

社工的話 Social Worker's Remark 支持「送暖行動」

香港位處地區,沒有下雪,小時候只得在電視,欣賞雪花 紛飛的美景,見小朋友在地上堆雪人,擲雪球,十分好玩,從 小就冀盼著香港也可以落大雪,冬天有個白色聖誕。但這種想 法在十多年前開始改變,那年剛投身長者服務,漸漸體會到原 來香港沒有下雪的日子,對一眾長者和長期病患者來說反而是 幸福的標誌。

早前天文台發出預警,今年冬天本港氣溫會受拉尼娜現象 影響而急降,這陣子不單是負責「送暖行動」的同事,所有 上門工作的同事,凡接觸到「疑似目標」-缺乏保暖物資的獨 居或兩老無依的,按他們的需要及情況,為他們送上棉衣、頸 巾、冷帽、手套、熱水壺、暖風機或甚是電熱水爐等等。

高婆婆是國內的博士生,聽聞他退休時仍多次獲國內大學 邀請授課,十多年前來港定居,由於嚴重骨痛,走路大不如 前,及至近年證實患上癌症,舉步更為艱難,唯他意志十分堅 定,靠著扶助工具每天外出走走。唯前幾天天氣實在太冷,他 雙腳痛得不能行動,及見今天有陽光,氣溫回升,於是出來行 動,若不鍛鍊雙腳,擔心就不能再走。「早兩天因凍困在家, 左腳發黑,腳痛得不能行,從房間到廁所,五六呎的距離,足 足要二十分鐘。」

同樣是有骨痛的彭婆婆,今年85歲,獨居,醫生告訴他 因退化右膝嚴重扭曲,行動變得比以前更為無力,加上他有嚴 重氣喘,24小時靠製氧機協助呼吸,家訪的當天天氣只得12 度,「我好怕冷病,好麻煩,氣促,不能呼吸,我怕一入醫院 再不能回家。」

打從十一月下旬開始,我們一共接到近300個轉介的個 案,看著長者接過棉衣和一些保暖物資,愁容頓時消失,當 知道有關物資是從善長而來,有的還表示:「以為是政府 的,呀!真的有咁好既人,真係有,真係多謝哂!幫我地多 謝佢!」

寒冬為長者和長期病患者帶來的是一場生命的考驗,稍一 不慎後果可以相當嚴重;眾施善者及協助家訪的義工,正是他 們考驗中的力量和支援;直至今天,我們仍不斷接到地區社工 的轉介,大量需要保暖衣物和電器,請即支持「送暖行動」, 支持他們繼續為生命而戰。

看著看著,原來沒有下雪的香港,有你的愛綻落在他們身 上,同樣可以變得很美麗!

Support Warmth Caring Action

There is no snowfall in Hong Kong. When I was little watching TV, I admired the scenery of falling snowflakes, little children making snowman, and throwing snowballs around, how nice to play with! How I longed to see falling snow in Hong Kong and a white Christmas. That thinking started to change over a decade ago, when I started working to service senior people and gradually came to realize Hong Kong does not have snow which in fact is a blessing to elderly and chronic patients.

The Observatory had earlier warned that as a result of La Nina, this winter would be frigidly cold. At present, our colleagues responsible for Warmth Caring Action, while on their home calls, are delivering much needed cotton padded coats, scarves, woolen yarn hats, thermos, fan heaters and even hot water heaters etc, to contacted "suspected target" - living alone or independent couples who are in need of warm clothing and electrical appliances.

Grannie Ko, a university doctor's degree holder from China, was asked to lecture at the universities in China on a number of occasions even after her retirement. She came to settle in Hong Kong over a decade ago. She, having severe bone sore and unable to walk as before, was confirmed in recent years having cancer which has made her walking even more strenuous. Nevertheless, she has strong wills and continues going out every day with help of a walker. The weather has been very cold last few days and her feet were hurt so much that she could not walk. On seeing sun this day with temperature on the rise, she went out walking again. She worries she may not be able to walk again if she does no exercises. "Last couple of days, I was home bounded, my left foot turned black, so sore and painful that I had walking difficulties. It took me more than 20 minutes to cover a distance of 5-6 feet, from my room to the toilet."

Likewise granny Pang, also having sore bones, is 85 years old living alone. The doctor has told her that her right knee has been severely twisted due to aging. As a result, mobility has been much weaker than before. Besides, she is also suffering from severe asthma and needs the oxygen machine 24 hours to help her breath. On the day of our visit the temperature was only 12 degree celsius. "I really cannot stand cold, very troublesome, gasping for breath and unable to breathe. I am afraid I may never come home again once I enter the hospital."

From late November onward we have received close to 300 referral cases in total. Seeing elderly receiving cotton padded clothing and keep warm items, their sadness suddenly disappeared and when they learned that these materials came from well-wishers, they said, "We have assumed they were from the government. Oh! There are really good people out there. They really are nice, thank you! Please thank them for us!"

The cold winter is a life testing for elderly and chronic patients. The consequence could be fatal had one not be careful enough. Well-wishers and volunteer workers assisting home visits give them strength and support. At this stage, we are still getting referred requests for help from district social workers. Large quantity of warm clothing and electrical appliances are still in demand. Please support our Warmth Caring Action to help their continued battle for life.

Look, Hong Kong can be just as beautiful without snowfall but having your love falling onto them instead!





默默無施的捐助 助社會匱乏過寒冬

自從多年前長者因沒有足夠保暖物資而敵不過寒冬的 消息被廣泛報道後,為回應一眾匱乏長者和長期病患者的 需要,我們便順應開展了「送暖行動」計劃。多年來幸得 到社會上各熱心人士的慷慨解囊和默默支持,除了金錢上 的捐助外,亦有善長默默無施地自行發動實物籌募,企透 過該些物品向有需要長者和病患者送上一份暖意、傳遞一 點關懷!

