



## 2013 "Best Buddies Hong Kong" Movement (BBHK) Annual Gala and Outstanding Chapter Award Ceremony

The Annual Gala was successfully held on 6 July 2013 at the Hong Kong Institute of Education Taipo Campus. Encouragingly, about 300 people attended this year. On the day, we were honoured by the presence of BBHK council members, including Fu Hong Society (FHS) Vice Chairman Mrs. Cecilia Wong Lam, MH, Spiritual Advisor Fr. Giosuè Bonzi, Council Members Mr. John Lee and Dr. Kenneth Sin to officiate the occasion, as well as to present the "Best Chapter Award" and "Best Buddies Pairs Award". In addition, the Macau Exchange Tour members shared on stage, student representatives from the Leadership Conference conducted an oath-taking ceremony, and finally, there were performances from chapter representatives to round up a fun packed night. Additionally, organizers had arranged group games and competitions in that afternoon for our chapter buddies at Fun Day, to enhance the unity and friendship amongst the chapter buddies.



1. Our guests posing for pictures with our chapter buddies
2. Winner of this year's "Best Buddies Pairs Award"
3. This year's International Leadership Conference staff and student delegates received their blessings
4. Buddies enjoyed an unforgettable experience at Fun Day
5. Sharing among members of the Guangzhou Exchange Group



### Chapter Highlights

1. Yau Chong Home service users and Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tuen Mun) Chapter buddies visited the elderly on 22 June 2013.
2. Lok Wah Adult Training Centre and Chiaphua Industries Limited Chapter visited the elderly on 14 September 2013
3. Cheung Hong Home and Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi) Chapter visited the elderly on 14 September 2013



### Best Buddies International (Asia & Oceanic) Area Director Visits FHS

Since August, Ms. Sue Trone, Area Director (Asia & Oceanic) of Best Buddies International has been touring the Best Buddies Chapters in her region in August 2013. On 17 September 2013, she finally arrived in Hong Kong for a one-day whirlwind visit with FHS on her itinerary. To make the most of her visit, we invited Ms. Rosemary Leung, representative of Best Buddies China (Guangdong) to have exchange about Best Buddies' work in Hong Kong, China and the international community. Fu Hong Society arranged a lunch reception on that day. Two Best Buddies Hong Kong Council Members, FHS Vice Chairman Mrs. Cecilia Wong Lam, MH and Council Member Mr. John Lee attended to accompany Ms. Trone and to introduce her to FHS and BBHK's work. Ms. Trone was also invited to officiate the new corporate citizen chapter formation ceremony.



1. Ms. Trone was treated to a Chinese Lunch Reception
2. Ms. Trone in a Best Buddies Hong Kong t-shirt, presenting the Best Buddies Bear to FHS
3. Ms. Trone's visit to Madam Hong's Bakery

### Formation of new corporate chapter by Si Lok & Yi Lok Adult Training Centre (RCSLATC & RCYLATC) with Hong Kong Chamber of Insurance Intermediaries

A new corporate chapter was formed by RCSLATC & RCYLATC with Hong Kong Chamber of Insurance Intermediaries (HKCII) on 17 September 2013, with 10 pairs successfully matched. Mrs. Cecilia Wong Lam MH and Mr. John Lee, BBHK Council Members; Ms. Sue Trone, Area Director Asia & Oceanic of BBI; and Mr. Harley Kwan, Immediate Past President of HKCII, officiated at the new corporate chapter formation ceremony. The ceremony was supported and attended by around 100 participants, with heartwarming performances that created a very pleasant atmosphere.



1. Guests and 10 pairs of newly matched buddies at the chapter formation ceremony
2. A group photo of all our guests and attendees after the ceremony

### Macau Exchange Tour

The Macau Exchange Tour ran from 31 May to 1 June 2013. 16 pairs of best buddies joined the tour. A seminar to promote social inclusion was arranged in the afternoon of 31 May to discuss different experiences in promoting "Best Buddies Hong Kong" Movement. Council members of BBHK, including Mrs. Cecilia Wong Lam MH, Fr. Giosuè Bonzi, and Mr. John Lee supported and shared in the seminar. Mr. Chan Choi Fat (Chairman of Management Committee of Fuhong Society of Macau) and Ms. Jennifer Chau (Director of Fuhong Society of Macau), together with around 30 staff and service users, attended the seminar.

