



## The Legacy of Giving The Joy of Caring

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## Contemplating the next decade: Evolving along with the needs of the society

Nicolas Fu, Trustee of Fu Tak lam Foundation

**As we head towards the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FTI Foundation's establishment we pause for a moment of reflection.** Our Mission Statement was crafted in the hope of inviting applications from a variety of funding areas, without prejudice to any particular recipient group. Our one caveat was to focus predominantly on the Greater China region, which has been the 'home' territory of the Fu family going back several generations.

**In the subsequent years the FTIF has stuck to its mission and funded more than 180 worthwhile causes.**

That is not to say we didn't hit speed bumps along the way – for this was a learning process much like anything else you do for the first time. For those unfamiliar with how we operate, all grants go through our formal application process and are initially screened by our Executive Director according to our

eligibility criteria prior to more intense vetting during our quarterly committee meetings. Without limitless resources, when faced with multiple projects worthy of consideration we trust our process to help us make the right decisions. As one would expect, this process has undergone some refinement in the past, and likely to endure more in the future.

**To date over three quarters of our grants have gone to social welfare, educational or healthcare related projects. This apparent bias was not by design at the outset, rather, it was in response to our committee's perceived areas of greatest need over the past 10 years.**

This was not a period devoid of natural disasters either, and we have in exceptional circumstances deviated from our geographic focus to provide emergency disaster relief assistance to communities around the world.

This year has been marked by a period of geopolitical upheaval in Europe, the Middle East, the US, and of course much closer to home, here in Hong Kong.

**Whilst there are many headline grabbing news pieces that are vying for our attention, the tireless work of NGOs continues unabated day in, day out, under the radar and sometimes under difficult conditions. What has struck me personally has been the sheer number of passionate individuals coming up with creative solutions to help those in need (be it human or animal), reinvigorate our cultural heritage or even to clean up our air, to name a few.**



It is a sobering reminder that there is much work still to be done to enhance the livelihoods of a countless number of people. It is also worth noting that the foundation landscape is in itself changing, with more entrants providing further ideas and resources to the philanthropic arena and enabling greater scope for collaboration.

**2016 is certainly proving to be an interesting base from which to establish our focus over the next 10 years. Our aim is to evolve along with the needs of the society in which we serve.**

Historically our Foundation has fitted a more 'traditional' mould insofar as we typically funded projects based on applications received. However, this year sees a departure through our 'Warm Shelter' venture, whereby FTIF have converted an 8 storey industrial building in Kwai Chung into a mixed use space for business and NGOs. The idea behind this was to address the rental squeeze faced by charities by providing rental subsidies within a mixed use building. Should you wish to read more about this project please follow this link ([www.ftifoundation.org](http://www.ftifoundation.org)) . Should this project prove to be successful we may utilise this blueprint for more targeted initiatives in the future.

# The Most Complicated Decade of the Child Abuse Situation

-- Interview with Against Child Abuse Limited

Text by : So Mei Chi | Translated by : Yoyo Chan



Dr. Jessica Ho, the Director of Against Child Abuse (ACA), believes that we are going through the most complicated ten years of the child abuse situation. "We must intervene as early as possible, alongside the advocacy of institutional and legal protection."

If an adult was accused of child abuse thirty-seven years ago, he would claim that the lashing scars on a child's arm were "something trivial".

Thirty-seven years on, ACA hopes to bring forth an understanding that child abuse is not as simple as leaving lashing scars on arms.

In 1978, a lonesome bony silhouette limped into Kwun Tong Police Station. The girl, who weighed only forty pounds, suffered from a number of bone fractures and part of her head was bald from the hair being torn off. She did not look like she was already ten years old at all. This severe case of child abuse has triggered an avalanche of awareness back then, which also led to the establishment of ACA in Hong Kong. Since then, ACA and children in Hong Kong have experienced a few phases of transformation together.

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## **The First Decade: Caning as “Trivial”**

Dr. Jessica Ho says, “1979 to 1989 is our first decade. At that time, local children were mostly distressed by physical abuse. Even when we confronted the parent with a couple or more than ten caning scars found on his child, he would shrug off as ‘something trivial.’” That was a time when child abuse remained unclear to many. A majority of people were unacquainted with the topic of children’s rights and an appropriate concept was yet to be developed. It was also a pioneering stage for the newly found ACA to establish systems and professional collaborations.