今年十一月中,本單位收到一位恆常捐款的善長來 信,告知她正於其校(香港大學專業進修學院)的教職員 會內,為本機構舉行「Knitting & Collection for the Needy 2011」,並陸續送上收集品及編織品。顧名思義,籌募 活動除協助收集校友、職員、老師及學生等捐出的全新保 暖衣物外,更具意義的是,他們鼓勵各位親手編織保暖頸 巾、冷帽和冷襪等等,冀於捐贈中加添心意,把關愛的力 量聯繫起來,讓長者得到溫暖的同時,亦感受到社會人士 的關心,不致覺得被社會遺忘。

其實,香港大學專業進修學院的教職員會舉行是次 活動,全屬自發性質,由構思、校內宣傳、收集、教授編 織,以至將物品送到本單位等,均由該會一手包辦。期間 為了讓更多校內人士知悉是次活動,他們親自設計及編印 單張,於校內張貼,以令更多有心人士可以參與。另外, 常言道,做善事不分男女老幼,因此,別以為身體力行的 編織行動只限女士,據教職員會同事轉述,校內不少男同 事為支持這個甚具意義的捐助,即使對編織一曉不通,亦 主動拿起編織針來,為弱老盡一分力。有見及此,教職員 會於午膳及下班後為他們舉行編織班;當然,不少男士最 初要救助太太或母親,然而,經過一番努力後,他們的製 成品絕不比女士們遜色!

以上活動結束後約一星期,教職員已將數大袋收集品 及編織品,獨立用透明袋包裝好,並貼上祝福語,送到本 單位。面對善長們如此迅速、慷慨的捐助,我們亦不敢怠 慢,隨即轉贈有需要的長者。

「送暖行動計劃」已經踏入第五年了,天文台預告這個冬天會很冷和較為漫長,加上直至現在,社工轉介的送



暖個案仍然不斷,故 此,送暖的行動計劃 實仍有賴大家繼續支 持,令社會貧老感受 到人間溫暖。

Generous donation in silence Helps the needy to overcome severe winter

The widely reported elderly having inadequate warm clothing to subdue winter cold years ago had caused us to launch the "Warmth Caring Action" in response to the need of the needy elderly and chronic patients. Over the years, we have been fortunate enough in gathering enthusiastic support and generous donation from well wishers in the community. Apart from monetary support there were also selfinitiated physical collections aimed at sending warmth and care to the needy elderly and chronic patients through them.

This November, we received a letter from a regular donor telling us that the staff club of their institution (HKU Space) are running a "Knitting & Collection for the Needy 2011" program and were sending us their gathered collections and knit wears. Besides gathering brand new keep warm materials and clothing donated by fellow graduates, staff members, lecturers and students; what has been most touching is to encourage them to self-knit scarves, caps and socks etc, for the elders, letting the latter know that they have not been forgotten by the community, thus linking community love and care to the received items.

As a matter of fact, this activity, self-initiated by HKU Space staffs starting from conceptualization, publicizing, collection, knitting coaching and delivery of finished items to our organization etc were done single-handedly by them. Meanwhile, in order to publicize the activity, they have designed and printed leaflets for posting inside the university. What is more, not only ladies joined in; according to a staff member's relayed message, many male colleagues also supported the meaningful donation, even they knew nothing about knitting. Knitting classes were organized for after lunch or after office hours. Though initially many males still have to ask their wives or mothers for help, after the hard work, their production came out to be at par with their female counterpart!

Less than a week after completion of the above drive, the staff had big bags of collected items, individually packed in transparent bags, blessing message attached delivered to our organization. In response to their fast action, we of course had to act quickly distributing them to the needy elderly.

"Warmth Caring Action" is on its fifth year of running. While the Observatory has forecasted this winter to be cold and long lasting, requests for warm clothing is still on the rise at the moment. Hence, whether this program is going to be successful will largely depend on your continuous support, enabling the poor needy feel there is still warmth and care in this world.



香港大學專業進修學院教職員會親自設計及編印 的單張,而收集品更以獨立透明袋包裝,並貼上 祝福語!

The printed leaflet designed by the Staff Club of HKU Space; while the collected items were packed in transparent bags with blessing message attached.





病,真的束手無策?

年近歲晚,收到盧先生的個案申請,為希望盡快為對 方提供協助,便急忙趕來家訪,來到離開港鐵站,走了十 幾分鐘路程,途中經過一段又一段的斜路,才來到盧先生 的家。門外放着一台腳踏車,沒想到居住在其中的就是年 近六十歲、剛接受第一次化療、行動乏力的盧先生。

盧先生罹患膀胱癌,一家四口居住在姊姊的公屋單 位,單位內沒有新春佈置,什麼過年喜喜洋洋的氣氛也沒 有,「我地係正真的家徒四壁,就近新年,咩到無。」盧 先生苦笑著說。「我做了手術,行得好辛苦,屋企係兩個 地鐵站中間,去邊到都唔方便!去醫院化療,太太要陪我 行十幾分鐘才到巴士站搭車。有時要帶把傘出街,撐住黎 行。好彩剛做完化療而家仲行到,遲下就唔知喇。」盧先 生無奈地說。

醫生建議盧先生接受三次的化療,每次兩針,但是 化療的費用對於依賴綜援金生活的盧先生一家四口帶來了 沉重的負擔。盧先生有一子一女,「個仔啱啱畢業,學歷 又唔高,仲未搵到野做。個女而家先至中三,我唔想佢因 為無錢而停學,我自己讀書唔多,我唔想佢地走我條路! 」談到一對子女,作為父親的盧先生一方面難掩內心的憂 慮,另一方面對自己不能好好養育表現得很自責。「我 老婆都有長期病,經常要覆診食藥,向來都唔能夠出去做 野,原本我諗住自己辛苦d,捱多幾年,等仔女出身,點知 自己仲大件事,而家仲好似拖累左佢地。」

為了救命,盧先生每次要付接近三千元的化療費用, 三次即是九千元,盧先生何來有錢支付醫療費?「無錢都 要醫架,病都無辦法!」,幾經了解後,盧先生的藥費是 從透支多張信用卡而來,信用卡透支利息很高,累積的卡 數令盧先生一家的生活百上加斤。「而家化療既成效仲未 知,醫生話三次化療唔得,可能要多幾次,又或可能要電 療,有得醫我地都會醫。」盧太說來感慨非常。

盧先生曾嘗試申請其他機構的藥物資助計劃,但都 不成功。盧先生的個案正是面對「有病無錢醫」的困境。 你願意伸出援手,善施善款,幫助貧困的病人面對疾病和



Sickness, what can I do?

