

2.2 FAMILY SERVICE

Objectives

The service objectives are to preserve and strengthen the family unit, by empowering individuals and their families as a whole, through different levels of professional intervention, and to improve the quality of family life. These are achieved through Family Casework Service, Clinical Psychology Service, Family Aide Service, School Social Work Service, Treatment and Rehabilitation Programme for Substance and Drug Abusers and other time-limited supporting projects, offered in the eight Integrated Family Service Centres, two club premises of Lok Heep Club, Wong Yiu Nam Centre, Family Crisis Support Centre and Addicted Gamblers Counselling Centre, located in major residential areas of Hong Kong.

Highlights and Achievements of the Year

Caritas Lok Heep Club – Say No to Drug Driving Project

The two-year project run by Caritas Lok Heep Club with a grant from the Beat Drugs Fund Association was concluded in August 2013. Mass publicity, personal education, prevention activities with the transport industry, as well as support to drug drivers were carried out. The project had been successful and achieved the targeted output with a decrease in the number of prosecuted drug driving cases. Caritas Lok Heep Club would continue its efforts to alleviate the drug driving problem though the project had been completed.



Publicity materials of "Say No to Drug Driving Project"

"Character First" and "Love Freely, Appreciate the Inner Self"

Caritas Integrated Family Service Centre - Tsuen Wan had organized two promotion campaigns with funding from Tsuen Wan District Council. Adopting the essence of positive psychology, the campaigns aimed to promote the building of character strength with the emphasis on moral education as the cornerstone of parenting and children development. The family core value of "appreciation and love" was promoted through various school-based education programmes as well as children and parenting groups in the community. The message was also highlighted in all the services provided for children and parents.



Parents actively participated in the "Character First" parenting course



The character strength of "Care and Love" was built up from childhood



Campaign of "Love Freely, Appreciate the Inner Self" received positive feedback from the community

Genuine Care – Air-conditioners Donation Project

Alpha Appliances Limited (“AAL”) initiated to launch this charity project in collaboration with Caritas Family Service. In order to improve the living environment of the deprived families, a total of 130 air-conditioners were donated to those families receiving casework services from the eight Caritas Integrated Family Service Centres. The technical staff of the company volunteered to install the air-conditioners and the company provided cash subsidy for electric charges. The top management of AAL paid visits to some of the recipients and a tea party was organized at Caritas Integrated Family Service Centre – Tsuen Wan for the beneficiaries and representatives of AAL to interact and show mutual appreciation. The project was followed by staff donation from AAL. Food parcels were donated to the deprived families as Christmas gift.



▲ A warm gathering organized by Alpha Appliances Limited for the deprived families after the Air-conditioners Donation Project

Tsuen Wan / Kwai Tsing / Lantau District Programme

In celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Caritas - Hong Kong, Social Work Services units of Tsuen Wan / Kwai Tsing / Lantau District had jointly organized a cross-district programme to express Caritas appreciation to the stakeholders and partners. The event was held on 14 December 2013 and the programme included exhibition of winning entries in a drawing competition, game booths and performance by service users.



▼ Recognition ceremony for stakeholders cum services pilgrimage in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Caritas

Early Screening and Intervention Project for Children with Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder Symptoms

The project was funded by Eu Yan Sang Charitable Foundation. It covered over 500 kindergartens in Hong Kong. Through a screening assessment procedure, 40 families with children with Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder symptoms were shortlisted for service. While parents attended the “Proactive Parenting Programme”, children received multi-media group training service backed by behaviour management strategies. The programme would be developed into a comprehensive package and disseminated to various service units to continue serving the needy families.



Effective behaviour management system in action



Collaboration skills trained through games

Intensive Counselling Project on Financial Difficulties

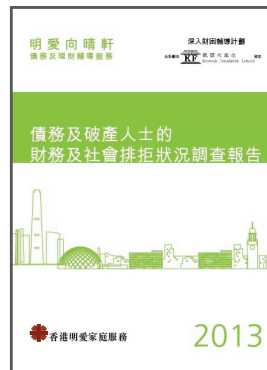
This was a three-year project sponsored by Keswick Foundation. It aimed at rendering professional counselling to help debtors rebuild family relationship and a healthy life. The project also provided a professional training to social workers on debt counselling. Upon completion of the project, a research report on “The Financial and Social Exclusion of Debtors and Bankrupts” and a “Professional Debt Counselling Manual” were published for reference by the professionals. A collection of debtors’ stories was also compiled for the general public.



A collection on debtors' stories



The first “Professional Debt Counselling Manual” in Hong Kong



Research report on “The Financial and Social Exclusion of Debtors and Bankrupts”

New Projects

Build Up Your (BUY) Career Project

To enrich the life of young people who received drug treatment at Caritas Wong Yiu Nam Centre, this three-year project was started in June 2013 and was supported by the Beat Drugs Fund Association. Employment orientation, job skills training, apprenticeships as well as counselling support were provided to the boys under treatment, in order to learn skills and build up their own career.



The trade skills taught in the project

Caritas School Support Service

Caritas School Support Service (“CSSS”) was set up in August 2013 in response to the call for professional support for students and families with special educational needs. The service was one of Agency’s concerted effort to integrate cross-service resources and trans-disciplinary expertise to provide evidence-based intervention services and projects to kindergartens, primary and secondary schools. During its first year of operation, students, parents, teachers and social workers from over a hundred schools had been served. A major development of CSSS was the Caritas Career Guidance and Counselling Project which would be formally launched in the summer of 2014.



► Motivation is key to learning behaviour



► Multisensory approach to help learning Chinese

► Team-building activity for a “gifted for charity” group