

Christmas Newsletter 2023

Dear friends of HOLF,

Christmas is just around the corner! As we look forward to this meaningful festival, we remember what it represents: love, hope and generosity.

As the end of 2023 draws near, we recall with gratitude in our hearts how God has, again, shown His unfailing love, guidance and provision. We would like to now share our latest HOLF news with you.

We were thrilled to have the chance to meet our donors and friends in person during the HOLF Open Day. There were around 70 guests who joined us for this special ceremony for the reopening of our Block C premises. Our residents have now moved over from Block D and are settling into their new environment and we can see that they are very happy living there. The space now provides a much more diverse environment for our residents' needs and activities.



We have now appointed an architectural firm from 4 tenders to design the new premises on the Tai Po Site. We are moving forward in the development of this new home for our residents to move to when the time comes, most likely in 2027.

Meanwhile, many of our residents have had a challenging year on the health front. Some had COVID earlier in the year, but we are so grateful that all recovered. Of course, many of our residents are aging to over 50, 60, and some even to over 70, which brings other medical challenges to them. What a miracle of longevity for these special ones! It is inspiring to see them enjoy life in their own ways. We share with you their joy in the following pages.

We are humbly thankful to you all for your support as you continue to journey with us, encouraging and blessing us. Because of you, we can achieve so much more. Looking to the future, we hope that you will continue walking with us as we strive to provide a safe and loving 'forever home' for more of the vulnerable members of our society.

With deep gratitude,

HOLF Family

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth".

- John 1:14



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The Home of Loving Faithfulness holds a valid licence issued by the Social Welfare Department as a Registered Cared Home for Person with Disabilities.



BIG-UNIT



Dip Dip always has a positive outlook. Her beautiful smile and her eyes express so much to us. She loves to take part in different activities and is curious to explore new things.



Fa Fa is very alert to the environment around her and has a curious nature. She **ALWAYS** greets people with a huge welcoming smile.

Wing Sze enjoys both quiet reading time and group activities. She continues to show how brave and resilient she is with the sweet smile she gives when interacting with others.



Che kin enjoys being outside in the sun shine where he can feel the breeze and experience more sounds and smells. We see him light up by the change in his posture and behaviour.



This year Fung Tai had a tough time when she was hospitalized for more than a month with an upper respiratory infection. Thankfully she has regained her good spirits and energy.



Fu Fu has also, sadly, had a challenging year. He has been in and out of hospital but is comforted by having someone sit and talk with him. We are so proud of his enduring patience and gentle nature.

You can see here Tak Tak having his regular walking exercise which he loves as he can explore his environment for himself. He takes control and finds new items to observe and interact with.



Siu Ping loves listening to music and thrives by having people talk to and sing to her. She enjoys having a massage which stimulates her senses.



UPPER ARK



Wing Tung always has a lovely smile on her face. She was thrilled when we took her out to have a meal as you can see in this picture!



Pui Ling is seen here enjoying her milk tea. She is learning more independence skills and is very willing to help to keep her living environment things tidy and clean. She is a very capable young lady!



Sui Yan loves music very much. She has a good sense of rhythm and always likes to get up for a dance. When the music plays, she enjoys shaking her maracas in rhythm.





LOWER ARK



Ka Lok is having a takeaway treat here but he also enjoys the delicious food made by our chefs. He likes to be busy and enjoys a variety of games and activities around the home when he is not at his Centre.



Tsz Yin enjoys playing the piano. He is one of our star musicians! We thank God that He has given him this talent which gives him so much joy.

Yushen, our youngest family member is always enthusiastic and loves to be active. He fills us with renewed energy as he demonstrates how to have joy even when life gives you challenges.



Choi, our newest family member is settling in to his new environment. He attends his Training Centre during the week, and he likes to relax by watching some television.



Judy came to visit us all the way from the UK and she was here to celebrate Ka Lok's birthday with him. It was a very special time. Judy's precious bond with those she cared for so long can be seen here in the picture. Thank You, Judy!



We thank the Boy Scouts of America Troop 412 Hong Kong for doing painting work for our playground and garden!





MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES



"Christians awake, salute the happy morn, whereon the Saviour of the world was born; rise to adore the mystery of love.... of God incarnate and the virgin's Son."

This may not be the most well-known Christmas hymn. For some, whether Christian or not, Christmas morn maybe filled with a Christmas moan at 4 am with excited children desperate to open presents... or a Christmas mourn as you reflect on the world in crisis from climate change, wars and fears or the loss of loved ones. We hope that whatever your situation, may it be a time to reflect, pause and be still and know that He is God and that He has sent us all "His indescribable gift". What difference can that make in your life? Each day the Trustees share a verse from Scripture or a hymn to call us to worship and pray for HOLF. Today the verse was from Psalm 27:14

"Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes wait patiently for the Lord".

What are you waiting for patiently? At HOLF we have been waiting patiently for some resolution to the dialogue of over 20 years with the Government about the intended resumption of our land. We now seem to be on the way to a new chapter in this regard. We wait patiently as we pray for more staff (a challenge for every NGO and many businesses) including the hope for a new superintendent in 2024 as we need the blessing and input from someone who loves HOLF and its ministry to take us through the next season and generation of HOLF's rich tapestry.

We are so grateful to our staff who care for our residents and the Home. They need more support. We wait patiently. So many areas where we could blossom, whether advancing our ministry with innovation and technological blessings or working through the details of how to prepare for more residents and their aging parents... but we wait patiently on this and more as we trust that His timing is perfect. We need to be faithful, resilient and patient, and He helps us to be brave and courageous in waiting as we see His plans unfold.

We so love the previous pages of this newsletter being drawn into the lives of our beautiful residents. "Beautiful" may seem an odd word to some, but their hearts and lives have pure beauty even through the physical and mental struggles that each may have in different forms. We love them and God loves them. Our prayer is that they feel that love, and guess what, they give it back to you multiplied when they smile, laugh, dance, move, gesture, eat a mouthful of food, breathe and wait patiently for another touch, another smile, and another blessing. Come and meet them to find out more! Meanwhile, as another year concludes we look ahead to another challenging year for HK and the world. BUT may we keep and ponder in our mind God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind!

"Trace we the Babe who hath retrieved our loss, from His poor manger to His bitter cross..."

Assisted by His grace then may we hope, be redeemed and saved by His love, for each of you and for us. Wishing you and yours a Christmas and a new year filled with peace, joy, hope and more of that love.

With thanks and blessings from the Trustees

Andrew, David, Gretchen, Jen, PK and Rebecca,

December 2023

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of our faithful volunteers, praying friends, donors and all round supporters for your ongoing support. You are all such a great blessing to the residents we care for at HOLF.

