A Five-Star Children’s Hospital

“A good hospital not only treats patients, but also attends to their needs.”

While state-of-the-art facilities are the pre-requisites for children’s hospital, service delivery model is also critically important, especially for a specialist hospital catering to the needs of children with life-threatening illnesses. At every stage of their journey as early as being newly diagnosed, admitted to the hospital for treatment, the post-discharge observation period, facing the possibility of a relapse or a lengthy recovery and reintegration into normal life; the young patients and their families are often overwhelmed by obstacles, feeling lost and helpless. If the hospital could deliver a holistic array of patient and family oriented support services in an appropriate and timely manner, this is as important as effective treatment.

Four Specific Characteristics of Children’s Healthcare

Children are the minority, lack of resources and unable to speak for themselves.

Children are generally healthier but when sick, tend to have a wider array of rare conditions than do adults.

Children and their health care issues change rapidly with time because childhood is a period of rapid growth and development.

Children must rely on others, most often their parents.

Hence, the Patient and Family-Centred Care service delivery model is the best fit for a children’s hospital where families are encouraged and empowered to partner with health care providers, working together to best meet the needs of the child.
Children's Hospital

Ideal Facilities for a Children's Hospital

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<tr>
<th>Design Principles</th>
<th>Below are factors that could augment the efficacy of treatment:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities for Movement</td>
<td>There should be plenty of space for children to move around freely, lay or sit down, create their own boundaries, expand their horizon and develop their potential through participation in various activities.</td>
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<td>Comfort, Security and Sensory Stimulation</td>
<td>The design should be rich in colours and cartoon characters, creating a sensory paradise which is multi-dimensional and ever-changing.</td>
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<td>Control and Identity</td>
<td>Allowing children to control certain aspects of their environment, such as visual, acoustic and, lighting level to give them a sense of ownership and self-identity.</td>
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<td>Social Network Support</td>
<td>Provide opportunities for child patients to network with their peers for support.</td>
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<td>Attention Diversion</td>
<td>To avoid a build-up of tension and stress, patients could be distracted and their attention diverted with mood-enhancing elements such as music, drawing, laughter and nature. Pets and animals posing no adverse effect on the illness should be allowed to visit child patients.</td>
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A children's hospital should be equipped like a home, with fully-reclining chairs next to all beds, kitchen facilities, lounge areas (with access to computers and internet connections) and bathroom facilities. This gives parents a welcome respite from stressful transportation and constant worries about their children.

A children's hospital should offer private spaces such as a family consultation room and resource centre, to provide comfort, convenience and sanctuary. Play, educational and work support spaces can also provide a continuity of lifestyle during the hospital stay.

Clear sign-posts directed to a reception area designated for parents will be helpful to the anxious parents. A children's hospital should be spacious and airy, a nurturing and warm environment for young patients and their families – a place where art, colour and open space are more common than white hospital coats.

Modern children's hospitals are meticulously designed, and are safe and friendly. It is desirable for child patients to tour the operation theatre with family members, whereby patients can observe, touch the equipment and if they wish, ask questions. As they tour the surgery preparation room, the operation theatre and the recovery area, they may meet nurses, anaesthetist and other medical personnel. Conversations, games and exploration will lift children's spirits and they will feel more confident in the surgery.

Wherever possible, patients at a children's hospital should be grouped in in-patient units according to their age and symptoms. That way, teenagers can be surrounded by those their own age, and likewise for younger children, toddlers and infants. This makes communication more efficient and convenient between the multi-disciplinary teams at the hospital when a variety of specialists and medical experts may be treating infants, children and adolescents with similar symptoms.
The battle against cancer begins when a child is diagnosed. As soon as the doctor breaks the news to the parents, confusion, incredulity, fear, anxiety, panic, helplessness and other emotions overcome them like an avalanche. With no clue what will happen next, they have instead a myriad of questions: How long will the treatment take? How the child will be affected by the treatment? Can a small child tolerate the treatment? Will their child be cured? How are they going to explain what's happening to the child?

In a specialist children's hospital, the patients and families not only need the support from medical personnel, but also the help from the social worker to give them advice and spiritual support to cope with family, psychological and financial problems brought about by the disease.

“In a children's hospital, the family counsellors should work closely with the medical personnel, be it during diagnosis, relapse or when the illness takes a turn and transitions to the palliative stage. They should support patients and parents by providing holistic services in a timely manner,” said Ms Catherine Tsang, CCF’s Professional Services Manager - Family Counselling. Ms Tsang also hopes that the children's hospital would deploy other service methodologies such as case study counselling, parent groups, parents-children groups, peer support and narrative documentation, so that families can experience more than mere setbacks and helplessness. Conversely, they may have the opportunity to develop their inner strength, wisdom, commitment to live life to the fullest and care for their loved ones.

During treatment, the child has to face many different types of medical procedures that often appear strange and threatening to the patient. It could be as simple as drawing blood, putting in a catheter, or keeping motionless during a MRI scan; every procedure has the potential to scare and unsettle an innocent child. In a children’s hospital, there should be a team of professionally trained child life specialists who are skilled in using age appropriate language and tools to prepare the patients for treatment, supporting and helping them to alleviate unnecessary fears and anxieties.

According to Ms Tammy Loy, CCF’s Professional Service Manager - Child Life Service, CCF recently has been actively promoting Child Life service, launching new initiatives in training and frontline service and widely recognised by many medical teams. Our child life specialist assisted in the treatment room daily helping child patients to receive lumbar puncture, bone marrow aspiration and drawing blood. We also assist in the diagnostic imaging and radiotherapy unit, and even in the operation theatre. In an ideal children's hospital, the child life specialists should be playing an important role in the paediatric team working closely with other medical team members.
Life-threatening diseases do not always have the potential for cure. As Children’s Hospital is specialised in serving severe cases such as cancer, cardiac and kidney diseases, children who might not be cured, should have the opportunity to complete their last journey with dignity.

