

Amity Outlook

No. 38
October-December, 2021

**Ping Pong
for love**



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Published by the Amity Foundation
Printed by Amity Printing Co., Ltd.

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ON THE COVER:

During the 3rd Amity Cup Table Tennis Game, a group of drummers of slow learning played at the opening ceremony for the event, which was widely reported about in the local media.



Papa and Mama's Canteen – Amity's exploration in diversified elderly care by social forces



Ling Chunxiang

General Secretary
The Amity Foundation

On December 1, 2021, the Action League 2021 Charity Awards Ceremony was held in Guangzhou. Amity's Papa and Mama's Canteen Program ("Papa and Mama's Canteen") was awarded "Top 10 Charity Projects of the Year 2021".

Below is part of an exclusive interview made by iFeng.com. In this interview, Ling Chunxiang, General Secretary of the Amity Foundation, shared the principles, operation and practices of Papa and Mama's Canteen, and showed Amity's exploration of ways to involve social forces in providing diversified care to the elderly in recent years.

Ifeng.com: Congratulations to "Papa and Mama's Canteen" for winning the award! What drew Amity's attention to the plight of the elderly in China?

Ling Chunxiang: Thank you. With China's economic development and improvement of medical standards, by the end of 2020, China's elderly population aged 60 and above reached 264 million, accounting for 18.7% of the total population. In rural areas, due to the younger generations moving into cities to work, there is an emerging problem of "left-behind elderly" in the countryside. Meanwhile in urban communities, the number of elderly living alone or with disabilities is also rising sharply.

The elderly, women and children have always been Amity's focus groups. In Amity's opinion, we cannot rely entirely on the government and families for the care of the elderly population. The whole society should participate and give support. Jiangsu Province was one of the first provinces in China to encounter the phenomenon of population aging. This was the catalyst that inspired Amity to focus on elderly care. Since

the turn of the century, Amity has been highlighting population aging in our work and developing methods to improve elderly care within Jiangsu.

In 2009, Amity opened a home-based elderly care service center. In 2012, Amity cooperated with the Civil Affairs Bureau of Qixia District to carry out institution-based elderly care services. The practice is based on institutions, but supported by the community and home-based care, making Amity Philanthropy Valley one of the first entities engaging in integrated services of "institution + community + home". Papa and Mama's Canteen is on such addition to this service system, an extension of our urban community elderly care services, as well as an exploration of elderly care in rural communities.

Ifeng.com: What is the essence of Papa and Mama's Canteen? In addition to providing free lunches, what else can Papa and Mama's Canteen bring to the elderly?

Ling Chunxiang: Papa and Mama's Canteen is an exploration of a community-based mutual assistance model for the elderly. Taking the provision of free meals as our core operation, the program attracted social forces to provide the elderly with care services in addition to those provided from the government, families and market. During the process, the Internet serves as the medium and volunteers as the supporters.

As you know, Amity has an established elderly care service system in cities. Through institutional elderly care and home-based elderly care service centers, Amity cooperates with social forces in addition to government operations to provide diversified services to meet the needs of the elderly. "Papa and Mama's Canteen" not only focuses on meal assistance, but also provides supporting services such as medical assistance, bathing assistance, and walking assistance. It also establishes extensive social and support network for the elderly in order to alleviate the problem of community-based elderly care.

In rural areas, Papa and Mama's Canteen is also a platform for the elderly to communicate and interact. The elderly, who used to stay at home for days and nights without even talking to neighbors, start to interact with others while having meals together at Papa and Mama's Canteens. After lunch, the elderly organize various entertainment and interactive activities themselves. This significantly eases the burden to care for the elderly in many rural families.

Moreover, Papa and Mama's Canteen brings forces in the community together, including street and neighborhood committees, residents, volunteers, social organizations and the elderly themselves, to establish, operate and manage the Papa and Mama's Canteen.

Ifeng.com: What is the biggest change for the elderly since Papa and Mama's Canteen was implemented?

Ling Chunxiang: Through the Papa and Mama's Canteen, the beneficiaries not only received "material nourishment", but also enjoyed precious "spiritual nourishment" in the form of love and care. Our warm-hearted service complements the outpouring of love from families and motivates action by social resources and support networks. Through this process, a friendly social atmosphere is created for the elderly.

"There is a saying that 'There is no free lunch,'" said one of the elderly visitors of the Papa and Mama's Canteen in Dongxin Village, Long'an County, Guangxi Province. "But that is exactly what we enjoy at Papa and Mama's Canteen. We give our thanks to the Program and the love and support from society".

At Papa and Mama's Canteens in rural areas, the elderly can make and meet friends, lifting them out of the loneliness and gloominess of living alone. At urban Papa and Mama's Canteens, social workers, helpers, and food delivery volunteers in the community serve as a bridge of communication between the elderly and the outside world, which helps slow down the degeneration of their language and mental faculties.

