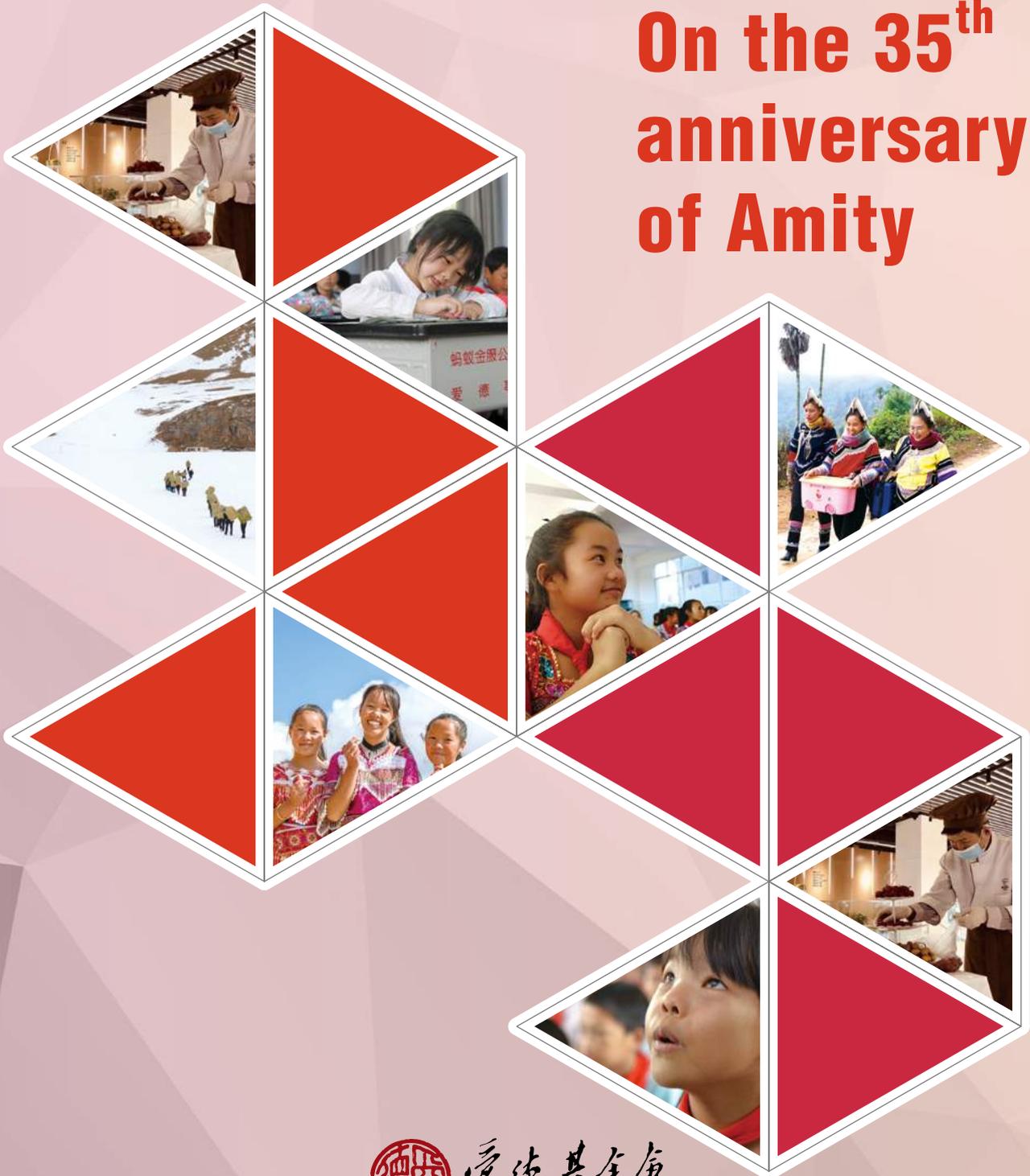


Amity Outlook

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On the 35th anniversary of Amity



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ON THE COVER:

After 35 years of extraordinary efforts, Amity Foundation, a charity seed germinating during China's Reform and Opening-up, has developed into a channel for introducing and integrating philanthropic resources, a platform to learn and practice charity work, and a bridge to facilitate social service and social harmony.





Keep solidarity amidst adversity

Amity celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2020.

After these 35 years of extraordinary efforts, Amity Foundation, a charity seed germinating during China's Reform and Opening-up, has developed into a channel for introducing and integrating philanthropic resources, a platform to learn and practice charity work, and a bridge to facilitate social service and social harmony.

Amity carries international genes ever since its establishment. And we have been involved in international projects for a relatively long time: in the past, Amity introduced the international practice into our work in China; now, we are trying our best to "go global".

2020 sees a special year where the whole world is hit by unprecedented challenges and changes. Up to now, Amity has carried out relief work to fight against COVID-19 in 28 countries and regions.