The needs of these late stage patients are not the same as the patients from general-admission. The former needs the care of a team of professional nurse specialists who understand profoundly what the patients and their parents are going through. They can bridge the gap between the medical staff and the patients, and their special expertise could help to ameliorate the patients’ pain and discomfort. If the child chose to return home, the nurse specialist should provide home care service and also keep the hospital abreast of the child’s condition. Bereavement services should also be provided to the family after the passing of the patient to help them go through the grieving process.

"Ideally, the children's hospital should have a professional palliative care team, comprising specialist doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and clinical psychotherapists, working hand in glove to provide holistic care for the patient to improve his quality of life. The team will ensure that the child can live out his time on a high note and as comfortably as possible," said Ms Molin Lin, Professional Services Manager – Palliative & Home Care.

"When the child wants to return home, we must be mindful that support is delivered seamlessly. The hospital team and home care service must be joined at the hip, to support parents effectively when they encounter difficulties caring for the child at home."

Going Forward

Embracing the concept of patient and family-centred care, the hospital is not only a "children's hospital" but also a family hospital creating a true healing environment for the patients. Committed to the same belief, the Foundation has been relentlessly developing services to satisfy the needs of young cancer patients and their families. We look forward to the commencement of the Hong Kong Children’s Hospital so that we could continue to deliver our comprehensive range of services to the child patients and their families.
Wheelchair-bound Ho-hin insisted that he should stand up from his wheel-chair and walk. And walk he did, leaning on his mother, slowly up the steps to the stage. There he inched forward towards the board member from whom he would receive his certificate of appreciation for outstanding volunteers. The distance might have been short, but the effort and courage necessary to walk that distance was impressive enough that the entire audience gave Ho-hin a standing ovation. This little episode therefore provides a window to the iron-will and character of the 19-year-old, and, fittingly, an epigraph for this article.

Ho-hin, at 10-month-old, was diagnosed with brain cancer and underwent two brain surgeries. Having completed the course of chemotherapy treatments at age three, his family thought he had managed to evade cancer and would go on to live a healthy life. But, alas, a bumpy ride for Ho-hin had only just begun. Mrs Lo recounted what happened next: "I don't remember exactly when, but we had just finished treating the brain cancer when we discovered that he had water retention in his brain. He needed surgery to drain the water out, and then another operation when the tube was blocked. All in, he had quite a few surgeries, but he remained undaunted. So we made it through another crisis."

"When he was in Primary 3 we found another problem: his hearing was getting weaker and weaker and by Form 1 he was completely deaf." Mrs Lo said Ho-hin was not despondent. "He can't hear a thing, but he loves Joey Yung's Amazing Grace and My Pride. He would find these two songs online and even though he couldn't hear, he would follow the lyrics on screen and sing along. To tell you the truth, I was so touched by his attitude. He never once complained why he couldn't listen to Joey Yung. Had I been in his shoes, I'm not sure I would be so positive and accepting of my fate."

One crisis after another, Ho-hin was found to suffer from scoliosis and couldn't walk properly and had to rely on a wheel-chair. With his characteristic optimism, he took the latest setback in his stride. To prevent muscle atrophy Ho-hin practised walking in the park every day, without fail. Even when he really could only stand or walk for a few minutes, he would persist and keep walking, taking slow steps, as he leant into his mother – another example of his strong will to live. "I'm constantly in awe of his appetite for life – it definitely rubs off on me. I'm stronger with him and, for him. I have to be strong so I can continue to walk with him. If my son can do it, so can I," Mrs Lo said.
**Life Impacts Life**

Ho-hin’s indomitable spirit not only touched his mother, but his father as well. A traditional parent, Mr Lo had always adopted a strict policy of “protecting” his son’s best interest at all cost. For fear of accidents he didn’t want Ho-hin to venture outside, and there was no way he would allow his wife to take their son to visit the grandparents in China. Until a CCF-organised trip to Osaka provided the turning point.

Since Mrs Lo had great faith in CCF nurse specialists and doctors accompanying the group on these trips, she abdicated her usual role of chaperon in favour of her husband for the Osaka vacation. “On the trip he saw for the first time Ho-hin’s optimistic and extrovert nature; he could see his son was a different person when he was out and that Ho-hin was far more capable than he gave him credit for.” Mrs Lo explained the reason behind her husband’s change in attitude. With a chuckle, she said, “So I got brave and dared to ask to take Ho-hin to visit my elderly parents in Guangzhou. Amazingly, he said yes without any hesitation. I was so taken aback, and absolutely delighted! From then on I took Ho-hin to China regularly; he’s very happy that he got to travel with me.”

Of course, Ho-hin’s grandparents were very pleased with their visits. But it wasn’t all smooth sailing even after overcoming the hurdle of getting father’s permission. To see his grannies Ho-hin had to face the “nine-storey test” – nine levels of stairs to climb in the Chinese apartment block where his grandparents lived. He did not flinch from the arduous climb which took him at least 20 minutes. “Every time I told him that he would have to walk if he wanted to see his grandpa and grandma. Although he had to take a rest on the fourth level or so, he would happily continue the climb.” Mrs Lo said the first time Ho-hin appeared in his grandparents’ home, grandma who was quite elderly and fragile was elated, breaking into a huge smile. “He’s such a life warrior. His courage has a big impact on me, now I feel strong enough to face the future with him. He also inspires his friends and relatives to take on life’s many challenges with optimism and a positive attitude.”

