

Project No : 0113-01
Project Title : Community Care & Networking Programme for "Po Tin" Residents
Name of Organisation : Urban Peacemaker Evangelistic Fellowship Ltd
Grant Approved : HK\$ 1,005,300

Project Highlights :

A project to enhance the self and mutual-help capability and promote positive values for "Po Tin Interim Housing Estate" residents, and build up networks of support in a community with limited support structure. The aim is to involve a highly marginalized group of people to assist the participants to ultimately become "givers"; to create support networks to coordinate the contribution of different sectors which can contribute to bridging and linking. A 3-layer network will be built amongst different sectors and organizations and the range of participating organizations will extend throughout the implementation of this Project.

Brief Description of Programmes to be organized :

Visit programmes:

This programme involves organizing the volunteer church members to visit the families in need; through the process of bridging, the social capital will be increased and relationships with the families will be enhanced. Besides, the needy families may join the programmes and visit other families in the neighbourhood in the next stage.

Neighbourhood Orientation programme:

This is a programme to detect the adjustment condition of the residents, especially the newcomers in the community. The families at risk may then be known, getting support and referral if needed. When the families were being welcomed and supported in the initial stage, they are encouraged to help others who may still be experiencing adjustment problems at a later stage. The positive value of mutual care and reciprocity is built up.

Support groups:

Women may face various problems like losing their support networks and jobs when they move into this remote area from other districts. Their children may also have adjustment problems in new schools and living environment. Therefore, this programme includes holding support groups in different

churches and/or community organizations. Through these support groups, the Po Tin Women may connect with women from different backgrounds and areas, so they have access to more resources to tackle their life problems and mutual care value is cultivated. In the process, they may take up the role of ambassador in the neighbourhood--starting to care for other women in the community and connect them to the group.

Community programs/ festivals:

Through participation and assisting in organizing the programme, the marginalized families have an opportunity to develop their potentials and serve their local community. Besides, the commercial sectors can be networked and contribute to the society by becoming the donors.

Mutual help programme:

Different needy families still have their strengths. It is planned that through the matching and referral process of this programme, they can share what they have and fulfill each other's needs. Besides, the community group members and/or church members are invited to enhance their human resources through joining the network; and mutual reciprocity is also advocated. The mutual help, positive value of trust and giving is enhanced. Lastly, the self-image of the unemployed and those on financial aids can be improved.

Network-building Programme between different sectors:

Through interviewing and multi-media communications, the needs of Po Tin community and the network-building is advocated for and shared among groups from different sectors, including welfare NGOs, the religious sector, commercial sector and various Government departments. Meetings and volunteer training programmes will be held, in which the difficulties faced can be shared, long-term partnership and common concern for the community can be shaped, and thus more social capital is cultivated. Experience gained from the project will be consolidated and become the reference for future planning. This experience may be considered by other communities with similar transient nature. There is room for formulating different networks in the future.

Unique Features of the Project :

1. Social inclusion: this project aims at enhancing the connection between the marginalized families and the society. Po Tin Interim Housing mainly caters the

need of the homeless resulting from natural disaster, clearance and those who are waiting for housing allocation as well as those who are illegible to live in the public housings for different reasons. As the rental is low, this interim housing becomes the receptor of many grassroots families, likes the unemployed and those on financial aids. Because of the connections between the residents and their former communities have been weakened and because of the remoteness of the Po Tin area, the support networks of the residents are usually non-existence have seriously deteriorated. This project is designed to increase the social inclusion of these marginalized families.

2. The present welfare services are usually delivered in the service-provider and service-recipient mode, but this project aims at transforming the marginalized families (including those on financial aid, unemployed, low-income or new arrivals families) to take up the role of giver, increasing their ability to care for each others and let the needy to be the resource persons.
3. The role of the worker is no longer as a service provider but as a facilitator/pioneer. The worker will facilitate the building of the network, helping more community groups and families learn to develop network. The community groups and/or churches can generate more people to show concern for the community, adding social capital to the transient community. Networking and connection between different sectors is a characteristic of this project.
4. The mobile population of poor families in Hong Kong is noticeable. These marginalized families move in and out of a community in order to save rent or because of other needs. This project aims at developing a model to activate the internal resources of these families, so that they no longer bring problems from one district to another. The positive outlook, attitudes, spirits and hope generated through this project can break the vicious cycle of helplessness and increase the capital of the community. The experience from the project can be transferred to other communities as well, such as other interim housing areas and old urban districts, so that the social capital of the project can be multiplied.

Project Duration : 36 months (from 3 / 2003 – 2 / 2006)

Target Groups : Tuen Mun "Po Tin" Residents

Location of the Project : Tuen Mun

Expected outputs and outcomes :

Outcomes:**1. Strengthen the ability of the needy, transform them to be the seeds of blessings, givers and contributors of positive effect to other communities:**

Through this project, over 90 families will be strengthened, and the ability of self-help and living out positive values, like mutual care and trust, is enhanced, no matter they stay in the same community or move to other communities.

2 The whole community can have more support:

As the core of the network (the relationship of 6 community groups and/or churches) has been built, after the project they will still contribute to the development of this area. They also have been connected to over 12 units from different sectors in the second and third layers of the network; thus, the network can address the need of the community. In this way, the process of transformation of the needy from a recipient to a helper will continue. This also activates changes in the community and brings influence to other communities.

Outputs:

No. of Volunteer hours	2150
Number of “resident” volunteers involved	350
Number of enrollment in the support group	72
Number of community/church members involved	600
Number of service exchanges effected	811

Outcome measures will include:

- Quantity: size of the support network; no. of peoples involved; completed programmes, etc.;
- Quality: the ability of families in solving problems by themselves, positive values being promoted; trust, mutual care as measured by survey and reports etc.
- Immediate effect: no. of residents get help, residents strengthened the ability of self and mutual help, network and connections being established among various sectors measured by questionnaires, scales and some behavioral measurement tools.
- Long term impact: to facilitate dissemination and continuation of project results after residents moved out of "Po Tin" areas; To strengthen the support network of "Po Tin" areas; to early detect and prevent major family tragedies.

Outcomes would be evaluated and measured by using observation, case study, pre and post assessment, etc.