Close to the year end, we received an urgent request for help from a Mr. Lo and a home visit was quickly arranged. After leaving the MTR station, we had to walk some ten minutes, part of which was an uphill section, before reaching his residence. Parked outside the door was a bicycle and we did not realize living there is the 60 years old Mr. Lo who had just received his first chemotherapy that sapped his strength moving around.

Lo has bladder cancer. His family of four lives in his elder sister's housing unit, no Chinese New Year decoration, not the slightest jubilant festivity atmosphere. "All walls are blank, nothing here though Chinese New Year is around the corner," said Lo with a bitter smile. "After the operation, I barely managed to walk. My home lies between two MTR stations, very inconvenient for me going out. My wife accompanies me walking over 10 minutes to the nearest bus stop going to the hospital for chemotherapy. Sometimes, I had to carry an umbrella to support my walk. Luckily, I am still able to walk after the treatment, who knows what will happen in the future." said Lo.

The doctor has suggested Lo to get three chemotherapy treatments, two shots each time, which is a heavy financial burden to the CSSA recipient Lo family. He has a son and a daughter. "My son has just completed secondary school, low in academic qualification, and is looking for a job; my girl is in Form 3 and my wish is for her to continue schooling. I had little education and I do not want them following my footstep!" On talking about his children, Lo was adamant and worried on one hand and felt rather guilty for failing to give them good education on the other. "My wife is a chronic patient, requiring frequent doctor visits and medication, hence unable to work. I thought I could have worked few more years until my children have all finished school and go out to work. Who knows now I am in this condition and let them down."

To save his life, Lo has to pay some HK\$ 3,000 for each chemotherapy treatment, HK\$ 9,000 for three, so where can he get this money? "Being sick is not in our control, treatment must be obtained even without money!" After further probing, we found that Lo got the money from credit cards overdraft. Credit card interest is very high and the outstanding card accrual has made their livelihood even worse. "We have no idea on what the treatment outcome would be. The doctor said that if three chemotherapy treatments do not work, more would be required and perhaps even radiotherapy. We will try to get whatever is available to him." sighed Mrs. Lo.

Lo has been seeking medical subsidy from other institutions without success. He is in the dilemma being sick and no money for medical. Will you be willing to offer him a rescue, helping the sickly poor and subsidizing their exorbitant medical expenses? Any amount of your donation will definitely help to lift his spirit especially not to feel helpless any more in the coming year. Please send your donation cheque beneficiary "St. James' Settlement" earmarked at the back "Medication Subsidy Program", mailing to Room 105, 1/F, 85 Stone Nullah Street, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Donation and inquiry hotline: 2835-4321 or 8107-8324.

縱使佳節臨近,有病無錢醫的盧先生也沒有心情慶祝,一心只想 渡過病困,繼續生存下去。

Although the New Year is coming, Mr. Lo, who is sick with no money for medical, does not think about any celebration but wishes to rescue from the sickness.





藉著大家的捐賜支持,方可令我們推行的各項 「慈惠服務」得可有機會「到位」幫助到處於貧病交迫的 匱乏人士,以下是我們收到受惠者千叮萬囑的感激之言, 請求我們向大家表達他們情深意懇感激之說話。

贈藥治病的個案在每次收到資助後都會說:「好多謝 你哋!」、「有咗善長我先有機會食藥!」、「你哋真係 幫我減咗好多壓力!」、「好多謝善長令我可有生存的希 望!」、「社工只係幫我轉介到你哋贈藥治病,但你哋見 到我有需要,仲找善長送埋電磁爐俾我,真係好好呀!」

受惠者甘先生說道:「非常感謝幫助過我既人,包 括:聖雅各福群會送俾我電磁爐及電熱水壺,令我空空如 也的家增添一啲暖意;好感謝你哋替我找到善長幫助我兩 年既藥費,令我既肝炎病可以控制,避免癌症的發生;又 好感謝善長王先生及王太,佢哋不單只幫助我水費電費, 佢哋仲親自送我食物及日用品,佢哋既細心真係令我感 動,連油、鷹粟粉、鹽、糖都送理俾我,佢哋真係好細心 去幫人!」

而另一位受惠者黃先生也說:「你哋係在我最無助、 人生最低潮既時候的大恩人;由你哋處得到社會善心人士 既幫助,除咗資助我昂貴既藥物,又幫助我既兒子奶粉同 埋我哋一家既食糧,解決我因要花盡金錢買藥而無力支付 全家食用的開支;仲有位善長陳小姐親自帶埋玩具黎探望 我哋,臨走時仲封咗一封利是俾我既兒子。我真係無以為 報,如果我他日有能力,我一定會捐錢幫返人。」

當我們每次聽到這些由衷感謝之言,心中確實無名感 動起來。感動的是社會上有一班像你們般的善長,每月無 私地奉獻,為一班有需要而完全不認識的人士作出援助。 我們的各項並無政府支持的「慈惠服務」得可推行,你們 默默無聞地在幕後的無私愛德付出,正是此些助人服務成 功的真英雄,實屬令人尊敬,也叫我們努力工作,以報答 你們的大德大愛。



Your beneficence makes a difference

·年十二月份 DEC 2011

The Philanthropy Monthly

Without your donations, we would not have gathered enough funds to help those struggling with adversity. During the time, we have received uncountable personal notes from clients, who wanted us to convey their gratitude to our kind and generous donors. Here we listed some in the following;

Our clients in cases of Medicine Subsidy Program keep saying these to us, "Thank you... thank you", "Your kind donors bring me the timely cure", "You take much of our burden off", "The donors give us hope to carry on", "Social workers refer us to you for medicine subsidy, but you look into our needs and seek out donation funds to get me an induction cooker!"

Mr. Kam, another client of ours, said, "I am grateful to St. James' Settlement and the Wong couple, they both gave me timely help. Thank you SJS for sending me an induction cooker and an electric water boiler, also, they found a donor to cover all my hepatitis medication costs for 2 years; otherwise, I wouldn't have the means to pay for the bill and my hepatitis might have been worsened. Besides, Mr. and Mrs. Wong not only settled the water and electricity charges for me, they are even kind enough to buy me food and daily necessities, oil, salt, sugar, corn starch.. etc. They are really very kind hearted in helping others!"