Finally, Ho-hin wants to say to all the children who are battling cancer, and to everyone who is now facing adversity in life:

**Step on the gas pedal! Strive with all you have!**
When a Child is Diagnosed with Cancer...

We often say those who are not parents would never understand the trials and tribulations of being parents. When a child falls critically ill, the unspeakable anguish, pain, and hopelessness are overwhelming for the parents. There are no words that can adequately describe these emotions. When one is confronted by the news that one’s child is afflicted with cancer, it does not matter what social status, age or if one is a single parent, that moment of truth is bound to strike like thunder and lightning. Momentarily the world stops, the earth is motionless, as if one did not exist in that instant. After a deep breath the brain starts to churn in a million directions, calling up questions upon questions.

In the early days of the child’s admission to hospital, despite being weighed down with worry many parents still have to run around to get their child organised and make sure he has everything he needs. When confronting with the child’s mood swings and discomfort, parents have to put on a brave face at all times, continue to encourage and console, staying close by the side of the sick child, even if it means skipping meals or sleep. A few of the parents of the newly diagnosed have asked me: “Why do other parents look so relaxed? Am I normal to have these feelings and reactions?” I would say to them: “It is perfectly normal for you to feel rushed off your feet or flustered and to go through emotional turmoil when the child is first admitted to the hospital. When the child is newly admitted, not only does he have to get used to life in the hospital, the entire family have to adapt to changes and the effects of the hospital admission on family life. Whether it is physical care of the child, special arrangements at work, or adjusting family members’ roles and responsibilities, everyone is caught up in making adjustments and compromises.” Sometimes the unstable condition of the child will drive the parents to desperation. On top of these challenges, the reshuffle of family roles is likely to touch upon sensitive issues long buried in the psyche.

As a family counsellor, I help family members to reposition themselves so that they could function in different situations and circumstances. Walking their life journey with them, I listen to their frustrations, empathise with their feelings and needs, explore their coping abilities and walk hand in hand together. In the family of a sick child, I don’t only see their tears. More often I bear witness to their many blessings even in the midst of difficulties and to their gratitude, as they stand together as a family.
One afternoon in April 2016, Child’s Vision, the group formed by Retinoblastoma (RB) parents, celebrated its fourth anniversary. What a celebration it was, as more than 70 participants and guests packed into the venue to share the joy and celebrate the achievement of Child’s Vision reaching this milestone. The attendance on the day broke all previous records.

The theme of this year’s events is “Growth in Harmony”. Through the different activities, the group wanted to underscore the importance of a positive attitude in life, and to encourage RB children and parents to make the most of their beautiful lives as they support one another on this journey. We invited Kit to share his story and his experience in overcoming the obstacles and limitations inflicted by RB.

Employed as an editor in a media company, Kit is able to write about his triumphs in life and touched many readers. He shared how the disease and the surgery on the removal of his eye had impacted and confused him. When he was little he used to wonder: “Mom and Dad are always running around doing things for me; why are they so worried about me? What did I do wrong?” His candour in recounting his experience was helpful in allowing parents to understand more the internal turmoil of RB children as they grappled with the disease. Parents had a new appreciation of the stress and emotional burden their anxieties would cause for the children.

Often parents and children influenced one another, in body and in mind. If the adults could face life’s challenges head on, with a positive, optimistic attitude, the child would be more likely to be open-minded and accepting of his situation. We were told of Kit’s encounter with RB: “Fate may have cost me an eye, but it helped open my mind so that I can perceive the world more clearly, and I can truly feel what goes on in the world. When we are too fixated on the ‘loss’, we’re inclined to fall into the trap of self-pity.” Kit chose to live a positive life, and hoped to bring light to his fellow travellers. When faced with difficulties and hurdles, he chose positive communication and acceptance.

There are always obstacles on the road, which is also long. But the light within us is shining brightly all along, guiding the group of Child’s Vision parents forward. I feel honoured that I could walk beside you on this journey. Let us support and encourage one another, coalesce the light in each of us so that it will shine brightly on our path.

Comments and feedback from the participants:

“It’s a day for fellow travellers to meet and be one another’s cheerleader. We thank Kit’s generosity in sharing his experiences so candidly with us. It was like a booster shot, delivering plenty of positive energy.”
Ms Ng, volunteer-parent, Child’s Vision

“Child’s Vision is proud to have so many different talents among its membership; we can effectively look out for one another. The group embodies the spirit of big love in all its majestic glory.”
Ivon, Chairman, Child’s Vision

“The theme this year comprises ‘happiness’, ‘harmony’ and ‘growth’, which is amply evinced by the supportive, encouraging, and nurturing attitude everyone displayed in the activities.”
Patrick, Vice-chairman, Child’s Vision

“Time goes in a flash. Child’s Vision is four years old in the blink of an eye! The group is a great opportunity for RB children and parents to meet their doctors, and to share their stories of growth on this journey. I wish everyone courage and growth in conquering new heights together.”
Mic, Information and Promotion, Child’s Vision
We encounter so many experiences in life; inevitably not all of them are pleasant. The same experience, some may see it as a challenge and are determined to rise to it while others may retreat and give up, considering it an insurmountable hurdle. What about our Sunshine Kids and parents? Having been through the cancer crucible, how would they face the unpredictable future? What kind of attitude would they espouse?

Recently some 90 Families’ Club members and volunteers went for an adventure at Treetop Cottage in Tai Po. Sunshine Kids and parents took turns in trying out different activities in three groups: youth, primary school age and toddlers. It was a beautiful day, with the sun shining bright and early. So before the activities even began we had to face our first challenge — the burning sun! The parents’ esprit de corps immediately kicked in, as they shared sun oils, electric fans and sun caps in their battle against the heat.

