



The opening ceremony may have been cancelled, but we still celebrated! Happy 20th Anniversary to Volunteers for Seniors Day!

Your Persistence • Their Hope

The Volunteers for Seniors Day 20th Anniversary - A Day to Remember

For those who persisted and came out to volunteer on January 24, this was one Volunteers for Seniors Day they will not forget easily. That day, Hong Kongers woke up to record low temperature, the coldest in 59 years. It was also windy and raining. We were sure it was raining ice!

While most of the city stayed in the warmth of their beds, over 2,000 brave souls bundled themselves in as much warm clothing as possible and went out into the wind and the rain.

The volunteers had been matched with over 1,000 single elderly around the city for a day of visit, home cleaning, fall prevention follow-up, or outing. The elderly had been contacted and had the date and time set up. So even though it was Hong Kong's coldest day in nearly six decades, the volunteers were not about to disappoint their new old friends.

Time for Plan B

For the first time in 20 years, the opening ceremony had to be cancelled due to wet conditions. The 10:30 AM ceremony was called off shortly after 9 AM. Many of the volunteers were already at the venue. They huddled in the covered area just outside of the public restrooms.

You would think there would be some commotion, complaints or angry looks. Instead, we heard words of encouragement and understanding. HOPE worldwide Ambassador Mr. Man-sun Cheung and his wife Candy Chea rallied the volunteers around the small space and quickly set up an impromptu photo op corner where everyone could take pictures to remember this special day. Afterwards, the volunteers picked up their lucky bag materials and went off to visit their old friends.



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2016

Spring

NEWSLETTER

Volunteer helping to transform elderly's home.



This elderly couple's wish - to have a space heater for the winter. It was fulfilled on this cold day.



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A blast of warmth on this cold day

Many of the volunteers expressed that an event like this was especially meaningful on such a cold day. They had this to say:

"We have no fear of wind, rain or cold on this 20th anniversary of Volunteers for Seniors Day. My little volunteers helped bring the lucky bag and lots of warmth to this grandma's home. Thank you, Housing Authority. Thank you, HOPE worldwide."

"I am very grateful that on this wintry cold day, I can still go out and serve."

"It is especially meaningful to be going out to visit the single elderly and bring them lucky bags at nearly freezing temperature."

"Today's volunteering activity has an extra meaning as we bring love and warmth on this cold day."

"You are the best!"

Besides gratitude, all we feel is more gratitude! A great big thanks to our co-host, the Hong Kong Housing Authority and to our co-organizer, the Hong Kong Church of Christ, who provided most of the volunteers on this day. We also thank our partners in the community, who connected us to needy elderly, and our corporate sponsors, whose support filled up the lucky bags with goodies for them. We are truly grateful to have Mr. Man-sun Cheung as our ambassador. He and his wife Candy Chea have given us invaluable advice, supported us with their ideas and optimism, and have simply cheered us on. Most of all, we thank and salute our extraordinarily faithful, loving, and committed volunteers, especially those who stood in the cold and the rain to distribute materials for the lucky bags, directed the volunteers as they arrived, and then guided them onto the right buses. You showed us with your actions your love and compassion for the vulnerable. We are lucky to have you!



Thanks to the volunteers, this grandma can have hot water to drink this winter.

The extravagance of a cup of hot water Tiger Chan (Volunteer)

The grandma we visited this year lived in an older housing estate. She was not very social, probably due to the cold weather and the fact that she was not feeling well. My wife offered to make a hot drink for her but she kept refusing. Then we noticed that she didn't have a thermos or a kettle.

She had been drinking cold water. It was three degrees that day.

One volunteer named Renee asked her, "What if we gave you a thermos?" She replied, "It really doesn't matter if I have one or not."

"Was she afraid to be disappointed so she didn't dare to hope?" We went to the shopping centre nearby and bought a big electric thermos pot for her. After we presented it to her, Renee patiently taught her how to use it.





Volunteers used post cards we printed to encourage the elderly.