Another beneficiary, Mr. Wong, added, "I was so lucky to have your assistance at my hardest time. You used funds from benevolent donors to offer me subsidies on expensive drugs and you provided milk powder and food for my baby as well as my whole family. My family could have been starved as we had no money left after settling medication fees. I would also like to thank Miss Chan for bringing us toys in person; she even gave my son a red packet when she left. I know I cannot repay your kindness at the moment, but I promise if my financial situation gets better someday in the future, I would do the same thing to others as you do to me today."

Every time we hear those thank-you sayings, we feel deeply moved because we know there are many donors like you who are selflessly making donations every month to help people in difficulty or people they don't know at all. As all our Charity Project receive no government funding, we would not have achieved anything if it was not for your donations. In other words, YOU, our respected donors, are the real heroes behind everything we do. To repay your kindness and beneficence, we feel obliged to work even harder in the future!



We Need Your Donation 新春施善積德納福 助賞者購藥渡癌關

我們需要你的捐助

農曆龍年新春將至,正當大家忙於張羅過年用品時, 可知社會上卻有些貧病交迫患者,因欠缺財力治理惡疾, 恐會失去生命的徬徨,同樣地也帶來其家人心理的困擾苦 痛?試問,這些家庭連生活及生命都不是自己可控制時, 如何可有一個迎接龍年的歡樂心情?

54歲的岑先生,兩口子連一名幼子總算幸福無憂;但 好景不常,岑先生早年被診斷患有大腸癌,漸漸失去工作 能力而被逼失去工作;從此,岑家的生活重擔便落在每月 只有7,000元收入的太太身上。近日岑先生接受的傳統化療 藥物,已經不能控制病情,他唯一的選擇只有購買自費藥 物,方能有望保命,奈何他可有數仟元以用作治療,控制 病情呢?

「全家只靠我獨力支撐,租金每月要二千多元,用在 幼子的學費及全家的衣食行生活,以及丈夫因病而衍生的 支出後,收入僅可維持家計。現在,還要每月再用數千元 購買自費藥物,實在是無路可走!」岑生除承受著生命的 威脅外,岑太在勉力應付家計的同時,亦要耗費心力照顧 患癌丈夫的日常起居,人也變得心緒不寧,徬徨而無助。

而58歲一家四口依靠綜援為生,兩位女兒仍然在學的 盧先生,於得知患上膀胱癌後,頓令全家擔心因沒錢醫 病,而會失去他。面對昂貴的膀胱癌自費化療藥物,他迫 不得已用信用卡透支,以支付「續命」的藥費開支。結果 因而欠下巨債,無力償還。「早前收數公司也多次深夜拍 門追數,雖然有親戚可替我償還借款,但我仍欠往後數次 共萬多元的化療藥物費用,唔通不再做化療,那豈不是浪 費之前的支出?」身負重債的盧先生,此時下肢也出現疼 痛、乏力的問題,需要用雨傘助步行;而同時其兩名女兒 也要被逼停止參加學校出外學習的通識班了。

以上兩個家庭,其實只是我們個案的冰山一角。他們 若欠缺善長的援手,他們的家庭或會難以再繼續團圓。新 春行善納福之時,善長們可否捐出一封紅封包,俾可集腋 成裘以濟助一眾貧病交迫病者?支票請書「聖雅各福群 會」,指定捐予「贈藥治病計劃」,寄香港灣仔石水渠街 85號一字樓105室。施善熱線:8107 8324 或2835 4321。



Donate at Lunar New Year for luck Help patients buy medicine to fight for cancer

New Year is coming for the Year of Dragon. While we are busy shopping for Chinese New Year, there are poor and sick people who lack financial means to cure diseases and live in anxiety due to the possibility of losing their lives. Their family members also experience disturbance and pain in their hearts. These families that can't even control their own lives and livelihood have hardly the mood for welcoming the Year of Dragon.

Mr. Shum, 54 years of age, lived happily with his wife and son. Years before, he was diagnosed with colon cancer. Gradually, he was not fit for work then finally lost his job. Since then, Mrs. Shum, who earns \$7,000 a month, becomes the bread-winner of the family. Recently, the conventional medicines Mr. Shum has been taking couldn't control his disease. His only alternative is to purchase user-pay medicines. The problem is how he can afford extra several thousand dollars for curing purpose.

"I am the sole provider of the family. The rent costs more than two thousand dollars; the remaining money has to be paid for my son's school fees, my husband's medical expenses, food, transport and sundry items. I barely make my ends meet. It's definitely beyond my ability to find an extra several thousands to purchase user-pay medicines." Mrs. Shum is feeling helpless and agitated since she has to take care of her cancer-stricken husband on top of making ends meet.

Mr. Lo, 54 years of age, lives on government's CCSA. He has 4 members in his family and both of his daughters are still going to school. After Mr. Lo was diagnosed with bladder cancer, the whole family was worried losing Mr. Lo because he might not have money to get treatment for his disease. Mr. Lo was forced to pay for all the expensive chemo-therapy user-pay expenses. As a result, he was greatly in debt and was unable to settle the outstanding amount. "Earlier the debt collecting company knocked on our door demanding repayment late at night. My relatives helped me settle the debt. But I still need another ten thousands strong to pay for future chemo-therapy medicine cost. I have to go on with the therapy, otherwise all the previous treatment will have gone down the drain." Mr. Lo, greatly in debt, starts to have problem in walking. His legs have become weak and he walks with the help of an umbrella. At the same time, his daughters are compelled to stop participating in liberal studies sessions that is outside the school.

The problems of the two families stated above disclose only the tip of an iceberg of our applications. If no contributors offer help, they may die and their family won't be complete. Chinese New Year is the best time to do good. Please contribute. When pooled together, even small as one red packet can help those in need, such as the poor and sick people. Make out your cheque payable to St. James' Settlement, specifying 'Medication Subsidy Program' at the back. Mail your cheque to Room 105, 1/F, 85, Stone Nullah Lane, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Donation hotlines, please call 8107-8324 or 2835-4321.

面對丈夫高昂的醫藥費, 岑太表示真的無能為力, 無奈非常。 Mrs. Shum is full of helplessness when facing her husband's expensive self-paid medication.