What came next was the challenge of height. A tall tree measuring four to five metres high, donning rope ladders, a steady steel pole and a treehouse, was the focus of the adventure at Treetop Cottage. Under the supervision of the group leader, participants fastened their safety belts, climbed up the tree and then slid down the steel pole from about five metres above. This was quite a feat — merely taking a look down from that height would be scary enough, not to mention having to slide down a pole to get to terra firma. How do you think our group members handled this challenge? Almost all of them accepted the test. Some of them were so keen that they rushed to get their safety belts on and notified the group leader that they were ready and wanted to go up first. Others were hesitant at first, but as they saw other Sunshine Kids sliding down the pole one after another, they summoned the courage deep within them and joined in. For the kids that needed the extra push, their parents told them they would climb up first and wait for them. So the parent slid down the pole, followed by the child and then as they both landed on the ground parent and child would lock in a celebratory embrace. Can you guess which of the three groups fronted the most participants in this challenge? It’s the toddlers’ group, with the youngest participant only three years old. The little ones each took their turns three to four times, and declared the climbing and sliding a lot of fun.

Are we really aware of the number of obstacles we encounter on any given day? Our Sunshine Kids give it their all in their battle with cancer. Even when they are victorious they have to fight to deal with the side-effects of treatments and the aftermath. They might be exhausted but they never gave up. These trials are what they expect life to be. The challenges are there to be overcome and dealt with in a positive manner because they believe in a better and brighter tomorrow. We should follow the fine example set by our Sunshine Kids and their supportive families, and face life head on: “We throw down the gauntlet; we are ready!”
March is designated as Child Life Month in the United States and Canada to celebrate, honour and promote awareness and understanding of the child life profession.

Last March, CCF’s Child Life team, for the first time, organised its own programme in observance of Child Life Month. We created thematic decorations and invited patients and medical staff to pose against a range of backdrops in special designs. We also twisted balloons in the shape of CCF’s logo with the patients to promote the message “Care for Children, Support Child Life”. Leaflets on child life service were also distributed.

We were happy to see that both patients and medical staff remained a kid at heart, as they showed great enthusiasm in being photographed in various fun poses. The smile from the patients’ face, made us realized that despite their young age, they have great inner strength and courage to tackle their illness. The medical staff having routinely shoulder huge responsibilities at work also enjoyed a light-hearted moment with the children. The exact role of child life specialists is to help young patients to explore their inner strength and courage while at the same time engendering a fun and joyful atmosphere in the hospital wards.

Child Life Service is not confined to the hospital ward. During Child Life Month, our child life specialists also promoted the "child-centric" care approach to the department of radiology, paediatric surgery, diagnostic imaging unit, the operating theatre and the Hong Kong Red Cross Hospital School.

We are grateful that the Child Life Month celebration went successfully and was well received by the patients, their families and the medical staff, hence achieving our goal of promoting the awareness of Child Life. We would like to give special thanks to our volunteers who assisted us in many ways and to all the medical staff and parents of our patients for their warm support. The promotion will not stop here – Child Life Go, Go, Go! We look forward to your continued support!

Tammy Loy
Professional Services Manager
Child Life Service
Imagine telling a sick child to stay still when he has a piece of warm plastic covering his face. How will the child react? Imagine again, if the child is left lying alone in a room, motionless, with a machine his only company. Wouldn't the child be cranky simply because he's afraid? The situation, however, would be quite different if this happened to take place at the radiology department at Queen Mary Hospital.

As early as the 1990s, CCF's child life specialists began working with medical personnel from the radiology department at Queen Mary Hospital, using rehearsals and medical play to help comfort child patients and alleviate their fears about radiotherapy. “Even though radiotherapy isn’t painful, it requires the patient to be totally still and alone – no companion is allowed – so children who cannot manage have to be sedated. Having the child life specialist working closely together with the radiotherapy team of Queen Mary Hospital, has yielded huge potential for little kids. The youngest patient we have had wasn’t quite two years old, but he took on the challenge of radiotherapy and completed the treatment process without incident,” said Tammy Loy, Professional Services Manager (Child Life Service) at CCF.

The role played by CCF’s child life specialist in the medical team has been widely recognised, leading to early referrals by doctors. Once a referral is made, the child life specialist would work in tandem with the child’s family and medical team to discuss ways to help the sick child overcome fears about the treatments. The specialist would assess the various sources of pressure for the patient, his level of awareness, previous treatment experiences and the anxieties of the family. More importantly, the child life specialist needs to find out the potential strengths of the child and his family, and design a plan that will play to the strengths of the patient, and then follow up with rehearsals on how the plan may be carried out. Also critical to a successful outcome is the rapport among individual team members and that everyone from paediatric healthcare professionals to radiotherapists and anesthetists can be flexible about the arrangements and work seamlessly together.

The team work between CCF and the Queen Mary Hospital healthcare professionals proved to be highly effective. According to data collated in the last two years, more than 80% of child patients involving the participation of CCF’s child life specialist completed their radiotherapy treatments without sedation. The team, “Paediatric Radiotherapy in a Fun Way”, won the Outstanding Team Award at the 2016 Hong Kong West Cluster cum Queen Mary Hospital/Tsan Yuk Hospital Outstanding Staff and Teams Award Presentation Ceremony. Children’s Cancer Foundation is honoured to work with such exemplary medical professionals and be recognised by the Hospital Authority. We will continue our effort in delivering improved services to child patients.
Recently I’ve seen many cases of youth suicide. Every time I heard about these heart-wrenching stories, faces of children who succumbed to fatal diseases would flood my mind.

More than once I heard a gravely ill child say, “Let us swap lives; they give up on theirs so easily. We have to wrestle with death every single moment, all because we want to live a little longer.”

When a child is afflicted with cancer he faces a lengthy period of treatment that may or may not be effective or it may lead to complications, in which case the road to recovery will even be harder. Every day we bear witness to the love and devotion of the family as every member is mobilised to care for the child, and as much as possible tries to make the numerous treatments and tests more tolerable for the patient. We see the children’s courage and stamina, and are humbled by their determination to keep fighting for their lives. It is no wonder the sick children and their parents feel so strongly about youth suicide. More than anybody, they feel overwhelmed by sympathy, sadness and helplessness.

