





早陣子在書室尋找可讀新書,偶然下看到香港大學社 會學系教授呂大樂的《中產心事》,好奇之下拿來翻翻。 《中產心事》顧名思義,書中的主人翁是中產人士,他們 在社會上是較為富有的一群,多有固定資產,但卻又不會 是社會上最富裕的人。全書探討的這階層人士究竟有甚麼 憂心和掛慮,據呂教授所分析,許多中產有「下流」焦慮 的感覺,原因是在薪金、福利、工作穩定性減少所致,而 並非真的變成下層階級。

在我們從事的慈惠服務團隊,對中產「下流」特別有 感,原因是在我們的日常工作中,漸漸多接到一些求助 個案,正正是從中產階層「下流」到基層生活。大家可知 道我們的服務對象不是接受綜援就是低收入人士,依現時 來說,一個四人家庭其中有一位經醫生證明是健康不佳的 話,他們家庭總資產不得超過\$95,000就可算合乎資格申 請綜援金。所以,能成功申請到有關服務的,家境及健康 一定是相當困難的。

自從2005年7月開始推行藥物名冊以統一公立醫院及 診所的用藥政策,病人自費購買藥物,有關藥物動輒由幾 百元至幾十萬元不等,坊間雖有撒瑪利亞基金及關愛基金 幫助基層人士的一些藥物資助,因著資源門檻嚴緊,中產 人士要同樣跌破低谷才有機會接受支援,只不過他們下滑 的幅度相對較大。

這批因「下流」而成為基層的中產人士,面對的心理 掙扎及矛盾與一般困乏人士有所不同,他們也曾經長期繳 交稅款,在社會上往往是專業或管理人員,所以,他們從 前少有使用公營服務的;到經濟轉差,投靠政府時才嚇然 發現原來要自費應付,而在落難的日子,心怕在街上遇上 舊同事、鄰居和親戚等等,好多求助者從此絕跡社交。

在慈惠服務中接觸很多生活落入苦境,不敢奢望生活 可大大獲得改善,唯望有藥物可控制病情,性命可保留, 爭取與家人多一天的日子,這也是很基本的想法,是值得 被捍衛和保護。過去有幸一值有大家共同支持這份信念, 讓不論是甚麼人,只要是有需要,因應他們的情況作出援 助,不單是實質的服務,還有是心理上的,但願大家的努 力和付出,為這批從前的中產人士分擔心事。

Downward Drift of The Middle Class

While I was looking for new readable books in the bookshop, I by chance saw a book by Professor Lui Tai Lok, Department of Sociology, The University of Hong Kong regarding the secret mind of the middle age. Out of my own curiosity, I flipped through it. As connoted by the title, it focuses on the middle class, a fairly well-off group in the community. Most of them own fixed assets, but are not very rich. The whole book deals with the concern and worries of this group of people. According to Professor Lui's analyses, many of the middle class are disturbed by the downward drift. It mainly relates to the worsening of salary, welfare and work stability, not necessarily actual falling into a lower class in the society.

Our team engaging in the Charity Project has a particular deep feeling towards middle class downward drift as we are coming across more help request cases in our daily work from this downward moving middle class group. You all know that our service targets are either CSSA recipients or low income people. At the moment, a family of four with doctor's proof of ill-health and with total family asset under \$95,000 is eligible to apply for CSSA. Hence, families successfully applying for relevant services must be facing certain health and financial hardship.

Since the implementation of the HA Drug Formulaty in July 2007, it consolidates the drug used by public hospitals and clinic. The self-purchase medication almost always costs hundreds, even up to few thousand dollars, for each patient. Though there are some medication subsidy programs by Samaritan Fund and Community Care Fund, the requirement is always tight, where middle class people can only receive such subsidy if they have really slipped down. Such drop has to be relatively drastic before being able to get help.

This group of downward drifting middle class turning to be the lower lass are confronted with mental struggle and conflict which are quite different from those in general poverty. They have been paying tax all along and often are professionals or managers. Hence, they rarely use public services in the past; only when seeking government services because of the financial difficulty, they discover that they have of pay even in their hard time. They fear running into old colleagues, neighbours, friends and relatives and many of those needing help simply stop socializing.

In our Charity Project, we come across many of those living in difficulties. They are not optimistic to greatly improve their livelihood but hope to get the needed medication to control their condition, preserving life and having more time to be with their family, a basic thinking worth of preserving and protecting. We have all along been fortunate enough obtaining majority support in this belief, that is, irrespective of whom, if need is there, we will provide help appropriate to their condition, not only in physical services but also psychologically. We are looking forward to your generous support to this concern of those who used to be in the middle class.





免费白内障手術 讓老婦重見藍天

「我平日最鍾意就係搭車周圍行黎行去!」七 十六歲的何婆婆儘管撐著拐杖、行動緩慢,但好動 的她仍不甘呆在家中,出外走走。不過,早年患上 白內障,視力受到影響後,雙目開始變得模糊,何 婆婆不得不減少外出。

「我無兒無女,一個人獨居,唔出街行下,留 係屋企對住四面牆,好苦悶!」現時於在公立醫院 輪候做白內障手術的病人眾多,很多長者如何婆婆 的情況要苦等兩三年,但仍然是未有消息,「真 係好擔心有一日會完全睇唔到野,再唔能夠出街行 下,睇下周圍既環境。」何婆婆苦惱地說道。

縱使何婆婆每月倚靠綜援維生,但仍樂於行 善,「我受到別人的幫助,只要我有能力,我也想 幫助別人,儘管只是少少的金錢。」或許是何婆婆 日行一善,有朋友得悉聖雅各福群會與香港中文大 學眼科及視覺科學學系、亮睛工程慈善基金合作, 會免費幫助一百名低收入或經濟有困難的長者進行 白內障手術,於是朋友便急不及待將有關諮詢告知 何婆婆,何婆婆經過醫生的檢查後,証明情況合適 進行白內障手術,實在是開心不已!

「我呢一生受到太多人的幫忙了,我真係受之 有愧,大家都沒有必要去幫助我,但大家對我真的 好好,我不知該說甚麼,多謝,多謝你地!」平日 笑容滿面的何婆婆此刻忍不住流淚。手術過後,醫 生再次檢查何婆婆的眼睛,康復進度不俗,何婆婆 再次感激醫生在繁重的工作中,騰出時間義務幫助 貧弱的長者重見光明。

現在何婆婆可以看到的,不再是模模糊糊的天 際,而是有色彩,輪廓分明的藍天白雲!



