

榮譽會長
溫文儀先生，BBS，JP

榮譽委員
蔡潘若棠女士
岑大衛先生

榮譽總幹事
李文烈博士，BBS，MH

執行委員會

會長
黃紹基先生

副會長
梁甜昭先生

義務秘書
麥錦明先生

義務司庫
尤好心女士

義務法律顧問
梁雲生律師，JP

委員
區環智女士，GBS，JP
林煒瀚先生
李文烈博士，BBS，MH
鄧淑珍女士
黃妙茵女士

Honourary President
Mr. WAN Man-yeec, BBS, JP

Honourary Members
Mrs. CHOI POON Yeuk-tong Stephanie
Mr. David SHUM

Honourary Executive Director
Dr. Peter John NEWBERY, BBS, MH

Executive Committee

President
Mr. WONG Siu-kee Kent

Vice President
Mr. LEUNG Tim-chiu Richard

Honourary Secretary
Mr. MARK Kam-ming

Honourary Treasurer
Ms. YAU Yu-xin Amelia

Honourary Legal Advisor
Mr. Vincent LIANG, JP

Members
Ms. AU King-chi, GBS, JP
Mr. LAM Wai-hon Patrick
Dr. Peter John NEWBERY, BBS, MH
Ms. TANG Suk-chun Winnie
Ms. WONG Miu-yan Cecilia

January 2022

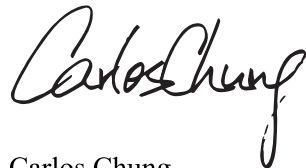
Dear friends

2021/2022 is an important milestone for Youth Outreach (YO) as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of providing our unique services to young people. It is also a year of changing for me. I was privileged to become the Executive Director of YO in November 2021. YO is not new for me as I had worked in various frontline units and headquarters

YO is dedicated to helping at-risk youth grow into responsible members of our community and I am honoured to have been entrusted with this mission. With the support of the members of Executive Committee and Service Committees and YO's angels as well as our competent staff, I am confident in providing opportunities to young people and rebuilding self-respect and self-confidence.

In this issue of "Letter from the Street", a picture drawn by one of our young people is attached. It is a painting full of hope, presented to all the angels, youths, and co-workers of YO. YO strongly believes that as long as we believe in the potential of young people, provide opportunities, and sincerely accompany them, they can grow up healthily. In the story, Chi needed to live in a hostel and did not like to go to school; however, after moving into our hostel, she found a regular job and interest, which we are all grateful for. We hope that Chi will continue to work hard and find her dreams.

Sincerely



Carlos Chung



Translated by Jonathan Ho



30 years of walking with youth
協青30而立 伴青年同行

榮譽會長
溫文儀先生，BBS，JP

榮譽委員
蔡潘若棠女士
岑大衛先生

榮譽總幹事
李文烈博士，BBS，MH

執行委員會

會長
黃紹基先生

副會長
梁甜昭先生

義務秘書
麥錦明先生

義務司庫
尤好心女士

義務法律顧問
梁雲生律師，JP

委員
區環智女士，GBS，JP
林煒瀚先生
李文烈博士，BBS，MH
鄧淑珍女士
黃妙茵女士

Honourary President
Mr. WAN Man-ye, BBS, JP

Honourary Members
Mrs. CHOI POON Yeuk-tong Stephanie
Mr. David SHUM

Honourary Executive Director
Dr. Peter John NEWBERY, BBS, MH

Executive Committee

President
Mr. WONG Siu-kee Kent

Vice President
Mr. LEUNG Tim-chiu Richard

Honourary Secretary
Mr. MARK Kam-ming

Honourary Treasurer
Ms. YAU Yu-xin Amelia

Honourary Legal Advisor
Mr. Vincent LIANG, JP

Members
Ms. AU King-chi, GBS, JP
Mr. LAM Wai-hon Patrick
Dr. Peter John NEWBERY, BBS, MH
Ms. TANG Suk-chun Winnie
Ms. WONG Miu-yan Cecilia

My name is Chi. I was a member of the Transitional Housing for Young Probationers and High-Risk Youth and now a staff of the 7-Eleven store at Youth Outreach. I am a just a normal person.

