worth the money you shell out.

For HK\$250, you can bring the same kind of joy to an underprivileged child in the Shum Shui Po area...except that it will not come from meeting Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck. Instead, you will provide one week of homework tutoring to one child at the HOPE *worldwide* Centre for Kids. Their excitement and smiles will come from knowing that someone cares and from greater academic achievement.

We think it's an expense even Mickey would approve of.

P.S. Thanks to a number of corporate sponsors, many of our centre members did get a chance to meet Mickey at Hong Kong's Disneyland.



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HOPE
worldwide
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