During these reliefs, cross-cultural communication and understanding are of paramount importance. We need to seek common ground while reserving differences. Cross-culture connections are usually done by bottom-up work rather than a top-down approach. They require multi-level, multi-group, and multi-domain engagement between the countries and the people. With long-term sincere and friendly exchanges and cooperation, people will gradually understand and trust each other and finally achieve mutual trust and develop genuine friendship.

As we live in a "global village", all countries on the earth share weal and woe. We believe, respect and amity lead to world peace and development, and the key to the respect and amity is heart-to-heart affinity. ❄



Ling Chunxiang

General Secretary
The Amity Foundation

Amity devoted to floods relief in Southern China

During the flood season this year, continuous torrential rains hit southern China severely. Twenty-six provinces suffered floods, with more than 20 million people affected. In this challenging situation, post-disaster rescue and recovery have become a top priority.

Amity paid close attention to the situation in various regions and cooperated with our partners in multiple provinces on need assessment. Based on the local economic conditions and actual damages, Amity finally selected some heavily-affected, impoverished, and remote areas as its targets. Disadvantaged groups such as ethnic minority groups, the elderly, and low-income families were special focus.

During the early stage of flood, after preliminary assessment, Amity applied to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's Disaster Relief Fund and solicit donation through online platforms such as Alipay Charity, Tencent Charity, and Taobao. Up to July 29, Amity has raised RMB 2,519,074 and provided 250 high-pressure water guns, 1160 bottles of disinfectants, 580 bottles of medical alcohol, 2,100 air mattresses, 1,050 emergency lights, 89,405 kilograms of



rice, 5,051 barrels of edible oil, 270 emergency hygiene kits, 500 emergency household kits, 790 personal emergency bags, 130 sets of household disaster relief boxes, 3,258 boxes of instant noodles, 86,400 bottles of drinking water, 1,379.5 kilograms of pork, 3107.5 kilograms of vegetables, 3575 kits of living supplies, 425 mosquito nets, 600 sets of hygiene products, and 1500 sets of quilts to the victims in 17 (autonomous) counties and districts in Guangxi, Guizhou, Chongqing, Hubei, Jiangxi, and Anhui. Among them, "emergency hygiene kits", "emergency family kits", "family disaster relief boxes", "living supplies kits", and "sanitary products" generally include personal hygiene products such as towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and shampoo, as well as emergency household items such as whistles, slippers, blankets, buckets, etc. We distributed different

materials depending on the local weather conditions and temporary settlement conditions.

Amity's relief operations followed the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief, Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability, The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, and other guidance. In the entire process of material procurement, transportation, and distribution, Amity kept adhering to the principles of fairness and transparency. In addition, Amity's action obtained a big response and enormous support from a wide range of partners, local governmental and non-governmental organizations, and all sectors of the society. ✕





Transporting the fresh

"**T**he entire Henghe Village is trapped by the flood."

This is Houjiagang Town, Poyang County, Jiangxi Province. Grandpa Cheng, 77 years old, has lived in this small village for his entire life, but never seen such a July: days of torrential rains broke down the old bridge in the village, flooded farmland, power facilities and residential houses, and interrupted the telecommunications and roads connected to the outside world. "My wife and I were terrified. In those days, my son and daughter accompanied my grandson to take the college entrance examination in Poyang (the county town). Fortunately, the neighbor who lived at a higher terrain let us stay with them." Grandpa Cheng said.

When the rain got lighter three days later, although electricity and telecommunication signals restored in the village, the only road to the outside was still submerged by flood that was more than two meters deep, making it almost impossible to go out to get supplies.

During the ten days when they were trapped in the village due to the flood, food became a problem for Grandpa Cheng and the other villagers: the vegetable garden was submerged, the stored food was soaked in flood, and the fresh meat went spoiled due to the power failure of the refrigerator. Villagers can only share limited rice and pickled vegetable, and have some instant noodles, biscuits, and other emergency food which were sent by the government's small boats.

In a big village family, during the rainstorm there was only less than 250 grams of meat left, which was only sufficient for the elderly in the family, with adults and children staying hungry.

Fresh food finally arrived

On July 18th, residents in Henghe village had fresh food to eat although there was still no road towards outside.

Because since that day, Amity, together with its local partners, had provided villagers with fresh meat and vegetables, which was very much welcomed by the people.

"Oh I have had enough pickled vegetable and instant noodles! It is so good to have fresh food!"

"Every person, every day, 250 grams of meat, 500 grams of vegetables, all fresh!"

Adapt to the Local Conditions

According to Cui Yazhou, one of Amity employees who participated in the Fresh Food Distribution Project, the work was never easy. "Food safety, transportation, distribution... each step is full of challenges." However, the villagers were strongly expressing their needs during our need assessment, which made Amity and our partners worried.



"So everyone decided to give it a try," Cui said.

