



**Our** warmest wishes to you. May the Year of the Dog bring you stamina and vigilance! We also wish that in the Year of the Dog our children will be happy and full of hope!

This issue of our Newsletter covers the period of October to December 2005 with our children and family empowerment programme continued. With our long standing friend and advocate Norma Lebon in town, a talk on how to manage children with high IQ and low EQ was organized and Norma attracted as usual good response from parents in Tuen Mun. Our Good Mother Networking Project also continued to train volunteers and build support networks for our parents in Tuen Mun. The Junior Volunteers Group had been engaged in team building activities and in preparing for a game booth to disseminate stop family violence message. Colleagues also paved way for more support to parents on their handling of their adolescent children and children encountering the Cyber world and internet concerns.

Parents and children hard pressed by their household chores and study found the month of December most deserving as we organized recreational and family programmes at Christmas and to the Ocean Park.

In the period under review, the Hong Kong Child Protection Alliance, with ACA as the convener, completed a survey on children's views of corporal punishment of children in Hong Kong. A Press Conference to release findings of the survey

attracted mass media coverage and reminded the community that corporal punishment is a form of violence and an infringement on the rights of the child and we should explore actively beyond it for effective and non-violent discipline towards children.

With a most encouraging close for the quarter, the volunteer group GP5 managed to effectively arouse public concern in child protection by organizing the Fund Raising Event at the Olympian City. Thousands of people gathered to fund raise and to witness our children from various schools writing the magic word LOVE with Mr. Ng Chi Ping taking the lead. Our Annual General Meeting held on December 1, 2005 was a joyful occasion with warm participation of agency representatives, service users, volunteers, staff and board members.

Special congratulations to our staff Ms. Glorise Wu for her excellent performance.



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## Summary of Major Activities : October to December 2005

Month	Project / Title	Activity
October	Norma Talk on "How to Manage Children with High IQ and Low EQ"	To provide opportunity for parents to learn effective parenting knowledge and skills on 23 October
October to November	Certificate Course on Child Sexual Abuse	3-session training course for professionals between 25 October and 8 November
	Project Teens in Tuen Mun	Two sharing sessions held and a promotion card of violence prevention produced and distributed
October to December	Children's Council Project	Rehearsal of Children's Council Meeting on 29 October
		Appointment Ceremony on 5 November
		Children's Council Meeting cum Award Presentation Ceremony on 19 November
		Representatives of Children's Council Working Committee attended the first meeting of the Children's Rights Forum on 2 December
	Good Mothers Volunteer Training Course	To build up mutual support networks among mothers in Tuen Mun district from 13 October to 15 December
	Cyber Safety Project	Volunteer training from 7 to 28 October; Parent workshop on cyber safety at Bishop Ford Memorial School on 20 November
	Junior Volunteer Group	A team-building day camp held on 30 October and a Christmas party held on 24 December. They also helped to prepare a game booth for the carnival of "Stop Family Violence - Give Children Back Their Childhood" in Jan 2006
	Study on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific Region	Data analysis and a press conference for announcing the research finding was held on 9 December
November	Funding Raising Activity Witness the path of children growing in love through writing thousands of love	In Olympian City on 19 November held by GP5 Volunteer Group
December	26 <sup>th</sup> AGM & Press Conference	26 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting & Press Conference on 1 December at YMCA of Hong Kong
	Parent-child Christmas Party	To promote harmonious family through games and activities on 11 December
	Visiting Ocean Park	165 children and their parents participated in this family gathering on 30 December
	Computer Recycling Scheme	ACA is one of the follow-up agency in this scheme in providing parental IT supporting services for the beneficiaries. Our representative had attended a Kick Off Ceremony on 20 December