There are many narratives behind a suicide. Everyone’s personal story is complicated, difficult to be told in a few words. It would be inappropriate for us to judge or comment on the victims of suicide. But the fact remains that when someone takes his own life, the impact of this act on the people around him is often greater and deeper than anyone could imagine. A child who committed suicide leaves behind for his family endless remorse, incomprehension, and a profound sense of guilt that is likely to stay buried deep within for the rest of their lives.

By contrast, even though sick children may one day lose their fight and pass away, they and their families had put up a valiant battle with the disease. The courage of the children and their determination to live a precious life is humbling. Their life may be cut short, but they would have peace that everything has been done. It would be a life lived fully and without regret.

I wish for every family who has lost a child to hold on to their child’s zest for living. Love can conquer all, even death. Your child lives on forever in the hearts of those who remain.
CCF: How did the name St Baldrick’s come about? And why did it choose head-shaving as its main fund-raising event?

Richard: How we got the name St Baldrick’s indeed, is an interesting story…

In the year 2000, three good friends (John, Enda and Tim), all executives in the insurance industry in the USA, were enjoying dinner at the Jim Brady’s Irish Pub in New York City. They were feeling good about life and that they had happy and healthy families, successful careers and so on. It struck them they had a lot of good fortune, so they started to talk about doing something to give back to society. John shared with the others about how he lost his best friend in high school to leukaemia, a loss that still haunted him years later. He couldn’t understand how such a young, gifted life, with so much to look forward to, could be taken away at such an early age. The story touched Enda and Tim deeply, and they decided to hold a charity event to raise funds for childhood cancer research to find cures.

To fund-raise, they came up with the idea to shave their heads bald in public to stand in solidarity with the children who lose their hair during cancer treatment. They envisioned that the shavees – those who volunteer to have their heads shaved – to experience first-hand the awkward stares from strangers, one of the many challenges that confront a sick child suffering from cancer.

Since 2006 Children’s Cancer Foundation has joined hands with St. Baldrick’s Foundation from the USA, to raise funds for CCF by organising head-shaving events in local schools and corporations. Donations from the activities will fund local academic research in finding cures for cancer.

The head-shaving activities are very common in North America; launching them in Hong Kong, however, has met with considerable difficulties. As CCF enters the 10th anniversary of its joint cooperation with St. Baldrick’s, the editor sat down recently with St Baldrick’s Hong Kong representative, Mr Richard Kligler, to talk about some of the triumphs and trials in the last 10 years.

Facts and Figures on St. Baldrick’s in Hong Kong

- Over 30 head-shaving events since 2006
- 1394 shavees volunteered since 2006
- Over HK$20 million raised for CCF since 2006
Richard: I am not only the organiser of the St. Baldrick’s Day events in Hong Kong, but also the father of a childhood cancer survivor. My son Sean at age five was diagnosed with Stage 4 Rhabdomyosarcoma when we were still living in New York. Sean was treated at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre and underwent eight months of chemotherapy, surgery to remove the tumor, which was followed by 22 days of radiotherapy. I remember every minute of that experience. Sean today is an active, healthy 19-year-old young man, attending university in the USA, thanks to great strides made in cancer treatments. However, I observed that many children in the hospital lost their war. After witnessing Sean’s journey and the other children that succumbed to cancer, I decided to commit to help fund childhood cancer research. Since it is the mission of the St. Baldrick’s Foundation to find cures for childhood cancer, I decided to get involved in this charity and raise donations.

CCF: How do the shavees benefit from the event? How do they help fight childhood cancer?

Richard: Shavees benefit from the head-shaving in several ways. Firstly, by having their heads shaved bald, the shavees raise public awareness. People will ask them why they shaved their head bald and the shavees are then able to discuss the issues surrounding childhood cancer. Secondly, the shavees help to fund childhood cancer research by getting donations for shaving their heads bald. Lastly, when children with cancer see the shavees, they would feel a sense of camaraderie and that it’s okay to be bald and that the shavees are supporting them.

CCF: Do you think there is any misunderstanding among the public about shaving the head bald?

Richard: From my point of view, I don’t believe there are misunderstandings from the public about shaving. Of course, when people see someone with a bald head they might think that the shavee is being treated for cancer.

And there may be misunderstandings when it comes to actually being shaved bald. For example, on many occasions I have been asked by people who would like to volunteer, if they could only get a “short” haircut. I have to explain that the purpose of being shaved bald is to be in solidarity with the children that lose their hair during cancer treatment. Unfortunately these children do not have a choice on how short their hair will be when being treated for cancer.

CCF: How do you find launching these activities in Hong Kong? Are there any obstacles for you?

Richard: When I promote the St. Baldrick’s Day events I have an incredible feeling of satisfaction knowing that I am helping to help children with cancer. Back in the USA in 2003, I started as a shavee raising donations at a venue close to where I lived. I did the same in 2004 and 2005. When I relocated to Hong Kong in late 2005 I started to organise the St. Baldrick’s Day events. Now with 30 events under my belt, I still feel immensely gratified at each event, knowing that I am helping to fund very important research.

Organising the activities could be challenging; each event presents its own set of problems that I must overcome. Recruiting shavees is one of the most difficult tasks I have. During the organising process unexpected issues always arise that you cannot foresee. For example, a photographer or master of ceremony cancels a day prior to the event. Or I cannot find barbers to do the shaving. However, the show must go on.

CCF: Has there been anything in the past events that gave you a lasting impression?

Richard: What impresses me most is the enthusiasm of the shavees and the people attending the events. It is heartwarming to see how thoughtful and generous people can be when it comes to helping children with cancer. I especially enjoy the Hong Kong International School (HKIS) event because seeing children helping children is so powerful. The HKIS event is my favourite each year. Since the school has hosted nine consecutive annual events, it has allowed me to see students who shave year after year grow with St. Baldrick’s. For instance, Sean Nagao has shaved seven consecutive years. Then there are students like Sam Gillette that have shaved five consecutive years and Sam represents the Boy Scouts of America Troop 1 – Hong Kong in the event each year.