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## **The Second Decade: Legislative Amendments Reveal Sexual Abuse Cases**

As ACA embarked on its second decade (1989-99), physical abuse has gradually received more attention in Hong Kong and the progress was marked by two significant milestones – the Court’s abolition of juridical caning in 1990 and the prohibition of school corporal punishment two years later. However, as Dr. Ho points out, the number of child sexual abuse case, with an initial single-digit yearly record, has increased drastically for a couple of hundred times – in truth, the legislative amendments have allowed a lot of hidden victims to resurface.

*“In the past, filing a sexual abuse case in court required both witness and physical evidence. It was very difficult and the proceeding was hugely detrimental to the child victims. They thought that no one could help even when they were willing to speak up, thus became reluctant to disclose.”*

The situation finally took a turn for the better when Hong Kong had agreed to meet the standards in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994. Subsequently in 1995, the government amended the rules of criminal procedure and evidence submission. Videotaped statement of the child victim could

be accepted as evidence. The victim, accompanied by social worker, could also testify via closed-circuit television in a child-friendly suite in court. To keep abreast of the social trend, ACA has also shifted its work focus to the support service for sexual abuse victims over those ten years.

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## **The Third Decade: Prevention of Leaving Children Unattended**

During the third decade (1999-2009), Hong Kong has seen a number of injuries and deaths of unattended children. ACA corresponded by introducing more prevention programmes for early intervention, which included pitching the message of home safety to expectant mothers. Such focus has also sown the seeds of positive discipline to families and, in doing so, facilitated the promotion of children’s rights in the long run.

*“When we explain to parents about children’s rights, we tell them that it is not about teaching children to usurp power from their parents, but respecting children as humans who are also entitled to the rights to survival, development, participation, and protection.”*

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## **Into the Fourth Decade: Getting More Complicated**

The fourth decade of ACA (2009–present) is, considered by Dr. Jessica Ho, the most complicated ten years. The increasingly blurry boundary between the virtual and real world has brought new challenges to child protection. The looming social tension and livelihood issues have not only upset adults, but also put children subordinated to them at even greater risk. Spousal and elder abuse, noted with an increase in the number of cases, also cause distress to the child witnesses at home.

The number of child abuse cases has risen consistently during this period of time. For instance, the official record shows that there

were 874 newly reported child abuse cases in 2015, showing an increase of 15 % compared with ten years ago. However, Dr. Ho thinks that the statistics only reflect the tip of the iceberg because a lot more child abuse cases are not recorded, in particular cases of psychological abuse. Hard to define in itself, the concept of psychological abuse has not been met by extensive social recognition.

According to the Social Welfare Department, “Psychological Abuse” refers to the repeated pattern of behaviour and attitudes towards a child or extreme incident that endangers or impairs the child’s emotional or intellectual development. Examples include acts of spurning, terrorising, isolating, exploiting or corrupting, denying emotional responsiveness, conveying to a child that he/she is worthless, flawed, unwanted or unloved. Such act damages immediately or ultimately the behavioural, cognitive, affective, or physical functioning of the child.

Despite the detailed description, psychological abuse is rather difficult to be identified in a domestic context. “Different parties would have divergent opinions on whether a case should be classified as psychological abuse – even among a group of professionals consisting of paediatricians, social workers, school principals and teachers, and police,” reveals Dr. Ho.

### **Resources for Children in Our Contemporary: Too Many or Too Few?**

Too many resources, too little space is also a problem shared by Hong Kong children nowadays. “We seem to be living in a rather well-off society, but forget to leave space for our children. Fully occupied by endless study tasks, children are stripped of the opportunity for psychological growth. They can hardly spare time to relax or organise themselves, let alone time to play.

*“Play is, in fact, part of children’s right to development. It is very important. The right to participation and other children’s rights are also seriously exploited.”*

Yet, under the same sky, some children are strained by unimaginable poverty. Official statistics show that Hong Kong has 1.32 million poor people, meaning on average one in five people are living under the poverty line. “We have centres in low-income areas like Tuen Mun and Chuk Yuen, where many families are still living in cubicle apartments. Parents seldom travel out of their residential area with their children so as to save transportation expenses.”

Hard times tend to fall on children whose parents fail to handle their emotions in adversity. In other words, support for parents is equivalent to support for children. This is also why ACA sets up a new centre in Kwai Chung, a district that houses the third largest population of low-income families in Hong Kong.

*Support for parents is equivalent to support for children.*



### **“Kwai Chung Centre” Reinforces Support for Parents**

Earlier this year, Fu Tak lam Foundation Limited has completed the rebuilding of an eight-storey factory. Since the Foundation is dedicated to developing a new model of charity, half of the space of the building is designated to non-governmental organisations – ACA is amongst one of the first tenants.