受惠者言

Client's Remark

74歲的孫婆婆,與丈夫育有女兒,然而,女兒嫁 人後生活艱難,沒有能力供養父母,兩老沒有收入, 唯有依靠綜援生活,住公屋單位相依為命。

可惜,相依為命的日子只維持至三年前,孫婆婆 的丈夫比她早走一步,婆婆除要面對傷痛、負擔丈夫 的身後事,還頓成獨居老人,「丈夫走了後,我自己 一個住,了無依靠」。婆婆年紀漸大,視力下降,看 東西模模糊糊,一旦遇上意外,後果堪虞。

今年,婆婆須調遷到較小單位,面對搬遷事,孤 立無援。新單位除了四面牆和廁所,甚麼都沒有,「 望住間屋都唔知點算」,尤其是凹凸不平的石屎地 台,只要婆婆稍不留神,便會跌倒,十分危險。婆婆 十分擔心的說:「當時我真係好徬徨無助,我沒有錢 找裝修師傅鋪地板,萬一在家跌倒暈了,都不知如何 是好。」

幸好得社工黃姑娘為孫婆婆向本會申請長者家居 維修服務,本服務得悉後,獲三位熱心的義工師傅幫 忙,並立即訂地板、膠水。在服務當天,不消一小 時,便完成了鋪地板的工作,婆婆得著一個安全的樂 窩,馬上走進屋內,踏上平滑的地板,面露滿足的微 笑,說道:「多謝崇德社的關懷,讓我不用為遷入新 居煩惱,還要多謝義工辛勞的協助,很久沒有這麼多 人關心我了。」



How a Singleton Granny gets a Safe New Home!

Granny Suen, 74 years old, has a married daughter. Unfortunately is her daughter only lives hand to mouth since married, she cannot have any money spared for Granny Suen. The old couple, i.e. Granny Suen and her husband, therefore lived in a public housing unit and relied solely upon the CSSA allowance for daily living.

Granny Suen's husband passed away 3 years ago; and since then, she became a singleton elderly. Yet, grief and loneliness are not the only problems she has to face. "Since my husband died, I feel totally alone." In recent years, Granny Suen's eyesight deteriorated as she aged. Seeing only blurry images, she could easily get hurt when accident happens; considering her age, accidents of any kind could be dangerous.

Earlier this year, Granny Suen was assigned to a smaller housing unit and this made her feel completely helpless. She found nothing in her new "home" other than plain walls and a toilet. Moreover, the concrete floor was so uneven that Granny Suen could get easily tumbled if she was not careful enough. "I didn't have the money to get the floor fixed. What if someday I fall at home and get unconscious? I am so worried." Granny Suen anxiously told us her concern.

Fortunately, Granny Suen's case was soon referred by Miss Wong, a social worker, to apply for our "Elderly Home Maintenance Services". Receiving the case, we immediately asked our enthusiastic volunteer technicians to help out on the makeover and sorted out the necessary material like floor tiles and adhesives. On the day of service, our volunteers finished up the flooring in less than an hour. Upon completion, Granny Suen rushed in her new home. This time, the floor was no longer uneven and everyone saw the bright smile on her face. She said, "I have to thank Zonta Club of the New Territories, with their assistance I don't have to worry about moving into a new home; and of course I must thank the volunteers for their hardwork. I feel being cared about, I missed this feeling for a long time. Thank you."

有賴新界崇德社的捐助[,]孫婆婆(右)看著義工剛才鋪上的膠地板[,] 也看見希望。

Thanks to the donation of Zonta Club of the New Territories, Granny Suen (on the right) gains hope along with the brand new floor worked out by our volunteers.





盼請捐助防風板 從寒風中護長者

當冷鋒殺到,寒冷天氣警告和強烈季候風訊號同時生效的時候,大家只要關上鋁窗,便可安枕無憂。 不過,住在舊式公屋的弱老,家中露台沒有裝窗,只 有鐵枝防盜,卻不能防風,黑夜裡寒風呼呼作響,直 吹入屋,冷得刺骨,狐老弱老默默承受。

尤其是舊式公屋的設計,廁所設於露台外,如弱 老晚上起床如廁,便要抵抗著溫差轉變的挑戰。在寒 冷天氣下沒有足夠保暖措施,長期病患者的病發機會 大大提高,寒冬中,獨居長者凍死家中更時有所聞, 教人悲哀。

為免慘劇發生,本會「長者家居維修服務」特別 為居住舊式公屋的無依長者安裝防風板。防風板由鋁 鋼掣成支架及路軌,配上膠板,當天氣冷時可讓膠板 覆蓋露台檔風,風勢緩和時則可把膠板推到一邊讓室 內保持通風。使用防風板可免去安裝鋁窗的搭棚工序 及費用,成本大大降低,同時可做到防風效果,實屬 到位的服務。

然而,購買製作防風板的材料費用也不低,據義 工師傅說,以往在普遍的小露台上安裝防風板成本約 600元,如露台較闊,成本更上千元。防風板材料主 要是鋁鋼部分,由於通脹加上鋼材價格上升,在這個 冬天,每塊防風板的價錢將更昂貴。

雖然成本上升,但由於本年天氣將比去年更冷, 我們預計防風板需求將會上升,約需為15位弱老安 裝,故我們尚缺善款\$10,000,才能滿足需要。我們 懇請你伸出援手,解無助長者捱凍之危險,為長者帶 來暖暖冬天。施善支票抬頭「聖雅各福群會」,指定 捐予「防風板」或「家居維修服務」,俾本會可依 指令濟助他們;支票請寄:香港灣仔石水渠街85號 一字樓105室。服務查詢及施善熱線:8107 8324或 2835 4321。



Wind Shutters Save Elderly From Chilly Blasts

As the cold front sets in, cold weather warning and strong gale force wind take effect the same time, we can stay warm without worries by just closing the aluminum windows. However, frail elderly living in old style public housing estates do not have that luxury as their verandas have no windows, just iron bars for theft prevention, offering no protection against gale force winds. They have to bear the bone chilling wind blowing into their units at night in silence.

What's more old style public housing units design has toilets in the veranda. Elderly using the toilet at night have to accept challenge of temperature difference. In cold winter and without adequate means to stay warm, chances for chronic elderly patients falling sick increase drastically. It is not unusual to hear living alone elderly die of cold in their homes in freezing weather which is really lamentable.