Free Cataract Surgery The Elderly Woman Can See the Blue Sky Again

"My favourite hobby is to get on a public vehicle that takes me to different places in the city where I would wander about leisurely!" Grandma Ho, aged 76, said. Despite moving slowly with the help of a crutch, she is too extroverted to stay at home dully. However, the cataract developed years ago has impaired her eyesight. With her vision getting increasingly blurred, she is bound to cut her outdoor activities.

"I have got no offspring and am living alone. It is so boring to stay at home confined by the walls around!" As there is a long queue of patients waiting for cataract surgery at the public hospitals, many elderly, just like Grandma Ho, have to wait for more than three years to get this service. "I am really worried that I would become blind one day, which would mean that I could no longer go out to see people and things in the neighbourhood." Grandma Ho said anxiously.

Though Grandma Ho is living on CSSA, she is always happy to help others. "I am always grateful for the help I got from others. I am eager to help others with what I can offer, though it may be just a small amount of money." Being kind to others, Grandma Ho has won her friends' respect and care. A friend of her learnt about a programme launched by St. James' Settlement in co-operation with The Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Project Vision Charitable Foundation, offering free cataract surgery to 100 elderly people with low income or financial difficulties. Her friend then briefed Grandma Ho on the programme without any delay. She was confirmed after an examination by a doctor under the programme that it was suitable for her to undergo the cataract surgery. She is so delighted!

"All along my life, I have been receiving so much more help than I deserved. I am very touched by people giving me unconditioned care. I am really speechless. Thank you! Thank all of you!" At that moment, Grandma Ho, who always wears a smile on her face, could not hold back her tears any more. After the surgery, she had a follow-up examination and proved to have a fair recovery. She expressed again her gratitude to the doctors who volunteer to help the poor and feeble elderly to regain their eyesight despite their tight working schedules.

Now Grandma Ho can say farewell to the blurred sky and enjoy the view of a clear blue sky with white clouds!

免費白內障手術受惠者分享,有賴醫生義務幫忙提供免費手術,他們 才得以重新看見彩色的世界。

Beneficiary of the Free Cataract Surgery shared that only with the free surgery by the volunteer doctors, they can now enjoy the view of the colourful world again.



疾病與官司令準退休漢夢想破滅 富太太臨危當茶餐廳兼職補家計

我們需要你的捐助 We Need Your Donation

家住半山,月入數萬元,五十來歲的曾先生生活 本應過得無憂無慮,而且更計劃工作多三五年,便會 退休,享受人生,但好景不常,家中獨子因犯事鬧上 法庭,父母耗盡家財四處張羅找最好的律師為兒子打 官司。曾先生因四處奔波,體力透支,終於捱不住暈 倒了,送院後發現曾先生已經患上末期腎癌,癌細胞 更蔓延至肺部,但因公立醫院排期需時,故賣了半山 的家宅,花了一大筆金錢去私家醫院接受治療。

共富貴是一件很容易的事,但如果在逆境時另一 伴亦能與你共患難,這段感情確實難能可貴,「太太 為了照顧我,只能做兼職的工作,以前在冷氣房舒舒 服服當秘 書,現在要走到茶餐廳做侍應,想不到會 在年老時才要她捱苦!可是,她卻沒有因為我家道中 落、惡疾纏身而離棄我。」對於太太的不離不棄,曾 先生激動地說。

曾先生現時於公立醫院覆診,需要每月自費支付 二萬八千元購買標靶藥治療肺癌,但家財耗盡,積蓄 所餘無幾,幾經轉折下,求助聖雅各福群會「贈藥治 病計劃」,計劃透過熱心人士的捐款資助貧弱病患者 購買昂貴的藥物,雖不是長期支援,但希望透過短期 之資助解決燃眉之急,舒緩他與家人的壓力。「感激 各善長人翁的支援,使我從黑暗的日子裡,看到絲絲 的曙光!我不害怕病魔,只是希望盡快康復,可以工 作,減輕太太的壓力。」曾先生充滿期盼地說。

對於突如其來的病魔侵襲,身心都受到極大影響,而他們的家人為了照顧病患者亦疲於奔命。善長 們,您們可以為不幸的人士伸出援手嗎?施善款項 數目不拘,希望以集腋成裘方式,為貧弱病殘者施 救。支票抬頭請書:聖雅各福群會,支票背面指定: 「贈藥治病計劃」之用。施善查詢:8107-8324 或 2835-4321。



Sickness And Litigation Shattered Retirement Dream Wife Works To Support Family Livelihood

Mr. Tsang, 50 plus years old, used to live in the Mid-level with monthly income of few thousand dollars, financially pretty sound and carefree. He plans to retire in few years' time to enjoy life. Unfortunately, the only son in the family was involved in an offence, a court case. The parents have exhausted their means and savings in getting the best lawyer for his defense. Being worried and working hard for the son's case, Mr. Tsang collapsed. While in the hospital, he was found to have the terminal stage kidney cancer and is spread to the lung. As arrangement of getting public hospital treatment takes time, he sold his mid-level flat and spent most of its proceeds for treatment in a private hospital.

Being together when things go well is easy but having your spouse sticking with you in adversities is rare and commendable. "In order to look after me, my wife can only work as a part-time waitress in the restaurant. She used to work comfortably as a secretary in airconditioned office before and I could never have imagined that she now has to go through such hardship in a restaurant at this old age! She does not leave me even the family goes downhill and while I am pretty sick." Tsang said agitatedly for not being deserted and abandoned by his wife.

Tsang now gets further treatment at the public hospital, necessitating payment of \$28,000 dollars a month for self-purchase lung cancer target therapy. As he has used up most of his saving, with twist and turn, he sought help from St. James' Settlement "Medical Subsidy Program". The Program is support by donations of enthusiastic people in helping the poor patients to purchase the expensive self-paid medication. Though the assistance is only short term, it hopes to relieve the patients' financial burden and their families' pressure. "I am grateful for the support of the well-wishers. It enables me seeing twilight through darkness! I fear sickness no more and wish to get better soon so that I can back to work and take away my wife's pressure," said Tsang longingly.

Hit suddenly by sickness is a severe mental and physical blow to the patients; while their families are being kept constantly on the run in looking after them. Will you benevolent people be willing to extend a helping hand to these unfortunate? Any amount is welcome as a little makes a mickle. Please send cheques, beneficiary "St. James' Settlement" earmarked at the back for "Medical Subsidy Program". Inquiry and donation hotline: 8107-8324 or 2835-4321.





