

We are deeply grateful to all the volunteers, our co-host, the Hong Kong Housing Authority, our co-organizer, the Hong Kong Church of Christ, our community partners, and corporate sponsors for supporting the 18th Volunteers for Seniors Day. We know that many of you went the extra mile to serve the elderly on this day. Here is a story that exemplifies this spirit. Thank you – Hong Kong is a better place because of you!

A wish tucked away

Seventy-eight year-old Grandma Tsang joined the Fulfill a Wish Programme, part of the Volunteers for Seniors Day 2014. Her wish was to sing Cantonese opera once again.

To enjoy this pastime, one needs to have the money to pay the eight musicians that accompany the singer. When Grandma Tsang was younger, she looked for every opportunity to sing, sometimes shelling out as much as HK\$10,000 to sing just one piece. As Grandma Tsang aged and her money dwindled, she could no longer enjoy her passion. But how she wished she could!

"Interesting but we had not a clue"

A group of four women was assigned to help Grandma Tsang fulfill her wish. One of the women, Queenie, shared.

"When I found out Grandma Tsang's wish, I thought, 'how interesting!' But at the same time, I felt clueless. After all, Cantonese opera is an old people's pastime. Where do I start?"

Thank you for going the extra mile!



Queenie asked for advice from one of the older women at her church. The woman told her that it would be impossible to find a group of musicians to play for under HK\$1,000, which was the budget Queenie and her friends had been given to fulfill this wish.

Angels who helped

Then Queenie remembered a former colleague, Wilbert, who sings Cantonese opera.

"So I approached Wilbert. It just so happened that on January 19, the exact same day as Volunteers for Seniors Day, Wilbert had a performance scheduled."

Wilbert appealed to his opera teacher about this special situation. His teacher agreed to help and asked the full group of musicians to come early before the performance to accompany Grandma Tsang.

With that major hurdle cleared, Queenie and her friends had another challenge to overcome – find the music scores and make copies for the musicians.

"That was more difficult than anticipated! I searched and searched and had no luck because it was such an old piece. It turned out that Grandma Tsang had it. So I went and got it from her, thinking that we were pretty much all set. What I didn't know was that the scores had to be on a special F4 size paper, which was impossible to find."

One day, I was telling a friend about this. The friend said, 'Actually, there is a stack of F4 paper sitting in our office. Let me ask my boss if you could use them.'"

The boss agreed to let Queenie take the papers, even allowing her to make the copies at his office.



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Let her sing!

At 5 pm on Volunteers for Seniors Day, Queenie and her friends picked up Grandma Tsang. Grandma Tsang smiled ear to ear, like a kid in a candy store. She said that she was so excited she hardly slept the night before. At 6:30, Grandma Tsang stepped on the stage of the Chan Hing Social Service Centre in Mong Kok and sang her heart out! Her wish had come true!



Balloon master Mr. Andy Po and his team of five volunteers helped entertain the children volunteers while the opening ceremony was going on. Altogether their non-stop hands made 250 adorable yellow duckies! Thank you!



You inspire us!

So many people went the extra mile to make Grandma Tsang's wish come true – Queenie and her friends, her friend's boss, Wilbert, Wilbert's teacher, the musicians. This is just one story. There are a few more inside this newsletter, and still many more untold ones. You know who you are. Thank you. We cannot think of a better way to start the New Year, inspired to go the extra mile for others.

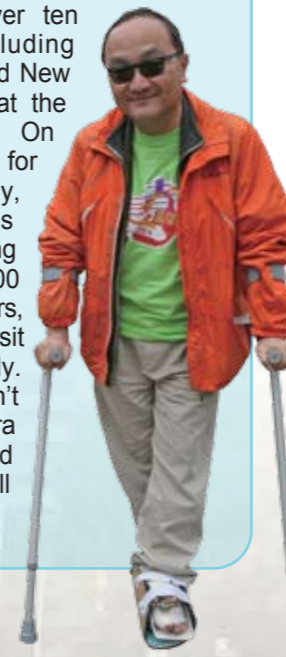
Over 60 volunteers showed up as early as 8:30 in the morning of Volunteers for Seniors Day to help us with the ushering, lucky bag goods table, and directing people onto the shuttle buses. They, like everyone else, also did their part in serving the elderly after the opening ceremony.



The extra miles many people took

On Volunteers for Seniors Day and also beyond, many of you went the extra mile for the elderly. Here are just a few vignettes. We cannot possibly capture all the stories but we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Jackson Lo broke his foot in a motorcycle accident in December. He spent over ten days, including Christmas and New Year's Day, at the hospital. On Volunteers for Seniors Day, Jackson was there along with over 2,000 other volunteers, ready to visit the elderly. Jackson didn't go the extra mile, he hopped it! Get well soon!



He could have stopped but decided to keep walking

Mr. Cheung Man-sun recently retired from his position as Assistant Director of Broadcasting. He and his wife, Ms. Candy Chea, famous RTHK disc jockey, could have sat back and enjoyed their retirement. But Mr. Cheung decided to keep walking the extra mile to help people in need.



We are excited that Mr. Cheung has agreed to be the official ambassador for HOPE worldwide in Hong Kong and China. He and his wife shared their volunteering experiences at the Volunteers for Seniors Day opening ceremony. They also visited and brought cheers to an elderly man.

We thank Mr. Cheung and Ms. Chea for their support! We will indeed keep going the extra mile as well!

He could be the youngest volunteer on this day! Thank you, Wilson and Carmen Wong for going the extra mile by bringing out one and a half months old Zacheus!