Before, Amity didn't have any experience of distributing fresh food. But under the "participatory development" principle that has always been insisted by Amity, Amity staff solved the issues together with local villagers one by one. Without road to the outside, the local government used a small dinghy to transport fresh food. In addition, we chose the suppliers recommended by the local government with ensured quality. These suppliers were quite familiar with the road system in Henghe. Thus it took a shorter time to distribute the food. By collaborating with the village committee, we were able to design and modify specific plans based on time, population, and geographic positions. What's more, the villagers' groups discussed the types of vegetables distributed every time and kept people in order during the distribution.

"The villagers are both the beneficiaries and the participators of our project. They performed actively during the work and gave us lots of support. And our job is to facilitate them work together in an organized and planned way." Said one of the Amity employees.



The hot weather and the broken traffic will all bring challenges to the preservation of food. Each time, our suppliers got up at 4 a.m. to package the food. At 6 a.m., volunteers started to move the food to right outside the village. Then we used boats to transport the food into the village. The distribution began around 7 a.m. and finished before 8:30 a.m. By this way, we finished our work before the weather got hot, the food can be kept fresh, and the villagers didn't have to come under sun.

Such detailed and adaptive planning was designed throughout the whole distribution process. For another example, in the beginning, our staff wanted to distribute food to each household every day. Later, considering that the villagers lived scattered and the electricity in the village was gradually restored, we divided the village into three units. With a three-day cycle, we distributed in one unit (about 70 households) each day, and each person can obtain the amounts for 3 days per time. This released the pressure each time and improved efficiency.

Also, during our work, we found that there was a local government officer who used to work at a fresh food market. We involved him in the procurement and



distribution process. With his experience and help, we set up detailed rules for our work, such as no one may select the part of the pork received, but they may exchange personally with each other.

Transparency

Transparency is one of Amity's working principles. The daily distribution was open to the public. The secretary of the village committee served as the notary. Whenever the villagers had any questions about the distribution process, the notary would respond immediately.

One day, because of a local staff's statistical mistake, a family didn't get enough fresh food. When the notary got to know this issue, that staff's fresh food was given to the family as compensation.

Achievements

By the end of July, the production capacity of Henghe



village was restored. Amity’s Fresh Food Distribution Project also ended. During the 12-day Project, Amity provided more than 1,380 kilograms of meat and 3,000 kilograms of vegetables to more than 500 people from around 260 families.

When the Amity staff visited Grandpa Cheng after the project, Grandpa Cheng held their hands and kept expressing his gratitude: “it is so nice of you! The foods are exactly what we need!”

“We explored more possibilities for flood relief,” Yazhou told us. “This is the most significant achievement we’ve got during this project”.

“In general, in the emergency rescue phase, emergency supplies such as rice, oil, tents, and bedding which can be bought and transported easily are priorities. However, demands are always changing and can be segmented. This time, we found that only rice or oil could not meet the dietary and nutritional needs of villagers trapped by the flood. To satisfy these detailed requirements, we used ‘participatory’ working methods in the process of need assessment, procurement, transportation, and distribution of fresh food. In the participatory way, the villagers get involved in the whole process with their wisdom. We have found that such an approach has achieved good results. Need-oriented local capacities are not only advocated by the Core Standards of Humanitarian Quality and Accountability but also the long-term principle of Amity’s projects.”

Do you know what is the meaning for “participatory” ?

During the disaster relief work in the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, Amity Foundation, local partners, and local citizens explored a way that involve victims in the post-disaster reconstruction work. By turning the victims into the active majority that participates in the rescue and reconstruction process, Amity motivated people in rebuilding their home and community, and made decisions in a more scientific and adaptive way. During every relief work done by Amity, our “participatory” relief have been improved a lot to satisfy and adapt to the needs in various situations. ✖

Amity supports 5 African countries in fighting against COVID-19

China and African countries have profound friendship. The long-term amity has promoted continuous exchanges and resource sharing between China's social organizations and the African people. As a social organization with 35 years of history and important domestic and international influence, Amity Foundation has successively set up offices in Ethiopia and Kenya since 2015 to assist local people in poverty alleviation, education, and medical care.

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 in Africa, Amity has received requests from our friends in Africa for support. They hoped that Amity could provide them resources for epidemic prevention and control. Therefore, in addition to the actions taken in the domestic epidemic control, Amity responded quickly to the international fight against COVID-19, including assistance provided to African countries.

By June 15, 2020, Amity Foundation has donated 164,400 medical surgical masks, 4,800 medical face shields, 1,500 sets of medical protective suits, and 100 medical packs to five countries in Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya,



Containment of Pandemic
→ Amity supports 5 African countries in fighting against COVID-19

Madagascar, Angola, and Namibia. These medical and protective materials had helped the local people a lot in combatting COVID-19. Besides medical supplies, Amity Foundation, together with other social organizations in China, cooperated with social organizations in Ethiopia and South Africa to organize the "COVID-19 Pandemic Prevention and Control Online Communication and Exchange Conference" to share and exchange China's unique anti-epidemic experience with African social organizations online.