窗心的電飯煲

長者通常喜歡在家煮飯,一來買菜比較在外面用 餐便宜能省錢,二來餸菜也比較健康、比較清淡,因 此電飯煲成為每位長者家中的必需品。然而當電飯煲 因日久失修而損壞時,對匱乏長者而言,實在既無 奈,又無助。

「我個電飯煲用了廿十多年,我早午晚餐都係靠 佢了。點知有一日我打算煮飯時,個煮飯掣襟極都彈 返上去,我只好用隻手按住先煮到飯,一按就起碼半 個鐘唔行得開了。」每月依靠二仟多圓綜援金過活的 林伯伯嘆息地說。

現時七十多歲的林伯伯,無兒無女,一直依靠自 己照顧生活所需。林伯伯會趁傍晚收市前買便餸,希 望省些錢可以儲夠購買一個新的電飯煲。社工探訪林 伯伯,發現家中的電飯煲電線已霉爛,擔心有漏電的 危險,勸林伯伯不要再使用。「沒有電飯煲,連飯都 不能煮。而家出面既野咁貴,買個飯盒最平都要十幾 廿蚊,我邊有錢開飯呢?」社工為免林伯勉強使用這 個破爛的電飯煲,立即向「電器贈長者計劃」求助, 翌日計劃將性能良好的全新電飯煲透過社工送給林伯 伯。

「我真係無左個電飯煲一日都唔得架,唔係我就 會無飯開或者要捱麵包。多謝社會既善心人士咁關照 我地老人家,有左呢個電飯煲,我就可以用黎煮飯, 慳到買餸錢,有急病起上黎都可以有錢看醫生啦。 」林伯再三感謝善長的無私和慷慨。「善長真知我心 意,知道老人家喜歡蒸餸,為我購置一個有蒸架的電 飯煲,我真是十分滿足了。」

這個「及時的電飯煲」對林伯伯甚具意義,為他 解決了三餐的煩惱;而最讓林伯伯感動的是,善長無 私大愛的付出,讓林伯伯相信人間有情,為他解困分 憂。

A Heart-Warming Rice-Cooker

The elderly likes to eat at home as it is cheaper and healthier. A rice-cooker has therefore become an essential thing in every elderly's home. However when damage inevitably occurs because of extended use, the needy elderly would be rendered helpless.

"I have been using the rice-cooker for almost twenty years. All my meals depend on it. One day when I was about to cook rice, the cook-button was out of order. I need to press it down with my hand all the time throughout the half hour of cooking time." Uncle Lam who relies on the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance for a living said with a sigh.

Childless and over 70-year-old, Uncle Lam has been taking care of himself all these years. In order to save up money for a new ricecooker, he has to go shopping for cheaper food during the evening when the market is about to close. When social workers went to visit him, they discovered the wiring of his rice-cooker has rotten and worried about the possibility of electricity leakage. They advised him not to use it anymore. "How can I cook without it? Everything is expensive; a meal box costs at least twenty dollars. I don't have that much money." To prevent Lam from using the broken rice-cooker, the social worker at once sought help from the Electrical Appliances for the Elderly Program. The next day, the program sent a brandnew well-functioning rice-cooker to Lam through the social worker.

"I can't do without the rice-cooker, not even for a day. Or else I might need to go hungry or feed on bread instead. I am deeply grateful to the generous benefactors who show so much concern for us. With this rice-cooker, I can cook and use the money I've saved up for any emergency sickness." Uncle Lam thanks the benefactors repeatedly for their selflessness and generosity. "They really know me. They understand the elderly loves steamed food and bought me a rice-cooker with a rack for steaming. I am really happy!"

The timely rice-cooker means a lot to Uncle Lam. Not only does it solve the problem about his daily meals, the selfless love of the benefactors also touches him a lot and makes him believe in the love and care of the society.



「有了這個電飯煲我就可以三餐無憂了!」

"With this rice-cooker, I don' t need to worry about my daily meals anymore."





喛風機餽贈 助弱老渡過寒冬

獨居於山上秀茂坪邨的陳婆婆,子女長大了都不能在身 邊照顧自己。為了不想加重子女的經濟負擔,陳婆婆只依 靠微薄綜援金生活,平日生活均十分慳儉。身患多種長期 病患的她,一直擔心寒冬來襲的日子,會因受寒而生病。 「我患有心臟病和哮喘,天氣一轉冷身體就會受不了,一 受寒便必需入院接受治療。」陳婆婆嘆息說醫院是她寒冬 裡的半個家,經常出入醫院更讓陳婆婆感到十分無奈。

去年的冬天天氣持續寒冷,陳婆婆家中缺乏保暖設施,只能整天躲在被窩中保暖。「家中向北,起風時吹得 很厲害。我要著幾件厚重大衣,整日躲在被窩裡才能僅僅 保暖。」陳婆婆慨嘆的說:「貧病交加的箇中感受,我是 最能體會的。真希望冬天不要這麼快來,我真不希望再病 倒!」

抱著獨立生活態度的陳婆婆,一直很少向他人道出自己 的需要。社工經探訪後了解她家中缺乏禦寒設施,希望為 她申請一部暖風機,俾可於氣溫驟降的日子開啟,為室內 添上暖氣,避免陳婆婆因室溫太低而冷病。「我真係好感 恩,社會上仲有善心人士關心我。呢部暖風機可以吹出暖 風,讓我可以取暖,手腳不再冰冷,我也不再害怕寒冬來 襲了。」

一部小小的暖風機,確實是體弱無依長者於寒冬裡的最 佳良伴。患有慢阻性肺病的劉伯伯,於初秋時已需要穿著 長袖衣服,冬天更因害怕冷病而長期穿著厚重大衣,行動 甚為不便。「醫生千叮萬囑我不能受寒,凍親可能連命都 無!」劉伯伯希望可擁有一部暖風機,讓長期在家的他可 保持溫暖,亦不用背著厚重的大樓影響行動。「我要聞氧 氣,有時穿太多行路都感吃力,會氣喘。一部暖風機對我 而言是件奢侈品,我食綜援邊有能力可以購買,現在只可 聽天由命了!」

你願意為如劉伯伯的體弱無依長者伸出慷慨的援手,為 他們送上價值\$150的暖風機,讓他們可安然渡過寒冬,不 再備受寒流來襲的威脅?這款暖風機操作簡單,適合長者 使用。服務亦會派出義工將暖風機親身到戶送給長者,確 保他們能安全使用。請將支票抬頭「聖雅各福群會」,背 書「送暖行動-暖風機」的支票,寄往香港灣仔石水渠街85 號1樓105室。施善熱線:8107-8324 或 2835-4321。

Donation of Ceramic Heater Help Elderly Survive in Winter

Chan Por Por lives alone in Sau Mau Ping Estate up on the hill. Her Children are not with her so she has no one to take care of. She lives on the meager sum of CSSA since she doesn't want to bring her children additional financial responsibility. As a result, she leads a thrifty life. She has been worrying that she may become ill with a cold because she suffers from several chronic diseases. "I have cardiac problems as well as asthma. I feel terrible as soon as the weather turns cold. I have to be hospitalized for treatment when I catch a cold." Chan Por Por sighed and added that the hospital becomes her second home in the winter. She feels helpless because she is often in and out of hospital.