In summary, the biggest change for the elderly in urban areas is the improvement in standards of living, and for the elderly in rural areas, the timely improvement in their nutritional standards.

Ifeng.com: What are the plans for the Papa and Mama's Canteen Program in the future?

Ling Chunxiang: There has always been disparity in social service standards between urban and rural areas in China. The problems we face in elderly care are more prominent in rural areas. In particular, the aging working population in rural villages is a pressing concern. Alleviating the problem of rural elderly care is an important step in realizing the goal of common prosperity and improving equality of basic public services.

In the future, Papa and Mama's Canteen will further highlight rural areas in the central and western regions, and provide services for more at-risk elderly people in these areas.

Taking the provision of meals as a starting point, the program plans to tailor integrated community mutual assistance services for the elderly based on the different conditions and needs of different regions, so as to accumulate experience and develop models for social forces participating in elderly care.

Papa and Mama's Canteen has found in its practice that the biggest difficulty in servicing rural areas lies in the lack of supporting facilities and the disperse distribution of elderly homes, resulting in high operating costs. Amity hopes that in the future, Papa and Mama's Canteen will have further expansion in rural areas, which requires strong support and affirmation from the society. The awards given by Action League shows public belief in Amity's work, which has brought us more confidence and strength. Amity believes that the participation of social forces in a diversified elderly care will help more elderly people enjoy a better life in their twilight years.

118 table tennis teams gathered at “Amity Cup” Table Tennis Game



From Oct 16 to 17, the Amity Foundation and partners jointly organized the third “Amity Cup” Table Tennis Game in Nanjing to raise awareness and funds for development projects and social causes. More than 160,000 RMB was raised to support disadvantaged children in rural areas and with disabilities.

Special Attention

→ 118 table tennis teams gathered at "Amity Cup" Table Tennis Game



▲ Mr. Xu Yinsheng



▲ Drummers of mentally challenged members played at the opening ceremony

The event attracted 118 table tennis teams across the country, including 13 teams consisting of medical workers who fought against COVID-19. Li Ju, an Olympic champion, Liu Jing, a Paralympic table tennis champion and beneficiary of Amity's "House of Hope", and Qiu Haibo, a doctor awarded the National Advanced Individual in fighting against COVID-19, served as the image ambassadors of the event.

Xu Yinsheng, Honorary Chair of the Game, expressed his appreciation for the achievements of Amity in promoting the philanthropic undertakings over the past decades. "Love is the most beautiful word in the world," said Xu Yinsheng. "I sincerely thank the Amity Foundation for adding such a beautiful meaning to the table tennis sport."

While the game was in full swing, charity donations, free clinic treatments, and photography exhibitions were also carried out at the same time. In addition, a group of drummers of mentally challenged members played at the opening ceremony for the event, which was widely reported about in the local media.

In Amity's opinion, the "little table tennis ball" could drive "big philanthropy".



Reflections on 30 Years of Service with Amity

Interview with Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, Board Chair of Amity Foundation (Part One)
(Part 2 and Part 3 to be continued in the next issues)

From 1981 to 2021, charity foundations in China have gone through a 40 years old journey. For 36 years, Amity has witnessed, participated in and benefited from the development. Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, the Board Chair of Amity Foundation, was recently interviewed at the China Foundation Forum.

The interview was slightly edited for better understanding.

During these 40 years of development of the sector, my experience is relatively simple. I was a teacher for the first 10 years, and then devoted myself to Amity for the next 30 years. I majored in English-teaching, and became a college teacher after graduation. While I was a teacher, I also did some translation work related to the English language.

Later, I came into contact with Amity Foundation and got to know Bishop KH Ting, Amity's Board Chair at that time, and Dr. Wenzao Han, the General Secretary. Their dedication to the development of Chinese society greatly affected me. Witnessing Amity's inspiring work at a time of social poverty at that time prompted me to make another choice in life.

Following Deng Xiaoping's famous tour of southern China, China experienced gradual economic reform, and more people chose to venture into business. Many college teachers delved into the "sea" of business, including myself. But while others were aiming for making money, I was supporting charitable causes. Looking back on the past thirty years, I believe that I made the right choice, which has led to a life far richer in experience.

Teaching is very different from providing social services. In the 10 years that I worked as a teacher I had only been on one business trip – an exchange program with Shanghai International Studies University. After joining Amity, trips became a common part of my life. I traveled at least two to three times a month.

Moreover, the working environment is completely different. Universities are like ivory towers and I was always surrounded by young students. I had always lived in a relatively developed eastern city and rarely traveled anywhere else. However, working for Amity Foundation, I was required to travel all over the country. Most of the project areas were impoverished and less developed. They are usually located at the Chinese border and inhabited by ethnic minorities.

The working conditions back then were much worse than today, especially transportation, accommodation and other aspects. Although we faced many challenges, it was a meaningful life experience for me, as I got

familiar with working in the field, which differed greatly from my previous work in universities. To me, there is a uniqueness of working for public welfare.