China is the biggest developing country in the world, and Africa is the continent with the largest number of developing countries. The Chinese dream is connected to the African dream. Qiu Zhonghui, General Secretary of Amity, said that we human beings live in a global village and are a community with shared future. Amity is willing to, with the support of the Chinese government, leverage on our international work experience to integrate resources, share experiences, and contribute to the global fight against the pandemic. We believe, hand in hand, we will be able to bring love to people in need worldwide. ✕



Webinar on Containment of Covid-19 Successfully held by Chinese and Filipino NGOs

On May 29, 2020, in cooperation with the China NGO Network for International Exchanges, Amity Foundation, jointly organized with the Philippine Academy of Acupuncture, Inc. (PAAI), the Kaisa Para Sa Kaunlaran (Philippine Chinese Youth Federation)(KAISA), the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies (PACS) and the Philippine-Chinese Friendship Association, a webinar on the theme “The Role of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Acupuncture in the Prevention and Control of COVID 19”.



The conference, part of a series of activities of the extensive Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network, attracted nearly 200 participants from 121 organizations in 15 countries/regions that included Japan, Australia, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal and the US. Most participants were professionals in medication health care, research and social development work.



Lectures were given by Dr. Shen Jia, Deputy Director of the Health Management Center of the Second Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, and Dr. Liu Lanying, Director of Acupuncture and Rehabilitation Department of Jiangsu Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine. Ms. She Hongyu, an Associate General Secretary of Amity, was the conference moderator.

In his opening remarks, PACS president Dr. Rommel Banlaoi said the conference was timely and relevant, not only in raising awareness and enriching our knowledge on acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine, but also in sustaining personal and professional connections amidst lockdowns and quarantines. In these trying times, we need to be much closer professionally in order to overcome all challenges of the pandemic together. This event is essential to strengthen people-to-people contacts not only between China and the Philippines but also with our neighbors in the Silk Road region both in the land and maritime domain.

In his well-illustrated lecture, Dr. Shen Jia, author of several TCM books, combined TCM theory and case studies to explain the practical role of Chinese medicine and herbs during the COVID-19 outbreak in China as well as the efforts carried out in the post-lockdown period related to the resumption of work.

Focusing on acupuncture, Dr. Liu Lanying, explained the different stages undergone by COVID-19 patients including medical observation, clinical treatment, recovery and home isolation. Sharing the research and case studies of the medical team sent to Hubei by the Jiangsu Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine, she introduced in detail the corresponding acupuncture points, techniques and alternative therapies in responding to the various symptoms of pneumonia caused by COVID-19.

The lectures were enthusiastically received by practitioners and helped raise the knowledge and interest of non-practitioners. Under the warm and convivial atmosphere the two experts answered questions and offered advice on how to adapt TCM and acupuncture practice to the local climate and environment.

In her concluding remarks, Amity's General Secretary, Ms. Ling Chunxiang recalled the long-standing cooperation between Amity and a number of non-profit organizations in the Philippines over the past 30 years. More recently, there has been solidarity and mutual donations of PPEs in the time of need from both sides. Amity received donations for masks from KAISA and the Philippine Liok Kui Fraternity in March and in May and donated protective gowns and masks to the Philippines through KAISA. Ms. Ling stressed that given the need to confront and overcome the pandemic, national and ethnic barriers should not be erected. Amity will continue to work with people around the world to overcome global challenges in the spirit of agape and the understanding that we all constitute a community of shared future.

In working with the WHO and the World Federation of Acupuncture Societies, the Philippine Academy of

Acupuncturists is helping raise standards and professionalism in the Philippines. Its President, Dr. Tan Cho Chiong was one of the organizers for this webinar.

After the meeting, there was much positive feedback from participants.

Alberto from the Pastoral Bible Society, excitedly described how Chinese medicine and acupuncture had greatly alleviated his own pains and aches. He was impressed by the breadth of information provided and the extensive network that was represented in this meeting. He was eager to share the lecture contents with his Chinese doctor.

From the Philippines Claretian Communication Foundation, Lhai said that he had many friends who had gone through the effectiveness and helpfulness of acupuncture in curing their health problems. He learned from this meeting that TCM and acupuncture can provide preventive and rehabilitation treatment for those infected by COVID-19, particularly the ways and means of treatments, and felt this is very beneficial.

The road is not distant and the virus is not isolated. This online exchange was the third time that the Amity Foundation had participated in a series of exchanges among those which are part of the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network. It was also the webinar with the largest number of participants, involving the largest number of countries and the largest number of organizations. In the future, Amity plans to respond more to overseas needs and to promote more cooperation between Chinese and overseas NGOs in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to build a community of common health. ❄





On March 30th, 2020, a forest fire broke out in Jingjiu Township, Xichang City, Sichuan Province. The fire spread rapidly and became a threat to the urban area. At around 11:10 p.m. that night, Feng Caiyong, as a local guide, led the local firefighting team to enter the mountain from the Caijiagou Reservoir. At around 1:20 in the morning, Caiyong Feng and 18 firefighters were killed due to a sudden change in wind direction and a sharp increase in wind force. Afterward, while the 18 firefighters were rated as martyrs, Caiyong Feng's name became the nineteenth name on the martyr list.