Last winter, the weather remained cold continuously. Chan Por Por lacked ways and means to keep herself warm. All she could do was to stay in bed for the whole day. "The location of my unit faces north. When the wind starts to blow hard, I have to wear several thick coats. I barely manage to keep warm by staying in bed, wrapped up in bedclothes. Chan Por Por continued fretfully, "I know what it's like to be poor and sick. I really hope winter won't come so soon. I don't want to fall ill again."

Chan Por Por seldom told others her needs since she wants to live independently. After a home visit, the social worker learnt she needed something to keep warm and applied for a ceramic heater on her behalf. She can then turn on the machine to keep warm when the temperature suddenly drops low. "I'm so grateful. There are benevolent people who care about me. This machine gives out warm current. My hands and feet aren't cold any more. I won't be afraid of the onset of winter anymore."

A small ceramic heater is the best companion for the weak and helpless elderly. Mr. Lau, who suffers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), has to wear thick and heavy coats for fear of catching a cold. It makes his moving very inconvenient. "The doctor reminded me repeatedly that I mustn't catch a cold. If I did, it could be fatal." Mr. Lau wishes to have a ceramic heater to keep him warm at home constantly; and he won't have trouble moving around wearing several thick and heavy coats. "I have to inhale oxygen. If I wear too many clothes, I have difficulty in walking. I tend to get short of breath. A ceramic heater is a luxury to me. I can't afford it as I live on the CSSA; and only trust heaven with my destiny."

Kindly extend a generous helping hand by sending weak and helpless elderly like Mr. Lau a ceramic heater that costs \$150 each. With the heater, they will survive the cold winter safely with no fear of the cold front. This ceramic heater is easy to operate and suits the elderly's use. Our volunteers will deliver each heater personally to ensure that the elderly know how to use it safely. Please make out your cheques payable to "St. James' Settlement", specifying at the back "Warmth Giving Action - Ceramic

Heater." Mail your cheques to Rm. 105, 1/F, 85, Stone Nullah Lane, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Donation hotlines: 8107-8324 or 2835-4321.

「有了這部暖風機[,]我不再害怕寒冬了!」 "With the ceramic heater, I am not afraid of the cold winter anymore!"

「多謝善長咁關心我,仲有義工親手將暖風機 送來我家,我不再怕寒冷了!」 Thanks to the benefactors who care about me. The volunteers delivered the ceramic heater to my place personally. I am not afraid of the cold anymore!









何先生為殘疾人士,將近六十歲,父母均已去世,現 時獨居。何先生患有「遺傳性運動神經病變二形」導致四 肢肌肉痿縮,幸肌肉痿縮情況較緩慢,日常自我照顧暫時 仍可自我應付。

何先生曾參與香港殘疾人奧委會暨傷殘人士體育協 會乒乓球比賽,亦代表香港隊參加「遠東及南太平洋運動 會」之乒乓球比賽項目,當時尚可使用輔助器材走動,及 後因肌肉力量下降,於2004年開始依靠輪椅出入,未能 繼續參與比賽,初期因手部肌肉力量不足不能使用一般輪 椅,加上常常跌倒,後來轉用電動輪椅,從此退出了乒乓 球活動。

自從使用輪椅後,礙於舊居住所空間不足,通道狹 窄,單位內連同洗手間及廚房只有百多呎面積,放置電動 輪椅後便沒有足夠活動空間,經向房屋署申請調遷後於本 年8月獲安排同區調遷,新居面積除了較舊單位大,可放 置電動輪椅之餘,亦有足夠空間走動及進行練習肌肉活 動,出入亦較以往方便。

唯何先生依靠綜金,每月生活足襟見肘,新居需要多 項裝置,包括鋪膠地板、窗簾、晾衫架等(舖膠地板有助 方便輪椅行走、窗簾可遮擋陽光及保障私隱、晾衫架需要 加固以方便其使用),費用不菲。何先生的朋友亦同為傷 殘人士,無力提供協助,經社工轉介到本會「長者家居維 修服務」提供協助,以改善家居居住環境狀況。在善長的 幫助下,減免了基本安裝工程的材料費,而義工師傅於九 月下旬到訪幫助何先生完成裝修工程。何先生表示十分滿 意新居膠地板之效果,並感謝一眾善長和義工的協助。何 先生開心地表示:「新居出入及購物均較以往方便,加上 有足夠空間做運動,感謝社會人士仍然關心我地,我好開 心,多謝各位!」

何先生雖有傷殘在身,至親已不在身邊,身邊朋友也 礙於同為殘疾人士未能予以協助,何先生曾代表香港外出 比賽,今天在有需要之時,社會要更加給予協助和關懷。



Delighted Disabled Athlete Thanks Society For Help in New Flat Renovation

Mr. Ho, in his late fifties, is physically disabled. His parents have passed away and he is living by himself. He is suffering from Distal Hereditary Motor Neuropathies resulting in muscle atrophy affecting his four limbs. As the muscles atrophy at a rather low rate, he can up to this moment manage to take care of himself.

Mr. Ho has been a player of table tennis tournaments organized by Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled and he also participated in the table tennis tournaments hosted by FESPIC Games in the capacity of Hong Kong athlete before 2004 when he could move with auxiliary devices. But since 2004 when his muscles became very weak, he has to be in wheelchair when he goes out and no longer plays in these tournaments. Given that his arms are not strong enough to drive a manual wheelchair and that he fell quite a number of times, he then had to take an electrical wheelchair instead. Thereafter, he never engaged himself in table tennis games again.

His previous place was small, having a size of less than 200 sq.ft. with a narrow corridor and a tiny bathroom and kitchen. There was hardly any space left when his wheelchair was accommodated in the flat. Therefore, he lodged an application with the Housing Authority for a larger flat and was granted another flat in the same district in August. The new flat is large enough to accommodate his wheelchair and provides sufficient space for him to do physical exercises. He finds it easier to get in and out of the new flat because it is not cramped.

Mr. Ho is now living on CSSA and can hardly manage to meet his ends meet. But moving to a new flat would cost him a fortune as some renovation works need to be done. These include flooring with plastic sheets to facilitate his moving around at home, fixing curtains to screen the flat from sunbeams and reinforcing the laundry rack for his convenience. As his friends, who are also disabled, could not offer him any help, he was then referred to our "Elderly Home Maintenance Services" by a Social Worker. With the help of our generous donors, the material costs for the renovation works were settled. In late September, our volunteer Masters finished the renovation works in his flat. Mr. Ho is very grateful for the generous donors and the Masters; and he likes, in particular, his new floor. He said happily, "Having moved to the new flat, I find it more convenient going out and shopping. Furthermore, there is enough space for me to do exercises. I appreciate that society still cares for us. I am so happy! Thank all of you!"

