

2023

FEBRUARY
Newsletter



Against Child Abuse wishes you and your family a happy and healthy Year of the Rabbit! At the start of this New Year, we would like to thank all who have unfailingly supported us over the years. We pray we will continue to enjoy the good fortune of having you to work together with us to create a safe and caring environment for the optimal growth of our children!

On 17 November 2022, we concluded our work in 2021/22 at the Annual General Meeting and released our significant events, service statistics and recommendations on child protection through a press conference. Our statistics showed that the majority of suspected abused children were aged six to eight. 65% of suspected abusers were family members. Of the suspected child abuse cases, physical abuse ranked the highest in number, followed by psychological abuse, physical and psychological abuse accounted for the largest number of multiple abuse cases, and child neglect cases were related mainly to leaving children unattended and inadequate medical care. As for the risk factors of suspected child abuse or parenting difficulty cases, about 75% were suspected abusers related. The highest proportions were child rearing and parenting skills deficiency, emotional or psychological problems, and marital problems. The mental health of parents and children has been greatly affected by the raging of COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of the fifth wave of the pandemic was even worse. The unprecedented early summer school vacation had also increased the pressure on working parents taking care of their children. In addition, children spent more time on the Internet and smart phones to learn or communicate with the outside world. This has increased the risk of potential offenders contact online. On the advocacy front, we suggest the government to accept the recommendations of the Final Report by The Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong on "Causing or allowing the death or serious harm of a child or vulnerable adult" introducing the new offence and reviewing the maximum penalty under section 27 of



the Offences against the Person Ordinance (Cap. 212); to complete the legislative work on mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse cases as soon as possible, formulate clear and precise requirements and guidelines, and provide regular and continuous trainings for professionals; to totally ban corporal punishment including punishment inflicted at home, and promote non-violent ways in managing children and child protection policy in the community; to set up a mandatory Sex Conviction Record Check System, implement comprehensive school sex education and formulate policies and regulations to ensure the safety of online platforms; to allocate more resources for early prevention of child abuse and parent support services, etc. At the press conference, a social worker and volunteers of Daylily Project for Young/Single Mothers shared how the project had helped single mothers overcoming difficulties and regaining laughter and hope. For details of the press release, please visit our website (www.aca.org.hk).

Our Child Protection Institute held a Certificate Course on "Identification, Assessment and Handling of Suspected Child Abuse Cases" at the Kwai Chung Centre on 16 December 2022. The course covered child protection milestones in Hong Kong, child abuse identification and impacts, risk factors and risk assessment, interviewing skills and simulated multi-disciplinary case conference.

All participants of the day actively participated in the discussions.

We plan to hold a Child Protection Professional Forum: Child Sexual Abuse in Cyber World on 3 March 2023. It aims at updating professionals on the recent situations and trends of child sexual abuse in the cyber world, facilitating communication among professionals on child sexual abuse issues, and exploring strategies to manage the problems. We very much look forward to your active participation in this!

Donna Wong
Director

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Ms Pearl Lee, Ms Agnes Kwong,
Mr Patrick Wong, Mr Douglas Pea

Summary of Major Activities for October to December 2022

Month	Project/Title	Activity
November	Annual Press Conference and Annual General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 43rd Annual Press Conference and Annual General Meeting on 17 November
October to December	Bless My Home Forever Volunteer Home Visitation Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Sharing Forum <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Fear" Attack on 29 October Knock the Fear Down on 29 October Emotional Self-Healing on 26 November Cherish x Holiday Farm on 10 December Gratitude x Christmas Party on 17 December
	Daylily Project for Young/Single Mothers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Sharing Forum <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understand Negative Emotion - Fear on 29 October How to Face Fear on 29 October Nature and Emotion on 26 November Cherish the Nature on 10 December Cherish the Moment With Your Children on 10 December Awareness of Positive Emotion: Gratitude on 17 December How to Express Gratitude on 17 December Volunteer Training XII - Advanced Training (Art Therapy) on 19 November
	Healthy Start Home Visitation Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent-child Play Group on 22, 29 October, 5, 12 November and 23 December Volunteer Foundation Training Course on 28 October, 4, 11, 18 and 25 November Volunteer Retreat Day on 5 December Parent Talk - "How to practice Waldorf Education Concepts at Home" and Infant Christmas Party on 17 December
	Child Abuse Treatment Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress Management Group for Parents with Depressive Features XIII (Session 1 - 6) on 6, 13, 20, 27 October, 3 and 10 November Parent Talk - Be Authoritative Parents on 13 October Parent-child Board Game on 22 October Volunteer Training on 25 October and 1 November Stress Management Group for Parents with Depressive Features XIV (Sessions 1 - 8) on 31 October, 7, 14, 21, 28 November, 5, 9 and 19 December Positive Parenting Training Course (VI) on 5 November Children group on 9, 16, 23, 30 November, 7 and 14 December Parent-child Christmas Party on 18 December
	Give Children the Best Start Home Visiting Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Booth for Project Promotion on 12 October and 15 November Family Outing on 29 October Family Outing - Christmas Party on 17 December