Firstly, the motivation to engage in charity is relatively strong. It can promote social justice, enhance our well-being and narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. Working in this sector also stimulates our spiritual needs for self-realization.

Secondly, the satisfaction gained from engaging in social service is greater. To see our work actually improve the life and livelihood of those in need gives us with a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment.

Thirdly, engaging in social service enriches our lives. Charity is a cross-sector approach that requires us to make connections with all aspects of society. As a result, I have come into contact with many people from different fields and professions. I worked with experts and scholars, farmers and villagers, gradually developing a richer understanding of our society and

making friends along the way. Thus working in social service became an important source of personal enrichment, and greatly benefited my personal growth.

Lastly, working for the public good requires us to be rigorous and honest. Because the money we spend is from donors, we must think about how to make our work more transparent. This requires us to stay responsible thoroughly and avoid making mistakes. This way we can reassure our donors, the society and benefit the recipients.

On the National Day in 1998, I went to visit the Baise area in Guangxi Autonomous Region. It was an impoverished area where Deng Xiaoping led the Baise uprising in the past. Lingyun, a county in Baise area, is located next to a steep mountain. We made an appointment with the locals and agreed to bring equipment up to the mountaintop on National Day, planning to play movies for the locals and celebrate the holiday together.

Before setting out, we had dinner

at the foot of the mountain at 4:00 that afternoon. Because of the heavy rain, the ground got extremely slippery. I had never walked on such a muddy road before, nor was I an experienced hiker. After dark, I couldn't even see the road, eventually falling over and dropping my camera satchel in a puddle. In the end, we walked for more than five hours, finally reaching the mountaintop at 10:30 that night.

People who lived in villages slept early back then, and normally we could not find anyone on the road at seven or eight o'clock. But that day, when we arrived at the village hall, all the villagers gathered in the square around a bonfire. It turned out that everyone was staying up late, waiting for us to show up from the darkness. That night, we sang and danced together, and enjoyed the movie. Everyone was so happy. As a young man, I arm-wrestled with the villagers. Arm-wrestling requires technique and even though the arms of those youngsters were all much stronger than mine, I managed to beat all the villagers eventually.

There was no place to sleep at night, so I put some desks together in a classroom and used them as a bed. The next day, when we went downhill via the same route, we were all dumbfounded. What we didn't realize in the darkness of the previous night was that the path we chose turned out to be extremely close to the edge of a cliff. Realizing that, I broke out in a cold sweat and could only continue on in silence.

This trip to Baise left a very deep impression on me. The mountain road on which we walked once was what the locals had to face every day. We resolved to fix the most difficult section of that road, hoping to improve the livelihood of the villagers.

More than ten years later, the villagers in that area participated in the 25th anniversary celebration of Amity Foundation. To this day, whenever Amity staff visited the village, the people still ask about how Mr. Qiu is doing. Their caring has shown me the mutual nature of love, which has given me great fulfillment. Up

to this day, a local farmer calls from time to time to tell me how they are doing. To me, this kind of sincere communication between people is invaluable and priceless.

Everyone has their own definition of accomplishment, and mine are the examples I shared above. While our work may sometimes seem to have just a little bit material impact, these experiences gave us much more spiritually. Once, when I was attending an event in Yunnan Province, a local woman came up to thank me. I was very surprised. We didn't know each other, so I did not realize what she was thanking me for. It turned out that she had received public health training from Amity in Yunnan, and later worked on AIDS prevention and treatment, especially for orphans with AIDS. She said that the training made her fall in love with the work and later she set up an organization to help more AIDS orphans. By providing training, we lit a torch and brought these social issues to the attention of the public. This I believe is the true value of our work.

Another proud achievement was the transformation of Amity during my tenure as General Secretary. With China's growing economy, there was an increasing concern about the sustainability of Amity. What will happen if our funding sources overseas are reduced or even cut off in the future?

To deal with the challenge, from April 2004, we set up a team for domestic fundraising. In 2005, our annual fundraising exceeded 100 million RMB for the first time (which was the highest amount ever raised among all foundations at the time), with more than 95% of the donations coming from overseas. Now, over a decade later, we are proud to say that Amity has achieved the goal of increasing its total fundraising, while changing the Foundation's resource structure. Nowadays, over 90% of our resources come from domestic sources, which is a huge change.

However, I do have some lingering regrets. For instance, after taking up a leading

position, I no longer have enough time to work on projects in person nowadays. During the thirty years of Amity's journey, a booklet is compiled every five years to summarize our work. In the Amity 10th anniversary booklet, we also recorded quotes from each staff member, and mine reads, "What is the most challenging project in China today? It is poverty eradication and development in less-developed areas. As I set foot in those areas and witnessed

the hard work of the locals who defied poverty and hunger, I was driven to give my life to this magnificent project." This sentence has encouraged me during my most difficult times. This encouraged me to undertake this work for the rest of my life. Later, when I became the head of Amity, it became difficult for me to continue working at the frontline. Although I understand my responsibilities have changed, I still have a feeling of regret in my heart.