*“To create a more spacious environment for parents to relax, the design of the new Kwai Chung centre has minimal compartments. The centre*

*has also set a leisure corner and a play corner. The happy kitchen in the leisure corner invites parents to enjoy no-smoke cooking with their children. The play therapy elements at the play corner allow us to observe the child participants and our observation will be passed on to their parents.” Dr. Ho says that, since its opening in June, the centre has gradually become a gathering hub for parents in the district.*

*“We hope that parents can feel accepted in our centre. They can come by and enjoy their time here after taking their kids to school every morning. Through spending some time with themselves, they can have a better grasp of their own emotions, and furthermore network with other parents for mutual support.”*

*“We also hope that they would not see children as a problem. Parents need to forsake their irrational thoughts, learn to confront problems with their children and, in doing so, recognise the problem-solving capacity of their children.”*

**Zen dining and music for parents to get in touch with themselves**



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## **Advocating Cooperation with Parents**

As early as in 1986, ACA has developed a parent support network at its Tuen Mun centre. Dr. Ho considers the programme a huge success. A lot of mothers, initially members of the network, have taken a step forward by volunteering and subsequently involving their family members of the next generation to participate. Furthermore, some of them have joined Dr. HO and spoken up at various occasions, becoming active advocates of child protection.

ACA has been advocating a range of topics to ensure respects for the voice and opinions of our children. Initiatives include – a total ban of corporal punishment inside and outside of home; providing primary prevention service for parents with newborn babies; offering systematic parent education and support service to high-risk groups; institutionalising statutory “Sex Offender Record Check”; establishing a review mechanism for severe child abuse; conducting comprehensive and regular reviews for laws, policies, and service for child protection in Hong Kong; developing a central database for child protection; and creating independent systems like the Committee on Children’s Rights.

*“Advocating initiatives is very important to child protection and the government cannot have no blueprint, goal, planning, or resources.” Dr. Ho reiterates, “We also hope the general public to understand that sound investments in our children can save a lot of social resources from future remedy. Child protection is a responsibility shared among each and every one of us and it would not be possible without concerted efforts from the whole society.”*

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## Child Abuse Treatment Corner

Child Abuse Treatment Corner has been funded by Fu Tak Lam Foundation Limited since 2013. The project consists mainly of two parts – therapeutic groups and home visitations to new parents. Through adopting cognitive behavioural therapy, parents who have corporally punished or encountered difficulties in disciplining their children can explore the reasons for their emotional outbursts together. Parents can learn about their emotions and identify their most susceptible pressure points, as well as examining their serial reactions experienced from the beginning to the actual occurrence of their outbursts.

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### **“I am only venting my own emotions.”**

During the sixth or seventh session of one of the groups, a parent participant expressed, “I now try my best not to beat my child and would rather leave whenever I cannot hold back...I have a feeling that I probably beat him only for venting my own emotions, nothing to do for him.” Project social worker Ms. Manki Wong recalled that, after that sharing, other parents also looked embarrassed, as if the hidden truth has been exposed. The sharing marks the revelation journey experienced by parents in the group and that moment has left Ms. Wong a very vivid impression.

The group also encourages parents to re-evaluate their inherent view on their children’s behaviours. For instance, some parents complain about their child’s lie-in in the morning and procrastination of doing homework, claiming these behaviours as

“declaring opposition.” To guide the discussion, social worker in the group would ask – is there any concrete evidence to support such conclusion? Are there other possible reasons for your child’s behaviours? Is it simply because he is exhausted?

*“While most people tend to focus and exaggerate the inappropriate behaviours itself, we believe that every move of a child has a reason. Why would they procrastinate when it comes to homework time? Has the reason behind been dealt with? To practise positive discipline, a children need to feel the eagerness of his/her mum and dad to understand and accept them unconditionally,” explains project social worker Ms. Kennis Cheng. “Parents often change their perception of their child once having acquired a new perspective, thus respond differently towards the child’s behaviours.”*

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## Implementing the Concept of Collaboration

Members of the group are also capable of influencing each other. A parent once said, “No good child without beating.” Another parent in the group responded instantly, “I have been beating my child since he was small. He is now in primary six. He does not only know how to fight back, but also learn to leave the house. Beating is of no use.” Therefore, in hopes of enhancing mutual inspiration and collaboration, project social workers tend to arrange parents of different age ranges in the same group on occasions.

Some members of the group are referred from various service units of the centre, whilst some are recruited from schools. School teachers would recommend parents who have encountered difficulties in disciplining or have performed corporal punishment on their children. Schools would also refer children who have experienced corporal punishment or emotionally

disturbed by family to issues therapeutic groups for children.