Month**Project/Title****Activity**

October to December

Good Parents' Networking Project

- Parent Positive Education Class on 6, 19, 26 October, 2, 9, 16 and 23 November
- SEN Parents' Stress Release group on 7 October
- Parent Handicrafts Workshop on 10, 17 October, 13 November, 2, 7, 9 and 22 December
- Halloween Party on 28 October
- Parent-child Activity - DIY Candles on 4 November
- Christmas party on 23 December

Joyful Kids Group

- Visit Squatter Area in Hung Shui Kiu on 22 October
- Group Meeting and Training on 19 November
- Game booth of Tuen Mun Centre Open Day on 25 and 26 November
- Love in Action and Christmas Party on 17 December



Chuk Yuen Centre Family Corner

- Parent-child English Online Classroom on 5 October
- Mental Health Talk on How to Treat Yourself Well and Release Stress and Negative Emotions on 8 October
- Photography Workshop on 5 November
- Pretty Mama Beauty Classroom on 10, 17 and 24 November
- Family Photography Competition on 26 November
- Committee Gathering on 29 November and 28 December

Tuen Mun Centre Family Corner

- Leisure Corner - Handicraft and Cooking Activities on 11, 18 October, 8, 15 November, 13 and 20 December
- Positive Parenting Training Course on 10, 17, 24 November, 1, 8 and 15 December
- Child Protection Carnival and Centre Open Day on 25 and 26 November

Parent-child Support Line

- Advertising at Facebook and Instagram from 1 October to 31 December
- Advertising at Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co. Ltd. from 10 to 14 October and 21 to 25 November

December

Child Protection Institute

- Identification, Assessment and Intervention of Suspected Child Abuse Case Certificate Course on 16 December

Forthcoming Events for January to March 2023**Month****Project/Title****Activity**

January to February

Daylily Project for Young/Single Mothers

- Family Sharing Forum
 1. Awareness of Positive Emotion: Hope on 14 January
 2. Expression of Emotion on 11 February

Bless My Home Forever
Volunteer Home Visitation Project

- Family Sharing Forum
 1. My Wish on 14 January
 2. Happiness Formula on 11 February





Month

Project/Title

Activity

January to March

Healthy Start Home Visitation Project

- Child Rearing Lesson for New Parents (Class 4) on 14 and 28 January
- Volunteer Award Ceremony and Family Sharing Session on 18 March

Child Abuse Treatment Corner

- Positive Parenting Training Course (I) on 4 and 11 January
- Volunteer Training on 6 January
- Children Group on 3, 10, 15, 24 February, 3 and 10 March
- Parent Talk - Be Authoritative Parents on 18 and 21 February
- Stress Management Group for Parents with Depressive Features XV (Sessions 1-4) on 7, 14, 21 and 28 March
- Positive Parenting Training Course (II): 11 March
- Batterer Intervention Therapeutic Group for Parents XIII (Session 1-2) on 17 and 31 March

Give Children the Best Start Home Visiting Project

- Family Outing - Build a Bear Workshop on 12 and 13 January
- Children Group on 17, 24 February and 3 March
- Parent Education Activity on 27 February and 13 March