The nineteenth name

This is a very simple mourning hall. Twenty or thirty bamboos framed a space about 15 square meters large. One side of the hall is against the wall. The other three sides and the top are covered with a few tarpaulins. On the bottom, it is a layer of gravel.

Since the gravels may hurt the knees, the children could not kneel for a long time and had to stand up from time to time. The youngest son was only 3 years old and didn't want to wear the cloth for the funeral. His aunt spent a long time coaxing him to wear it. Then she held his little hand and let he bowed three times barely. He pointed to the coffin and said, "my father is inside", and then almost climbed onto the coffin, trying to get the portrait hanging on the wall.

There is an honest face on the portrait. His name is Feng Caiyong. During his 42 years of life, he was an ordinary farmer. But he became a news figure and even got an encyclopedia entry after died in a mountain fire.

Caiyong's second aunt felt really regretted when she thought about the last phone call that night: "I should tell him to come back quickly and leave the mountains. If I call him back, he won't die." She witnessed the growth of her nephew, but she failed to see him for the last time before he died. "It's really chilling."

When the Caiyong's old brother Caijun heard this news, he took a shuttle bus from Jinyang and arrived at the funeral



immediately. He thumped his chest and cried out: "Brother, brother..." Caiyong's half-sister, Shao Yan, also cried to death at the funeral. The early death of her elder brother hit her harder than the death of her mother: "it feels like a knife pierced into the heart."

For this family which lost their breadwinner, they cared most about the pension.

By Caiyong's cousin Luo Qijun, on the day of the farewell ceremony on April 3, the local government made it clear that the 19 victims will be declared as martyrs with no exceptions. However, it took a process to approve the record, so Caiyong's bone ashes cannot be buried in the Martyrs Cemetery currently.

These days, Caiyong's wife Wang Xia hardly ate or drank. She washed her face with tears every day and had fainted several times. The grief of losing her husband and the pressure to support the whole family knocked her down immediately.

Caiyong's family borrowed RMB 170,000 from their relatives to build a house before, and now



they still owed them RMB 150,000. “Now we lose the pillar of the family. There are four kids in this family. The youngest one is still in kindergarten. The elders are sick. I am also sick. How could our three generations survive in the future?” Wang cried on the bed, “my youngest son shouted: ‘Dad, dad,’ I said: ‘your Dad died for the country, you can only call Mom from now. Your Dad will never come back.’” Caiyong’s aunt who sat beside kept trying to tell her to be strong: “you have to hold on. If you fall, what your kids can do?”

By Luo, after the death of Feng, his second daughter became taciturn and locked herself in the house. She has just entered the second year of middle school and is in a rebellious period. Everyone is worried about her.

Caiyong’s oldest daughter, Feng Xiaolan, who is about to become an adult, has a steadiness beyond her age. During the funeral, she took care of her younger siblings and treated guests. When people left, she kneeled quietly in front of the coffin.

“I don’t know where I am these days. I start to feel that this city is so strange to me.” Xiaolan lowered her head, clasped her hands, rubbed her fingers unconsciously, and speak in a trembling voice.

She originally wanted to be a soldier after graduation and learn more skills, but now she just wants to find a job as soon as possible to support this family together with Mom. "I want to send my brothers and sisters to the college so that they can develop well in the future."

Now, she is most afraid of her youngest brother asking about their father and making their mother sad.

One day, when the youngest child woke up from a nap, he kept asking in an innocent voice: “where is Dad? Do you find him? Where is Dad?”

She never answered. ✖





Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a genetic neuromuscular disease, which is quite rare. It is usually divided into SMA Type I, SMA Type II, SMA Type III and SMA Type IV on the basis of age of onset and clinical course. Without treatment, most of the SMA Type I patients cannot survive to the age of two.

A four-year-old SMA patient: "Don't cry, mom."

"Mom, I need tracheal suction."

Although there was no voice coming out from the girl's throat, Ms. Cheng immediately understood the meaning from the exaggerated shape of her daughter's lips.

She stood up, quickly replaced the tube, and then turned on the CoughAssist. When the liquid was pushed from the syringe into the trachea, the girl frowned, her pale face turned red, and the obvious pain on her face made everyone in the room anxious.

When the trachea was reconnected to the respirator, the girl looked relaxed and burst into a smile. This smile brought sunshine to the dark room. People around felt the release and began to smile too.

"After all, she is four years old. How could I give up on her?"



The girl is called Mengmeng, an SMA patient. According to the doctors, most of the SMA infants could not live to the age of two. However, Mengmeng, with her and her parents' unimaginable fortitude and courage, had celebrated her fourth birthday this year.

"To take care of her and give her treatment in Nanjing, we've sold our apartment in hometown. For the past several months, we've lived in our car to save money." While Ms. Cheng was talking to us, she was massaging Mengmeng's little feet and her sight never left Mengmeng's face. "She could not make a voice because of the tube in her trachea. Any sputa that remained in the tracheas could kill her. So, I stay in the sickroom during daytime. Her father comes over and spends the night with her. She has to be watched all the time." Ms. Cheng used to work as a designer. Now she had to resign to become a full-time care-taker.