Some children demonstrate their destructive power when they first join the group and some even threaten, "Don't you believe I will beat you up?" Given such tendency for violence, their daily lives are not beyond imagination. Social workers would help these psychologically bruised children to learn about their own emotions and rebuild their self-esteem. For instance, children are encouraged to give credits to their own strengths and appreciate their groupmates after every session.



*The child's dreamcatcher bears all sorts of fantasies and wonders. Having a dream is also a source of self-esteem.*



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### **"What? You don't tell people off?"**

*"A lot of kids are subjected to caning once they get home; some are greeted by the most despicable insults from their loved ones.*

*These children render themselves useless and feel inadequate or even hostile to others. Many of them are disorientated and insecure about joining the group – do I have to join the group because I am problematic? Will the social workers yell at me?" Ms. Wong recalls, "A primary three or four child in the group was startled, 'What? You don't tell people off?' Basically no one has complimented him throughout all these years - it is heart-breaking." This boy is one of the most memorable cases for Ms. Wong. At first, he behaved rather hostile against others in the group, but later on expressed his desire to be next year's class prefect.*

In addition to the therapeutic groups, the Treatment Corner has introduced the "Volunteer Home Visitation Service for Families with Newborn" in the mid of last year. Volunteers with parenting experience are recruited for visits to expectant mothers who are at least twenty-four weeks pregnant, as well as families with babies aged under one year old. Project social worker Ms. Becky Wong points out that the birth of a child often turns the world of new mother and father upside down. Apart from the emotion effects resulted from the fluctuating hormone levels before and after pregnancy, new parents need to adjust themselves to a new mode of family life and couple relationship. The experienced volunteers can hopefully reassure new parents and, in celebration of the arrival of a new life, share with them tips for positive discipline and lay a foundation for a happy family.

After all, prevention is better than cure and the same goes for issues of child abuse.



# Newly approved projects

*For Registered charities are welcome to apply for funds.*

*For details please visit our website : [www.ftifoundation.org](http://www.ftifoundation.org)*

**Mar 2016 – Sept 2016**

## **1. Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies (CSLDS), The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

### **A New Milestone for Educating Deaf and Hearing Students: Sign Bilingualism and Co-enrolment**

The project aims to address the perennial difficulty faced by deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) children raised and educated under the misconceived “oral-only” approach in Hong Kong, and to explore how best to benefit both DHH and hearing children within the system of inclusive education. It further builds the groundwork developed since 2006 through the experimental “Sign Bilingualism and Co-enrolment in Deaf Education (SLCO) Programme” established in a kindergarten and a primary school. The SLCO approach is characterized by co-enrolling DHH and hearing children in the same classroom with support from both oral and sign language as the medium of instruction. By removing the barriers of communication, this approach cultivates an effective learning as well as inclusive classroom/school environment, benefiting both DHH and hearing children linguistically, socially and academically. The support from Fu Tak lam Foundation since Aug 2014 has enabled CSLDS to continue consolidating this groundbreaking approach to educating DHH and hearing children at the partner schools, and to set an innovative model for deaf education practices for other schools in Hong Kong or other countries to follow, ultimately benefitting both the deaf and hearing communities in the society.

## **2. Pneumoconiosis Mutual Aid Association**

### **Home rehabilitation program and case management for the elderly with Pneumoconiosis**

Pneumoconiosis is an incurable and progressive disease of the lungs due to inhalation of dust, characterized by inflammation, coughing, and fibrosis. In the last century, HK witnessed one of the biggest occupational risks affecting construction workers due to exposures to asbestos. As it causes difficulty in breathing, it limits mobility and daily living activities. Not only would the patient become unemployable and has to cope with tremendous distress until the last stage of life, the family members would be directly strained too. Fortunately exercises based on concepts of physiotherapy and occupational therapy can help enhance functioning and self-care abilities. Emotional and spiritual support is also essential for the patient in the long rehabilitation process. This 3-year Project aims to support the pneumoconiosis elderly patients and their families to overcome problems of health deterioration, stress and co-dependency issue by providing case assessment and management, and rehabilitation programmes including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and volunteer support.

## **3. Child’s Dream Foundation Karen Refugee Committee Education Entity (KRCEE)**

### **(Mae Pa, Mae Sot, Tak Province, Thailand)**

Child’s Dream Foundation supports KRCEE, a community based organisation operating in seven Karen refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, focusing on refugee camp education. They support eleven schools here and two in Myanmar itself at the post-high school level.

