



## *Faith Hope & Charity*

*Corinthians Chapter 13 v. 13*

*And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity*

### **Charity**

One common dictionary meaning of charity is 'liberality to those in need or distress'.

There are many non-government charitable organizations (NGO's) working for the community. Here is one of them - '**Helping Hand**'.

### **Helping Hand Journey**

**1978** Helping Hand (HH) was established in response to 100 elderly men who were to be evicted from their caged bed spaces in Tsuen Wan with little prospect of finding alternative accommodation. These elderly men were finally housed by HH in a simple home constructed as part of a Temporary Housing Area (THA) in Pillar Island in Kwai Chung District.

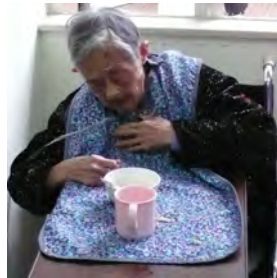


**1981** Many elderly living in poor conditions were assisted to move into HH THA Homes.



As the land on which the THA's were constructed and zoned for permanent public purposes the HH Executive Committee decided that our HH residents should be moved into permanent homes in public housing estates .

**1985** The first permanent Care Home was established in Kwai Shing accommodating 69 residents.



**1989** The withdrawal of HH temporary homes continued and four Elderly Care Homes were set up at Lok Fu, Lai Yu, Chak On & Tai Wo Hau with a capacity for 273 residents.



**1990** Three more HH homes were established at Chuk Yuen, Po Lam and Siu Sai Wan for 352 residents.



**1993** The Holiday Centre for the Elderly was constructed by government and managed by HH. It is a tranquil retreat located in Sai Kung open to all Hong Kong senior citizens.



**1995** An Infirmary Unit was set up in Lok Fu Home for 20 infirm bed ridden residents.

**2001** In breaking new ground The Hong Kong Jockey Club constructed the first purpose HH home to accommodate 300 Hong Kong residents who wished to live out their twilight years in Zhaoqing, Guandong.



**2002** A trailer from a converted container was constructed to bring HH elderly services to the community.



**2004** A special unit at the Holiday Centre was implemented to offer training in caring for those suffering from dementia.

**2005** A shop was opened at West Rail Long Ping Station to disseminate information to the elderly in that part of the New Territories.



**2006** HH Annual Fund Raising Helping Hand 'Cookie Campaign'.



**2006** The Government Lands Office granted formal approval of a modification of lease conditions at the Holiday Centre for the construction of a HH residential home accommodating 215 elderly. The estimate of cost HKD \$80 million.

# Santa helps home's residents go for yum cha

**New bespoke van enables elderly to reach medical facilities – and have fun**



(Left to right) Chan Kam-heung, 79; and Woo Ho, 85, stay at the Helping Hand Father Sean Burke Care Home. Photo: Nora Tam

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Elderly people living in a Sai Kung care home enjoy the fresh air and natural environment, but travelling anywhere can be a major problem since many of them are wheelchair-bound.

Many residents of the Helping Hand Father Sean Burke Care Home long for an outing, or yum cha, with family, and almost all of them must visit a doctor at least a few times a month.

The home currently houses 212 elderly people, more than

half over the age of 90. It has been renting vans for them from a private company, but the service is unreliable and expensive.

Now Operation Santa Claus is raising funds so that the care home can buy a van with a wheelchair lift and safety features for transporting frail elders.

"It would be a big help, taking us to medical appointments," said home resident Chan Kam-heung, 79. She fell and broke her leg five years ago and needs regular check-ups at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sha Tin.

Another resident, Woo Ho, 85, said it is difficult for residents even to visit a clinic in nearby Ma On Shan, when they catch the flu, because their wheelchairs can-

not go inside a taxi. "It's a remote place here, and transport is inconvenient," Woo said.

Helping Hand moved three of its elderly homes from urban areas to the Sai Kung site last year, next to their elderly people's holiday centre. The new premises – at the Cheung Muk Tau integrated service complex – has more outdoor space, said Chris Lee Man-wai, who heads it. The new van will be mainly for taking the residents to medical sessions, but it will also take them on outings when it's available, said Lee. When asked where she would like to go with the new van, Woo said with a big smile, "I would like to go for yum cha. Then I will be really happy."

## Helping Hand Objective & Mission

Simply stated: to house the growing numbers of elderly citizens who have made a contribution to the Hong Kong community so they can continue and enjoy a dignified life.

Helping Hand is a registered Hong Kong charity. All the members of the Executive Committee are volunteers.



**Please be with me when I walk my last**

**Give me love and patience, and I will give you my smile with gratitude –The smile that epitomizes our eternal love.**

website: <http://www.helpinghand.org.hk>

Kernowkid