Cleaning the exhaust fan. That water must be cold!



A job well-done!

A Picture of Persistence

Persist (verb) - to last or endure tenaciously. Noun: persistence

The word to describe the 20th Anniversary of Volunteers for Seniors Day was "persistence". Our volunteers persisted through the years to bring much needed services to the single elderly in Hong Kong. Here are some stories from this year's unforgettable day. It was truly "your persistence, their hope."

Emily Wong helped an elderly on the street before going to bring warmth to more elderly.



Calling from God
Emily Wong
(HOPE worldwide staff and Volunteer)

I saw an old woman huddled behind a pillar on my way to the opening ceremony of Volunteers for Seniors Day.

I almost didn't stop because it was so cold out. But then I thought of the story of "the Good Samaritan".

I went back and found her. I asked, "Are you ok? Do you need help?" She immediately grabbed my arm and asked me to help her get to a nearby building. It turned out that she came out to buy a newspaper, but it got too windy for her to walk home. I believe God was calling me to help this grandma get home safely that morning.

Mimi Mok (Volunteer)

Grandma was hard of hearing. We knocked and rang the doorbell for TEN minutes before she opened the door!

An unexpected encouragement from fellow volunteers lifted the spirit of workers distributing lucky bag materials in the bitter cold.



HOPE worldwide
Centre for
Kids Staff, Zue Chan

I appreciated the ushers who were distributing the lucky bag materials. Some of them couldn't stop shivering. But they didn't quit. Then some other volunteers brought us hot soy milk. I felt so touched and encouraged!

Special thanks to "the volunteers' volunteers"

The unsung heroes in this year's Volunteers for Seniors Day were the ushers. Some of them helped to distribute the lucky bag materials (oil, rice, tea, milk powder, to name a few) while others directed the volunteers to the right buses. They stood in the cold wind and rain for several hours until all the volunteers received the necessary materials and got on the right buses. Words cannot adequately express our appreciation and gratitude for their unselfish act of service. Thank you! We salute you!

Volunteers who helped distribute the lucky bag materials were the unsung heroes of the day!



Thanks a million !

Co-host



Co-organizer



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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
- Mr Steve Chin, Lead Evangelist, Hong Kong Church of Christ
- Ms Tsang Wai-chun, Neckerchief Knitter

Community Partners

- 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 Shun On District Elderly Community Centre
- 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 Radiance Hub
- Free Methodist Church Bradbury Tak Tin Social Service Centre for the Senior
- HKSAR Leisure and Culture Services Department
- Ho Wing Neighbourhood Centre for Senior Citizens (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)
- Hong Kong Christian Service Bliss District Elderly Community Centre
- Hong Kong Christian Service Fortune and So Uk Neighbourhood Elderly Centre
- Hong Kong Christian Service Un Chau Neighbourhood Elderly Centre
- Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education
- Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Wong Tai Sin District Elderly Community Centre
- Lai King Estate Residents Association
- Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Choi Wan 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 Chan Tseng Hsi Kwai Chung District Elderly Community Centre
- The Hong Kong Society for the Aged Tsuen Kwai Tsing Integrated Home Care Services
- The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council NAAC Sham Shui Po District Elderly Community Centre
- The Salvation Army Tai Po Multi-Service Centre for Senior Citizens
- Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Fong Shu Chuen District Elderly Community Centre
- Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Lim Por Yen Integrated Home Care Service Team
- 陌默送義工隊

Corporate Partners

- Able Solution Consultants Company Limited
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- Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority
- The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited
- Wells Fargo Bank

Special thanks to Jason So (Emcee), Jeffrey Chan (Usher-in-charge); Asia Tiger Media Company, Chris Tang, Herbert Wong, Mario Hui, Rex Chapman, Summer Cheung (Photographers and Videographers).





Let's do more good...

...for children!