▲ Featured Image: Qiu Zhonghui visiting a poverty alleviation project in Lianshui County, Jiangsu Province (1992).

Part 2 and Part 3 to be continued in the next issues

In the past, they were “lit by light”. Now, they have become “light for others”. The best type of gratitude is that, deep in their hearts, this is what they think: “When I grow up, I want to be like you.”

They are the precious children of Amity, and even more than that, they are the pride of Amity!

At this Christmas festival, let us enter into the stories of these children together.

Returning to help

“University for Girls” graduates - Helping developing their hometown

Chen Yanfei was born in Guizhou in 1992. “The poverty we experienced back then left a pain in my heart which will be there forever.” Yanfei can never forget that her dream of attending university was made possible through the national ‘Poverty Alleviation Through Education’ policy and Amity Foundation’s programme to support girls to gain a tertiary education. “The care and love warmed me so much that a seed was planted in my heart, teaching me how to love others. Because of this, I always wanted to become a ray of light myself, to repay society, and giving light to even more people in need.”



◀ In the summer holidays of 2014, Yanfei (third on the right) participated in a summer camp run by the Amity Foundation called ‘Light up the childrens’ heart together’ as a volunteer through the University for Girls programme.

In 2017, having graduated from the Guizhou Normal University, Yanfei chose to remain in her home area and to become a community worker in Changming Village, which is in Liupanshui, Guizhou. She threw her heart and soul into the work of building up and developing the area.

“Four years ago, I came to Changming Village carrying an army style backpack, wearing camouflage style clothes and tramping in a pair of Liberation-style boots.” When she first came to Changming Village, Yanfei was still a naive young scholar who had not yet experienced the world. Her small, slim stature led people to question whether she’d be able to manage her heavy responsibilities. Nevertheless, this small, skinny girl, born after 1990, has proven her abilities and value through all the practical things that she has done.

After only about three months in that role, Yanfei, along with other village workers, went by foot to ascertain the situations of all 4663 people living in 1206 households throughout the 14



▲ On winter nights, Yanfei still works overtime recording villagers' data

village groups which comprise Changming Village, tailor-making appropriate strategies for assisting each household.

“There are three people living in Mrs Qin’s home. Her husband died from an illness a few years ago, leaving an older son and a younger daughter depending only on her.” This was one of the households that Yanfei was assigned to assist when she first came to this work unit. When Yanfei visited Mrs Qin, she took careful note of a number of rashes on her arms and neck that had been scratched to the point of bleeding. Yanfei photographed the symptoms

and asked a doctor for a diagnosis, which is when they realised that she had shingles. After that, Yanfei helped Mrs Qin apply for assistance from the Department of Civil Affairs to alleviate the economic pressure brought about in part by treating the illness. “Mrs Qin was very grateful to me. She said that she can’t read or write and she doesn’t understand the policies, so even though the national policies are good, if nobody had told her about them and guided her through the process, she couldn’t have taken advantage of them,” Yanfei explained.

Old Mr Cui lives with his two grandsons, who are both in junior high school. They lived in a dilapidated wood shingled house. Yanfei applied to the government to help the grandpa and grandson to move to the city to live. However, Grandfather Cui refused her help in the beginning, saying, “I’m old and I’m used to this rural lifestyle. I won’t go. I wouldn’t be able to adjust to the lifestyle of those city-dwellers.” Yanfei, however, wouldn’t give up. She

carefully analysed the reasons why Grandfather Cui was unwilling to move, and wrote up lists, in a notebook, of both the advantages and disadvantages of such a move. With the help of the cadre responsible for this section of the village, as well as Mr Cui's nephew, and starting with the problem of education for Mr Cui's two grandsons, they persevered with getting Old Mr Cui to think about it. Mr Cui finally agreed to move.

"They moved to the city and are living in a new place which is safe and bright. There is a school less than 500 metres from their home. Even if his grandsons later attend senior high school, they won't need to rent somewhere else or have the boys board at the school. It's very convenient!" As she related how she felt about this family moving to a new home, Yanfei became quite animated.

Changming Village, where Yanfei works, is almost 70km from the location of the district government. Winding mountain roads make it impractical for her to go there and return home

each day, so she stays in the village and eats there. After her marriage, her husband and child stay in the city. "5+2 [five days then two days], light and dark [day and night], lots of overtime, working late into the night, most of my time is spent away from my family. However, I have no regrets. My child stayed with me for a little while and so I strapped her onto my back when I worked overtime."