Mengmeng's father ran a small restaurant before. But due to the COVID-19 pandemic and his daughter's treatment, the restaurant had closed for a while.

Daily massage, tracheal suction, and other treatments will all bring pain to the little girl, but Mengmeng never cried.



Ms. Cheng joined an SMA patient WeChat group last year in June. Members in the group helped and encouraged each other. "Sometimes patients also left the group. The other day, a parent showed us a video taken when her child died. The girl in the video could not talk; she could only stare at her mom in the eyes. She looked at her mother, kept looking, until she left." Ms. Cheng could not stop sobbing and crying when she said this with her tremulous voice. "Be honest, when I watched this video, my heart was twisted. Shock, fear, pain, and many other emotions bothered me for a long time. My daughter is so brave, kind, and wise; how could I give up?"

Ms. Cheng's sight never left her daughter's face when she was having a meal. Every time, Mengmeng moved her lips and made the shape of "it is too hot, let me blow on it for you, Mom." By her weak body and strong mentality, Mengmeng made her mother felt that everything tastes so good as long as she stays with her daughter.

To take care of their daughter, Ms. Cheng and her husband learned lots of nursing skills and first-aid knowledge from the WeChat group, which could save their daughter's life in an emergency. "Ms. Cheng learnt very fast, both in her WeChat group and here. Right now, she almost learned all the nursing skills." Said the head nurse, who witnessed the learning process of Ms. Cheng. "I truly admired these brave and persistent parents and kids."





The Natural Enemy of the SMA Patients - Pneumonia

Many people don't know that, although SMA will degenerate the patients' body, it won't kill the patients directly. Pneumonia is the true killer that takes the patients' lives.

Most of the SMA patients are infants with weak bodies. As a result, even a normal cold, small dust in the air, and food debris could make the patients infected with pneumonia. And since the patients' lung muscles are too weak to cough by themselves, any sputa in the trachea could easily put the patients' lives at risk. Therefore, a respirator and a CoughAssist is highly significant for the SMA patients' family.



On January 8th, Mengmeng's trachea was blocked by sputa. All of a sudden, she could not breathe and her face turned into purple. Thanks to the medical knowledge and first-aid skills learnt by her parents and the timely treatment at the hospital, Mengmeng survived. But since then, Mengmeng had never left ICU.

Later due to the outbreak of the COVID-19, the hospital made restrictions on the parents' visit for safety issues, which made Ms. Cheng and her husband extremely anxious. In order for Mengmeng to move out of the ICU, a self-owned respirator was a must. However, such a family with huge financial pressures could not afford the price of a respirator.



Early this year, Amity initiated the SMA Patient Support Program, which aimed to provide RMB 20,000 each to twenty SMA patients. Upon knowing this program, Ms. Cheng had a try by applying for this program, and was granted RMB 20,000 soon after.

On April 27th, Mengmeng eventually left the ICU and moved into a normal ward. Ms. Cheng's family reunited.

"I cannot cry. My child will worry about me if she sees me crying." But her tears fell down when she said so. Mengmeng stared at her mom and

moved her lips. We read her lips and understood her:

“Mom, don’t cry.”

Mengmeng is a young but smart girl with strong learning ability. By simply presenting Mengmeng with some Chinese characters, Ms. Cheng found that she remembered them quickly. Shortly after learning frequently-used characters, Mengmeng was able to read simple books.

Moreover, by reading indications from Mengmeng’s eyes, Ms. Cheng moved pretty stickers on the wall as instructed by Mengmeng. From a distance, the wall looked like a colorful painting. Usually, Mengmeng would be more than happy to watch and count the cartoon toys on the cabinet.

Music is also one of Mengmeng’s favorites. Ms. Cheng often opened a music box in front of her daughter. Whenever melodies came out, Mengmeng would show a big smile on the face. In the girl’s bright eyes, we see reflections of light from the spinning music box. Oh, isn’t it hope?

According to the Chinanews.com, in February 2019, the world’s first SMA medicine, Nusinersen, got approval in China through the Prior Examine Program. Nonetheless, one injection every four months and RMB 700,000 per injection was unaffordable for a common family.

According to People’s Daily, during the National People’s Congress and Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference this year, Sun Wei, one of the delegates of the National People's Congress, proposed that: “there are many kinds of rare disease and many infants who are infected with these diseases. These children face various difficulties in the society and bring an enormous burden to the family. Thus we need to establish the rare disease inquiry mechanism and diagnosis and treatment mechanism. We also need to develop AI and other technologies to pre-diagnose and prevent these diseases. To reduce the medical and economic burden of the kids’ family, we should put the medicine for children’s rare diseases into the list of medical insurance system step by step.”