CCF: What drives you to keep doing this fund-raising work?

Richard: What motivates me to continue on this journey is seeing children battling cancer. When I personally meet children that have been touched by cancer, it reminds me of my son Sean and my energy level to continue to raise funds would sky-rocket. The St. Baldrick’s Foundation website has an “Honoured Kids” section that tells the personal stories of children with cancer. It usually includes a photo of the child, the age, type of cancer, status of the cancer and a background of the child. I just have to read about a child on the website and I can work for days without sleep. I committed to myself that I would not rest until the day childhood cancer can be treated like a common cold.

CCF: What are St Baldrick’s future goals for Hong Kong?

Richard: My personal future goal for the St. Baldrick’s Day events in Hong Kong is to spread them to other schools, especially to the local Hong Kong schools. I am confident that once a school hosts an event, it will perpetuate for many years to come. I also would like to see more corporations support this cause. The more donations raised the better chance we have for cures to be found. Hopefully there will be a day when cancer becomes a disease of the past and the St. Baldrick’s Day events are no longer necessary.
Hong Kong International School – Leader and Trendsetter of the Head-shaving Pack

Among the many head-shaving activities held over the years, those featuring students from the Hong Kong International School (HKIS) stand out for particular mention. 2016 is the ninth consecutive year that the school has organised the events to raise funds towards academic research to find cures for cancer in Hong Kong.

They have raised over HK$10 million in donations for CCF since 2008

The results have been very encouraging. What draws the many students, teachers and parents at HKIS to get involved in a head-shaving event, so much so that it becomes larger and larger in scale every year? This year Tommy, editor of CCF Newsletter visited the school to find out.

Arriving at HKIS’s Middle School Gymnasium, the party atmosphere was unmistakable and infectious. The student band was playing; the student dance troupe was rocking and shaking, as the fiesta went on. In the spacious auditorium stalls were set up for charity sales of food and drinks, raffle tickets, St. Baldrick’s T-shirts and the like. The venue was packed with students and parents, as well as those taking part as shavees, who all are keen to participate and lend a helping hand or give a donation for a worthy cause.

This year the event had several special guests, the Meeson family. Gaylene, the mother, shared her family’s story on stage with the participants. She spoke of their trials when eight-year-old Hannah was diagnosed with Medulloblastoma at the age of four and she spent her days going in and out of hospital. They put up a ferocious fight with cancer. Thanks to advancements in medicine and technology, Hannah did not have to live with a death sentence over her head. The family’s hope is for them to appreciate every single day and to live life fully, with contentment and gratitude. Gaylene said she hoped her family’s experience and Hannah’s struggle with childhood cancer would convince many more people to support St. Baldrick’s events. Her story was met with much enthusiastic response and applause from the audience, and underscored the shavees’ sense of mission in volunteering to be shaved bald.

The climax of the event came when several young students took their places on stage and put on the green St. Baldrick’s cape in preparation for the shave, as their parents and fellow students all swarmed towards the front of the stage and started clicking away with their smart phones, to capture every second of the shavees’ last moments of transformation. The voluntary barber had a great sense of humour; before he shaved the students completely bald he would design some funky patterns or weird hair styles for the shavees, thus delighting the crowd and causing a bee line of selfie-seekers with the shavees.
Thoughts from the Participants

It’s hard to imagine a school fund-raising event could be so much fun and so successful in achieving its goals without the support and encouragement of the school officials. Tommy met with HKIS Middle School Associate Principal, Kevin Krembs, to talk about the highlights of the school’s long involvement with St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

Kevin said he would attribute the partnership’s immense success over nine years to Richard whose organisation and overall project management were exemplary. From the life lectures to students prior to the event to venue decorations and planning the charity sales and other logistics on the day, HKIS could leave the entire organisation to Richard with total peace of mind. This resulted in repeatedly the active, voluntary participation by students and teachers who were committed to doing their part for the community. As this spirit got passed on from student to student, year after year, the school did not have to mount any major publicity campaign to recruit shavees. Naturally it was supportive of students who of their own volition wanted to raise donations for a great cause.

Joe Winston did not look like a typical teacher in a shirt and pair of pants. His carefree hairstyle, on top of his spiraling “Monkey” beard, had all been in aid of the contrasting appearance post-shaving: his head and his beard. He said nobody, not even his wife, could recognise him immediately after his first shaving.

Long before Joe joined HKIS as a teacher he had been a volunteer in St. Baldrick’s head-shaving activities. This year was his 11th as a participant. What drew him first to support the event were personal losses: his mother and two of his students had been cut down by cancer. He wanted to raise public awareness about cancer through the head-shaving event. At HKIS he was responsible for coordinating participation by senior Primary school students and teachers. This year more than 10 students and five teachers, including two ladies, volunteered to have their heads shaved.

Sean Nagao has been a long-standing supporter of St. Baldrick’s activities at HKIS, 2016 being his seventh consecutive year as a participant. He recalls that the first time he took part was to give moral support to his good friend, Carlo, a cancer patient. As he got to learn more about St. Baldrick’s mission and how its donation-raising activities would help fund research for cancer, he decided to continue to be a volunteer for the head-shaving activities in memory of his late friend, Carlo.

Teenagers are notorious for paying too much attention to outward appearances. Yet, as Sean entered Middle School, he did not give up shaving his head for St. Baldrick’s. Not only did he appeal to all his friends and relatives to donate in support of his head-shaving, he also gave up his free time to sell charity cookies and drinks to raise funds at the event to ensure that he would optimise his contributions.