It has now been more than four years since Yanfei came to Changming Village. During that time, she has witnessed the building of a road linking the communities that comprise

the village - it didn't even exist when she first came. The muddy roads which connected homes have been replaced by cement roads. Dangerous old wood-shingled homes have been turned into solid, bright, large single-level dwellings. Students have tested into universities that they had long admired thanks to poverty alleviation assistance and educational support. Sick people have received medical treatment which has alleviated difficulties for families. The faces of everyday people light up with smiles of gratitude..... Four years have passed. Yanfei has also grown up a lot and gained a great deal too.



▲ Yanfei carrying her child on her back while working overtime

In ten years, he changed from a recipient to a monthly donor

A Wei lives in the city of Zhengyang in Henan Province. As he lost his parents at a young age, he was raised by his uncle's family.

From the time he was in elementary school, A Wei has had a close connection with the Amity Orphan Fostering Program: "I feel like I've known Amity for more than ten years now!" Thanks to the care and love of netizens, in 2015, A Wei tested into the Zhengzhou Railway Vocational & Technical College. In 2018, he graduated without any problems and then went to Chengdu to become a subway driver.

A Wei has always hoped that after he began working, he could go from being a "recipient of aid" to someone who "provides aid". And so, when he first began working, he made contact with project staff, expressing the hope that he could fulfill this dream. A project worker made some suggestions, saying "You haven't been working long. We recommend that you send through monthly contributions. In that way, you can not only help boys and girls younger than you, but it also won't impact your life too much."



▲ The support of his wife is one motivation for A Wei to persist in making monthly donations

And so, in January 2019, A Wei became a regular donor to the Action e-10,000 project. He gives 50 RMB a month to the programme, helping children who are growing up in circumstances similar to what his own had been. Nowadays, he is a 'long-term sponsor', having given every month for almost three years!

"After starting to make regular donations, I felt like I finally had the opportunity to do something meaningful. Only through the help of Amity and caring netizens did I have the opportunity to receive a stable education, all the way through university. I feel that love must be passed on. Study can truly alter one's destiny in life. It can give us the future for which we long for. So I hope to do my best so that younger boys and girls can

捐款记录 Donation Record

按项目归类 按时间排列

 孤儿助养 Amity Orphan Fostering Program

已捐金额: 1250 元
捐款次数: 34 次

查看动态 查看证书

50 元 月捐扣款 Monthly Donation

单号: 130322650120211040
2021-10-27 11:23:32

50 元 月捐扣款

单号: 130322650120210000
2021-09-27 11:23:58

50 元 月捐扣款

单号: 130322650120210000
2021-08-27 10:25:11

50 元 月捐扣款

单号: 130322650120210000
2021-07-27 10:26:16

50 元 月捐扣款

单号: 130322650120210000
2021-06-27 10:26:04

▲ Making monthly donation to Amity Orphan Fostering Program becomes a habit for A Wei.

continue to grow and make progress as part of this big family!"

As of this year, A Wei now has his own small family. He is delighted that his wife is very supportive of his monthly donations. "Her support makes me more determined than ever to keep this up. Now that our lives are pretty much settled, I'm preparing to increase my monthly contribution a little bit, trying to do more!"

Amity Papa and Mama's Canteen Program won the "Top 10 Charity Projects of the Year 2021" by Action League

On December 1, 2021, the Grand Ceremony for 2021 Action League Charity Awards was held in Guangzhou. Amity Foundation's Papa and Mama's Canteen Program was awarded the "Top 10 Charity Projects of the Year 2021" at this ceremony. This represents one of Amity's successful development in exploring diversified elderly care by social forces.

The Amity Foundation and Alibaba Charity first launched the Amity Papa and Mama's Canteen Program in December 2014. Taking free lunch as a starting point, the program provides professional social services and encourages active involvement of volunteers. Together, people care for the elderly in difficult circumstances in the community, and create a good community atmosphere for the elderly, which help develop inclusive elderly care services and mutual assistance.

After the successful pilot project in Nanjing of Jiangsu Province, Papa and Mama's Canteen has replicated its model in many provinces across China. Today, Amity has opened hundreds of canteens in Jiangsu, Yunnan, Guangxi, Sichuan, Gansu, Chongqing, Tianjin, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Ningxia, Hebei, Liaoning, Shaanxi, Gansu, Hubei, Hunan and Guangdong provinces. Many online merchants on the Alibaba platform have donated more than RMB 10 million to the program, making millions of free meals possible for the elderly in need.

→ Amity Papa and Mama's Canteen Program won the "Top 10 Charity Projects of the Year 2021" by Action League



"There is a Chinese saying that 'food is the staff of life'. The reasons why some elderly don't have meals are far beyond financial difficulties. To our surprise, many don't take meals because of loneliness." Said chair of the board of Amity, Qiu Zhonghui: "So, the importance of these canteens under Papa and Mama's Canteen Program lies far beyond only serving a meal for the elderly. When the elderly are provided a place to have free meals, they get a place to gather and talk to others. During this process, the elderly receive spiritual comfort and reduce loneliness."