Good Parents' Networking Project

- Parent Handicrafts Workshop on 12, 19, 26 January, 7, 14 February, 6 and 20 March
- New Year Party on 18 January
- Parent Positive Education Class on 30 January, 21, 28 February, 21 and 28 March
- Family Outing on 25 February

Joyful Kids Group

- Group Meeting and Training on 11 February
- Visit Home for Homeless Dogs on 26 February
- Volunteer Sharing and Award Ceremony on 25 March

Chuk Yuen Centre Family Corner

- Volunteer Fun Day on 14 January
- Committee Gathering on 31 January, 28 February and 28 March
- Good Parents Leadership Training on 14, 21, 28 February, 7, 14 and 21 March
- Service Users Gathering on 4 March

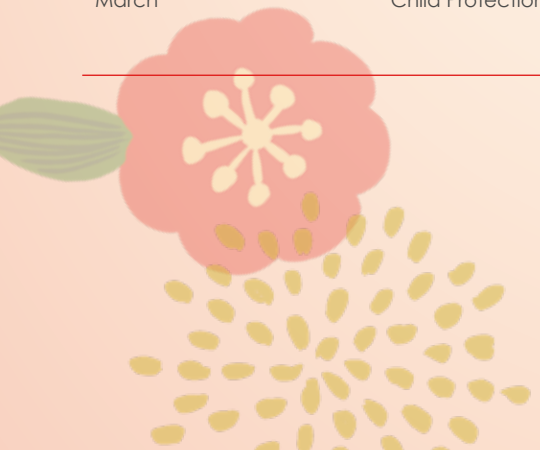
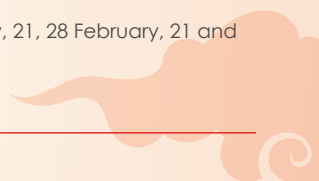
Tuen Mun Centre Family Corner

- Positive Parenting Training Course on 5 and 12 January
- Leisure Corner - Handicraft and Cooking Activities on 10 and 17 January, 14 and 21 February, 14 and 21 March
- Lunar New Year Volunteer Gathering on 2 February
- Family Outing to Ocean Park on 4 February

March

Child Protection Institute

- Professional Forum on Child Protection : Child Sexual Abuse in Cyber World on 3 March



Bless My Home Forever Volunteer Home Visitation Project

Sponsored by the Community Chest of Hong Kong

"Ms Yu! My son's temper is getting worse and worse. I can't handle it at all."

"I am very tired. It's really hard for me to handle my children's school matters and behavioral issues every day."

"When classes were suspended, I was worried about my kids' studies. However, when classes resumed, I was worried about the risk of infection."

"I don't want to yell at him but I can't help it!"

Under COVID-19, parents and children carried a lot of negative emotions. Talking with parents, we noticed that they usually focus on their children's issues, but take little of their own emotions. Over time, even if the children show minor emotional or behavioral problems, parents may easily vent their negative emotions on the children. They often express, "I really don't want to shout at/ hit him, but I can't control myself."

In view of this, the theme of "Bless My Home Forever" this year was "Emotions". The activities aimed to help parents and children understand, be aware of, accept and express their emotions. Take the Halloween activities as an example. We tackled "fear". Both children and adults can be affected by fear. For example, some people may be afraid of mice and spiders; some may be afraid of ghosts while others may be scared of thunder or earthquakes. Our activities emphasised that there was nothing wrong feeling fearful but how to face the fears is more important. In the activities, we suggested several ways for the parents and children could manage fear.

Through the activities, the parents understood that there was nothing good or bad, right or wrong about emotions. Emotions, positive or negative, were our responses to stimuli. In our daily lives, we often experienced various emotions such as "happiness", "excitement", "anger", "anxiety" and "disappointment". The parents have learned to pay attention to and understand their own emotions so as to put themselves in the children's shoes. Emotions need to be accepted and released. "Emotional management" is to learn to perceive and accept emotions, and then express them through appropriate methods



Yan Yu
Social Worker

The 43rd Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner



On 17 November 2022, the 43rd ACA Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner was held at the Pacific Club in Tsim Sha Tsui. About 120 guests attended the event. We were honoured to have the presence of Miss Charmaine Lee, JP, the Director of Social Welfare Department; Dr Tik Chi-yuen, JP, member of the Legislative Council; various stakeholders from the Hospital Authority, the Hong Kong Police Force, funding bodies, partners and many other guests. We were grateful for Miss Charmaine Lee's inspirational speech of support. This was followed by the annual reporting of Agency work progress and achievements of the past year.



