

**You Gave Them  
the Power to be  
Superheroes!**

Overpowering the monsters of doubt, fear, and hopelessness sure feels good!

**Aaahh....A MONSTER!!**

Many underprivileged children come to our centres with monsters living in their hearts.

Some of the monsters are known as:

"I don't know."

"I can't do it."

"I am afraid."

"I can't help it."

Each time a kid thinks he has failed at something, "I can't do it" grows a little bigger. Each time a kid doesn't give her homework a try, "I don't know" gains another inch. Each time an activity seems too unfamiliar, "I am afraid" starts to tower over the child.

But often kids just need someone to teach and show them. Sometimes they merely need to hear "You can do it." Other times reassurance such as "It's ok, try it again!" is enough to beat back the monster.



Thanks to volunteers and donors, children at Centre for Kids are developing muscles of confidence and hope.



**Even superheroes need help**

Because of you, children at the HOPE worldwide Centres for Kids in Hong Kong and China can be superheroes who slay monsters. Thanks to your donations and time that support the centres and their outreaching activities, these children have people in their lives that can teach and encourage them to be the best they can be.

We have the privilege of watching the children grow. Some develop their confidence and courage over time. Others seem to suddenly "get it."

In this newsletter, we have chosen two stories to give you a glimpse of these glorious superhero moments. They are not the only stories we have. There are many more on our website.

What happens when these superhero moments add up over time? The monsters of fear, doubt, and hopelessness are slain!

Thanks to you, we have more superheroes in the world!



Read on for two glorious superhero moments in the lives of the children at the Centre for Kids.

2017

**Summer** NEWSLETTER

# Slaying "Helplessness"

## She was no match

"Come on, Yasmine! Here's your school bag. Stop crying. I will be back later to pick you up."

Tiny little Yasmine is in the first grade. Every day, her mother brings her to the HOPE worldwide Centre for Kids so Yasmine can attend the homework tutorial sessions.



Slowly, reluctantly, and with tears in her eyes, Yasmine drags her heavy school bag into the classroom.

The image of a tiny little girl dragging a school bag almost as big (and as heavy) as her conveys a sense of burden and helplessness. Hopefully one day, when she outgrows her school bag, she will also outgrow that sense.

Tiny little Yasmine has had a hard time adjusting to the first grade. Luckily, she had volunteers at Centre for Kids to help her.

## The birth and growth of a monster

Yasmine hadn't had an easy adjustment to Primary One, where the happy days of kindergarten gave way to homework, dictations and exams.

She got a 42 out of 100 on the first English dictation test this spring. She then managed to get a 63 the next time, only to slip back down to 36 at the next test.

The Monster of Helplessness cast a shadow over her tiny little body.

No.	Date	Content	Parent's Signature	Marks
1	18/2	Dicto		42
2	28/2	Dicto		63
3	11/3	Dicto		36
4	11/4	Dicto		46
5	1/5	Dicto		76
6	1/5	Dicto		97
7				

With each English dictation test, a big, ugly monster grew inside Yasmine, one that said "You can't do it. It's just too hard."

## Then one day...

On May 24, the last day of the homework tutorial session for the school year at the Centre for Kids, Yasmine seemed unusually happy. She came trotting in, holding her English dictation book.

Trying hard to suppress her excitement, Yasmine wanted us to guess what she got on her latest English dictation test.

"Seventy?"

"No."

"Eighty?"

"No."

"Eighty-five?"

"Wrong answer!"

We really didn't mean to underestimate her performance. But based on her previous scores, it took a lot of faith to guess anything above fifty.

"I got ninety-seven!" She said, almost shouting!

## How did she do it?

"I learned how to review my words!" Yasmine said confidently.

She told us that the secondary students who had been volunteering during this past school year patiently taught her how to sound out the words and to get the pronunciation right. As a result, she found it much easier to learn and remember the spelling of each word.

What a moment! Together, Yasmine and the volunteers triumphed over the big, bad, ugly monster that had been living in her heart, the monster that had been telling her "You can't do it. It's just too hard."

Thank you, volunteers!  
Thank you, all of you who have been supporting our centre.  
It sure feels good to slay a monster!



With the help of volunteers, Yasmine slew the Monster of "Helplessness"!



# "But He Hit Me First!"

(This story comes from our staff at one of the Centres for Kids in Chengdu. The centres serve children from migrant and low-income families.)

Twelve year-old Gene comes from a poor family. His father works in the fire service department. His mother works as a custodian for the city's parks. Gene regularly comes to one of the HOPE *worldwide* Centres for Kids in Chengdu.

## Drama at 4:30

One day, Gene came to the centre at 4:30 as usual. He was obviously very upset about something.

Our staff Yolanda called him into an empty classroom.