The elderly have always been the focus of the Amity Foundation. In addition to the Papa and Mama's Canteen, Amity's other similar programs have been going out of Nanjing and covered different regions of the country to provide high-quality services for more elderly people.

Guangzhou is a city that seems to have a high level of population mobility and a relatively young age structure. However the seventh population census shows a different result. Among the permanent residents of Guangzhou,

→ Amity Papa and Mama's Canteen Program won the "Top 10 Charity Projects of the Year 2021" by Action League



11.41% of the population is 60 years old and above, and, 7.82% of the population is 65 years old and above. Through research, the Amity Foundation found that, due to the age structure, the number of elderly living alone and incapacitated in communities are rising sharply, bringing great challenges to the elderly care work in local communities.

On Oct 29 and Nov 12, Shatou Street Elderly Service Center and Xiaoguwei Street Elderly Service Center in Guangzhou, which will both

be run by Amity, were opened respectively. The two centers will provide diversified elderly care services for the elderly with old age, incapability and dementia in the community. Both centers are equipped with infirmaries, rehabilitation rooms, activity rooms, day care centers, full care centers, and dozens of full care beds, as well as standardized kitchens, restrooms and bathing equipment, so as to provide high-quality guarantee for the life of the elderly in the communities.

Amity supports people affected by flooding in Shanxi

Continuously downpours in Shanxi Province over the last few days caused heavy flooding and affected more than 1.75 million people, according to China Daily. Media reports at least five casualties and more than 120,000 evacuated people due to the natural disaster. Since the start of the month, the arid province has experienced much more rainfall than usual, which damaged and destroyed infrastructure, industry and caused more than 17,000 houses to collapse.

The Amity Foundation started an emergency response project on October 9 calling for donations to bring relief to the victims of the disaster. Working with local partners in Shanxi,



Amity conducted initial need assessments and delivered the first batch of relief supplies in support of local rescue teams on October 9 to the most affected areas. The first batch includes rescue equipment as water pumps, life jackets, rain pants, and headlights among others.

Additionally, Amity delivered cotton jackets, gloves, and other emergency relief items to displaced people as temperature sees a sharp decline these days, bringing more distress to people affected by the floods. The latest assessments show the need for life-saving equipment for relief workers, food, water, shelter, warm clothes, quilts, and bedding for affected people.

On October 11, two Amity staff members arrived in Shanxi to further assess and coordinate the relief work. Based on the situation and needs on-site, Amity will continue to support the people in affected regions of Shanxi accordingly.



Amity Torch Program Facilitates Online Exchange between Chinese and Cambodian Students

On 15th December 2021, Amity Foundation and international partner Life With Dignity (LWD) held an online student exchange event, between HKSKH Bishop Hall Jubilee School (Hong Kong) and Yuthithor Primary School (Cambodia). During the event, students and teachers from both schools engaged in online sharing regarding Amity's "Amity Torch Program". HKSKH Bishop Hall Jubilee School donated HKD 36,000 to Amity in support of the project.

The theme of the exchange event was "solar power and our shared future". According to representatives from Yuthithor Primary School, their campus is located far away from commercial electrical grids, resulting in a constant lack of power supply. In addition, the school lacks adequate teaching staff and materials, causing the school's academic standards to fall behind the national average. Remedial classes at night can only be carried out under candlelight. Therefore, the school and the local community especially require aid in improving their power supply.





HKSKH Bishop Hall Jubilee School recently became the first school in HK to install a large solar power system on their campus as part of their efforts in reducing emissions and protecting the environment. As concepts of sustainable development are incorporated into the school's curriculum, students and teachers alike have a deep understanding of the benefits of solar energy and how solar power systems operate.

In the hour-long exchange, students from Hong Kong answered questions from the children of Cambodia about their daily lives and learning environment. In return, the HK students learned about the dreams and aspirations of Cambodian children, as well as their pastimes outside of school.

The Yuthithor Primary School is located in the Battambang region of Cambodia. After a thorough analysis of the school's needs, Amity has committed to installing solar panels at the school as a means of power generation, thereby improving the learning and living environment of the students and teachers.

→ Amity Torch Program Facilitates Online Exchange between Chinese and Cambodian Students

After learning of the difficulties faced by Yuthithor, HKSKH Bishop Hall Jubilee School donated HKD 36,000 to support Amity's project. Work on the project is expected to conclude in the first half of 2022. At the event, Suon Sopheap, an executive director of LWD, expressed his thanks to the Chinese government and Amity Foundation. He believes that solar power will bring hope and light to the children, families and communities of rural Cambodia, stating that these changes will improve the educational standards of Cambodia and change the future of the local children. Lily Wong, principal of HKSKH Bishop Hall Jubilee School, said that the event was interesting, meaningful, and enjoyable to all involved, and hopes to see more opportunities for similar events in the future. Finally, she anticipates the possibility of the students on both sides meeting in person once the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

At the end of the event, the students from both schools exchanged Christmas and New Year's blessings. Amity Foundation will continue to support such international exchanges, promoting and encouraging mutual understanding and cooperation between young people across the world.