The Annual Dinner was postponed on a number of occasions because of the pandemic. It was finally possible to gather. In the banquet, everyone was eager to share their work and life experiences in the lively ambience. What used to be simple gatherings among colleagues and friends in the past had now become a treasured and precious event every moment was cherished. Meanwhile, all were busy taking pictures amidst the setting sun, as if to capture what had been missed in the past.

The banquet kicked off with the dance performance by members of the Joyful Kids and colleagues from Tuen Mun Center. The energetic dance steps of the performers in simple costumes before the plain stage set-up had caught the eyes of the guests. This was followed by a joyful game session and everyone was involved having a great time.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who have assisted in our work. Because of you, ACA's services can be promoted smoothly, and the message of protecting children can reach out to a much larger community. We hope that all stakeholders, professionals, and volunteers will continue to work hand in hand with us in protecting children in the days to come.

We are looking forward to seeing you again next year!

Pearl Lee
Administration Manager



The 43rd Annual Press Conference



The 43rd Annual Press Conference was held on 17 November 2022. Director, Ms Donna Wong, reported ACA's significant events and presented the statistics for the year 2021/22. Chairperson, Dr Patrick Cheung, made recommendations on the different aspects of child protection work and urged the society to pay more attention to child protection issues. At the press conference, our social workers also shared the story of a family from the Daylily Young/Single Mother Home Visitation Programme.

In 2021/22, the Daylily Project served 60 young/single mothers through referrals from the Paediatrics & Adolescent Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology Departments of the United Christian Hospital, Comprehensive Child Development Service and Integrated Family Service Centres. More than 70% of the served families resided in public rental housing or with their relatives. Other families lived in subdivided flats. Among the families being served, around 60% received Comprehensive Social Security Assistance while the remaining service users were either in gainful employment or had support from other family members. Among

the project families, nearly one third of the children had special educational needs such as Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or Dyslexia. The following is a story of a service user.

Shan (assumed name) was referred for service provided in the Daylily project for Young/Single Mothers. She met two of our services volunteers. The volunteers accompanied the family to join the project's activities, widening their scope of social interaction. The activities also facilitated Shan to vent her emotions. Shan is grateful for the care of the social worker and the volunteers, such that she and her daughters had acquired new experiences and meeting more people.

We take this opportunity here to thank all the volunteers who have assisted ACA and we look forward to their continual support.

Mani Chui
Senior Funding and Promotion Officer

Child Abuse Treatment Corner

Sponsored by
Fu Tak Iam Foundation Limited

The Positive Parenting Training Course (VI) was held on 5 November 2022. It included 2 parts. Parents firstly joined the Sex Education Workshop to obtain information about conducting sex education with children. Parents have a special focus on child sex education and hope their children know about their body, personal boundary and how to self-protect. After the workshop, parents made bath bombs with their children which was a novelty, for a relaxing bath back home. We hope this activity has increased their awareness of sex education.

Katy Lo
Project Social Worker



Good Parents' Networking Project

**Collaborative partner:
Save the Children Hong Kong**

Good Parents' Networking Project aims to facilitate family-child relationship for Kwai Tsing district families. We promote positive parenting by providing parent education courses, volunteer groups and family activities.

Our volunteers are very talented. From October to December, they helped organise different handicrafts workshops such as making UV resin keychains, beaded Christmas trees, mosaic coasters, paper flowers keychains and decoupage pen cups. These handicrafts workshops were very popular as our participants could learn new skills besides releasing parenting stress.

Other than that, we organised a Positive Parent Education Class and Stress Release Group for parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). During the Positive Parent Education Class, we encouraged parent-child picture books reading as it is an excellent parent-child relationship building activity. For the SEN Parents Stress Release Group, we invited Miss Lee from the Community Drug Advisory Council to explain the Satir model, providing accurate information on drug used to treat SEN children and teaching participants to regulate emotions through meditation.

