

Project Summary

Project No: 0014-05

Project Title: ‘Co-Help Network Vitalizer’ program

Name of Organization: Retina Hong Kong

Grant Approved: HK\$420,000

Project Highlights: The program consists of two parts, namely ‘Angel of Vision’ Mentor Scheme and ‘Business Tomorrow – Outward-Bound Mutual Help Team’.

1. ‘Angel of Vision’ Mentor Scheme

A team of persons with visual impairment, their family members and volunteers will run a series of activities in two secondary schools. Through these activities, team members, as mentors, will learn, share and stimulate with students and their parents. As a result, all participants will gain confidence and stand positive to challenges of life.

2. ‘Business Tomorrow – Outward-Bound Mutual Help Team’

This is a career development pilot scheme for persons with visual impairment, their families and middle-aged job seekers. By providing courses such as business administration, application of technologies, etc, participants are expected to develop a variety of out-reaching co-ops. During the training stage, internship opportunities and voluntary services will be organized for participants. As a consequence, not only the chance of finding work is improved, part of the revenues will also be installed back into the co-ops training and development fund, so that more visually impaired people will benefit from it by contributing to society.

Brief Description of Programmes to be organized:

1. ‘Angel of Vision’ Mentor Scheme

- ‘Challenges for Visual Impairment?’ seminar
- ‘Highway to Active Life’ photo exhibition
- ‘Passion for Life’ sharing session
- Teacher student eye-to-eye program

- 'Seeds of Life' peers supportive program
2. 'Business Tomorrow – Out-reaching Mutual Help Team'
 - 'The Community Economy' seminar
 - 'Setting-up a Co-op' workshop
 - Internship program
 - Establishing Co-operative Societies

Unique Features of the Project:

1. Showing the power of life, by letting single life inspires many other lives.
2. Making visually impaired people role models to empower secondary school students and their parents to survive bad situations, facing life with positive attitudes, most importantly, the desire to contribute to the society.
3. Forming co-ops and job placement funds for people with visual impairment.
4. Reaching out to local business organizations and disabled groups. Find ways to work together, so that the co-ops can be very versatile.
5. Building work availability information network, increase the chance of finding jobs for, visually impaired people and people of other manners.
6. Pulling together different organizations, groups and social stratum, and build social capital.

Project Duration: 01st May, 2005 to 31st October, 2007

Target Groups:

Visually impaired people and their families, secondary school teachers, students and parents, middle age job seekers, different organizations, different specialties, different commercial practices and different social stratum.

Location of the Project: Sham Shui Po

Expected Outputs and Outcomes:

1. 'Angel of Vision' Mantor Scheme

- Increase secondary school students and their parents, awareness on people who are different from the majority. Build up self-confidence; use ‘life inspire lives’ as a way to achieve empowerment: drive forth the equal participation between different communities and sectors; build network;
- Developing students’ sensitivities to the unfortunates; advocate the spirit of co-operation among diversified parties; establish a mutual caring community that is full of harmony.
- Find 30-35 teachers, students or parents from each school to pair up with the ambassadors. Let them develop rapport by sharing life’s bitterness and sweetness. The ambassadors will first lead the students to share life stories. They will learn from each other. The ambassadors will then transform the teachers/students/parents into ‘seeds of life’, and let them become big brothers and big sisters, spreading out the care and the idea to their schoolmates. In other words, these students and parents are providing peers supporting services to their pals. Together all the participants will form a ‘voluntary visiting team’, that provides mantle support service to the society.

2. ‘Business Tomorrow – Outward-Bound Mutual Help Team’

- This program will equip the participants with working skills; reconstruct their self-confidence and self-respect; bring back their prosperity; and ultimately, achieve the goal of empowerment. Equal participation between different organizations, different specialties and social stratum will be promoted. Let the diversified blend together. To form a business network that is self-reliant and mutually assistive. Through the effort of integration and co-operation, people can be financially self-supportive. Better yet, they can extend what they gain from this program and spread out to others.
- Strengthen the bond between different organizations and commercial practices. Increase the information flow on work opportunities. Alleviate team spirit. Bring up the ties within neighborhoods. Participants will also serve the members of ‘Ambassadors of Light’ during activities. And find 20 different commercial practices to offer a total of 20 hours of internship work.
- Elicit the middle-class’s believes in the integration of the disabled

and non-disabled people. Launch neighborhood businesses.
Instantly create 20 available jobs. Booth pitching in 2 events.
And provide 1 piece sub-contract on services.

Outcomes measures:

Conduct surveys every 3 months in the format of questionnaires to cross-check the efficiency of the program.