

A Unique Service Model of a Family Care Home for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in Hong Kong



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Background

- Fu Hong Society: A major rehabilitation service provider in Hong Kong
- What we do is to **SERVE** and **RECEIVE**
- Providing government subvented and self-financed services
- **Casa Famiglia Service**

Implementation of social inclusion by creating family care homes in Hong Kong



Background

- Commencing Casa Famiglia (CF) Service since 1997
→ Set up four family care homes:
Encounter, Concordia, Splendor and Radiance
- Providing a **homelike living environment** for adults with intellectual disabilities who are either homeless or without adequate parental care

- To exercise their rights to **participate in the community**
- To **make friends** with community members



- Each family care home comprises:

**A Home Sweet Home
for Persons with
Intellectual Disabilities!**

Family Members



- Build up a family together
- Share the ups and downs in life

Elder Brothers



- Provide spiritual support to family members

Housemothers



- Take care of family members' daily lives

Regular Friends



- Organise social activities for family members regularly

Service Uniqueness

Person-centered Service Focusing on Family Life

- The **first** and the **only provider** of CF Service in Hong Kong
- **Positive changes** found in family members
- **Increasing progress of social inclusion**
- Being recognised as a good practice in other cities in China



Real-life Example:

- **Yuet-lin**, a 50-year-old lady with moderate intellectual disability
- Living in Encounter family since 1997



Before living in Encounter :

Passive, having no interest to interact with the others

After experiencing family life in Encounter:

Active in making friends and taking care of others



- Bring **proactiveness** into full play
- Eagerly **participate in community activities** (e.g. 'Best Buddies Hong Kong' Movement)
- Enhance **mutual understanding**
- Increase **self-confidence**



Travelling to many places like Beijing, Nanjing, France and Italy



In 2005, Yuet-lin attended the Annual Meeting of 'Best Buddies International' held in the U.S., as one of the guest speakers.

Social Significance



- Interaction with Yuet-lin is **never one-way** but mutually fruitful
- **Changing mentality** of volunteers and neighbors:

Care and love is no longer derived by sympathy or empathy, but love and friendship!

- Essence of CF Service:
The process of receiving and giving

Receiving
(CF Service)



Giving
(the social influence of CF members)



Creating a more equal, caring and inclusive society

Challenges faced by CF Service

(1)

Financial Sustainability

- Non-mainstream service **without government subventions**
- relying on **donations**

- **Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance** causing the limitation on the number of family members in Encounter family
- **Ideal situation VS practical situation ?**

(3)

Coping with Challenges posed by Ordinances

(2)

Limited Land Area Available for Service Development

- Extremely **hard to meet the acute demand** for family care homes

Conclusion

- CF Service is an **interactive platform**
- Demonstrate the **ability** of CF members:
 - Enrich the community with **good relationships**
 - Enable people to **know themselves anew**
 - Gain a fresh understanding of the **essential elements of life**:

Love, Care and Appreciation

- Persons with intellectual disabilities are **being served** while **servicing** the community.
- They should **live** in our community as every one of us.
- CF Service is a feasible way for achieving **normalisation** .

Join us to embark
on a new journey
of life with our
friends with
intellectual
disabilities!

Thank you for your listening !



Looking forward
to seeing you at
our family care
homes !