

The hope you are bringing. The lives you are changing.

# "Thank You for Making Wishes Come True for All."

[ P.3 More Understanding • Less Judgement ] [ P.4 Sun Gor: Why I Give ]



With these words, Chairman of the Elderly Commission, Dr. Lam Ching-choi, opened the 23rd Volunteers for Seniors Day.

### Many coming together to serve

This year, over 2,800 volunteers served over 1,000 elderly people who are on Comprehensive Social Service Assistance and living alone or with an elderly spouse. We couldn't have done this without the Hong Kong Church of Christ, our biggest volunteer supporter and collaborator since the event launched 23 years ago. In addition, all of the items in the lucky bags were sponsored by either corporations or generous indi-

viduals. Your donation and gift made a huge difference to the elderly people we served. Thank you very much!

After the opening ceremony, volunteers went out to of Hong Kong to



all corners Many elderly people were delighted to receive free dental check-ups on Volunteers for Seniors Day. We then helped them connect to government resources for further treatment.

"make wishes come true for all." Services included home visits, cleaning, health and dental check-ups, as well as "Walk the Extra Mile" - helping elderly individuals fulfill their long-time wishes.

### A special wish

Eighty year-old Mr. To is passionate about painting, but as a young man, he had neither the time nor the resources to learn. When he retired at 65, he picked up his first paint brush.

Over the past 15 years, Mr. To has accumulated many wonderful paintings. His wish was to share them with the world by staging an exhibition of his work.



Volunteers for Seniors Day - a great opportunity to get kids involved to serve the community.

# **How hard** can it be?

Peggy Choi and her friends. the volunteers tasked with making this wish come true, found out that it was verv involved! They first had to secure a suitable venue,\* work with

number of paintings from among

Thanks to many volunteers walking Mr. To to choose a the extra mile, Mr. To's wish of having a painting exhibition came true.

hundreds, frame them, hang them, design an invitation, and then promote the event. All this had to be done while they themselves were busy with full-time jobs.

Thanks to their hard work, perseverance, and sacrifice (Peggy took time off from work in order to prepare for the event), the exhibition opened on January 27 to a crowd of friends, family and well-wishers. Mr. To was on the verge of tears. He could not believe there were people who cared so much to go the "extra mile" to make his wish come true.

## Just the right spirit

Peggy and her friends organizing Mr. To's painting exhibition represents the Volunteers for Seniors Day spirit - communities coming together to serve the Thank you, volunteers, sponsors needv. and partners, for keeping the spirit strong year after year! You have truly brought hope to Mr. To and so many others.

\*Thank you to CreativeKids, who graciously lent their studio space to hold the exhibition.

# You Are Building a Better World

One with more understanding and less judgement

## Working to increase understanding

"Why can't he stand still for even just one minute?"

"She's so strange. She reads standing on one leg leaning against the wall."

These were just two of the questions that 15 individuals of different ages and from various backgrounds explored together at our first Tutor's Basic Training Course on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Children, held on February 25 and March 2. They received training to know what an SEN child "looks like" and how to help them cope with the demands they face at school and in life.



A board game played with a few rules changed can help SEN children express themselves and learn more effectively.



Thanks to your support, A Village Makes SENse is training passionate individuals to provide after-school help to children with special educational needs. Make a donation to help us do more!

## A Village Makes SENse

According to Hong Kong government statistics, the number of SEN children enrolled in public primary schools has risen by 270% since 2011. Because of you, we can respond to this growing need. Your support allows the formation of the "A Village Makes SENse" Programme. It is a one-stop learning hub built with love and care for SEN children. We will help them to not only complete their homework (a daily battle for them and their parents), but also to build skills that have direct application to the daily tasks they must master. The programme also trains people who are interested in giving SEN children after-school support, regardless of whether or not they end up serving at our centre. We believe that when more of us understand and are equipped to help, the better off the entire community.

# **Be Part of a Great Vision!**

• Like our Facebook page. **f** A Village Makes SENse **Q** 

- Make a donation online at www.hopeww.org.hk
- Attend two 3-hour training sessions and become a "village chief". Please contact 2778-2677 (Endy Ng) or WhatsApp 9339-8014 to enroll.



When Mr. Cheung Man-sun (Sun Gor - elder brother Sun), former Assistant Director of Broadcasting of RTHK, was near retirement, he began serving as our ambassador. His wife Candy Chea has been along side of him, actively participating in all of our events. We ask them why they give their time and energy to help HOPE *worldwide* and the people we serve.

**Sun Gor:** I was first interested in getting involved because I liked the flexibility of working with smaller nonprofit organizations. Then when I met Dan and Elexa Liu, who began the work in Hong Kong, I felt an immediate connection. Like my own children, they were both educated in the US. I was impressed that with their pedigree, they were willing to serve at a nonprofit organization in Sham Shui Po! Others in their organization, such as Executive Director Jonathan Liu and Fundraising Manager Amy Chiu, are equally passionate. I believe they really want to help people. It's been a joy working with them.

The ability of HOPE *worldwide* to mobilize many dedicated volunteers is amazing to me. On Volunteers for Seniors Day in 2016, it was three degrees and raining.

My wife Candy and I were so impressed to see that so many volunteers still showed up to serve. I will never forget huddling together with just some of them as we took a group photo right outside of the public restroom!



I especially enjoy participating in their "Good-Trekker", an annual travel plus walkathon fundraising initiative. Two of the years we went on very challenging walks in the mountains of Sichuan Province. Last year, we went to Croatia. GoodTrekker combines my love for travel and also the desire to help people. A win-win for me!

**Candy:** My husband and I had different thoughts about life after retirement. I wanted to help people. Sun Gor wanted to travel the world. The opportunity HOPE *worldwide* has given us is a great blessing! We are doing both! I see Sun Gor taking on the ambassador role like a duck taking to water. Through working with HOPE *worldwide*, his heart for people really shines forth. I watch him and say to myself, "I married the right man!" I appreciate him even more. It's made us closer as a couple.



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