In order to avoid such tragedy from happening, our Elderly Home Maintenance Service installs wind shutters for the helpless living alone elderly in old style public housing units. They consist of plastic sheets mounted onto aluminum frame supports running on steel rails. When it gets cold and windy the sheets shield the veranda and when the wind dies down they are pushed to one end to improve room ventilation. Installation of sheet plastic wind shutters will eliminate expensive scaffolding costs for aluminum windows installation while achieving the same result. This is an inposition service.

Moreover, material costs for the fabrication of sheet plastic wind shutters is not low. According to what the volunteer technician master said, cost for installation in an average small veranda was around \$600 in the past, might be beyond \$1,000 for wider verandas. Major materials are the aluminum and steel sections. With inflation and rising costs for steel, each wind shutter will even be more expensive this winter.

Despite the rising cost, this winter is going to be even colder and we have anticipated a rise in the installation need for about 15 frail elderly and some \$10,000 to cover estimated financial shortfall. We are now appealing to you for help, bringing warmth to these poor elderly. Donation cheque, beneficiary St. James' Settlement, earmarked for "Wind shutters" or "Elderly Home Maintenance Service" use and we then can act on your instruction accordingly. Cheque can be sent by mail to St. James' Settlement, Room 105, 85 Stone Nullah Lane, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Service and inquiry hotline: 8107 8324 or 2835 4321.

防風板在寒冬為弱老檔風,對長者的身體健康,功不可沒。

The wind shutters are of great importance for saving the health of many elderly.





電器贈長者 讓弱老安居

「電器贈長者」計劃主要是全港性協助獨居無依、 經濟匱乏並欠缺親友支援的長者。體弱多病令無依長者面 對貧病交迫,境況淒涼,加上家中電器多日久失修,勉強 使用容易引致電線短路,繼而發生家居意外。事實上,大 部份無依長者都是健康狀況欠佳,如視力或聽力較弱,因 此,安全合適的家居電器將有助避免家居意外的發生,亦 有助改善家居環境質素,建立安全的家居環境。

「電器贈長者」計劃的推行全依賴善長們的慷慨捐 輸,多年來一直為匱乏無依長者餽贈基本家電,如電熱水 壺、雪櫃、電熱水爐等。此計劃尤其對一班終能從板間房 「上樓」的綜援長者而言,實為重要。面對即將入伙的新 居,長者一方面默默計算僅餘的積蓄,另一方面亦被迫單 打獨鬥應付入伙的一切開支,而添置電器則佔3大部份的 支出。「電器贈長者」計劃透過地區社工的評估,按長者 的急切需要餽贈所需電器。而計劃亦得一班熱心的義工協 助,親身將電器送到長者家中,並協助指導長者電器使用 的正確方法,確保服務到位,貼身支援長者的家居需要, 建立「從無到有」的安全家居環境。

如上述所言,計劃沒有政府資助,加上電器來貨急 升,在沒有充足資源下,長者輪候時間增加。寒冷的冬天 已來臨,急需禦寒電器的體弱長者,會因禦寒設施如電熱 水壺、熱水爐等不足冷病。社工探望長者時,眼見輪候的 長者於嚴寒中掙扎求存,甚感無奈。根據天文台的預測, 今年香港的冬天會持續寒冷,相信對獨居無依、體弱多病 的貧苦長者而言,勢將備受氣促、頭痛等痛症威脅。

面對迫在眉睫的社會需求,「電器贈長者」計劃希望 堅守「以人為本」以及「及時到位」的精神,繼續為匱乏 長者送上基本家電,改善弱老的家居環境安全。此計劃得 以及時推行實全賴善長雪中送炭的善舉,讓貧病無依的長 者獲得貼心的照顧,讓他們免受病痛之苦,避免發生家居 意外。施善查詢:2835-4321或8107-8324。



Electrical Appliances for the Elderly Program Making Home Safe for the Poor Elderly

Electrical Appliances for the Elderly Program (EAE) mainly served financially deprived elders who lack of family support in the community. The deprived elders suffered from both financial pressure together with deteriorating health which left them in vulnerable situation. Concerning their home safety, the electrical appliances which used for a long period of time might in urgent need of repairs to avoid triggering any shortcircuited accidents. In fact, majority of deprived elders had weak visual and audio ability. Therefore, safe use of electrical appliances could enhance with safety measures in their home environment which at the same time, enhance their living quality.

The EAE Program relied solely on donations from our generous donors. The program provides basic electrical appliances, like electric water boiler, refrigerator and electric water heater etc. The program means importantly for CSSA elder recipients who failed to afford all expenses when they moved into a new public housing. They have to afford heavy expenses on purchasing electrical appliances out of their limited saving. The EAE Program thus, relies on assessment by social workers from community centers and provides suitable electrical appliances for the deprived elders according to their needs of urgency. The Program is well supported by our passionate volunteers also who are ready to deliver electrical appliances directly to their home and equip them with knowledge on appropriate use of electrical appliances. The EAE program hopes to support their needs on home safety and establishes a warm safe home environment for the needy elders.

The EAE Program does not receive any subsidy from government and together with the inflation; the needy elders have to wait for a longer period of time for the electrical appliances. The chilling winter already comes and weak elders might get sick if they lack of warm – keeping appliances like electric water boiler and electric water heater etc. According to the information of Hong Kong Observatory, it is estimated that the coming winter would be persistently freezing and it is believed that the freezing weather could be threatening for weak deprived elders with chronic illness.

In order to fulfill urgent needs from deprived elders, the EAE Program insisted to serve the needy elders on human based and immediate needs. The EAE Program would keep on delivering the electrical appliances to the needy elders to enhance safety in their home environment and avoid any accidents triggered. For enquiries or donation, please contact 2835-4321 or 8107-8324.

善長的慷慨捐贈、義工的體貼指導,均使弱老能安心安局家中。 The generous donations from donors and the detailed explanation by volunteers make the home of weak elders sage.





捐助贈藥治病服務

近日收到黃太太的來電查詢,希望在捐款前對服務有多一點了解,特別是「贈藥治病服務」:

問:在決定捐款前,我想多了解款項的去向,特 別是贈藥治病的計劃,會是如何支持患病人士?

答: 贈藥治病計劃是專幫助一些低收入或綜援人 士,因著他們患上長期疾病,又因經濟困難未能負擔 自費處方藥物的費用。通常求助的個案會先經過政府 醫生的診斷,再由醫務社工的轉介,在現有政府資源 未能協助的情況下,我們再考慮病患者的申請。由於 我們服務不分區域,透過與醫務社工的接觸、查看醫 院發出病歷及藥單的証明、與個案家訪或面談,乎合 有關條件下按需要而作出捐助。

問:作出捐款後,受助人怎樣接收到幫助?