For inquiry, call 3586-9924, or email David Chung at davidchung@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 – June 30, 2016	4 – 5:30 pm or 5:30 – 7 pm	Homework Tutoring	Assist children as they tackle their homework and watch them grow in their confidence and achieve targeted key performance indicators.
April 16	2 – 4 pm	Birthday Party	Celebrate with centre members whose birthdays are between April and June. Teach them good character as they enjoy food and games.
April 23	10 am – 12:30 pm	Little Master Nutritionist	Having good nutrition is important for learning. Learn with our centre members how to read nutrition labels and make good food choices.
May 21	1 – 5 pm	Rock Climbing	Assist the children as we take them out for rock climbing. They will need your encouragement to persevere through the challenges.

...in China!

Teach English with other volunteers to some of the most eager secondary students you will ever meet. You have the option of joining a tour of the city of Dunhuang, part of the ancient Silk Road. Check our website and Facebook page or contact Christina at knchan@hopeww.org.hk.



July 18 – 25 (Teaching) or July 18 – 29 (Teaching + Tour) (tentative) Gansu Province

... and fundraise!

Have fun, see the sights or get fit while you fundraise and help the needy in Hong Kong and China. Check our website and Facebook page or contact Alexa at elexaliu@hopeww.org.hk.



Dates	Event	Details
October 23 – 29	Good Trekker	Fundraise and enjoy the stunning scenery. Trek 40 km in Sichuan Province. Starting in Chengdu, the trek ends in Yading Nature Reserve, in western Sichuan.
December 18	HOPE <i>worldwide</i> Great Santa Run	Ho! Ho! Ho! Don't miss the most festive and fun race of the holiday season. Adults, kids, family fun run...come one, come all!



Bringing hope and changing lives around the world

Two cities • One goal How sharing benefits more needy

Striving for the same goal

The different HOPE *worldwide* entities around the world are connected by collegial relationships. Though most of the time we are focused on our daily tasks of giving and serving, fundraising, and promoting, we take opportunities to learn from one another, be inspired by one another's work, and sometimes share useful contacts and resources with one another.

Such is the case with our sister organization, HOPE *worldwide* Singapore.



From one of our contacts, State Street Bank in Singapore initiated volunteering with HOPE *worldwide* Singapore.

Much in common. Much to do.

Hong Kong and Singapore have much in common. They are both first world cities with an ageing population. Since 2005, HOPE *worldwide* volunteers in Singapore have been reaching out to their elderly population. In 2006, State Street Bank in Singapore initiated with our local colleagues about serving the elderly by painting and cleaning their homes. State Street Bank had been one of our corporate partners in Hong Kong for many years. They were well-acquainted with our Elderly Programme and wanted their employees to volunteer in the same way.



HOPE *worldwide* Singapore began serving their elderly the same way - by painting and cleaning their homes.



HOPE *worldwide* Singapore works with their government's Health Promotion Board to improve the lives of their elderly.



Elderly fall prevention is important everywhere you go!

More falls prevented

More recently, after learning about our Elderly Fall Prevention Programme, our Singapore colleagues began their own. In 2013, together with their government's Health Promotion Board and a partnership with Johnson & Johnson, they piloted a three-year programme aimed at improving the functional independence of elderly people in the community. During the first two years, 91% of the participating elderly did not experience any falls.

Impact and encouragement multiplied

HOPE *worldwide* Singapore Country Director Joyce Tan shared with us how she felt about this kind of collaboration among the different HOPE *worldwide* entities:

"Inspired by the great work that HOPE worldwide in Hong Kong was doing amongst the elderly, we worked on developing our Singapore HOPE for Seniors programme, which later included elderly fall prevention. We are extremely grateful for our collaboration with our big sister - for the initial relationship with State Street Bank, which began in Hong Kong, for the regular sharing of your programmes, ideas, and resources over the years, and the shared vision of helping more elderly in our increasingly ageing communities."

Together, we can do so much good!

HOPE *worldwide* Singapore Country Director Joyce Tan and our own Country Director Dan Liu sharing ideas at a regional meeting.



HOPE
worldwide
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