Mr. Ho is unfortunately physically disabled; and it is even worse that his immediate family has passed away and his friends, being disabled, cannot possibly give him assistance. He has served the community as a member of the Hong Kong Athletes in the international sports tournaments. Now he well deserves care and help from society, of which he is in great need. Our "Elderly Home Maintenance Services" serves mainly the elderly people. But at the same time, we also help the disabled on a case-by-case basis judged by how desperately they need help. The services we provide will help improve their living conditions, alleviate their stresses and achieve better health.

何先生新居面積較前大,且由義工鋪上膠地板,往後的出入及生活 將更方便。

Mr. Ho's new flat is larger than before, together with the volunteer's help for fixing the flooring with plastic sheets, his living will be much more convenient than before.





為長者去憂解困的 家居維修服務

「長者家居維修服務」的目的是透過義務維修服務人員的協助,去改善長者的家居環境,以避免家居 意外的發生及提高長者的家居生活質素。計劃的服務 對象是年六十歲或以上之長者,此外亦需符合經濟及 親友支援的條件,例如經濟能力有限,低收入人士或 領取綜援,以及缺乏親友照顧支援的人士。

「長者家居維修服務」服務涵蓋範圍廣闊,維修 家庭電器用品(例如熱水爐、洗衣機)以至家居屋宇 設備(例如廁所水箱、水喉)、新屋入伙基本安全設 施裝置、傷殘長者服務(特別電掣改裝及裝置、弱聽 長者應門鐘)等,同時亦會配合慈惠計劃下的不同服 務去完善長者的需要,例如經維修後確認電器損壞不 能使用,則會安排電器餽贈,且服務涵蓋港九、新界 及離島;但必須透過機構醫護人員、社工、主管的轉 介,如社會服務機構、醫院、房屋署等。

以下為工作員接觸到的其中一個個案:於十月份 某星期六上午,工作員與義工(義務維修服務人員) 前往一位長者寓所維修洗衣機,長者表示洗衣機已使 用了十幾年,一向操作正常,只兩年前由本服務之義 工維修過一次。長者表示近日洗衣機入水及去水功能 失效,因經濟能力欠佳,希望能獲維修洗衣機繼續使 用,亦符合環保原則。經義工檢查及測試後,証實出 水及去水部件損壞,而去水泵亦可能有故障,加上洗 衣機已使用了十幾年,且更換零件價錢昂貴及未知有 否其他故障,更換零件後仍需作進一步測試,遂建議 更換洗衣機,或由工作員轉介「電器贈長者」計劃安 排送贈。

過程中長者亦在旁觀看,而義工在維修過程中亦 向長者解釋洗衣機故障情況,分享使用洗衣機之日常 操作及保養方法,雖然未能成功修妥洗衣機,但長者 亦表示獲益良多。

是次服務雖沒有零件費用之支出,唯家居維修服 務需要經常購置不同材料及維修部件以便替換,故需 要各界善長之捐助,讓長者能夠繼續使用其慣用的家 居用品及電器,改善其生活質素。



Elderly Home Maintenance Services Relieve the Elderly's Anxiety

Elderly Home Maintenance Services aims at improving the elderly's home environment through assistance of maintenance services volunteers. Its objectives are to enhance their living quality and to prevent accidents from happening at home. The targeted elderly are those who are 60 or above. They have to meet two criteria regarding the finance and support of family or relatives. Those who qualify are the low-income or CSSA recipients; and people without relatives to care for or support.

Elderly Home Maintenance Services covers a wide range of services such as repairing electrical appliances (for example, water heaters, washing machines), housing facilities (for example, toilet water tank, pipes), basic safety device installations prior to moving in a new unit, disabled elderly services, (special switch modifications and installations, door bells for elderly with impaired hearing) and a lot more. At the same time, the Services will satisfy the elderly's needs with other Charity Projects. One of the examples is giving of electrical appliances to elderly in Hong Kong, Kowloon, New Territories and the outlying islands. But the applicants have to be referred to St. James' Settlement by medical personnel of hospitals, social workers from welfare organizations and officers-in-charge from the housing authority.

Below is a case reported by a staff. One Saturday morning in October, staff and St. James' maintenance services volunteer went to an elderly's home to repair a washing machine. The elderly remarked that the machine had been used for over 10 years and it used to function well. Two years earlier it was repaired once by St. James' volunteers. The elderly continued to say that recently the machine had trouble with filling up water and draining. Since he was not well off, he hoped that he could go on using it afterwards. It's also environmentally friendly. After a check up, the volunteer found out certain filling up and draining parts were damaged and the drain pump might not be working either. The volunteer suggested getting a new machine because the old one had been used for over 10 years. Besides, the cost of replacing new spare parts is expensive. In addition, it's necessary to check again after putting in new parts in order to ensure there is no more unforeseen problem. The volunteer said that a new machine could be given by the Electrical Appliances for the Elderly Program with social worker's referral.

The elderly was present during the whole process. The volunteer explained to the elderly the problems with the old machine and shared with him proper ways of daily maintaining and operating a washing machine. The elderly declared he had learnt a lot though the old machine was not successfully repaired.

Though there was zero cost for spare parts replacement in that visit, Home Maintenance Services often has to purchase various materials and spare parts for replacement. We need your donations so that we can continue to improve the living quality of the elderly when they can go on using electrical appliances and home utilities that they are accustomed to.

「長者家居維修服務」協助長者多方面的家居安全維修,家電至屋宇設備等 也包括在內。

Elderly Home Maintenance Services provides elderly with home safety maintenance in all aspects, including not only the maintenance of home appliances but also housing facilities and etc.