On February 20th, the Chinese State Council published the “Opinions on Enhancing Medical Insurance Reform,” which stated that a multi-level medical insurance system shall be developed, a triple security function including basic medical insurance, serious diseases insurance and medical aid shall be enhanced, connection and complementation among different medical insurance shall be strengthened, and insurance level for serious diseases and diversified medical needs shall be raised. The Opinions further pointed out that medical insurance mechanism for rare diseases shall be explored.

We believe that the day will eventually arrive. ❄



Thought for the week

The Lunar New Year is traditionally a time of family reunions and sharing of blessings and good wishes. Certainly we experience that in Hong Kong and Mainland. But this morning I want to share a story about someone I met last month in Myanmar. He inspires me through how he lives and works with faith, hope and love in spite of difficulties every day. I think it's a message we need to hear in 2020.

Rev. Te Seo is an Anglican priest. I met him on a work trip to Myanmar to inspect one of Amity's water projects. "I am your jeep driver today," he told us after being introduced by his Bishop one morning.

The destination was a water-deprived mountain village called Khau Takar in the Eastern State of Kachin. Our team was to inspect the newly finished water and sanitation facilities built with funds raised from Amity's "Walk for Living Water" campaign. The trip required a 3-hour "roller-coaster" journey in the mountains. My colleagues and I tried extremely hard to balance ourselves within the vehicle as there was no road to speak of. To our amazement, Rev. Te Seo drove straight into all shaky crossings, rock crevices, muddy rivers and even cliff ends. With no hesitation.

Because he expected them all. He said: "Don't worry. Khau Takar church is one of the 10 village churches I attend to. I travel on these trails every day. We are lucky today as it is not raining." This 34-year-old pastor was born in the Karen tribe here. After receiving Christian theological training in Yangon, he decided to come back and serve the mountain people. It's not unusual for him to walk hours on foot in the mud during rainy seasons.

The water project was apparently a success. But it wasn't easy. He knew nothing about starting a new water project. So he had all the villagers come to his church and asked them what to do. The underground rock was too thick to penetrate to the water level. So creeks were the only available water source for the new facilities. But in the beginning, no villager seemed willing to share water from creeks which run through their betel nut fields. "So, what did he do to change their minds?" Rev. Te Seo said, "Oh, I told them if they follow Jesus' model and share what they have with other villagers, they will be blessed. I am glad they listened."

Later I learned that, in local language "Khau" means "big rock" and "Takar" means "door". So Khau Takar means either "a huge rock blocking a door" or "a door opening within a big rock". I prefer the second meaning because I believe that where there is a genuine wish, there is a way. But it takes courage, perseverance, humility and ultimately love to make the wish come true.

What is your genuine wish for yourself and Hong Kong in the Year of Rat? Do you see a huge rock blocking the door to your dreams? Or do you see possibilities for a door opening within that big rock? Let's take heart from the example of Rev. Te Seo. Our wish can come true when 1) we expect big obstacles and 2) we trust God, our community and ourselves to overcome them all. ✕

By Tong Su, Amity Foundation (Hong Kong)



Grandma Dou says goodbye to her reading tools

Grandma Dou lives in Xi Village, Baiyin City, Gansu Province. She had severe cataracts, which brought countless inconveniences in her life. Specifically, the elderly lady often felt helpless and troubled when she opened her Bible – she had difficulties in reading.

"I have been sick for more than ten years, and it is tough for me to see things!"

In spite of her difficulties, this devout lady takes spiritual life important for her life. "To be able to read, I have prepared a bunch of tools!" As Grandma Dou put on a pair of myopia glasses, she skillfully picked up a magnifying glass: "See? I can do like half-reading and half-guessing like this. At least, I am able to read something..."

In November 2019, Grandma Dou's life was changed. Amity-Love Charity Fund and Amity Spring Rain Charity Fund, together with the Eye Care Foundation and Lanzhou Aier Eye Hospital, carried out free eye examinations in Xi Village. More than 100 villagers got free eye disease inspections and Grandma Dou was one of them.

The inspection's result was astonishing: Grandma Dou had moderate and severe cataracts in both eyes, and the visual acuity in both eyes was below 0.2. After the inspection results came out, the sponsors decided to subsidize some





poor villagers with free cataract surgery. After knowing that she was also one of the beneficiaries, Grandma Dou was delighted.

On November 20, 2019, Grandma Dou was taken to Lanzhou. After completing a number of preoperative examinations, she received a surgery on the right eye. The next month, she received another surgery on her left eye. Both operations were very successful.

"My world was lightened up when the doctor took off my gauze!" Grandma Dou couldn't hide her excitement, "it was so clear, so clear! I was wondering if it was real." Grandma Dou couldn't help crying at the time.

Now, 74-year-old Grandma Dou says goodbye to her reading tools. She can read her Bible, books, newspapers and watch videos as she wants. "I am able to know the world news without leaving my home," said Grandma Dou. "My life has never been so colorful.

"I'm braver to walk outside because I can watch my way. And I don't have to count on others especially on the stitching, because thread and needles are clear for me..." Speaking of her postoperative life, Grandma Dou laugh out loud like a child.