The Amity Torch Program includes projects such as international educational development, and green campus projects. To date, the program has provided scholarship support, social development, and solar power facilities to poverty-stricken countries in Asia and Africa including Nepal, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.





Persistence among Lamentation

This autumn update on the Amity Living Water Campaign gives an account of the difficulties and obstacles in Myanmar and in times of Covid-19, but also about the commitment of people who strive passionately to improve their daily lives and that of their neighbors. The update has been written by Tong Su, the Project Coordinator of the Amity Foundation Hong Kong.

Weekend, end of September. "We can withdraw the money today", a message popped up on the screen of my mobile phone. It was from Bishop of the Toungoo Diocese in Myanmar. "Great! The two-month waiting is not in vain after all. Now can we start buying materials and building the water systems?" I eagerly typed in my response. "Well, it is not safe to travel. Besides, COVID-19 is getting worse. In Nyaung Pin Taung, that water deprived village, everyone is sick now. The village church pastor who is responsible for our project is receiving treatment now."

Nyaung Pin Taung and Pyaung Kaung Village are located on top of mountains. In close consultation with Toungoo Diocese, our local partner in Myanmar, Amity decided to use part of the donations collected in 2021 from supporters of the Amity Living Water Campaign to build much-needed water facilities in the two villages. The village, originally located near a river, was easily flooded each time when there is heavy rain. The villagers decided to move away from the riverside and live on top of the mountain after they suffered from very serious flooding again in August 2020.

As there is no water and electricity in the mountain, they have to spend a lot of time and energy every day going all the way down the mountain and fetching water from the river. But the river is an open water source for humans and animals, and not clean. People have to dig holes in the sand along the river so that mud and sand act as the filter when the river water slowly oozes into the holes. After filling the water in containers, there is a long way back up to the mountain top with the water on their back.



After the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021, there are restrictions to communication, money transfer, purchases, and even transportation. While the Toungoo Diocese covers mainly rural and hilly areas in Southeast Myanmar, these limitations still affect the cooperation between Amity and Toungoo Diocese. Fortunately enough, we could manage to communicate with each other from time to time. And after months-long negotiation and waiting, the Living Water grant designated for the village water system is finally in the hands of those who are in need.

And then, there is the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 3rd wave of COVID-19

spreading started in Myanmar in July 2021. The past months witness a quick surge of the virus into vast areas and over-stretched the country's already lack-behind medical care infrastructure. Tens of thousands got affected and close to 18,000 lives were lost. Toungoo Diocese is no exception. Those villages without access to water and sanitation were the most fragile in fending the community members from the deadly virus. Amity Hong Kong sent almost HK\$70,000 to Toungoo Diocese in May to help sustain its work under the threat of the closing-in pandemic.

"We appreciate very much what Amity does for the people here. We shall start to build the water facilities once the situation improves. It is really hard to carry on life as it is now." Bishop wrote back. "Let's watch our steps. Keep safe". I sent out the words while thinking to myself: stay alive and there is always hope.

With generous donations from supporters of the Amity Living Water Campaign, we are still able to help many people in need of water and sanitation by building facilities in their communities, thanks to the great perseverance and hard work of men and women of our partner organizations. Sometimes, there was news that some leaders, staff or volunteers of these organizations were infected by the virus, treated and recovered.

Needless to say, it is very important to help poor communities to have accessible and functioning water and sanitation facilities, especially when the COVID-19 pandemic is still rampant. Supporters of Amity Living Water Campaign has been helping in their own ways.



▲ This August, our hearts were saddened when we learned of the passing of our friend Mr Suren Goonesekara due to COVID-19. He was the Secretary of Board of Social Responsibility, Church of Ceylon and the "engine" behind all work related to Amity Living Water in Sri Lanka. His colleagues now pick up his torch and take the path he helped to open.



▲ British supporters start personal quest to promote Amity Living Water Campaign
– Challenging 100 kilometers Camino de Santiago in one week

When you encounter something right and worth doing, let's act! Mr. Mark Powell from the UK is a supporter of the Living Water Campaign. He has worked and lived in Hong Kong for a period of time, and has participated in several voluntary work and visits in Myanmar. In July, he participated in the Amity Living Water Townhall, and had real-time online conversations regarding the theme of Water and Human Needs with Secondary 3 students from the NLSI Lui Kwok Pat Fong College. He was so moved by the encounter that he then decided to support the Campaign with actions.

From October 24th to 30th, he is starting his own personal quest to challenge the last 100 kilometers of the Camino de Santiago in Spain, and to promote the Amity Living Water Campaign calling for more people to join the action.