During the seminar, members of senior management, 4 buddy pairs and 1 student representative presented BBHK, introduced BBHK and shared their experience joining BBHK. As well as visiting the Associaçao de Reabilitaçao "Fu Hong" de Macau Centro Pou Choi and Centro Hong Leng, the group also went to the Associaçao dos Familiares Encarregados dos Complexo de servicos "Hong Lok". The Macau Exchange Tour reunion and sharing session was held on 29 June 2013.



### The 24th Best Buddies International Annual Leadership Conference

The 24th Best Buddies International Annual Leadership Conference was held at Indiana University from 16 to 22 July 2013. FHS delegates were social worker Ms. Kwok Wing Lam, and two buddies from our tertiary institutes chapters, Ms. Rachel Chan from the Hong Kong Institute of Education Advanced Diploma of Social Work Branch (paired with Kwai Hing Vocational Development Centre) and Ms. Alma Cheung of the Hong Kong Shue Yan University Chapter (paired with Chak On Adult Training Centre). On 28 August 2013, after their return from the conference, they shared their learning experiences with the staff of "Best Buddies Hong Kong" Movement.



### Sharing from Rachel

The Leadership Conference was really once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. It was very inspiring, and helped me to see the intrinsic worth and dignity within persons both with and without intellectual disabilities. Persons with intellectual disabilities have their own strength. We should provide more opportunities and let them be more involved in our activities (both planning and execution). With encouragement and opportunities, buddies are capable of growing and changing. I also learned how to be a leader, to stand out and give support and opinions to others.

### Sharing from Alma

Sitting in the audience, I was excited to listen to "America's Best Buddies Ambassadors" giving their speeches on stage. In front of 1,500 people, one of the Ambassadors stated his belief that: "Disability is merely a defect in our bodies that prevents us from achieving certain things, however, everyone has a list of things they cannot do." I was even more touched by the friendship between the buddies! These friendships were based on equality, mutual love, and friendship, and have transformed both those with and without intellectual disabilities. Everyone needs a true friend!

The Best Buddies Leadership Conference in the United States has benefited me tremendously, not only in terms of knowledge, but also on a spiritual level. I am grateful to be part of it.

1. With Mr. Anthony Kennedy Shriver, the Founder of Best Buddies
2. Delegates from different countries at the leadership conference

3. Alma with other delegates
4. Rachel introduced the work of "Best Buddies Hong Kong" Movement

### Media & Publicity

FHS nominated citizen buddy Ms. Yu Si Si from the Shek Wai Kok Workshop to participate in the selection of "Hong Kong Loving Hearts Campaign 2013", upon invitation by Asia Television (ATV). ATV invited Si Si and her Buddy Ms. Wu Mai Sai, together with Si Si's husband and Ms. Yim Yee Lin, another BBHK buddy, to appear in the programme for an evaluation and interview on 7 July 2013, shared the friendship between Si Si and Mai Sai, as well as their experience of being part of BBHK. The piece was broadcasted on ATV Home Channel and Asia Channel on 4 August 2013.

On a separate note, the touching friendship between Chiaphua Industries Limited Chapter Buddy Ms. Pauline Chung, and a service user at Lok Wah Adult Training Centre, appeared in the August 2013 edition of Social Welfare Department Kwun Tong District Social Welfare Office Newsletter. You can find an excerpt of this article under the People Section of this issue's Fu Hong Newsletter.

### Sham Shui Po "You are my Best Buddies" Inclusion with Disabilities Project

FHS received a grant totaling \$81308 from Sham Shui Po District Council to implement a "You are my Best Buddies" Inclusion with Disabilities Project in the District, from September 2013 to March 2014. The project is led by FHS Chak On Adult Training Centre, Cheung Sha Wan Adult Training Centre and Sheung Li Uk Adult Training Centre, jointly organized by Working Group on Elderly and Rehabilitation Service of Council Community Affairs of Sham Shui Po District, and supported by the Caritas Cheng Shing Fung District Elderly Centre (Sham Shui Po) and The Hong Kong Association of Senior Citizens. The project will primarily involve comprehensive talent training workshops, "Warmth Action" volunteer visits, and slogan competitions, in order to connect together Sham Shui Po's persons with intellectual disabilities, seniors and students, to promote the message of inclusion, and to foster friendships between those with and without intellectual disabilities, on the basis of equality and mutual respect.