

Project No : 0018-03
Project Title : Hand in Hand : Caring Community Project
Name of Organization : Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong
Grant Approved : HK\$400,000

Project Highlights:

A project aimed at promoting the interwoven networking among different concerned groups on a neighborhood basis. By fostering a mutual help atmosphere among the vulnerable groups such as the ex M.I. and the elderly, the local organizations and the neighborhood shops, the project also enabled its participants to contribute their effort in the achievement of a caring community.

Brief Description of Programmes to be organized:

1. Building up of Community Networks
Neighborhood-based networks network compose of 3 to 4 persons either by the ex-MI persons, elderly, youth and/or women will be formed. In addition to mutual support network for the network members themselves, community support service will also be organized in order to served the needy persons in the community. It is hoped that a spirit of mutual care and trust as well as mutual assistance and reciprocity can be cultivated eventually amongst the networks.
2. Network extension
Exhibition and sharing organized by members of the Networks in order to enlist cooperation among the local organization, NGOs and commercial firms. As a result the Community Networks could be strengthen while the community resources could also be cultivated. The atmosphere of mutual help and concern will also be developed and fostered in the community.
3. Training Workshop & leadership training
By the conducting of community support training programs and leadership training, the participants' self-knowledge and potentials will be enhanced and their self-worth affirmed. Potential members will also be trained up as the community coordinators in order to coordinate the community resources and implement supportive service.
4. Caring Campaign
Service day and volunteer awards will be launched in order to enhance the cooperation and participation of individuals, different concerned group of people in the community. Moreover, contributions of individuals, organization and commercial firms are recognized and awarded. Through the activities, members of the community are encourage to contribute their own efforts and the spirit of

mutual help is fostered in the community.

Unique Features of the Project:

1. The public often perceives ex-MI persons and elderly, who are the vulnerable groups in society, as social burdens. However, through the training received and supportive service rendered, both the elderly and the ex-MI persons have their contributions in the community. They can even form mutual support networks and conduct volunteer services. As a result, the elderly and the ex-MI persons will become contributing members themselves and will thus help to establish a positive public image for being a valuable asset of the community.
2. Community Networks formed are neighborhood-based in the 4 localities. Each network will compose of 3 to 4 persons freely self-selected either by the ex-MI persons, elderly and/or youth. The local-based networks will serve as a community support network and will conduct volunteer services, such as household maintenance, cleaning etc., for those needy persons in the community. On the other hand, the network will also serve as a mutual support network for the network members themselves. The network members will have frequent contacts with each other for mutual support. It is hoped that a spirit of mutual care and trust as well as mutual assistance and reciprocity can be cultivated eventually amongst the networks.
3. The community networking is based on the close interwoven networking among different vulnerable groups, local organizations, neighborhood shops as well as the commercial firms in the hope to achieve social cohesion and to enhance the goal of mutual help in the notion of a caring community.

Project Duration : 2 years (from 4/2004 – 3/2006)

Target Groups :**Individuals** - ex-mentally ill persons, elderly, young , women and other individuals in the community.

:**Organizations** - Mutual Aid Committee, local organizations, school & NGOs.

:**Commercial Firms** - Shops & Commercial Firms

Location of the Project : Yuen Long, Wong Tai Sin, Tseung Kwan O & Chai Wan

Expected outputs and outcomes :

1. **Outputs**

- A total number of 48 ‘community networks’ will be formed in the 4 localities.
- Volunteer and supportive services will be rendered for 4,600 needy persons in

the 4 localities.

- Liaise with at least 80 local organization. At least 12 shops / business provide shopping discount or special offers to the community
- 8 members from the community networks or residents in the community will be trained up as the coordinators of the community networks in the 4 localities.

2. Outcomes

- Positive values will be promoted in the community. The self-worth and the resilience capacity of the participants will also be enhanced.
- A spirit of mutual care and trust as well as mutual assistance and reciprocity will be developed and promoted amongst the network members and the community.
- Promote contacts and cooperation among people with MI, elderly, youth, women , local residents, local organization and commercial firms in order to enhance community solidarity and social inclusion.
- By the implementation of supportive community services and the setting up of community resources forum, not only the needy person in the community are served, different resources in the community can also be consolidated and shared.
- The network members maintain contacts with each other and the network formed can be sustained upon the completion of the project.

3. Social Capital

- Enhancement of community participation and sense of belonging in the 4 localities.
- Enhancing of social cohesion and solidarity by integrating different group members , local residents and organization together.
- Building up a supporting and caring community by the joint effort of community networks , local organization and commercial firms. .

Outcome measures:

Include changes in self-help and mutual help capabilities, values and attitudes after participation in community by means of case follow up study; degree of mutual acceptance, trust and reciprocity amongst the different participant groups by focus group study ; changes in assessment by third parties; ability of the networks formed to sustain themselves and setting up of the 8 community

coordinators.