答:在審批過程中,我們已了解到受助人需服用 的自費處方藥物及售價。由於藥費動輒由幾百至幾 千,甚至過萬元,而每個受助人的服藥需要有所不 同,有的是每天服用藥物,有的是每星期或每月用注 射形式治理等等;故此,我們會每星期或每月,又或 每兩個月放發一次善款,讓病人購買有關藥物服用, 隨後每位受助人必須交來單據作實。

問:通常來求助的都是長期病患者,但我並不能 承諾長期作出幫助?

答:長期病患者的情況確實是要長期服藥或作出 較漫長的治療,對於黃太太關注他們的求命需要,又 想到自己能力有限;事實上,我們的服務是全港性, 個案只會愈來愈多,而但凡來求助的病患者及轉介的 醫務社工都知道我們的計劃亦有限制,或許在慈惠月 報中來來去去收到病人的類近情況。就正因為在現實 生活中,就在我們的身旁確實有這些不幸的人士正在 掙扎求存。今天,黃太太受了感動為他們作出幫忙, 我們深信透過大家的堅持及信念,有更多的善長於不 同的時間,願意為落於患難的人士伸手支援。所以, 對於黃太太短期的善款,我們代一眾受助人深表感 謝。

Medication Subsidy Program Donation

Received a recent call from Mrs. Wong requesting clarification specifically on Medication Subsidy Program prior to donation:

Question: How is the Medication Subsidy Program going to help the patient?

Answer: The Medication Subsidy Program is designed to help low income or CSSA bracket suffering from chronic illnesses to pay for self-purchase prescription medication, not affordable by their financial condition. Cases requesting subsidy must first be diagnosed by government doctors and referred to us by medical social workers. We will consider the patient's application where current government resources fail to provide help. As our service covers all districts, verification of patient's medical history issued by the hospital and doctor's prescription is done through contacting the medical social worker and home visit or interview by us. Those meeting our relevant criteria will then be provided with appropriate subsidy.

Question: How is the beneficiary going to get help from the donation?

Answer: During the approval process, we come to know the beneficiary's self-finance medication need and costs that could run from few hundred to thousand or even over ten thousand dollars. As the medication need differs with each individual case, some orally be taken daily, some by injection weekly, or monthly etc. We will then issue our subsidy on a weekly, monthly or bi-monthly basis to enable the beneficiary purchase the needed medication, subsequently validated by submission of the receipt.

Question: Generally speaking, those seeking help are chronic patients, but I cannot commit to long term support, so what then?

Answer: Chronic patients surely require long-term medical treatment. Mrs. Wong cares about their need and is aware of her own limitation. In fact, we serve entire Hong Kong and the number of cases seeking help are on the rise. Patients seeking help and the referring medical social workers are all aware of the limitation of the program or perhaps often read about similar patient reports in The Philanthropy Monthly. This is due to unfortunate people struggling for their survival do live around us in real life. To-day Mrs. Wong is moved to give help, we earnestly believe others will also be impressed to extend their support to the program at some other time interval. Hence, on behalf of the beneficiaries we would like taking this opportunity to heartily thank Mrs. Wong for her intended short-term donation.





不願浪費自己

「我希望可有機會,運用我的所長,再可服務老年 人。」已有9年多沒有聯絡我們的「家居維修服務」承判裝 修工作的義工馮師傅說:「當年我可以說是『雙失中年』 ,母親突然去世,令我傷心非常;也正藉金融海嘯,香港 經濟大倒退,我的生意也失敗,只好帶同太太及兒子投靠 內地親友,故我再也沒有為老人服務。」

「我在內地生活時,真是非常懷念大伙兒義工為老人 服務的歡樂時刻;眼見義工們不論身份,有講有笑、你爭 我奪地為老人家居作出裝修,你掃地、我鋪地板、他裝照 明,大家忙得不亦樂乎,很快地便將長者的家居弄得漂漂 亮亮,而老人也笑逐顏開,真是令我們一群義工樂上半 天。」馮師傅遷回香港定居不足一個月致電給我們說。「 現在我的生活總算改善了,我現在經營中港生意,收入算 是穩定,生活不愁。」

馮師傅未離港前,已是每隔兩星期伙同其他義工,為 新居要入伙的長者作出新屋裝修的服務;持有電工牌照的 馮師傅除為長者新屋安裝照明、扶手、毛巾架、刀架與窗 簾路軌等外,他更自稱在服務中學曉鋪膠地板,及與人溝 通。「不要以為我只有付出,其實我也在服務時認識很多 關心別人的朋友,他們教了我很多有關裝修的知識,我幫 到人也幫到自己的工作,真是既感恩又感激。」

「我眼見很多人,年老乏力又無親無故,有困難時又 求助無門,真是好慘;而我有技術、有能力,如不用,就 會浪費,那豈非是浪費自己嗎?幫到人,自己開心,老人 快樂,有何不可呢?」馮師傅說。「待我的兒子中學畢業 後,我定會鼓勵他參加義工的工作,為老人服務,不要浪 費他有氣有力的時候。」

「我很高興,可以再為老人服務。」馮師傅再次加入 「家居維修服務」大隊時,對其他義工說。

Don't waste the time

"I wish I can have a chance to use my skills and serve the elderly." Mr. Fung said. Mr. Fung is a volunteer of our Home Maintenance Services who hasn't contact us for nine years. "I have had a double lost that year which my mother died suddenly and the financial crisis started. I was heartbroken and my business crashed. I moved back to Mainland China with my wife and child seeking for the help of my relatives. That's why I didn't serve in St. James' these years."

"When I was in Mainland China, I always missed the joyful time being a volunteer; we fixed up the house for the elderly, someone washed the floor, someone did the flooring part and someone handled the light We made the room adorable so fast by perfectly team working. And we were so glad to receive the thanks by their smiling." After a month re-settled down in Hong Kong, Mr. Fung called St. James' and said. "I am now having business between Hong Kong and Mainland China, and having a better life."

