



贊助人：梁唐青儀女士 Patron: Mrs. Regina Leung

May 2013

My dear friend,

Kin-tsai (“Little Kin”) got his name because when he first came to Youth Outreach, he was only 12 years old. But time flies. Now he is 25, has just got married and is holding down a steady job in Shanghai.

When we celebrated Youth Outreach’s 21st birthday party we sent him an invitation. He flew down from Shanghai just for this event and then returned the same night. I told him that since he was so busy and had a wife to look after there was no need to make such a special trip. He replied “Without Youth Outreach, I would have been out there on my own. Youth Outreach is my family.”

When he was small, Kin-tsai’s his father died of cancer. His mother became very depressed and slowly became addicted to gambling and alcohol. Their life became chaotic and this was when he came to us the first time. Later on his mother was able to apply for Public Assistance and so he went back home to live with her.

Several months later, his mother was still gambling and to avoid the loan sharks, she left Kin-tsai at home on his own and disappeared. He said he got so frightened when the loan sharks starting banging on the door late at night. This time he himself took the initiative to phone Youth Outreach and so he came back to live with us. When his mother eventually re-appeared she swore that she would give up gambling for good. She, together with Kin-tsai moved back to her village in the mainland where she thought life would be less “complicated.”

His mother of course was unable to give up the gambling and even living in the countryside, amassed huge debts which she had no hope of paying off. To avoid all the trouble she decided to move back to Hong Kong. And so, at the age of 19, Kin-tsai found himself back in Hong Kong with his mother.

Despite all the ups and downs in his life, Kin-tsai, an intelligent and hard-working young man was eventually accepted by one of the mainland universities. To find the money for his school fees and living expenses, his mother decided to risk returning to the mainland because she said that she was sure that she could find “easy money” there. Once again, she just disappeared. Kin-tsai waited alone at home for days. The landlord kept pressing him to pay the rent, but he didn’t even have money for food never mind the rent. Not only did his mother not find any “easy money” but there has been no news of her since then.

Once again he turned to us here at Youth Outreach. Later on, he told us “The social workers at Youth Outreach didn’t ask any questions. They just told me to come on over. I felt so safe that there was someone to stand by me and help me deal with all these problems.”

By this time it was the summer holidays and while he lived at Youth Outreach, he worked hard at a summer job which Chi-ho, our employment counselor had helped him find and when the time came he had earned enough money to be able to pay the university fees for the first year.

Kin-tsai said “When young people in the mainland go to university, it is a major event in their lives – the first time they leave home and set out on their own. The whole family accompanies

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them carrying their luggage and helping them settle into the student hostel. When I went to university, there was just me! I quietly carried my own luggage as I walked alone through the university gates.” Even now so many years later, he still has tears in his eyes when he talks about his experience.

But his struggles had just begun. He had found enough money for the first year at university but every long holiday, summer or winter he came back to Hong Kong to find work so that he could make enough money to continue on to the next stage of his studies. He lived in our hostel for working boys while he was in Hong Kong. Sometimes he worked until 11.00pm or even midnight. On one occasion he had to start the term late because he had not made enough money. Because of his hard life, he eventually got an ulcer and was admitted to hospital several times.

With the help and guidance of one of our social workers, he applied successfully for a grant from a fund in Hong Kong which sponsors students on the mainland. This took a lot of pressure off him and enabled him to pay more attention to his studies.

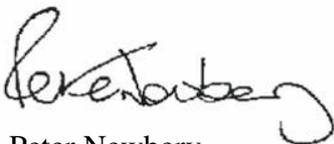
He was studying Business Management and the time came when he had to find a placement for fieldwork practice. But he didn't know anyone he could approach. One of the Executive Committee members of Youth Outreach heard of his problem and immediately offered him a place in his own company. Finally Kin-tsai graduated and now holds down a very good job in a company in Shanghai.

Last year he got married. The witness at his wedding was one of the social workers at Youth Outreach, Clement, who over the years has become his friend, almost an elder brother. Now he wishes to establish his own family. And as he said “I want my family to be like Youth Outreach.”

Kin-tsai is not one of our usual cases. But he has been with us for so long it is much easier to see what a struggle it is for many young people to grow into adulthood. It underlines the importance of the warmth and support of a family. For many youngsters it is not easy to grow up but if we can give them a firm and reliable base where they know they will be loved, valued and encouraged then the battle is half won. It can be done!

Please make a generous gift to help our young people. We cannot leave them “out there on their own.” They need us, our love and concern if they are to walk into the future with confidence.

Sincerely



Peter Newbery
Executive Director

PS: On the 8th of June we will be running a "flag day" on Hong Kong Island to raise funds. This is the first time we have tried this. Please inform your friends and colleagues and encourage them to be generous. For more details please view our web site : www.yo.org.hk