This is the fifth year that father-and-son team, Chi and Arthur, volunteered at the head-shaving event. Shaving his head was no big deal for little boy Arthur who donned a short haircut; he found it even more convenient for his swimming training.

It was, however, something else for his father Chi who worked in the finance industry. Not surprisingly his company put great emphasis on the appearance of its employees when they meet with clients. It had taken Chi three years to contemplate if he should volunteer when he finally decided to do so five years ago. To his amazement his clients, colleagues and the company management all reacted very positively to his participation. He had a chuckle when some colleagues asked Chi if he was embarrassed by his baldness and offered to buy him a wig. Chi took the opportunity to explain the reasons that motivated him to be shaved bald. “We have to do our part to show people those aspects of life that are not well-known or understood. If people don’t understand they won’t do their share to help. Getting myself shaved bald presents an opportune moment to tell people the reality of childhood cancer so that more people will get involved and in turn more will receive the help they need.”

“Your donations may well be mere droplets in the ocean, but drops create ripples. Don’t under-estimate the power of a droplet. Together, drops make the ocean.”
Our 50th Issue! Out Now! - Thank You for your Support!

The CCF Newsletter launched in November 1991 has reached its 25th year of publication. From a simple four-page, black-and-white newspaper format, it has evolved to feature a magazine layout, then as a bilingual edition, and finally to the current, over 50 pages in full colour publication. The newsletter has also witnessed the development of CCF as it keeps abreast of the Foundation’s continuous expansion of new services to serve the families in need. We would like to thank you all for being our loyal readers all these years. We will continue to keep you informed on the meaningful work of CCF and the latest childhood cancer related news. Please stay tuned on our next issue!

For those who would like to help the environment, the newsletter is now available electronically. Simply email us at ccf@ccf.org.hk, with the subject line: e-newsletter. Please include your name, email address and donor number or postal address. Thank you for helping to conserve natural resources and save administration cost!

Be Creative! Speak your Mind! Submit your Story or Comic to CCF Newsletter!

Have you noticed the style of the cartoon is different in this edition? It is the work of a survivor, a talented artist under the pseudonym “NGO”. NGO had gone through a bone marrow transplant (BMT) when he was young. After the transplant he had to be isolated in a laminar air flow HEPA filtered BMT room for a long period of time. The drawings depicted his emotions while staying in the room. Children with similar experience will no doubt resonate with this cartoon. (Having to stay in an isolated room all the time, the arrival of a child life specialist would really brighten up their day!)

Hey buddies, if you would like to share with the families of other fellow travellers your thoughts and feelings on your experience battling with cancer, we cordially invite you to send in your work by email ccf@ccf.org.hk or call Tommy at 2815 2525.

Awaiting the Happy Moment  By NGO

Waiting, waiting...

It's the time!

Yeah!

Child life specialist is here~
November 2015 – April 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Donor/Organiser</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount (HK$)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 13-Feb 13</td>
<td>Solitude*</td>
<td>3rd Anniversary Fund-raising Campaign</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
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<td>Nov 21-22</td>
<td>Tsung Tsin Christian Academy Parent-Teacher Association</td>
<td>Information Day Charity Sale</td>
<td>10,855.80</td>
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<td>Nov 24-Dec 26</td>
<td>Marco Polo Hotels–Hong Kong*</td>
<td>Sharing Love &amp; Joy — Christmas Postcards Charity Sale</td>
<td>8,414.80</td>
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<td>Nov-Apr</td>
<td>The Castello Club</td>
<td>Castello Generous Exchange Square</td>
<td>3,281.00</td>
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<td>Nov-Apr</td>
<td>Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co Ltd*</td>
<td>Share My Song Programme</td>
<td>8,214.77</td>
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<td>Nov-Apr</td>
<td>Dr Peter Teo*</td>
<td>Fund-raising Campaign</td>
<td>136,919.10</td>
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<td>Dec 5-6</td>
<td>WENGI</td>
<td>Love, Life, 25 Art Exhibition</td>
<td>8,000.00</td>
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<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Hong Kong Taekwondo Development Scheme*</td>
<td>Taekwondo Competition 2015</td>
<td>3,600.00</td>
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<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation Limited*</td>
<td>Charity Campaign</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
<td>The amount was used for purchasing wheelchairs and other items for the Occupational Therapy Department of Prince of Wales Hospital and for home-based palliative cases.</td>
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<td>Dec 14-18</td>
<td>Regal Kowloon Hotel*</td>
<td>Chocolate Lollipop Charity Sale</td>
<td>17,745.00</td>
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<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>CUHK FAA Thomas Cheung Secondary School*</td>
<td>Fund-raising Campaign</td>
<td>9,000.00</td>
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<td>Dec 16</td>
<td>Turbo Jet*</td>
<td>Sale of Raffle Tickets</td>
<td>8,138.00</td>
<td>The event was held at its Christmas Party.</td>
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<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>Diocesan Girls’ School*</td>
<td>Mini Bazaar</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
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<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>St. Monica’s A.C.K. (T.W.) P.T.A.*</td>
<td>Christmas Carnival</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
<td>Audi Hong Kong*</td>
<td>Audi Quattro Cup Hong Kong 2015 Golf Tournament</td>
<td>86,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>True Light Middle School of Hong Kong*</td>
<td>Fund-raising Campaign</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
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<td>Dec &amp; Mar</td>
<td>YMCA of Hong Kong International Kindergarten*</td>
<td>Christmas Fund-raising Campaign &amp; Open Day</td>
<td>44,372.30</td>
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* Repeat donor
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<th>Event</th>
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<th>Remarks</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 9-10</td>
<td>Simon K.Y. Lee Hall, The University</td>
<td>Fund-raising Cycling Spin the Wheel</td>
<td>310,000.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>of Hong Kong</td>
<td>Ignite their Will 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 30-31 &amp; Feb 2-8</td>
<td>藝文青丶中文丶五星星同學會</td>
<td>「我的文青時代」年宵攤位義賣</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
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<td>Jan</td>
<td>Discovery Mind Kindergarten*</td>
<td>Fund-raising Campaign</td>
<td>6,676.00</td>
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<td>Jan</td>
<td>Face Saxophone Music Foundation Limited</td>
<td>Annual Concert</td>
<td>51,783.00</td>
<td>The event was held on October 18, 2015.</td>
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<td>Jan</td>
<td>Golden House Products Co Ltd (Handscript)</td>
<td>HANDSCRIPT Drawing Kit Charity Sale</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
<td>The event was held between March and December 2015.</td>
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<td>Jan</td>
<td>The Hong Kong Bankers Club*</td>
<td>Fund-raising Campaign</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>The event was held in 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Pacific Club*</td>
<td>Fund-raising Campaign</td>
<td>88,812.00</td>
<td>(Total amount raised in 2015 was HK$225,024)</td>
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<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>Chiu Yang Kindergarten &amp; Nursery*</td>
<td>Charity Sale</td>
<td>5,300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 15-16</td>
<td>S.K.H. Mung Yan Primary School</td>
<td>「好『是』成雙籌款活動」</td>
<td>11,455.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 16-17</td>
<td>Caritas Chong Yuet Ming Secondary School*</td>
<td>「利是送暖」</td>
<td>6,650.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Ltd*</td>
<td>Charity Lucky Draw</td>
<td>95,060.00</td>
<td>The event was held at its Annual Dinner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>Think International School*</td>
<td>The Run of Hope</td>
<td>63,253.96</td>
<td>The amount was raised by the Year 5 Class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 17, Apr 19, May 6 &amp; May 31</td>
<td>St. Baldrick's Foundation*</td>
<td>Head Shaving Event</td>
<td>1,390,450.46</td>
<td>The fund was designated for childhood cancer research projects.</td>
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<td>Mar 23-Apr 2</td>
<td>Mr Milk Tam &amp; Daughter*</td>
<td>Pedal for Hope Taiwan Cycling Expedition</td>
<td>22,250.00</td>
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| Mar 29 | Kam Yim Tong Cantonese Opera | 【粵曲愛心暖兒童】
**兒童癌病基金慈善夜** | 186,000.00 |         |
| Mar | Ralph Lauren | **Pink Pony Day** | 481,729.90 |         |
| Apr 1 | Chartered Institute of Housing Asian Pacific Branch | Charity Movie Night — Kung Fu Panda 3 | 20,000.00 |         |
| Apr 22 | Hong Kong Red Swastika Society Tai Po Secondary School | 「關懷午餐」 | 6,062.50 |         |
| Apr | Fubon Bank (Hong Kong) Limited | Fund-raising Campaign | 48,110.00 |         |
| Apr | Marco Polo Hotels–Hong Kong* | Marco Polo Loyalty Programmes | 2,100.00 |         |

