



贊助人：曾絕笑薇女士 Patron: Mrs. Selina Tsang

June 2012

My dear friend,

Eric got to know a triad gang at school when he was 13 or 14 years old and began to spend all his spare time with them hanging around on the streets at night. As the time he spent on the streets got longer he began to enjoy this life style more and more.

Some of his friends introduced him to “K”- Ketamine. In the beginning he just thought he would try it out for fun. But then he began to see the opportunity of making some money for himself. He used his “lai sze” money from the Chinese New Year to “invest” in over a thousand dollars’ worth of Ketamine (at “wholesale” price of course!). He mixed it together with some other things like talcum powder before he sold it to increase the quantity and then in order to attract more customers he sold it at the same price as he had bought it. But his “friends” also persuaded him to keep taking it himself. After all he was their customer and they wanted to make money too. But Eric soon found that he himself was consuming all his profits and so couldn’t make any money. So he stopped selling.

Because he was always hanging out on the streets with his friends, one day he came across our outreaching team. When the workers got to know Eric and his friends better, they suggested that they could go to the Hangout. Then while they were at the Hangout, Eric got to know one of the Program Assistants – Ah-Hin – who was teaching “Skate Boarding.” Ah-Hin taught Eric all the basic moves, mounting the board, moving around, turning and so on. Ah-Hin eventually suggested that Eric should apply for a part-time job at the Hangout and recommended him to the Social Worker in Charge – Ah-Ching. He then taught Eric how to write the application letter and how to do a job interview. And so it was that Eric became one of our Part-Time Staff.

Eric worked part-time in the Hangout but also continued going to school until he finished Form 5. His colleagues gave him a lot of support, praised his efforts and helped him set his future goals.

The longer he worked in the Hangout, the more distant he became from his former triad friends and the more he was able to establish friendships with his peers and colleagues in the Hangout. He worked hard and slowly began to share his experience with others – encouraging other young people who had become involved in the triads or who were taking drugs to make an effort to change. Once he became proficient in his work, he began to teach new Program Assistants. Not only did he teach them skills but also showed them the proper attitudes they should adopt in dealing with young people. It is not surprising that he was eventually promoted to “Program Assistant Leader” and served as a model for the other staff.

Eric has been with us for three years now and is really keen on Skate Boarding and wants to learn more about this kind of youth culture. For this reason he applied to be transferred to “AS Production” which organizes and manages events. They organized their own Skate Team and go out on events. Through constant practice and training they have been able to win “Best Newcomer” in a local competition and “Best Trick” in a competition organized by Nike. They also won two prizes in a competition organized by Converse.

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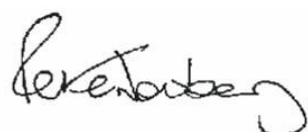
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With his team of skaters Eric continue to practice and upgrade their performance. Now they are beginning to go into Secondary Schools and teach Skate Boarding as an extra-curricular activity. But our social workers also go with them and meet the young people joining the activities in the school to assess their needs and provide them with appropriate help.

Eric is intelligent, capable and able to make friends easily. He has now been promoted to the post of “Assistant Youth Worker” in AS Productions and will continue to be a key part of their operations for some time to come. This is a long journey from selling drugs on the streets and hanging out with the triads.

I appeal to you to make a generous gift to help our young people so that they, like Eric, can turn their lives around with our help and begin to step out again the road of life.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Newbery', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Peter Newbery
Executive Director