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September 2018

My dear friend

In the list of honors awarded by the HKSAR Govt. on July 1st this year, I was greatly honored to be given the Bronze Bauhinia Star. The award was made for the work for marginal youth being done at Youth Outreach, as it said in the citation, helping them foster a positive culture and develop talents, self-esteem and life goals.

I naturally feel greatly honored personally, but I also feel that what we have been able to achieve at Youth Outreach over the years has been the fruits of the efforts of many people – our dedicated and hardworking staff, our Board members, committee members, volunteers and of course you.

Without your sharing in our work, there would be no Youth Outreach and so many young people would still be out there on the streets during the night hours at the mercy of those who would make use of their ignorance and vulnerability to lead them further into the darkness. This is why I feel so strongly that you too share in this Bronze Bauhinia Star. On behalf of all our young people, I offer you my heartfelt thanks for your support and encouragement.

Whenever I write, I always try to focus attention on the youngsters we meet because this is the very reason we exist. To see them gradually gain in confidence, stand up again and set out on the journey of life is the greatest reward we can have.

Ah-kit came to us the first time when he was only 12 years old but he came again about a year later – obviously a very “active” child! He is now in his late twenties and one of our full time staff – a pillar of the Adventure Based Counseling Program (ABC). Two years ago, he took several weeks off to go and do voluntary work in Africa.

Ah-Fai dropped out of school and sold Ketamine on the streets (and used it too). Now he is a qualified social worker. After he graduated, we encouraged him to move out of Youth Outreach to broaden his professional experience and he is now serving quite happily in another NGO.

Ah-Ming dropped out of school in form four; got involved with the triads and ultimately had trouble with the police. When he came to us, he first worked as a technician for ABC but was so good we employed him full time and trained him up as an instructor. Based on his experience with us, he got a job working as an instructor in an ABC Center run by the Social Welfare Dept.

Coco, who is now the Assistant Supervisor of the Hangout originally came to us because of trouble at home. Now she has a family of her own and is, among other things one of the drivers of our 5.5-ton truck (called “Street

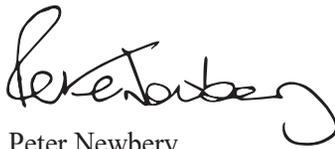
Rover”) which we use to deliver the Hangout’s services to the more remote areas of the New Territories – an unusual job for a woman in HK!

Jimmy who had worked for a while as a nightclub bouncer because he is tall and muscular, wanted to get out of that kind of culture and asked to join our employment program – involving a rather large cut in his monthly income! He is now a successful young businessman working with his brother in the Philippines and has recently had a baby daughter. Life goes on!

After almost 30 years of service the list of these young people whom we have managed to help get their lives back on track after a period of turmoil is long and gratifying. With your help, we can go into the future confidently reaching out to all these youngsters who feel they have lost their way.

As you will see, I have included a [referral form](#) with this letter. Please ask your, friends, colleagues and acquaintances if they would like to receive my quarterly newsletter. Our young people need their support and need to know that Hong Kong’s people are at their side, helping them as they move along the road of life.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Newbery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Newbery