Besides free cataract surgeries, the team also trains the elderly who received surgery with eye care knowledge. Being thoughtful and considerate, Amity's services made the elderly felt so warm: "we must protect our eyes and cherish the brightness!" ✕





Amity became a member of ICVA

On May 20th, Amity Foundation was formally accepted as a member of the Council of International Volunteers Agencies (ICVA). Amity is the first Chinese member of the Council.

ICVA, established in 1962, is a global network of non-governmental organizations engaged in humanitarian operations. ICVA is also a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the world's highest decision-making body for humanitarian assistance.

ICVA is committed to promoting communication, dialogue, and coordination between United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in humanitarian operations, thereby influencing the strategic directions and policies of international humanitarian operations. The ICVA secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland. It also has three regional offices for Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East/North Africa. It currently has more than 100 members and works in 160 countries around the world.

After Amity became a founding member of the ACT Alliance in 2010 and an organization in special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2014, joining ICVA represents a further achievement of Amity in international network and internationalization strategy. ✖



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Amity Foundation
Attn: Ms Qian Xiaofeng
71 Hankou Road
Nanjing City
Jiangsu Province PR
China

7 May 2020

Dear Ms Qian Xiaofeng,

Welcome to ICVA!

It is our pleasure to inform you of the ICVA Board decision to accept Amity Foundation as a member of ICVA. We are pleased that Amity Foundation has chosen to join ICVA – a global NGO network for principled and effective humanitarian action. We look forward to getting to know you better and hope that the benefits of membership will be mutual.

PSEA Policy

We understand that as an Act Alliance member you adhere to the mandatory policies of the Act Alliance that cover the prevention of misconduct, including corruption, fraud, exploitation and abuse, including sexual and to ensure child safeguarding. And that you are committed to a zero-tolerance attitude towards any sexual-based violence, exploitation and abuse in the work place. However, the ICVA Membership Committee would like to ensure that within a year of membership Amity Foundation has their own protection against sexual exploitation and abuse policy. We are of course available to provide advice and support on this issue.

Working with ICVA

To ensure we bring the collective network voice to the focus areas set out in the [2019-2024 Strategy](#), we encourage members to play an active role in the work of ICVA. The attached *Guide for Members: Working with ICVA*, explains some of the different ways you and your staff can get involved.

Stay informed:

- Encourage Amity Foundation staff and board members to sign up for the ICVA bulletin
- Amity Foundation staff can request a user name and password to access the member-only documents on the ICVA website
- Sign up for the learning stream webinars

ICVA working groups

The ICVA working groups provide a platform for members to exchange information, communicate key developments in humanitarian operations and policy level work and to identify opportunities for collective advocacy. The working groups are based around our focal areas of forced migration, Global Compact on Refugees, humanitarian financing, humanitarian coordination, the Nexus, PSEA, and the regional hubs. You will find more information about the working groups and focus of work in the Guide for Members.

www.icvanetwork.org

ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies)

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Email: secretariat@icvanetwork.org

Asia - Bangkok, Thailand

MENA - Amman, Jordan

Africa - Nairobi, Kenya / Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



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Membership Fees

The invoice for Amity Foundation 2020 membership fees is attached. As per your application form your annual budget is between CHF 30-50 million. Amity Foundation is therefore in Fee band II (CHF 8,000 annual fee). Since your membership is effective as of 1 June the invoice for the 6-month period 1 June -31 December 2020 is for CHF 4000.

Briefing for new members

If you are interested, we are happy to host an online meeting with you and/or some of your colleagues, to learn more about your work and to provide more information on the work of ICVA.

Please contact our Information Officer, Fiona Wilkie fiona.wilkie@icvanetwork.org to arrange a video call, join a working group, or if you wish more information.

As our work relies on inputs from members, both at HQ and field levels, we trust that Amity Foundation will play an active role in sharing your expertise, good practice, information and resources with a collective spirit. We look forward to developing a fruitful relationship between Amity Foundation and ICVA.

Yours sincerely,

Ignacio Packer
ICVA Executive Director

Encl. Invoice, Membership Guide

www.icvanetwork.org

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Important Notice to Readers

To be more eco-friendly and cost-effective, a going-green option of receiving our publications is available now. If you would like to receive *Amity Outlook* in e-versions instead of hard copies, please send your confirmation and email address to us at [amitynj@](mailto:amitynj@amity.org.cn)

[amity.org.cn](mailto:amitynj@amity.org.cn). Thank you!



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The Amity Foundation is an independent Chinese voluntary organization founded in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians to promote education, social services, health, rural development, environmental protection, disaster relief, and poverty reduction in the underdeveloped areas of China. Amity projects have benefited more than ten million people both at home and abroad.

The Amity Foundation has more than 80 full-time staffers at its Nanjing headquarters. Hundreds of volunteers work with Amity all over China. The Amity Foundation receives funds from partners abroad as well as in Hong Kong and mainland China.