## Forthcoming Events for January to March 2006

Month	Project / Title	Activity
January	Carnival of "Stop Family Violence-Give Children Back Their Childhood" in Tuen Mun	Sponsored by Tuen Mun District Council. This carnival will be held on 22 January at Tuen Lung Street. There will be mini-workshops, game booths, exhibition and stage performance
January to February	Cyber Safety Project	Parent-child workshop at Bishop Ford Memorial School on 14 January; Parent workshop and parent-child workshop on cyber safety at Canossa Primary School (San Po Kong) on 21 January and 18 February respectively
January to March	Cyber Sexual Harassment Prevention Project	Booklet publication on preventing cyber sexual harassment; Sharing Forum on 25 March on Issues of Cyber Child Sexual Harassment
	Children's Council Project	Publication of Children's Forum Report; Publication of Children's Council 2005 Project Report
	Actualize Zero Tolerance of Violence by Moving Beyond Corporal Punishment of Children	A one year project sponsored by Save the Children Sweden to promote caring and non violent child discipline
	Project Teens - Violence Prevention	To raise public awareness in teenagers' problem and to promote family harmony
February	Family Corner Volunteer Group - Spring Gathering	To promote group cohesiveness through games and activities
February to March	Stop Family Violence - Give Children Back Their Childhood Project in Tuen Mun	This project co-organized with Social Welfare Department is a series of programmes of the "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence Publicity Campaign" in Tuen Mun. The four major components are: i. Interactive Workshop for Parent and Children on Stopping Family Violence, ii. Production of Exhibition Board for displaying in school or public place for educational purpose, iii. Publication of booklet for introducing the identification and impact of family violence and stressing the importance of community involvement in stopping family violence and iv. Production of a number of publicity souvenirs would be produced for free distribution
	Parental IT Programme	Parental IT programme aims to enhance parents' understanding of and knowledge in handling the child protection, ethical and legal issues involved in using IT.
March	Cheer Children Brass Night	Organized by Students of Associate of Arts in English for Professional Communication, City University on 5 March in Wai Hing Theatre, City University
	Sharing Forum on Cyber Child Sexual Harassment	The Sharing Forum will be held on 25 March in Christian Family Services Centre in Kwun Tong



## Children's Council Project Sponsored by Home Affairs Bureau

Since the year 2000, Against Child Abuse, Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF and Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights have joined hands to promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and children's rights in Hong Kong by organizing the UNCRC - Child Ambassadors' Scheme and then the Children's Council Project with the support and sponsorship of Home Affairs Bureau. Both projects emphasized children's participation and empowerment. The Child Ambassadors and the Child Councilors who were interested to continue promoting children's rights established the "Children's Council Working Committee". They become the organizing agencies' partners in promoting children's rights and child participation.

### **Children's Council 2005**

**Appointment** Ceremony of Child Councilors was held on 5 November 2005. We were honored to have Mrs Fanny Law Fan Chiu-fun, Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower as the Guest of Honor to appoint the 2005 Child Councilors. The old and new Child Councilors also took part in a Mission Relay Exercise pledging for their commitment in protecting children's rights. Representatives of the 2005 Child Councilors introduced the four motions that would be moved at the forthcoming Children's Council Meeting. 50 guests including the Child Councilors' parents and school representatives attended the event to show their support.



The Children's Council Meeting cum Award Presentation Ceremony took place in the Council Chamber of The University of Hong Kong on 19 November 2005, the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse. Four motions concerning children in poverty, pre-school education, effects of domestic violence on children and platform for child participation were moved and discussed. A number of guests attended the meeting to listen to the children's views, including representatives of children's groups, NGOs and schools, as well as local and overseas interested parties. Five Legislative Councilors, Government officials from Home Affairs Bureau, Education and Manpower Bureau, Social Welfare Department and Hong Kong Police Force and guests such as Chief Executive of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service were present to exchange views with the Child Councilors and respond to their questions.

### **Children's Rights Forum**

**Four** members of Children's Council Working Committee attended the first meeting of the Children's Rights Forum on 2 December 2005. The Forum was set up by the Government, as an interim measure, in response to calls by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for a Children's Commission in Hong Kong. The Forum was convened by Home Affairs Bureau and the members comprised Government officials, children's representatives and members of human rights and children's rights NGOs including ACA. The Children's Council Working Committee was prepared to voice out children's views and discuss children's rights issues in this platform and to monitor the administration on matters of concern to ensure they were followed up.



## Cyber Safety Project Sponsored by Wong Tai Sin District Council

Young volunteers were recruited and trained as Cyber Safety Ambassadors in October 2005. The group joined hands with ACA to promote Internet safety by conducting parent workshops and parent-child workshops in two primary schools in Wong Tai Sin between November 2005 and February 2006. The volunteers introduced the popular cyber activities and the online dangers on children as well as shared with parents and children the Internet safety tips and information through sharing, drama, games, animated story show and demonstration with computer in the workshops.

## Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin (3 Year Project)

*Sponsored by the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF)*

With funding support from the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, Against Child Abuse (ACA) launched this three-year project "Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin". This Project aims at developing a mutual help network and a safe and child friendly community in the Wong Tai Sin District.

Competent volunteers were identified and trained to be "Child Friendly Mentors". "Child Friendly Mentors" support the children and families in need to build up confidence to reach out and get to know the community and to utilize community resources. Besides, the mentors encourage and empower the children and their families to expand their social network and increase their sense of belonging to the district.

The project invites governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the commercial sector to form a core network group, to build a safe and child friendly community collaboratively.

### **"Child Friendly Mentors" Training Programme**

A six-session volunteer training programme commenced on 15 October and was completed on 3 December 2005. The training content consisted of understanding child protection, development needs of children, children's right and participation, concept of safe and child friendly community, knowing community resources, non-violent conflict resolution tactics, mentoring programme and programme planning skills. Volunteers, besides attended

training sessions, were encouraged to visit the community for street interviews and field studies.

### **Liaison with schools and children centres**

In the review period, we had made personal contacts to 38 primary schools and 12 children centres in Wong Tai Sin. The project team members had paid visits to the following for publicity and recruitment.

### **Publicity and Recruitment Counter**

In order to widely publicize the Project, we had set up publicity and recruitment counters at Tsz Wan Shan Community Center, Chuk Yuen (S) Estate, C.C.C. Kei Tsz Primary School and TWS St. Bonaventure Catholic Primary School.

### **Mentoring Programme**

The Mentoring Programme will include creative workshops, community visits and personal contacts with children and families so as to raise their concern for a child-safe and friendly environment for children's development. Through encouragement and empowerment, it aims to expand the families' social network and increase their sense of belonging to the district.

For enquiry and recruitment, please contact the project officers, Ms Lee Yee Ming or Ms Anthea Lam at 2351 6060 or visit our website : <http://www.aca.org.hk>.





## Good Mothers Volunteer Training Course 2005



In order to provide an opportunity for parents in Tuen Mun district to learn effective parenting knowledge and skills, and to develop mutual support network among the mothers, a ten-session Good Mothers Volunteer Training Course was held from 13th October 2005 to 15th December 2005 in Tuen Mun Centre. The course content include basic knowledge of children developmental needs, how to handle children's misbehavior and emotion, listening skills and roles of child protection. The response to the programme was very encouraging, 26 parents participated in the course. They treasured the relationship building in the course through group discussion and sharing, they expressed that their attitude in child management and communication skills had been improved. There were 20 out of 26 participants enrolled the Family Corner Volunteer Group in ACA Tuen Mun Centre after they completed the course.

## Project Teens in Tuen Mun

*Sponsored by the Tuen Mun District Council*

This project aimed to promote healthy relationship, including what expectations and boundaries each party should have, between parents and their adolescent children and adolescents and their peers. Effective and non-violent stress management and conflict resolution were also covered.

This project's content included Parent Sharing Session, Parent-Teens Sharing Session and Production of Publicity Card.

The Parent Sharing Session was held on 6 October 2005. Altogether 40 parents participated in the session. They shared their daily concerns in coping with their teenaged children, especially their use of the internet. Participants were satisfied with the arrangement and the content of the session and shared that they learnt more about the youth's characteristics and non-violent conflict resolution.



Mothers generally shouldered the major role in disciplining children. In order to facilitate more discussion between the family members, we invited the members of the Caritas Men Development Group (Tuen Mun) to participate in the Parent-Teens Sharing Session on 13 November 2005. They shared their experiences in relating with their teenaged children.

2,000 publicity cards were produced for distribution to the community to promote non-violent conflict resolution.

## Fund Raising Activities

“GP5”: a group of caring volunteers in the community held a fund raising activity in Olympian City on 19 November 2005 - “Witness the path of children growing in love through writing thousands of love” on the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse.