「積少成多」、「集腋成裘」 您的捐助成就「慈惠服務」

捐贈者言

Donor's Remark

「慈惠服務」的推行,目的是在於為社會上一些匱 乏無助的弧老、傷殘及病弱者等提供援助及到位的服務, 以助他們渡過生活上的難關,重燃對生活的希望。眾所周 知,「慈惠服務」並沒有政府常規的資助,故除了義工的 參與推行外,還得要感激熱心善長們的捐款支持。倘沒有 他們的慷慨解囊,服務決不能繼續運作發展。

陳小姐,因媽媽的關係認識到聖雅各福群會,過往 數年於本會長者中心作義工服務。有一天,陳小姐拿著一 篇報導來到我們辦公室,表示希望捐贈「電器贈長者」計 劃,向一群弱老伸出援手。傾談中陳小姐提及,「社會上 的一群長者,以往一直為社會服務,社會今天的發展, 可以說是他們努力的成果;所以,於自己能力可及的範 圍內,我特別希望幫忙長者,為他們提供一些長者義工服 務。」她續表示,過去時間於本會服務,眼見同事一直用 心努力為長者提供服務,每有長者到來拿取電器,同事 工作雖忙,但仍即時放下手上工作,問候長者,解釋操作 等。因此,當她得悉計劃全依賴捐款後,便前來捐助,以 示支持。「除了一些長者義工服務外,我自己經濟能力都 可以,故此,我絕不會吝嗇透過捐助,支持好像你們有意 義的服務,盡自己一點綿力回饋他們吧!」

除了一班像陳小姐般有心有能力的善心人士外,其實 還有一班熱心捐助者,即使自己條件能力有限,但仍於當 中拿出一點點,希望出一份力支持「慈惠服務」的推行。

數天前,黃婆婆拿著長者月刊「松柏之聲」到來, 「我每年都捐一百蚊俾《松柏之聲》架,不過真係好唔好 意思,今年經濟能力唔係太許可,只係可以捐三十蚊。」 聽到黃婆婆一番說話,同事怕婆婆有所誤會,故連忙向婆 婆解釋,《松柏之聲》為免費報刊,一直免費每月派發 長者,捐款只是隨心,若能力不許可,實在無須捐助。 不過,婆婆向我們表示,「我睇左十幾年,當然知道,不 過,報刊多年一直為我們服務,係好多長者的精神食糧, 你知道嗎?所以,我雖然錢唔多,但真係好想也付出一點 支持。郵費都要錢啦,如果人人都唔付出少少,咁份報紙 點可以運作呢?我真係唔想有一天報紙因經費不足而停刊 呀!」

「積少成多」、「集腋成裘」,這兩句成語形容很 到位。特別是對於我們這些沒有資助的「慈惠服務」,若 不是得大家多年的慷慨支持捐助,「慈惠服務」實在是無 法營運至今,為無數受惠者提供援助。因此,不要計較多 少,因為「積少成多」、「集腋成裘」,你們的一分一 毫,對我們也至為重要。

Your Donation Makes our Charity Project Possible

The purpose of our Charity Project is to provide assistance and effective service to the needy elderly, the disabled and the sick, to help them tide over difficulties and to rekindle their hope for the future. As we all know, our Charity Project receives no regular subsidy from government. So, besides the participating volunteers, we must also thank our caring donors for the contributions. It would not be possible to sustain and develop our services without the generous support.

Miss Chan learned about St. James' Settlement through her mother. She had done volunteer work at our elderly centre for several years; when one day, she came to our office with a report in hand, and expressed her wish to help out the disadvantaged elderly by donating to the Electrical Appliances for the Elderly program. She said during our conversation, "The elderly in our community served society in the past. It is their effort that brought about the social developments of today. Therefore, I am particularly keen on helping out the elderly as much as I can." She continued that, while rendering volunteer service at St. James', she had noticed many colleagues making a special effort to serve the elderly, that whenever an elderly person came to pick up a piece of electrical appliance, they would drop everything, no matter how busy they were, to greet that elderly person and explain the operation of the appliance. So, when she learned that the program depended entirely on donations, she came to make her donation to show her support. "Besides rendering some volunteer service to the elderly, financially I can also afford to give help. I will not grudge making a donation to support such a meaningful service. I want to play my part in paying them back!"

Miss Chan is a donor who is both caring and in a comfortable position to give. There are other donors whose resources are limited who nevertheless giving a little to support our Charity Project.

Several days ago, Grandma Wong came to us, carrying a copy of our monthly "The Voice". "Every year I have donated 100 dollars to The Voice, but I am sorry I can only afford to donate 30 dollars this year," she said. Afraid that she might be laboring under a misunderstanding, our staff quickly explained that The Voice is a free publication which distributed to the elderly free of charge. And the donations are voluntary, not compulsory if it is not affordable. But Grandma Wong said, "Of course I know that, having read it for decades. But the publication has served us for so many years, and has been a spiritual food to many of us. Did you know that? So, even though I don't have much money, I really want to give a little to support it. It costs money just to mail it! If no one is willing to give a little, how can the paper go on publishing? I don't want to see the day when the paper must cease publication due to lack of funds!"

"Penny and penny laid up will be many" and "many pelts make a fur coat" aptly explain how donations work, especially to charity services like ours which get no subsidy. Were it not for people's generous support over the years, we would not have been able to sustain the operation of our Charity Project to this day, providing assistance for countless beneficiaries. So, never mind how much or how little you can give. Every penny from you counts. "Penny and penny laid up will be many."





「無憂通」電聯關顧服務 主動追蹤、關顧生死

「透過『無憂通』,得到每日的關顧,萬一先行一步,我也無憂了!」董伯伯笑著對我們說。

董伯伯現年70多歲,獨居,沒有兒女,親戚大多已移 居外地,多年沒有聯絡,現時,在港的親人便只得一個堂 妹。董伯伯一直患有嚴重耳患,更在四年前得悉自己患了 肝癌。經過一連串的化療後,身體變得消瘦虛弱,現時行 路也感到軟弱無力。

「經過多次化療後,醫生對我說,可治療的藥物也用 了。這時,我已得悉我的病已無藥可救了!曾經在想,萬 一在家一睡不醒的話,會否無人知曉?」

董伯伯繼續說:「有次,我在睡夢中醒來,眼見家 裡來了醫務人員、警員及聖雅各福群會的職員,後來,得 悉他們原來找了我好幾天,我一直因聽不到電話聲和拍門 聲,他們便擔心我在家發生意外,於是漏夜趕來。那時雖 我的心裡有些驚訝,但卻感受到原來我加入了『無憂通』 服務,聖雅各職員真的在有需要時來主動找我,我真的很 放心。」

鑑於董伯伯患有嚴重耳患也不能應門,本會即時作出 回應,透過其中一項慈惠計劃「長者家居維修服務」,協 助董伯伯安裝「閃燈門鐘」,以便長者得知有探訪者於門 外等後。

董伯伯的個案只是冰山一角,現時還有很多缺乏支援 的獨居長者仍不懂得如何尋求協助。所以,本會按「以人 為本」的服務理念出發,於去年開始,推出全港首個創新 服務-「無憂通」。

「無憂通」是一個電聯關顧服務,服務是透過真人 錄音以電話形式聯絡長者的系統,參加服務的長者在接過 系統定時撥出的電話後,只要按指示作出回應,本會就會 知道他們的安全狀況,有關記錄並即時在電腦上出現自動 製成報表,負責職員每天兩次查看,便可順利追蹤他們的 安危;一旦長者沒有回應系統,職員便會啟動緊急支援機 制,及早追尋他們的下落,有需要甚至「上門」跟進;若 發現長者入了醫院,便會盡快安排義工或職員探望,進一 步為他們提供協助。如果參加服務的長者預早安排外出, 例如回鄉、外遊、覆診等,他們亦會盡早通知職員,以避 免無端端被人破門之災。



"No Worry Link" Telephone Care Service To Track the Elderly Life and Death

"After joining the service of 'No Worry Link', I receive a phone call every day. I am no longer worried that nobody knows when I have died." Uncle Tung smiled and said to St. James' staff.

