

新舊並行 多元發展

An Integrated Approach to Multi-dimensional Development

這一年，苗圃步步漸進，在恆常與新拓展的項目中都努力貢獻，「大膽中見細心」，積極嘗試和創新。均衡發展的同時，我們發現了不少新的資助可能性，當然也不會放過任何一個可以改善內地貧困地區學習環境的機會，只要有需要，我們便繼續「以心·拓新」。

兒童福利院「水富苗圃」的發展，是我們一個重要的里程碑。過去一年，這「另一角度的助學工作」，得到中港市民及當地政府的大力支持，穩步發展，院舍設備不斷完善。而在我們的推廣之下，不少義工和機構都願意為福利院出力，希望藉此喚起更多人對此項目的關注。同時，我們預計在2015年春節增收至90位院童，需要更多床位及廚房空間，因應需要計劃擴建「水富苗圃」。在內地，兒童福利政策並未完善，貧困地區對此類服務的需求更是殷切，我們計劃在永善或其他地區開設第二所兒童福利院，以「水富苗圃」的成功開展為藍本，複製至其他縣市。

新的計劃，還包括重新資助興建較小規模的學校。在早前的苗校回訪中發現，部份地區如湖南、江西，對村校仍有需求。這些學校以小學為主，可以讓學生在離家不遠的地方上課，免卻每天長途跋涉之苦，亦讓家人容易照顧。此外，針對苗校的配套設施及相關工程，我們也會多方面地提供支援。例如在雲南鹽津的一所苗校旁有一條小河，凡是從該方向上下課的學生，每天都要涉水而行，為保障學生們的安全，我們決定資助學校建橋。道路、橋樑、水窖等資助，我們未必常常遇到，但對有需要的師生來說，就是苗圃貼心關懷的體現。

This year, in gradual and steady steps, Sowers Action has succeeded in blending new measures with the regular ones to create a balanced development strategy. Along the way, we keep discovering new opportunities to provide better educational aid for disadvantaged mainland students. We understand that every step we take counts; therefore, we take each new step with sincerity.

The “Shuifu Sowers Children’s Home” is one of our important milestones. Opening up a new front to promote educational aid, we have received supports from citizens and the provincial government to make our vision a reality, and the progress is highly promising. The project has gained further momentum thanks to supports from volunteers and organizations. Our next step is to expand the “Shuifu Sowers” during 2015’s Lunar New Year to increase the accommodation capacity to 90, thus more bedroom and kitchen facilities are needed. Children welfare development is still in early stage in China, and demands for such kinds of projects are especially earnest in impoverished regions. Based on the model and experience in Shuifu, we are preparing to set up the second Children’s Home in Yongshan or other regions.

Our new plans also include renewing funding for the construction of small-scale schools. Our recent re-visit project revealed that there are considerable demands for village schools in regions like Hunan and Jiangxi. Mostly for primary students, these schools are within walking distance, making it easier for their families to take care of them. Besides, we have also paid attention to improve the facilities of existing schools and related projects by providing flexible assistance. For instance, to ensure the safety of the students, we decided to build a bridge over the river next to our school in Yanjin County, Yunnan, as students have to paddle in the water at least twice a day. Although this is not our regular support measures, when circumstances allow, we try our best to cater the needs of local teachers and students.

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苗圃也一直支持貧困高中生及大學生的學習生活費，期望透過資助，減輕家庭的經濟負擔，我們因應實際情況通過將高中生的資助由原來的每人每年人民幣1,000元，增加至1,500元。其實，學生的校園生活，除了金錢援助之外，我們也可以為他們的身心發展幫上一把。我們將會在生活費的資助之外，加強與受助學生的溝通，多利用互聯網絡，了解他們的學習情況，並協助他們組織起來，互相幫助扶持，建立團結的群體，互助成長。義工們亦會盡可能安排實地探訪，親身接觸了解學生需要，並可以提供一些如升學、就業及心理健康等實用的資訊和意見。

籌款方面，本年捐款收入穩定，籌款活動發揮了其巨大的影響力，新舊活動共治一爐，以不同的形式吸引參加者及捐款，支持不同項目的發展。除了籌款活動，我們還會繼續開拓其他籌募形式，如加強向商界企業的推廣、適用於公司機構的捐款計劃，及新式的捐款項目等，期望能讓更多社會大眾了解苗圃的助學工作及其重要性，並加入我們的行列。

We have also provided tuition and living subsidies for high school students and undergraduates, hoping to alleviate the financial burden of their families. Considering the actual situation, we have adjusted the annual provision to high school student from 1,000 to 1,500 RMB. Apart from financial assistance, we have carried out different measures to help foster their personal growth, including enhanced communication using the internet and encouraging them to form support groups. Volunteers have also paid visits when necessary to get in touch with the students, listen to their concerns and provide advices related to study, employment and mental health.

This year, we have maintained a stable level of income thanks to effective and wide-ranging fundraising activities, successfully garnering supports for projects of different purposes. We continue to explore new ways to secure funding, such as extending our outreach to business enterprises, tailor-making fundraising programs suitable for companies and organizations, as well as other innovative tactics to educate the public at large, to attract more donors and volunteers to support our cause in promoting educational aid.



俗語有云「齊心就事成」，會方日常運作憑著義工和職員的緊密合作，成就了不同的資助項目和籌款活動。大至一所學校的建成，小至辦公室內的一紙一筆，都是義工和職員的齊心努力下的成果。來年我們會加強會內上下的溝通及培訓，例如職員交流會、董事執委的「腦震盪」活動及團隊訓練，並重新定出願景、使命及核心價值，及長遠的策略發展，務求為助學工作做好準備，也讓苗圃的重要資產—「人」能夠發揮所長，一同為內地貧困學生出力！

本人今年有幸得到苗圃的提名，參選香港紅十字會「香港人道年獎」並獲獎。感謝苗圃提供了一個理想的義工平台，這些年來，身邊每一位苗圃人都十分重要，您們有比我更高的理念，給予我極大的幫助和支持，這個殊榮，是我們共同擁有的。在欣慰地回看過去助學成績的同時，我願以「當下甘苦自若、奉獻成就生命」為座右銘與各位共勉，繼續與每一位默默耕耘的義工一起並肩努力，壯大苗圃的助學工作，為內地貧困地區的學生們繪畫出一幅充滿陽光、富而有禮、回饋社會、生生不息的圖畫。

何毅良
董事局主席

I believe that if we pull together and work as one, there is no mission that cannot be accomplished. It is our team of dedicated staff and volunteers that keeps Sowers Action running, from coordinating large-scale projects such as school construction to daily routines like maintaining office inventories. Next year, we will strengthen our internal communication and training practices through activities such as staff sharing sessions, brainstorming for directors and executive committees as well as team building activities. We will also review our mission, core values and long-term development strategies, aiming to make our most valued asset, people, to play a bigger and better role in providing much-needed educational aids to mainland students.

I am deeply honored to be nominated for and being one of the awardees of the Hong Kong Humanity Award 2014 by the Hong Kong Red Cross. I owe it all to Sowers Action for providing me the opportunity to contribute my voluntary efforts. Everyone in Sowers Action means so much to me, for I am always driven by the sense of mission we share together. Therefore, this honor belongs to all of us. Grateful with what we have achieved, I would like to share with you this motto of mine: "appreciating the ebb and flow of life; dedication makes life worthwhile." Let's continue to do whatever it takes to make a brighter future possible for the children in need in our country.

Albert Ho
Chairperson of Sowers Action