For family activities, we had a Halloween party on 28 October which attracted many families to join our workshops and booths. We also had a do-it-yourself macaron candles workshop on 4 November, they enjoyed the process very much.



Yucca Chung
Project Social Worker

Daylily Project for Young / Single Mothers

**Sponsored by
the Community Chest of Hong Kong**

Volunteers from the Daylily Project accompanied our project families to join the Kwai Chung Centre's Christmas Party on 17 December 2022. The parents and children made Christmas cards together and gave the cards to someone they love to share their blessing. Presents in the Lucky Draw and "Box of Hope" were sponsored by Celestica Hong Kong Limited.

A total of 11 parents, 14 children and 12 volunteers attended the activity. We would like to extend our gratitude to Celestica Hong Kong Limited for sponsoring the presents of this program and bringing us an enjoyable and delightful day.



Terri Chu
Social Worker

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant - Healthy Start Home Visiting Project

Sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust



Parent-Child Play Group

The project held a parent-child play group based on Theraplay® principles for four consecutive Saturdays, starting from 22 October. The curriculum included teaching parents how to respond to their children's needs, and the key elements and skills in parent-child interaction. A total of 9 families participated, with many fathers attending the sessions to play with their children on the spot to enhance parent-child relationship. We also held a Reunion Day on 23 December with interactive games and celebration of Christmas. There were 16 participants on that day.

“How to practice Waldorf Education Concepts at home” Parent Talk and Infant Christmas Party

On 17 December, we held an online parenting education talk and a Christmas party. During the seminar, Waldorf kindergarten teacher, Fion, was invited to share the perspectives and habits of Waldorf education with parents. After that, we also held a parent-child game session to devise games with simple materials and celebrated Christmas together afterwards. A total of 20 families attended the program, with most parents agreeing that the experience enhanced their understanding of children's needs.



Volunteer Foundation Training Course and Retreat Day

This year's volunteer training course included five sessions from 28 October to 25 November. In addition to basic child protection knowledge, home visitation skills, and training on establishing a secure attachment for infants, we also invited two professionals in the field, psychiatric nurse Mr CHUI Chak Sum and speech therapist, Ms LUI Hiu Lam, to deliver different thematic seminars. The courses focused on the mental health of parents and the speech development of infants. Volunteers expressed that the content enhanced their professional knowledge and skills when they are providing relevant services.

On 5 December, we held a Volunteer Retreat Day at EcoPark and then went to the Tin Shui Wai Green Field Garden for a barbecue lunch. The volunteers could take a rest and gather together from their busy schedules. 20 volunteers attended the event.

Yeung Sze Nga
Project Social Worker



Chuk Yuen Centre Family Corner

To coincide with the World Mental Health Day on October 10 every year, we held a Mental Health Talk on "How to Treat Yourself Well and Address Stress and Negative Emotions" to let parents and volunteers learn how to take good care of their emotional health, and enhance their stress resistance. On that day, social worker Mr. LEE Sheung-yin of the Hong Kong Samaritan Prevention Association was invited to deliver a talk. Our social worker Mr. Peter NG, guided everyone to do stretching. There were 47 parents and volunteers who participated in the talk. Everyone thought the talk was very helpful. Not only could they understand the sources of stress, but also learned to appreciate and treat themselves better. Through stretching exercises, they learned how to relax and reduce stress as well.

In October 2022, the "Pretty Mama Beauty Online Classroom" was held in Chuk Yuen Centre Family Corner, with 7 parents participating. We invited Ms. Cecelia YEUNG, a senior beauty instructor, to assist in the class while social worker Ms. May CHAN shared positive parenting skills. Through the group, the parents not only learned positive discipline for their children, but also learned how to take good care of themselves and be beautiful mothers. Some group members hope ACA would organise the beauty group next year to teach more makeup skills.

In November 2022, Chuk Yuen Centre Family Corner held the "Photography skills workshop" and the "Best Family Photography Competition". In the series of activities, there were 37 parents in the photography workshop and 68 families in the parent-child photography competition. Everyone responded positively, and the activity could have enhanced their family cohesion and parent-child relationship. The awardees of the "Best Family Photography Competition" were Mr. Ocean TSO (Champion), Mr. LEE Chung-him (1st runner up), Ms. MA Ho-yee (2nd runner up), Mr. WONG Kin-wai (Most popular award) and Mr. LAU Cheuk-fung (2nd popular award). Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you for everyone's participation!