"What's the matter?" Yolanda asked.

Immediately Gene broke down in tears. He was crying so hard that his whole body twitched and shook.

Yolanda waited for him to settle down, and then asked him again what had happened.

In between sobs, he told her that he had choked another boy's neck at school until the boy bled. Everybody blamed him for the incident and said that he was in big trouble with the teacher.

## Who started it?

"The teacher is going to punish me. But it's not fair. The other boy hit me first!" Gene said. He then showed her his bruise, still sobbing.

Gene believed that the teacher did not like him and would surely think that he was to blame. Moreover, the other boy was bleeding from the fight.

Yolanda asked him what he thought he could do. He said he didn't know.



After centre staff guided Gene through a challenging incident at school, Gene saw the Centre for Kids as a loving and accepting place.



Gene is not only learning how to take responsibility for his actions but also growing in his joy and confidence.

## Seeking a solution

They then talked about what had happened, about who was responsible for what. Gene knew that he had acted out of anger and that it was wrong to have hurt someone.

Yolanda suggested that he could take the initiative and tell the teacher about the incident. He could also call the other boy and apologise. He was willing but was afraid. He was also fearful of the reaction from his father. Yolanda offered to help him talk to his dad.

They then discussed about bullying, ways to protect himself and how best to handle situations like he had experienced that day.

Obviously feeling much calmer, Gene went back to his homework.



At this Centre for Kids in Chengdu, kids like Gene can build their academic skills as well as character.

## The resolution

The next day, Gene came bouncing into the centre. He had talked with the teacher. He had also apologised to the other boy. He was happy that he didn't get scolded. In fact, the teacher said that the other boy had to bear some responsibility as well.

After this incident, we noticed that Gene would be the last child to leave the centre every day. He started to help clean up the classrooms, putting tables and chairs back in their proper places. We asked

him why he didn't go home as soon as he was finished with his homework. He said he had nothing to do at home anyway. Before this incident, there would be days where he would rather stay home to play. It seemed like Gene was grateful that we helped him resolve this incident and staying late to help was a way to show his gratitude.



# Thanks a Million!

These companies, organizations and individuals gave either money or time (sometimes both) to help children in our programmes in Hong Kong and China slay big scary monsters!



## Hong Kong Children's Programme

- Chinese International School (Secondary School)
- Generocity - The Generocity Education & Character Development Programme (2016-17)
- JEMS - Good Character Children Club (2016)
- Target - Love to Read Education Programme (2016)
- The Moody's Foundation - Youth Education and Career Exploration Programme (2016-17)
- Yale Club of Hong Kong
- Yew Chung International School (Secondary School)

## Great Santa Run 2016

- Andox Ltd
- Care Team
- Chun Hing Plastic Packaging Mfy
- Fiducia Management Consultants
- KONE
- Love Sowers Voluntary Service Team
- Park Central
- Santa School Hong Kong
- SkyONE Network
- The Caring Hearts Photographic Society
- The Garden Company Limited
- Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati



Photo source - 尋寶網

Racers dressed as Santa Clauses ran to bring hope to Hong Kong's underprivileged children. Join us again on December 16, 2017!

## Flag Day 2016

- Belilios Public School
- Caritas Wu Cheng-chung Secondary School
- Clementi Secondary School
- Henrietta Secondary School
- Hong Kong Church of Christ
- Hopkins Training & Education Group Limited
- Leung Shek Chee College
- Munsung College (Hong Kong)
- Precious Blood Secondary School
- Quantumbilities Education Centre
- Queen's College
- Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School
- St Louis School
- Talent-Sign Properties Ltd
- The Children's Place
- The Chinese Foundation Secondary School
- The Hong Kong Buddhist Association Youth Center
- The Women's Foundation Limited
- Yew Chung Community College
- Yu Chun Keung Memorial College No.2
- Wah Yan College



Hundreds of volunteers raised over HK\$407,000 on Flag Day to support the work of our Centre for Kids in Shek Kip Mei.

## China Children's Programme

- Chinese International School (Primary School)
- HKMA David Li Kwok Po College
- TWGHs Wong Fut Nam College
- Zhilan Foundation

Trekkers, including our ambassador Mr. Cheung Man-sun, conquered the mountains at Yading, Sichuan Province to help children at our Centre for Kids in Chengdu.



## GoodTrekker 2016 Participants

- Ann Choi
- Candy Chea
- Cara Hui
- David Fong
- Danny Chan
- Irene Tang
- Jacky Si
- Kammy lao
- Man Sun Cheung (HOPE worldwide Ambassador)
- Michelle Lau
- Ringo Wong
- Yim Ling Cheung
- Wang Hui

**HOPE**  
worldwide  
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