On that day, the organizer invited Ms Sit Ka Yin to attend as “Love-Child Ambassador”. Besides, a teacher in Chinese calligraphy, Mr. Ng Chi Ping with more than 10 of his students used different ways to write the Chinese character “Love” for auction to raise funds for ACA. Over three thousand people participated in the function. Over one thousand children and their parents used Chinese ink to write the word “Love” on the “Declaration Card” provided by the organizer to promote the importance of “Love” in family unity. The “Declaration of Love” was distributed to enhance parent-child bonding. The activity raised over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for ACA.



## Talk on “How to manage children with High IQ Low EQ”

EQ is a major topic on handling child behavior. Effective parenting knowledge and skills enrich children’s EQ. A talk on “How to manage children with High IQ Low EQ” was held on 23rd October 2005. Professor Norma Leben, a famous parent educator, was invited to conduct the talk. The response was very encouraging. 173 participants including parents, teachers and social workers attended the talk. The presentation of Professor Leben was stimulating and insightful.



## Certificate Course on Child Sexual Abuse

We conducted the three-session training course between 25 October and 8 November 2005 to share with frontline professionals our experience in handling and preventing child sexual abuse. Dr Anselm Lee, Senior Medical Officer, Department of Paediatrics & Adolescent Medicine of Tuen Mun Hospital, was invited to introduce medical management of child sexual abuse. There were 46 participants including school social workers, student guidance personnel, children and youth workers, police officers and nurses.



Dr Anselm Lee speaking on Child Sexual Abuse.

## 26th Annual General Meeting & Press Conference

The annual press conference was held on afternoon of 1 December 2005, at the YMCA of Hong Kong, Tsimshatsui. The Director introduced the direction of development of ACA in the coming five years, the highlights events in 2004/05, the fund raising figures, staff figures and the new statistics of our services. She also emphasis the service highlight in the coming year and some recommendations.



## 26th Annual General Meeting cum Anniversary Dinner

ACA held the 26th Annual General Meeting on 1 December 2005, at the YMCA of Hong Kong, Tsimshatsui. There were about 110 guests, staffs, volunteers and people from the community attended our AGM. The anniversary dinner was held immediately after the AGM. There were 4 outstanding volunteers Miss Wong Wai Han, Kit, Mr Cheung Chung Ting, Miss Chung Yuen Lam and Ms Lee Kwai Chun awarded for their contribution in the past year. One of our colleagues Ms Glorise Wu was awarded for her outstanding service to the agency.



ACA Advisor Mrs Ann Marden presenting a souvenir to one of our outstanding volunteers - Ms Chung Yuen Lam



# Hong Kong Child Protection Alliance

## Study on

### Children's Experience and views towards Corporal Punishment:



**Child** protection is a collective responsibility not only locally but also globally. In 2001, the UN General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study on violence against children. The International Save the Children Alliance is committed to contribute towards the study End Violence Against Children. A Strategic Alliance was formed in contributing our effort in studying the prevalence of punishment in Hong Kong. The participating partners were The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Psychology, Office of Fernando Cheung, Legislative Councilor, The Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights, The Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse and the Against Child Abuse. Mrs Priscilla Lui, Director of ACA was invited to be the Coordinator of this Alliance.

The Alliance has conducted a study to explore the perception of and attitude to physical punishment from children's point of view, as well as the punitive measures used at home and in school. Parental views were also looked into.

After analyzing the data, a press conference was held on 9 December to announce the research findings. Eleven reporters attended the conference. The chief investigator of this study, Dr Lin Siu Fung, shared that the study found that corporal punishment is a common means of disciplining children in school and at home. 72 schoolchildren, aged between 7 and 15, and 51 participating parents were interviewed.

More than 96 per cent of the child respondents had experienced either physical or emotional punishment from parents or teachers. The study found greater acceptance of corporal punishment among older children, with boys finding it more acceptable than girls.

Children ranked emotional punishments as the most hurtful, particularly if they were isolated from family or classmates.

All respondents disagreed to using corporal punishment to discipline child.

More efforts is required to promoting non-violent discipline of children.



## Up Coming International Event



### 'Children in a Changing World: Getting it Right'

#### XVth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect

Hosted by BASPCAN

University of York, United Kingdom 3rd - 6th September 2006