My mum passed away three years ago after a long illness. I was sent to a hostel because of my bad behavior and my family could not take care of me anymore. The hostel I stayed had many rules such as no cellphone use and no going out and many duties were assigned to me from time to time. There were many rules to follow even for mealtime! I felt very restrained and unfair as I still could not make my own choices given, I was eighteen years old already. The hostel treated me like a kid and took care of everything except my urine and stool. I did not like the hostel.

I always needed to go to hospital for follow-up consultation as there was something wrong with my body. I repeatedly escaped from the hostel whenever I went to follow-up appointment but then was brought back by the staff. The hostel thought that they were unable to contain me, and I told them I wanted to go to Youth Outreach because my friends said Youth Outreach is good and the staff there will let me go out. Unlike the previous hostel where I could not use cell phone and watch television, Youth Outreach is a "heaven" for me where I wanted to stay and could regain my freedom. Therefore, the hostel wrote me a referral letter and I was assigned to Youth Outreach by the Court.

After residing at Transitional Housing for Young Probationers and High-Risk Youth, I felt more free. Unlike other hostels which will strictly look after me due to my court order, Youth Outreach will let me live freely and choose when to go out. Sometimes I could read my books longer before sleep, but in previous hostel I was required to sleep at 9 p.m. and shower at a designated time so I could not do a lot of things under strict supervision. In Youth Outreach, I think people comparatively respect my thoughts and I feel much better. Sometimes when I was a in a bad mood, I could find people to talk to and it was okay to have a big cry as the staff are willing to console me. There were times that I treated people badly and had a quarrel with my social worker, but they would use alternative ways to communicate with me such as writing me a card and put it in my locker. When I read the card, it made my heart melt.

I have a younger sister and brother and my dad has a new family after my mum passed away. As my siblings could not live with my dad, they have no parents and become orphans. They were sent to live in hostels with strict rules and cannot always go out. Due to the pandemic, I cannot go visit them. As my sister has a cellphone, I can still reach her by phone. However, my brother does not have one and I can only call the hostel to find him. Haven't seen him for a long time, I do not know what he looks like now as his voice has changed, maybe they both forget my appearance too.

香港西灣河聖十字徑2號

2 Holy Cross Path, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong

電話/Tel : (852) 2384 3531 傳真/Fax : (852) 2804 8622

網址/Website : <http://www.yo.org.hk> 電郵/E-mail : yoenquiry@yo.org.hk

My worse memory is studying at school because I did not know how to communicate with others, thus I always get bullied. When I first entered Youth Outreach, I did not study nor work. I felt I am not a studious person as I either slept or played with my phone during class and always failed exams. I like to draw and therefore I switched to study illustration sponsored by Youth Outreach and eventually got a certificate. Someone wanted to hire me when I was still studying but I felt the things they wanted me to draw are too childish, so I rejected. I then began to sell things in street markets, but I still felt I am so far behind.

I know I need a full-time job to maintain a living. My first job is being a waiter but then I quit after a week as I found I did not have the stamina to move things around. Transitional Housing for Young Probationers and High-Risk Youth then referred me to the 7-Eleven store on the ground floor of Youth Outreach. I have been working there for two and a half years and the store manger, Ling, and colleagues are very nice. One time, I accidentally put \$2,000 into the garbage can which is closed to the cashier. After checking the CCTV, I misplaced the money and the garbage had already been sent to the refuse collection point. Ling generously helped me to pay first and I paid her back gradually. If this is another 7-Eleven store, I might possibly be fired right away. When I was sick, Ling would take care of me like a mother and helped me to pay to see doctor. I told her she should adopt me as her daughter, but she said she possibly could not have such a big daughter nevertheless I felt very heart-warming. In 7-Eleven, I need to arrange goods in order and serve customers, thus my hygiene and communication skills are getting better, and I am more confident that I can take care of myself.

Staff of Youth Outreach helped plan for my future and saved a sum of money so I could able to maintain my living after leaving transitional housing. I did not know there is a co-living hostel until Youth Outreach helped me find it. They helped me to find places to stay while communicating with different hostels to expedite my application. They are really hard working and more attentive to this matter than me which I think I could do more.

I am now living in a co-living hostel and work at the 7-Eleven store at Youth Outreach. In my spare time, I draw cosplay sell things at street market and keep finding my dreams.



Written by Chi

Jonathan Ho

Translated by Jonathan Ho