



贊助人：曾鮑笑薇女士 Patron: Mrs. Selina Tsang

September 2011

My dear friend,

I include with my letter the story of Ah-Ho, one of our Program Assistants, who through no fault of his own became involved in a sensational criminal case which destroyed his self-confidence and his hopes for the future. He is now gradually re-building his life as he works with us here at Youth Outreach.

Please share Ah-Ho's story with your friends. I include a referral form so that if they would like to receive my newsletter regularly I can include them on the mailing list.

It is only with your encouragement and support that Ah-Ho and all the other young people we come into contact with can gradually get their lives back on track.

Sincerely

Peter Newbery
Executive Director

親愛的朋友：

隨函附上阿豪的故事，我們其中的一位活動助理。他沒有犯錯，卻無辜被牽涉一宗轟動的刑事案件裡。自此，他的自信心和對未來的盼望都一一被摧毀了。現在，阿豪與我們一起工作，正重新出發。

請將阿豪的故事與你身邊的朋友分享，如他們欲定期收到我的會訊，請填寫隨函附上之「推薦表格」並寄回協青社，他們便可成為我們的一份子。有賴你的支持和鼓勵，阿豪及一眾青年才可以在生命裡再出發，重過新生。



李文烈
總幹事
二零一一年九月

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My name is Ah-Ho. I was just an ordinary modern teenager; no dreams, no hopes no goals, no direction. I never really tried to make plans and certainly never thought about myself. Every time I begin to think about myself, my mind went blank – just like when a computer hangs.

The first time I took the school leaving exam my results were not so good. My friends all decided to go out and get jobs but I had never really thought about my future and so I decided to repeat Form 5. Looking back now, I can see that I was really just avoiding facing up to the future and so the time passed.

Another year passed and the following summer holidays were the same as the ones that had gone before. I hung around at home – still with no ideas about where I wanted to go. My family asked me what I would do if my results were still not very good. But I just ignored them and retreated to my own room.

My results that year were not too bad and so I got into Form 6. Like before, I finished the course and sat there waiting for my results. I was still at home and my family was looking around for jobs that I could do but I had neither the courage nor the energy to go and try for myself. My results were not good enough to get into university and so I felt that I was a failure. I became worried and depressed. I wasn't worried that my results were bad. I was worried because I was faced with the fact that I could no longer avoid reality and had to think about my future. I had to get a job.

I was so depressed that I never even looked at the paper showing my exam results. In fact, the first time I looked at it was when I went for a job interview at Youth Outreach.

Even when I was small I already felt that my family was a bit different from others, especially my Dad. I saw that other people respected my father a lot. They would obey whatever he said. I felt that his status must be very high and so I was also greatly respected. Even during primary school, the neighbors would call me “godfather” or “big brother” and were always willing to play together with me.

I remember once when I was playing with some of the other kids, one of them hit me. I went home crying and told my Dad that I had been bullied. He didn't console me but called my two elder brothers and told me to go with them back to the playground. When we got there, my brothers went over and spoke quietly to the boy who had hit me and he began to cry. Then this boy came over to me together with my brothers and they said “OK. Don't be afraid. Hit him! He just hit you. Now you should hit him back. You have to get revenge for insults!” Then I began to beat him wildly and he just stood there and did nothing. I didn't stop hitting him until he was lying flat out on the ground.

I could see that my Dad was very powerful and would protect me. He made me respected. I grew up sheltered by my father's power and the other people around me.

Then one day, things changed. That year, an “uncle” suddenly moved in to live with us. My father said that he would only be staying a short time. I never asked how long he would stay or what he was doing but I always felt that he was up to something mysterious. Then one day,

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after I got home from school, I was alone at home watching TV and suddenly the door banged open and a crowd of armed policemen barged into the room. I was so frightened. They searched the house and found a gun. The gun was wrapped in one of my worksheets from school. They arrested me on the spot.

I will remember that moment for ever. I was handcuffed, a bag was placed over my head and I was taken back to the police station for questioning. The proverb says “no-one will know your good deeds; but your bad ones will be heard for a thousand miles.”

The whole of Lei Yue Mun knew that I had been arrested and I was soon on the cover of all the newspapers and magazines.

My so-called “uncle” was a crook. My father had been harboring a criminal and keeping a gun for him. But from the moment the police burst into our house, neither my “uncle” nor my father could be found.

After this I moved to live with my mother. My mother and father had parted when I was small and I had not had much contact with my mother. At that time she had a very good boy friend and they were getting ready to be married. But after this, I could trust nobody and was afraid of getting involved with anyone. This was because the most important person in my life, who protected me, had betrayed me and then abandoned me.

From that moment I didn’t know who I could trust and certainly had no ideas how I was going to spend the rest of my life. The neighbors were always gossiping and I was afraid of meeting strangers. I cut off any contact with former friends because I was afraid that they would offer me sympathy and concern and I didn’t know how to face up to their sympathy and concern.

In the end, it became a secret buried in the bottom of my heart. I told nobody. I trusted nobody. From that time, I was lost. I had no confidence or courage to face up to myself.

After I got my results from form 7 I didn’t have the courage to go out and look for a job or make plans for the future until one day my uncle who was working as a Hip Hop instructor at Youth Outreach suggested I try for a job as Adventure Counseling Technician at City Challenge in Youth Outreach.

I still remember the day of the interview! I didn’t dare to look anyone in the face. I was afraid that they would see through me and see what I was thinking and then would betray me. But after I began working at Youth Outreach I slowly began to see how I could work. I could leave my terrible experiences behind and stand up to face my future.

I feel much better now. I know how to take up responsibility, how to work well and even more important, how to plan. I enjoy leading activities for young people and hope that my experience can be an example for them. Now I am planning my own future. I would like to go back to school so that I can take another step into my future.