Pierre and Sandy Tam's group took an elderly woman to have eyeglasses fitted on Volunteers for Seniors Day. They brought her back one week later to pick up the glasses. On the way there, her shoes fell apart. They ended up buying her a pair of new shoes. So now the elderly woman can both see clearly and walk comfortably.



Aster Lui wanted to do just a little more for the elderly couple she and her family were going to serve on January 19. She decided to make some New Year decorations and a pot of soup. The most touching moment came when the elderly man, with tears in his eyes, told Aster that he had not had this kind of soup in a long time.





Thanks a million !

Co-host



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Special Thanks

- Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, Secretary for Transport and Housing
- Professor Alfred Chan Cheung-ming, Chairman of the Elderly Commission
- Mr Cheung Man-sun, former Assistant Director of Broadcasting, RTHK, Ambassador of HOPE worldwide
- Ms Candy Chea Shuk-mui, Hong Kong radio DJ
- Ms Tsang, Neckerchief Knitter

Community Partners

- Auxiliary Medical Service
- Caritas Cheng Shing Fung District Elderly Centre (Sham Shui Po)
- Caritas District Elderly Centre - Yuen Long (Tin Chak)
- Carson and Friends
- Christian Family Services Centre True Light Villa District Elderly Community Centre
- Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong Sha Tin Multi-Service Centre for the Elderly
- Free Methodist Church Bradbury Tak Tin Social Service Centre for the Senior
- HKSAR Leisure and Cultural Services Department
- Ho Fu Neighbourhood Centre for Senior Citizens (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)
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- Hong Kong Christian Service Fortune Neighbourhood Elderly Centre
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- Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Wong Tai Sin District Elderly Community Centre
- Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education
- Lai King Estate Residents Association
- Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Choi Wan Neighbourhood Elderly Centre
- Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Ngau Tau Kok Neighbourhood Elderly Centre
- The Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod Wo Che Rhenish Social Centre for the Elderly
- The Hong Kong Buddhist Association Buddhist Ching Hang Neighbourhood Elderly Centre
- The Hong Kong Society for the Aged Chai Wan District Elderly Community Centre
- The Hong Kong Society for the Aged Cheung Shan Developing Horizon
- The Hong Kong Society for the Aged Kai Yip Neighbourhood Elderly Centre
- The Hong Kong Society for the Aged Tsuen Kwai Tsing Integrated Home Care Services
- The Hong Kong Society for the Deaf
- The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council NAAC Sham Shui Po District Elderly Community Centre
- The Salvation Army Taipo Multi-Service Centre for Senior Citizens
- The Salvation Army Yau Tsim Home Care Service Team
- Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Fong Shu Chuen District Elderly Community Centre
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We also want to thank all the volunteers who sent us their pictures.



Let's do more good...

...for children !

For inquiry, call 2776-6829 or email Gloria Yau at gloriayau@hopeww.org.hk or watch for updates on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/hopewwhk.

Date	Time	Programme	The good you will do
Now until June 30	4 pm - 5:30 pm or 5:30 pm - 7 pm	Homework Tutoring	Assist children as they tackle their homework and watch them grow in their confidence.
April 12	2 pm - 5 pm	We Love to Read!	Accompany centre members to a coffee shop filled with books. Help them fall in love with reading as everyone enjoys afternoon tea.
April 12	1:30 pm - 6 pm	"Character on Board" Festival	Discover the joy of playing board games! Looking for lots of volunteers to help lead board game booths at our first board games community event. Training provided.
April 23	2 pm - 4 pm	Easter Party	Help our centre members learn the origin of Easter and teach them to care about others.
April 26	10 am - 3 pm	Adventure on HK Island	Accompany our centre members to HK Island and discover some history.
May 31	8:45 am - 5 pm	Family Outing	Accompany our centre members to a farm in Yuen Long and help them build a closer relationship with their family.

...in China !

Teach English with other volunteers to some of the most eager secondary students you will ever meet.

July 20 - 26	Gansu Province
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Bringing hope and changing lives around the world

Let the dream go on!

First, let's travel south

Bolivia is a country sandwiched between Peru, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil. It is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. In 2011, HOPE worldwide began a partnership with Hospital Arco Iris and Fundacion Arco Iris (Rainbow Foundation) in the city of La Paz to meet the health and social needs of poor children in the community.



Meet a dreamer

Fifteen year-old Jose and his five sisters live with their parents in a rural community near the city of Oruro, Bolivia, about 200 kilometers from La Paz. The family is poor. Their lives are hard. But that does not stop Jose from dreaming about becoming an agronomist (specialist in farming) when he grows up.



In 2013, it looked like the dream would soon be snatched away when they discovered a rapidly growing tumor in Jose's neck. Like all poor people, Jose and his family had no choice but to ignore this growth, hoping it would get better on its own. But the tumor grew so fast and large that it began to close his airway, making it difficult for him to breathe. Eventually, it became impossible for Jose to either work or play.

Fighting to keep the dream alive

Jose's parents took him and traveled many hours to La Paz to seek urgent care. When they arrived at Hospital Arco Iris, Jose was in critical condition. He had to have emergency surgeries to remove the tumor as well as to help him breathe.

Thanks to generous donors who support HOPE worldwide and Hospital Arco Iris, Jose's life is saved, for now. But he and his family are just starting their difficult battle to fight this rare but treatable cancer. Jose will need additional surgery and cancer treatment.

Learn how you can help

It would be a pity to lose someone like Jose, an extremely intelligent boy who loves to learn, who has a big heart to help others and a big dream to contribute back to his community. To learn more about how you can help, please check out hopeinbolivia.wordpress.com.



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