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Ms. WONG Miu-yan Cecilia

8 September 2023

Dear Friends

I am honored to introduce Franky, our “senior staff” at Youth Outreach (YO). Franky knew YO through the introduction of YO’s service partner. Under the assistance of **Youth Employment Start-up Program (Y.E.S. Program)**, Franky successfully found his direction and goal.

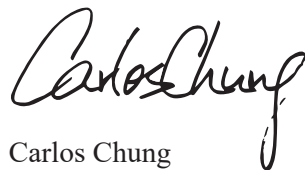
Franky is a very positive and patient person who works diligently. He has been an important member of the “Hang Out” team and also our role model. I believe his story can bring inspiration and encouragement to others, so that more people like Franky can find their own direction and goals, and realize their dreams.

Y.E.S. Program “Youth Employment Start-up”

Since 2001, the Youth Employment Start-up (Y.E.S. Program) has been providing employment training and referrals and employing at-risk youths as program assistants. After one year of on-the-job training, the program helps the youth find full-time jobs, and some of them even acquire specialized skills that can be used to develop their careers. Through on-the-job training, they develop a sense of punctuality, diligence and responsibility, and learn to build up good interpersonal relationships and a positive attitude towards life, so as to prepare them for reintegration into society in the future.

YO operates a 24-hours convenience store at the YO Jockey Club Building at Sai Wan Ho and collaborates with restaurant, salon and sports therapy centre, providing a wide range of on-the-job training opportunities to the youth.

Sincerely



Carlos Chung



Translated by Jonathan Ho

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Hi Everyone, I am Franky. I worked at YO for three years and I am fortunate to share my story with you all.

The two-year window period after dropping out of school

I had studied abroad for about 3 years majoring in management, during which I dropped out for personal reasons and returned to Hong Kong. After returning to Hong Kong, I had a gap of about 2 years without studying or working. I knew that no company would be willing to accept me if I wanted to rejoin the society, so I kept looking for opportunities on the internet. Until one day, I came across a website of St. James' Settlement called "Unleash Potential of Hidden Youth Project – NEET UP Project", which aims to provide a platform for young people to explore and develop their talents through different training and employment opportunities. I signed up for the program and attended the training for about 1 month, and it was this opportunity that brought me into contact with YO.

My YO Experience

I was assigned to intern at **City Challenge (Adventure Professional)**. During the time, the colleagues there were very kind to me and always shared their personal experience and feelings, making me feel part of the them. Their tolerance, acceptance and passion made me fully engaged in participating the events. After the training, Denise, the Center-in-charge of City Challenge (Adventure Professional), helped me to get an opportunity to interview for the Programme Assistant position at the **Hang Out (24-hours youth Centre)**.

After the interview, I was successfully employed and officially joined YO as a member of the YO family! At the "Hang Out", I was mainly responsible for supporting my daytime colleagues in their clerical work. I gradually familiarized myself with my job scope and was highly regarded by my supervisor who also offered me many opportunities. I was then promoted to Peer Counselor (AWW). At the same time, due to the shortage of frontline staff at the "Hang Out", I started to involve in frontline work. Through this experience, I had the opportunity to get in touch with young people and it was a very valuable experience that enabled me to better understand the needs of young people and their attitude, passion and love.

Since I learned darts during my secondary school years, Coco, the Assistant Center-in-charge of the “Hang Out”, suggested me to try to teach darts at school. I was skeptical at first because of my lack of experience and professionalism in teaching darts. However, with Coco's encouragement, I started to collect more darts terminology and teaching techniques, and after full preparation, I started my darts teaching journey. The whole process was amazing, I never thought I would have the opportunity to become a teacher and teach the students to experience the darts culture. At the end of the program, some students asked me questions about darts, which made me feel a sense of success.


The biggest difference from when I started as a Programme Assistant to AWW was the exposure to young people and the fun I had playing darts and Muay Thai with them. I have found that interacting and communicating with young people is a very meaningful experience, and I have learned a lot about their experiences and perspectives, as well as learning more about myself.

When I realized that my one-year contract at the “Hang Out” was coming to an end, I started to think about my next step. I found out that there were vacancies in the **IT Department** of YO, and through Coco's recommendation, I got an internal transfer and stayed at YO. My new job allowed me to enter the technology field and learn more about IT, which I had never done before, and it was a very new and interesting experience for me.

Finding my direction and goal

When I was working in YO, my experience in serving young people made me realize that I have the ability to contribute to the society, so I gradually found my direction and goal - to join the civil service. However, the first time I applied for the examination, I failed. However, I did not give up and knew that I needed more preparation and experience. The next year, I decided to take the civil service examination again and put in more time and effort. This time, I finally succeeded and got the opportunity I had always dreamed of. I am very grateful for YO's continuous support and encouragement, which gave me the opportunity to contribute to the society and realize my dream.

Sincerely



Carlos Chung



Translated by Jonathan Ho