Uncle Tung is more than 70 years old and suffers from loss of hearing. He lives alone with no children. Most of his relatives have migrated overseas and Uncle Tung has lost contact with them. Unfortunately, he was diagnosed with liver cancer four years ago; after a succession of chemotherapy treatments, Uncle Tung has become thin and weak and he often feels tired.

"The doctor said to me that all treatments have now been exhausted. I know I cannot recover from cancer now and I am always afraid I may die in my sleep without anyone knows."

Uncle Tung said "Once, I had just woken from a deep sleep and I found many people in my home, including medical personnel, police and St James' staff. They all came to my home as I was unable to hear the phone ringing and knocking at the door. St. James had lost contact and was afraid that I might have had an accident, so they came to check up on me late night! At that moment, I was surprised so many people came at the night to my home, however, I also felt warm afterward! I feel more comfort after I joined the service of 'No Worry Link' and I know now that if I have any emergency, St James will come to check on me."

As previous mentioned, Uncle Tung is suffering from loss of hearing and he can't hear the knocking at the door. To solve this problem, St James' helped Uncle Tung to install a "Flash Light Door Bell for the Deaf' under the scheme of "Elderly Home Maintenance Services". The bell lets him know when any visitors arrive.

There are many similar cases as Uncle Tung. Many lonely elderly do not know how to get support. St James' has therefore launched a new service last year – "No Worry Link" for the elderly in Hong Kong.

"No Worry Link" is a telephone system contacting the elderly through a recorded conversation. All participating elderly will receive a phone-call through the system every day and they are required to press a telephone button in response to the system to confirm that they are safe at home. All messages are recorded by the system and saved on a computer report. St James' staff will print the reports out twice per day and check for the "no response" cases. If any participants do not respond, our staff will contact them directly and arrange a home visit to ensure that they are safe. In the event that a participant is not feeling well and needs to stay in hospital, St James' arranges staff or volunteers to go to hospital, visiting and following up if any assistance is required. St James' may even force entry in some special cases and participants should provide prior notice in the event that they can't respond to the system if attending medical appointments or travelling away from home etc.

透過「無憂通」電聯關顧服務,可追蹤長者們的安危,盡早向他們提供 幫助。

With the "No Worry Link" Telephone Care Service, staff can trace for elderly's safety and offer help as soon as possible.





企業拓展(協助)總幹事 陸何錦環女士:

您好!謝謝您在百忙中抽時間來看我這封信,再 一次謝謝!

我是含着熱淚,帶着非常激動的心情來寫這封信 的。

我寫信的目的是向您表示—我非常欣賞和敬佩由 您領導,培養出來的工作人員的工作態度,他(她)們 的勤奮、熱誠、忘我、有愛心,有「助人為樂」的偉 大精神。

我是73歲身患有心臟病、血壓高、膽固醇高、 焦慮症、抑鬱症、恐慌症等等疾病的獨居老人。平日 不愛交朋友,喜歡獨個兒到處走,用步行運動來增強 體力,每星期五晚上去馬鞍山信義會長者地區中心教 授「普通話」、「懷舊國語金曲卡啦OK技巧班」做 義務教師。長者中心的領導,同事,學生多年來對我 的關心、鼓勵,是支持我活下去的最大動力。

上個月我用了兩年的風扇壞了,我請求東華三院 協助維修,東華三院轉介到聖雅各,很快接到聖雅各 企業拓展(協助)部黃先生通知:11月4日星期日上 午9點半有位維修師傅劉先生上門維修風扇。經過劉 師傅的檢查証明風扇線路版壞了,要拿去日立牌維修 廠維修,自費100多元,他說他會建議聖雅各領導考 慮送一座小風扇給我……。11月14日黃先生來電話 叫我在家等候鍾姑娘今天晚上七時後送風扇來。我太 高興了,太多謝聖雅各……。

我和黃先生通過幾次電話,他給我留下難忘的印 象就是一服務態度好,很關心和尊重長者和長者談 話,談吐溫純,細心有耐性,處理問題,態度認真, 乾淨俐落,快速有交代,有助人為樂的精神。

我要謝謝劉師傅,他服務態度好,專業知識豐 富,有愛心,為人很偉大,樂予助人,為了幫助和照 顧長者,犧牲自己休息和家庭樂的時間,做事快速, 果斷,有交代,公正,真偉大呀!

鍾姑娘是位「美少女」博學多才,為了長者,做送貨運輸工人,雙手抱着12寸的風扇大紙箱走遍XX 邨上,下邨才找到我家,喘着氣不休息又扮演安裝技工,將碎件一件一件組合成一把漂亮,可用的風扇。 啊!真了不起,只有偉大的愛,才有這種動力和勇氣,只有聖雅各才能培養出這種精神。

謝謝您培養出那麼多精英為長者服務,這是您的 光榮,您的驕傲,請您代我傳遞我對三位的謝意及無 限的祝福!

> 羅XX敬上 2012年11月14日深夜

Mrs. Luk Ho Kam Wan, CEO, Corporate Venture (Partnership & Alliances)

Hello! Thank you for taking time to read my letter! Thank you again!

I am reading this letter with tears and excitement.

The purpose of this letter is to express my feeling: I really appreciate and respect the working attitude of your colleagues. They are all hard working, with lots of passion and kindness.

I am a single elderly with heart diseases, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, anxiety disorder, depression, panic disorder and etc. I don't like meeting new friends; I like walking everywhere alone, treating it as a kind of sport to strength my health. Every Friday night, I will go to the ELCHK Ma On Shan District Elderly Community Centre as a volunteer for teaching Putonghua and Karaoke. The encouragement of the staff and students to me is the biggest motivation for me to life.

