

Project Title and No.: Yuen Long Community Vitality Project (0015-15)

Name of Organization: Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong

Grant Approved: HK\$ 720, 000

Project Duration: 1/4/2010 – 31/3/2013

Target Groups: People with ex-mental illness, their offspring and parent, social groups namely women, youth, the elderly and etc.

Location of the Project: Yuen Long

1. Project Highlights

i. Objectives: (1) Be able to build confidence and resilience of people with ex-mental illness and their families so as to prevent cross-generation poverty and mental illness. (2) Be able to promote collaboration across social groups leading to increase in mutual support and social cohesion. (3) Be able to build up a co-op managed by a group of people with ex-mental illness, so to raise job opportunity and serve the community. (4) Be able to increase mental health awareness in the community and creating safe and secure mutual help network.

ii. Strategies: By adopting various formats (e.g. innovative groups, parent-child activities, cultural guides and ambassadors training and co-op) to bridge the gaps between social groups.

iii. Expected Outcomes and Performance Indicators:

Quantitative indicators: (1) 40 people with ex-mental illness, 40 families with people with ex-mental illness and 40 regular families (2) social services recipients, 300 people with 1000 attendance (3) 12 units of placement and job opportunities (4) 12 social groups in the community (5) 12 co-op operating members (6) 20 trained cultural tour guides (7) 12 cultural guided tours (8) 120 cultural guided tour participants (9) 20 mental health ambassador (10) 12 community mental health promotion activities (11) 500 participants of community mental health promotion activities

Qualitative indicators: (1) Increase in self-confidence of ex-mental persons and their offspring. (2) Increase in healthy familial function and positive value of families with ex-mental persons. (3) Improvement in community cohesion.

2. Brief Description of Programmes: This is a 3-year project focusing on serving families with ex-mental persons and the community as a whole. Various programmes including innovative groups, volunteering work and community care, mental health ambassador and related promotion, cultural guided tour, mutual help group and co-op will be introduced. Through joining hands with other organizations, a mutually beneficial community network will be constructed.

3. Unique Feature and Areas of Innovation: (1) Various social groups and families collaborate to form a community network that enables pooling and effective use of resources and benefits from the collaboration. (2) A co-op that provides opportunities of vocational training and placement in a natural setting. It not only allows more independent work experience and nature of job, but it also serves community needs. (3) Co-operation across different sectors, social groups and generations that facilitates mutual support as well as shares joint advantages among them.