

Project Number: 0023-03
Project Name: Community Angels of Tin Shui Wai
Organisation Name: Missions to New Arrivals
Approved Funding: HK\$1million

Project Synopsis:

This plan aims to transform Tin Shui Wai into a warm and compassionate community so that each party (citizens, community groups, businesses ... etc.) will be eager to become an angel to bless and help each other. This will also strength the community's sense of belonging and cohesion. Through three types of volunteering activities (sharing, creative and supportive), this project will not only establish a cross-sector cooperative platform, it will also mobilize existing community resources and enhance community capital by cultivating and developing its self-help potential. The resulting community is where people feel they belong.

Highlights of Programs to be organized:

Initially, a minimum of 13 programs will be organized around three themes (the exact number of programs will be adjusted or added as the needs arise):

1. **SUPPORTING**, to recruit volunteers to cater to the many needs of the community through identifying and training those who are currently on the receiving end of the services. Specific programs will target families in danger of violent behaviour, families in need of basic goods and services, the elderly, children in schools and any individuals or families with short-term ad hoc needs. This will prove, through concrete action, that self-help is not only practical, but also desirable.
2. **SHARING**, to solicit the participation of the business community, the food and catering industry, the different ethnic groups in the Tin Shui Wai area in a drive to share their material resources, skills and talents with the general population for its betterment. This sharing will nurture a climate of community inclusion through mutual good will and responsibility.
3. **CREATING**, to increase employment opportunity in the community and employability of individuals and available material resources of the project through job training and other small business ventures. Enhancement to the physical environment will be a very major component of this work, thus dispelling the myth that wealth creation will necessarily lead to environmental destruction.

The organization will solicit participation from the social service agencies, church groups, community groups and businesses operating in the area. This extensive networking drive will define specifically the roles of each participating agency, e.g. preventing family violence, organizing after-school activities, including ethnic minorities, job training ... etc. to realize synergism and eliminate redundant work.

Since reciprocity and cross-sector cooperation, which create social cohesion and capital, are the main emphases of this project, a “Stored-Value Angel Card” will be used as a mechanism to keep track of all the caring activities, including volunteering services and exchanges of goods, as a form of affirmation and reward for all the participants.

Unique Features of the Project:

This project aims to transform the whole Tin Shui Wai community, one of the most depressing areas in all of Hong Kong due to the social and economic standing of the majority of the population into a “City of Angels.” As such, it sets no specific target group, but sees each individual and each family as a target for transformation. It mobilizes all types of community resources – individuals’, NGOs’, businesses’, church groups’, businesses’ and governmental – across the board to start transforming each helpee into a helper.

In turning recipients to givers, the mode of perpetual giver–recipient relationship in traditional social services is shattered. Both the giver and receiver will be set on a course of self-discovery as to what they can contribute to the society. When they become aware of their potential and their relation in the community, they will be happy to care for other through self-giving. The community will be transformed into one of warmth and happiness. Through supplementing the traditional “only-dollar” concept of transaction with the “Stored-Value Angel Card”, participants can enrich the meaning of their exchanges (material and caring activities) and create better relationship and cooperative opportunities within the community. This provides not only an alternative means, but nurtures an alternative outlook towards the prospect in life.

The objective of this project is that it will eventually be totally operated and managed through the cooperation of participants from the different sectors. This breaks the traditional mode of dependency and takes both the meaning and practice of self-help to a different level that can be emulated by other similar communities.

Project Duration: 13 months (May 2004 to June 2006)

Location of the Project: Tin Shui Wai District

- Tin Shui Estate, Tin Hang Estate (May 2004 – April 2005)
- Tin Chak Estate, Tin Yuet Estate and extended to all of Tin Shui Wai (May 2005 to June 2006)

Expected Outcomes:

1. **Membership and volunteers:** 1,500 (individual, business / professional).
2. **Participating and supporting networks:** 50 NGOs , 5 schools and 40 businesses contacted.
3. **Families and individuals receiving services:** 800 families and approximately 2,400 individuals.

4. **Volunteering services:** Minimum of 2,500 man-hours every year.
5. **Goods and caring services exchanges:** Equivalent of HK\$20,000 each year.
6. **Volunteers enrolled in training:** Minimum of 3,000 enrollments.
7. **Employment support:** 2 employment self-help groups organized, 10 self-employed positions created, and 3 cooperatives formed.