Higher education is, at best, extremely difficult to access in Eastern Myanmar as it is largely non-existent; furthermore, refugees do not have access to this level of education within Thailand, a gap exists of supporting higher education in the refugee camps.

We are financing the regular operating costs of this programme for the schools, such as salaries, kitchen and food costs, health and hygiene, as well as school supplies.

In addition, funding assists KRCEE with their on-going effort to support the transition of Higher Education opportunities to within Myanmar borders. Over the past few years, the Myanmar government has made great strides towards a more democratic state. Although no peace agreements have been signed, ceasefires have been agreed and the political situation is more stable than it has been in decades. The improving situation has allowed some refugees to return to Myanmar and the necessity of the refugee camps may decrease in the future.

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#### **4. AIDS Concern Foundation Limited**

##### **Youth Love & Sexual Health Education Campaign**

“AIDS Concern” strongly believes in the importance of comprehensive sexual health education, and that sexual health education should not just provide accurate sexual health knowledge, but also cultivate value reflection. Therefore, the aims of education are not only to prevent negative consequences, but also to equip them with positive attitude towards sex. This two-year project would produce two short promotional videos uploaded to social media, and provide 870 sexual health checkup sessions which include rapid blood tests for HIV and Syphilis, and urine tests for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea. Moreover, the project would train up 20 young people as peer leaders. Every leader is expected to disseminate accurate sexual health knowledge, promote HIV/STI testing and positive sexual health attitude to 45 friends.

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#### **5. Badi Foundation**

##### **Laying the Foundation of a new generation in Macau**

The ages 12-15 represent a special period in an individual's life. Junior youths have not yet reached adulthood, but they are also no longer children. They possess altruism, an acute sense of justice, and a desire to contribute to the construction of a better world. By the age of 15, many of the patterns of thought that will characterize their lives will have been fixed. Through this 2-year project junior youths are guided by older youths and young adults to study a sequence of meaningful and interesting texts that assist them to develop their powers of expression, positive attitudes towards life and understanding of essential moral concepts such as perseverance, honesty, setting noble goals and maintaining hope in the face of difficulties. As junior youths proceed through study of the texts, mentors accompany them to identify needs in their local communities and plan, carry out and reflect on activities designed to meet those needs, helping them mature into active members of their communities. The project is implemented in Macau in collaboration with 7 local schools, to benefit over 1,300 junior youths and 100 young mentors.

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#### **6. Health in Action Limited**

##### **Healthy Living Project for working poor families in Kwai Tsing District**

The working poor individuals and families face a lot of difficulties in health prevention and maintaining healthy life style as they are often overwhelmed by livelihood issues, financial constraints or inaccessibility to public medical services. In the previous pilot phase, the Project has analyzed the specific health concerns of the working poor individuals and families in Kwai Tsing district and delivered useful services. Building on this, the two-year Project continues mobilizing a multidisciplinary professional health volunteer team to deliver direct health assessment and consultations on a family basis, pain clinic, mental health program, and subsidies for medical expenses for the needy. Moreover, a peer health support system will be established to promote healthy lifestyle habits and help sustain health impacts within the target group.

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## **7. Watchdog Early Education Centre**

### **Upgrade of technological resources at Watchdog Early Education Centre**

This Project aims to improve the Technological Resources at Watchdog Early Education Centre. With support from Fu Tak lam Foundation, 15 sets of old and obsolete computers and monitors could be upgraded enhancing the team to work efficiently. Also we are able to purchase 8 iPads for special needs teachers, occupational therapists and speech therapists to use in groups or individual sessions, to cater to the development needs of our children with various challenges. iPad is effective for helping our children with SEN. For instance, 65% of children at Watchdog have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) of varying degrees, some of whom are nonverbal. There are many visually appealing APPS in iPad which our therapists and teachers can use as a reward or as an alternative communication tools for our children on ASD. Those iPads will enhance the learning of 500 children with SEN which Watchdog serves annually.

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## **8. S.K.H. Holy Carpenter Church District Elderly Community Centre**

### **PARACLETE – Care and Comfort Angel**

Paraclete – Care and Comfort Angel is a social service that mainly serves bereaved persons and family members of dying patients. Moreover, this service expects to promote a positive attitude towards life and death. The service consists of three major parts: (1) to provide crisis intervention and tangible support for service users at the acute phase such as funeral consultation, funeral referral, and volunteers escorting services during funeral process; (2) to provide emotional support for clients who are grieving in terms of telephone counseling and home visits; and (3) to train people from various backgrounds in the society as volunteers in order to serve bereaved persons and family members of dying patients. All services of this project do not have any restriction on residential districts, age, ethnicities, and religions.