Last month, the fan I used for two years has broken down. I sought help from Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and they made a referral to St James' Settlement. In just a short period of time, I received call from Mr. Wong from CVPA department: Master Lau will come to repair my fan on 4 November at 9:30am. After the checking of Master Lau, it is confirmed that the fan has to be sent to the company for maintenance, which costs \$100. He added that he would suggest St James' Settlement to give me a fan On 14 November, Mr. Wong asked me to wait for Miss Chung for sending me the fan on that night after 7:00pm. I am really happy, really thanks for St James' Settlement.

I have several phone conversations with Mr. Wong, his good service attitude is my most unforgettable impression to him. He is with so much of care and respect when talking to elderly. He is nice and patients, also, he is fast and serious in handling problems.

I have to thank Master Lau. He is also having a good attitude, with rich knowledge and kind heart. In order to help the elderly, he sacrifices his rest and family time. He is fast, resolute, fair and great!

Miss Chung is a pretty and clever girl. In order to help the elderly, she turns to be a delivery worker, taking a big box for a 12 inch fan walking through the Estate. Without taking a rest, she then turns to be an electrical appliance worker, fixing up all the materials as a useable fan. She is really great! Only with the great love that she can has this motivation and braveness. And only with St James' Settlement, the spirit can be cultivated.

Thank you for training up so many professional staff in helping the elderly. This is what you should be proud of! Please kindly express my thank and blessing to Mr. Wong, Miss Chung and Master Lau.

Yours sincerely, Ms. Law XX Mid Night, 14 November 2012



Oriental Daily

東方日報

貴藥抗肺癌 中產獲資助

專媒報導

Media Report

不吸煙也會罹患非小細胞類肺癌,部分患者受基因突 變影響而罹患此症,需服用一種專對付突變的標靶藥物, 才能提升存活率。其中一種標靶藥費用昂貴,中產家庭未 必負擔得起,更有患者為醫病要賣樓,壓力大到想自殺。 聖雅各福群會惠澤社區藥房開展首個針對肺癌患者的藥物 資助計劃,有限額地資助病人用藥,直至停藥,料可為每 名病人每年慳十一萬元。

聖雅各福群會惠澤社區藥房推出首個針對 肺癌患者的藥物資助計劃

非小細胞肺癌佔肺癌患者八成半,最常見是腺性肺 癌,佔非小細胞肺癌近半數,且病徵不明顯,有七成人確 診時已屬後期。香港醫院藥劑師學會副會長蘇曜華指,非 小細胞肺癌患者中,有些帶有表皮生長因子受體(EGFR) 基因突變,刺激癌細胞生長。過往研究顯示,有三成華人 因基因突變患此症,以本港公立醫院研究為例,有近七成 半人屬非吸煙者。他指,目前分別有吉非替尼及厄洛替尼 兩種TKI類標靶藥可抑制表皮生長因子受體生長,控制病 情,前者更納入撒瑪利亞基金肺癌一線治療藥物,後者不 論價錢、藥效也與吉非替尼相若,平均可延長病人無惡化 存活期近三倍,但仍屬自費藥物,每月藥費約萬多元: 「如果吉非替尼失效,想轉藥就要計吓數。」

藥費昂貴對中產患者打擊大。聖雅各福群會惠澤社區 藥房註冊社工岑智榮指,他曾遇一名五十多歲末期肺癌女 患者因確診此症擔憂難負擔標靶藥藥費,六十歲的丈夫因 此不能退休,兩夫婦更賣樓轉租屋,更因生活轉變太大, 壓力大到想自殺:「佢唔想借錢,因為怕借咗冇得還。」

提供80個限額

藥房於今年九月推出首個肺癌藥物資助計劃,資助款 項約九百萬元,提供八十個限額,合資格病人可於療程第 二、三、五、七及八個月時,共付最高約八萬元藥費,到 醫管局藥房自費購買「厄洛替尼」,其餘療程則可獲免費 資助,直至停藥,期望可減低病人及家屬的經濟負擔,市 民可致電2831 3289向社工查詢詳情。



Expensive Lung Cancer Drugs Subsidy For Middle Class Patients

Non-small-cell lung cancer occurs amongst nonsmokers. For the patients whose lung cancers are believed to be caused by gene mutation, they have to take certain targeted therapy drugs to help them survive. However, one of these drugs is so expensive that even middle-class patients would find it hard to afford. To pay for the treatments, some patients have to sell their homes and some even think about killing themselves. The Philanthropic Community Pharmacy of SJS is currently running a financial assistance program, a first-ever effort dedicated to help specifically the lung cancer patients, to cover partially the costs of targeted therapy medicine for eligible patients. The subsidy every qualified patient receives until the treatment completed is expected to reach \$110,000.

First-ever Lung Cancer Drug Assistance Offered by SJS Philanthropic Community Pharmacy

Currently 85% of all lung cancer cases are known to be Non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC), of which Adenocarcinoma is the most common form and it comprises half of all NSCLC cases. Nevertheless, 70% of the cases went unnoticed until they reached advanced stage. Mr. So, Vice Chairman of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Hong Kong, stated that in some NCSLC cases gene mutations on Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) was found to be triggering the cancer to grow. Past researches showed that 30% of Asian patients were susceptible to EGFR-mutant lung cancers; take the data of NSCLC patients in Hong Kong public hospitals for example, 75% were nonsmokers. He further highlighted how the forbidding medicine costs stripped lung cancer patients of choice -- both Gefitinib and Erlotinib are effective TK-Inhibitors of EGFR, but Gefitinib is considered by the Samaritan Fund as the first line treatment for lung cancers whereas Erlotinib is still a self-financed drug, disregarding the fact that they have similar efficacy, their price are similar and Erlotinib extends the progression-free survival to 3 times as long as Gefitinib in average. Considering that treatments with Erlotinib would incur more than \$10,000 a month, Mr. So said, "It would be a big headache for the patients whose lung cancers became immune to Gefitinib."

High medicine costs cause much distress to middle class patients. Mr. Sham, the registered social worker of SJS's Philanthropic Community Pharmacy, recalled meeting a client, a some 50-year-old lady, who faced a huge change of life after being diagnosed advanced lung cancer: she sold the house she owned and she feared that her husband would have to put off his retirement plan indefinitely due to the high medicine costs, she even thought about committing suicide. He remembered her saying, "I don't want loans as I will not be able to repay."

Drugs subsidies for up to 80 patients

This first ever Lung Cancer Drug Assistance by Philanthropic Community Pharmacy is accepting applications from September 2012 onwards and up to 80 qualified patients are going to receive a total subsidy of \$9 million. Qualified patients need to bear the costs of acquiring Erlotinib at HKHAmanaged pharmacies during the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 8th month of therapy, of which the total expenditure is around \$80,000 at maximum, and the assistance program will finance the remaining sum of the targeted therapy drugs used until they complete the therapy. To learn more, please call our social workers at 2831 3289 for details.

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