Mr. Fung had been a volunteer for St. James' Settlement every two weeks before his move back to China. He mainly helped the elderly to fix up all the stuffs in their new home. Addition to the lightening and the handrails, he also learned how to do the flooring and improved his communication skills. "Being a volunteer not just only serves people, I also learned a lot in this program. I met many friends and they've taught me how to fix the room up which I feel very pleased."

"I met many elderly who are getting older but no one taking care of them. They are too pity when they can't find anyone for help. I have technology and skills they needed, why not make good use of them? Mr. Fung said. "I would also encourage my son to be a volunteer when he graduated from college. Don't waste the time when we can help others."

"I am so glad to serve the elderly again!" He said to his teammates when he back to the Home Maintenance Service Volunteer Team.



回港不足一月重投服務長者義工大隊的馮師傅。

Mr. Fung, who back to Hong Kong no more than a month, quickly resumes his voluntary work in Home Service Maintenance Volunteer Team.





患上疾病,必須是「病者有其藥」,但絕非所有病人 需要的藥物,是可獲當局資助的,縱使病人雖是綜援受助 者,也須自掏腰包購買藥品;以下的一個「洗肚」個案, 於面對生命將逝的時刻,在精神萎靡下,仍要自費購買補 血針,以可有較為抖擻的精神渡餘下日子的報導,確是人 世間的無奈。

針藥資助 有助提升生活質素

末期腎病患者張女士(假名)已經完全喪失腎功能,不 能造血和排毒,需要開肚洗腎及打幫助紅血球生成素針劑 (Aranesp 100 µ p), 俗稱補血針。

張女士現年六十多歲,靠2000多元綜援金過活,除 每天要洗腎三次外,張女士現時一個月要打三至四枝補血 針,每枝250元。

每次剛打完補血針,她都自覺面色好了,嘴唇不再發 黑,人也精神得多。隨著補血針的功效漸失,她會越來越 累,變得沒有精神,嘴唇開始變黑,又到了另一次要打針 的時間。打補血針雖然不能徹底治好她的病,但最起碼, 可以令她回復精神,不用整天臥病在床,生活質素因而得 到提升。

光是打針,已經幾乎用去她一半的生活費。洗腎加補 血針再加消毒藥品、口罩、暖腎水工具、藥水膠布、針 頭…每月支出約要3000多元,她根本沒有能力負擔。

雖然社署採用實報實銷制度,張女士的針劑和搬運腎 水的費用可以按月報銷,但要自己先行支付,相隔個多月 才能按收據領回金錢。

「每個月只批一盒藥水膠布,不夠用就要自己買。很 多物品都只批一次,爛了又要自己買。上月交的單,要等 到下個月才可以領到錢,我每個月等到頸長,有時實在沒 辦法再等,只好一次療程分兩次購買,領到錢後再購買餘 下針劑,將同一筆錢循環再用。」

最初,張女士唯有問朋友借錢及動用棺材本,積蓄用 盡後,社工轉介她到聖雅各福群會Health Bank求助,最後 審批她接受三個月藥費資助。雖然Health Bank也是採用 實報實銷方法,但由遞交收據到過戶都不過兩天,相比從 前,張女士覺得現在心理上的壓力少了,經濟擔子也得以 稍為舒緩:「現在雖然仍是過著十個瓶子九個蓋的日子, 但總比以前求助無門的日子好。」

溫暖人間 BUDDHIST COMPASSION * 撰文:譚悅 Reporter:Tam Yuet

Medication is a necessity whenever a person gets sick. However, certain kinds of prescribed medicine are not sponsored by Welfare Department. Even though the patient is supported by the social welfare system, he/she will still need to responsible for the full-priced medicine. The following case is about how the patient with end-stage renal disease tries so hard to purchase the darbepoetin alfa injection (increase red blood cell levels), so that she can live through the last journal of her live with a better state of mind.

Improving the quality of living from the sponsorship of medication

Ms. Cheung is a patient with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). Her kidneys were completely failed to filter blood and sift out waste products and extra water. She must undergo dialysis and inject darbepoetin alfa (Aranesp 100µp) in order to stay alive.

Currently, Ms. Cheung is around 60 years old and is living on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), which provides her with approximate \$2000 a month to meet her basic needs. With the renal disease, Ms. Cheung needs to undergo dialysis three times a day and inject 3 to 4 Aranesps every month. Each Aranesp injection costs \$250.

After Ms. Cheung has the injection, she looks and feels much better significantly. Ms. Cheung will no longer look pale. Her lips will no longer be blackened. She will have a better state of mind. Once the injection is losing its efficiency, Ms. Cheung will get exhausted quickly and has blackened lips because of blood deficient. Although the injection will not be able to remedy her ESRD, at least she doesn't need to lie on her bed for a whole day long. Consequently, her quality of living is better while she keeps taking the injection.

Unfortunately, the injections have taken almost half of her monthly welfare. Other than that, she is paying for other items such as saline solution, masks, dialyzing solution, first-aid bandage and needles...etc. At the worst case, Ms. Cheung's monthly expense is up to approximate \$3000 and it is unaffordable.

Although the fees for injections and delivery of fresh/used dialyzing solutions can be reimbursed, Ms. Cheung needs to pay off all the costs by herself first since the Social Welfare Department adopts the system of "Actual Reimbursement for Expense Incurred." As a result, it takes a little bit over a month for Ms. Cheung to collect the reimbursement normally.

"Welfare department will allow me to claim only 1 box of bandage monthly. I have to pay by myself for any extras whenever a box isn't enough. Most of the items I need desperately can be claimed only once a month. Again, I need to pay for these things once they are broken. For all the fees that I claim this month, I don't get the money until next month. Sometimes, I can't even help myself that I have to purchase half of the medicine within a treatment first. Then, I purchase another half once I get the welfare money."

In the beginning, Ms. Cheung lived on her personal savings and loans from her friends. However, all these expenses did not take long to drain her savings. Finally, a social worker transferred her case to Health Bank of St. James' Settlement and got an approval for 3-months sponsorship on medication. Even though the Health Bank is using the system of "Actual Reimbursement for Expense Incurred," it takes only two days for Ms. Cheung to get the reimbursement once she filed a claim. Although Ms. Cheung still has a deficit spending, she feels more relieved with her financial status nowadays. She realized that she has at least someone she can turn to.

夢與行善之方法 How to donate in these Programs?		
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