We are happy to announce that we've collected over HKD440,000 donations for the Amity Living Water Campaign so far in 2021. And construction plans are being implemented in slums, villages, and schools in Kenya, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Cambodia. With assistance from our brave and perseverant partners, your donations will be turned into tangible community infrastructure to help keep more people stay safe from the pandemic and bring hope for better lives. Thank you and we are looking forward to your continued support.

We sincerely invite you to give your supports and make a difference to more people's lives.

Amity jointly launched the Coral Rescue Action

On December 24, The Amity Foundation PADI Special Fund, together with Kuaishou, held a press conference and a coral scientific seminar in Wuzhizhou Island Tourist Area, Hainan Province. This event aimed at uniting all walks of society to jointly contribute to the restoration of marine ecology.

In order to allow more people to participate in the coral protection, Kuaishou and the PADI Special Fund of the Amity Foundation jointly launched the "Coral Rescue Action" to build an innovative interaction platform - "Kuaishou Coral" online, which called on the public to plant corals "online" in events like live streaming and short videos. Every time a netizen completes planting a piece of coral online, experts from the PADI Special Fund and the South China Sea Institute of Oceanography, CAS, will plant a true piece of coral on the seabed of Wuzhizhou Island. Netizens who successfully plant any coral will also receive a certificate of honor. The coral planted with their efforts on the seabed will have nameplates with exclusive numbers. In addition, lucky netizens will be arranged regularly to go to the seabed to experience the whole process of planting corals.

On the day of the event, a unique underwater live streaming event "Visit Coral Planting" was held to teach participants knowledge of coral protection in a more straightforward way. Dr. Zhang Yuyang, a coral expert, made an interpretation in person and introduced the planting of corals in detail.



Thousands of people follow the 11th International Amity Seminar on Autism



On Nov 4, 2021, more than 13,000 people attended online the 11th International Amity Seminar on Autism co-organized by the Amity Foundation and the Nanjing Brain Hospital Affiliated with Nanjing Medical University. During the conference, experts from England, Scotland and China presented the latest insights and research of the sector on clinical diagnosis and treatment, concepts and methods, technology application and practice, and policy support. Moreover, participants discussed and exchanged best practices and development of inclusion for children with autism.

Amity Foundation held online sub-forum of the 6th China-Africa People's Forum

第六届中非民间论坛平行分论坛

Sub-Forum of the Sixth China-Africa People's Forum

民心相通，爱梦与共——分享交流会

Connected By People to People Contact Together By Shared Love and Dream Seminar

主办单位：爱德基金会

Organized by: The Amity Foundation

协办单位：造梦公益

Co-Organized by: Dream Building Service Association

On November 30th, the Amity Foundation held a Sub-Forum for the 6th China-Africa People's Forum online with the theme of "Connected By People to People Contact; Together By Shared Love and Dream". Representatives from Amity's local partners Dream Building Service Association (DBSA) and TechPlus Love, Hunka Primary School in Kenya and Taishan Primary School in China, Amity's African and domestic project officers spoke and discussed in the online forum. The sub-forum focused on two topics: "Walking with Torch and Building Dreams" and "Little Football Bridging Big Friendship".

→ Amity Foundation held online sub-forum of the 6th China-Africa People's Forum

She Hongyu, Associate General Secretary of Amity Foundation, reviewed Amity's journey in Africa since 2011 in her keynote speech. She mentioned that, as one of the earliest NGOs established in China, the Amity Foundation, Amity has developed and formed its own best practices helping people in need by utilizing the local assets to tackle local social problems. When setting the strategy of going global, Africa has always been on Amity's top priority. African NGOs, Chinese corporates in Africa, volunteers have been mobilized and included in Amity's projects with focuses on humanitarian aid, education, medication, climate change and capacity of marginalized young people. China and Africa together have a total population of nearly 2.7 billion, accounting for over 1/3 of the total population in the world. Peace, stability and development in China and Africa will make great contribution to that of the world. Therefore, in the future, with full respect of the local conditions, cultural background and customs, Amity wishes to unite even closer with all African partners, all friends and all supporters, in the spirit of unity and solidarity to leave no one behind and make the world a better place for all.

Zheng Wei, Assistant General Secretary of Amity Foundation, presided over the discussions. During "Walking with Torch and Building Dreams" session, representatives from Amity's African partners DBSA, Tech Plus Love and Hunka Primary School, the staff of Amity's Africa project team shared the stories of Chinese volunteers in Africa, as well as the experience of Chinese social organizations, what they saw and felt. During the "Little Football Bridging Big Friendship" session, representatives from the Amity Education and Scholarship Team, the DBSA and Nanjing Taishan Primary School shared the development of Chinese and African campus football projects, and had a lively discussion on the implementation of the projects.

In the roundtable session, the participants discussed topics "Beyond Aid", such as model iteration and project upgrading. They expected more projects in sports, painting, music and other quality education in the future and looked forward to new ideas and development in the exchange of Chinese and African youth.





愛德基金會

THE AMITY FOUNDATION



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