May Chan
Social Worker



Tuen Mun Centre Family Corner

Family Outing to Holiday Farm

Sponsored by

The Alton Wong Hong Kong Fans Club

Both parents and children in Hong Kong are busy with their daily lives. Participating in outdoor activities such as a day in a holiday farm is refreshing. Credit should be given to the Alton Wong Hong Kong Fans Club for sponsoring the family outing at the Holiday Farm on 10 December. Nearly 50 families enjoyed their precious moments. The volunteers from the Fans Club not only sponsored the outing, but also assisted in the activities such as animals feeding and scarecrow making. Both the participants and volunteers shared joy with each other.

“Child Protection Starts from Family” Carnival and Tuen Mun Centre Open Day

To convey child protection messages, Tuen Mun Centre organised a “Child Protection Starts from Family” Carnival and Centre Open Day from 25 to 26 November to educate the public child protection and positive parenting building up harmonious and happy family relations.

We would like to express our gratitude to People's Place, management company of Oi Ting Shopping Mall for a special rental offer enabling our organisation of a parent education exhibition with booths in the shopping mall. On that day, the attendance of the programme reached 3,500 people. Through free hair-cut service, parent-child handicraft workshop, child protection kits distribution and activities conducted at different game booths, we have raised awareness of positive parenting amongst participating parents.

Peter Ng
Project Social Worker



Give Children the Best Start Home Visiting Project

Sponsored by

The Community Chest of Hong Kong

We organised a family outing at the park of “Wadakiyama” in this enjoyable and pleasant weather. The park provided amusement facilities including grass skiing, kids' boat, water slides and zip line experiences. 51 participants attended the activity. Some children enjoyed the water slides for many rounds and others had their initial try accompanied by their parents. A child was afraid and hesitated to join becoming brave with the encouragement of volunteers and peer companionship. He completed the zip-lining and other challenging activities eventually.

These activities not only helped strengthen children's sense of balance and body control but also enhance their confidence overcoming challenges. It was also an opportunity for parents to see their children's improvement as well.

Chan Wing Yan
Project Social Worker



Parent-child Support Line

Collaborative partner: Save the Children Hong Kong

ACA Parent-child Support Line aims at promoting child protection to parents, children, teenagers, professionals and the general public. We hope to encourage the public to report suspected child abuse cases. We also provide case consultation for professionals. Moreover, when parents encounter child management difficulties, or even when children and youths have emotional needs, they are also encouraged to contact our professional hotline workers, who are more than willing to provide helpful support.

In order to strengthen public knowledge on children's rights and updating the latest information on the child abuse situation in Hong Kong, we organised a series of promotional activities for our Support Line from October to December on Facebook and Instagram. We hope that all parents and children in need are able to reach our hotline to seek support and help.

Yvonne Wai
Project Officer

Parent-child Support Line:

2755 1122

Service:

9:00a.m. - 9:00p.m. (Monday to Friday)

9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. (Saturday)

Joyful Kids Group

Joyful Kids is a group formed by children aged 7 to 17 and some young volunteers. In order to facilitate personal growth and development of children and youth, the group provides training and voluntary services to help members to unleash their full potential.

On 22 October, the Joyful Kids Group together with their parents visited the squatter area in Hung Shui Kiu. Thanks to the arrangement of the social workers from the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod, group members had the opportunity to visit the traditional walled village and the inhabitants. They had a taste of the rural lifestyle and interacted with people living in various housing environments, such as sheet-iron houses.

Joyful Kids Group also had a Christmas party on 17 December. Not only did they have a wonderful time on games and gift sharing, they also enjoyed the self-organised "Love Action" Christmas campaign in which 150 gift packs were prepared for distribution to the nearby residents. It was a great moment for the group sharing festive joy with others.

Yeung Sze Nga
Project Social Worker



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Project Social Worker

Daylily Project for Young / Single Mothers

Sponsored by
the Community Chest of Hong Kong

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Yeung Sze Nga
Project Social Worker