Special thanks to

(1) The following donors for funding the Drug Sponsorship Programme:
   (i) Koon Wah Mirror Group for HK$1,000,000
   (ii) Mr Raymond Chan, on behalf of the late Mr Harper Leung Fook Tim for HK$600,000
   (iii) Hasbro Far East Ltd for HK$163,348

(2) Wing Sum Construction & Engineering Co Ltd for sponsoring HK$300,000 for the publications of the 2nd edition of the book *Understanding Childhood Cancer* and *CCF newsletter Volumes 50 and 51*.

(3) KPMG and TMF Group, Hong Kong for their pro bono services.

(4) *BBG Magazine, PCCW-Yellow Pages* and *HK Electric* for the free advertising space.

(5) icontact design & multimedia company limited for the design of promotional leaflet.

A note of thanks is also due to the many unlisted individuals and organisations that have made generous donations/donations in kind or have lent their support to the Children’s Cancer Foundation.

(The organisations above are listed in random order)
Patient Services Regular Activities (based on number of attendance)

Sunshine School
Nov 2015 – Apr 2016 209 parents and 200 patients attended 49 sessions.

Home-based Tutorial Service
Nov 2015 – Apr 2016 39 patients attended 104 sessions.

One-on-one Tutorial Class

Mathematics Tutorial Class
Nov 2015 – Apr 2016 110 children attended 20 sessions.

English Tutorial Class
Feb 2016 – Mar 2016 Six children attended three sessions.

Other Activities

2015

Nov
- A Dance and Movement Therapy (DMT) group was conducted for three patients at QEIH.
- Special thanks to Engineering Impact Limited. 28 parents and 18 children enjoyed a birthday party at QEIH.

Dec
- Special thanks to Engineering Impact Limited. 126 parents and 110 children enjoyed a Jolin Tsai Play concert at Hong Kong Coliseum.
- 215 parents and 218 children attended the annual CCF Christmas Party.
- Special thanks to UOB. Photovoice exhibition was re-run at PWH on the ground floor of the Main Clinical Block and Trauma Centre, Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH). An opening ceremony was held on Dec 10.

2016

Jan
- A group games session was conducted for three patients at QEIH.
- One survivor participated in a three-month internship at the Community Service and Rehabilitation Centre (CS & RC).

Feb
- Four group games sessions were conducted for nine patients at QEIH.
- Six Chinese New Year arts & crafts activities were conducted for 19 patients at QEIH.

Survivor Internship Scheme
Nov 2015 – Jan 2016 One survivor participated in a three-month internship at the Community Service and Rehabilitation Centre (CS & RC).

Youth Mutual Support Group
Nov 2015 – Feb 2016 27 survivors attended four sessions at CS & RC.

Hospital Bingo
Nov 2015 – Apr 2016 Five hospital bingo sessions were conducted for 23 patients at The Lady Pao Children’s Cancer Centre, Prince of Wales Hospital (CCC), Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEIH) and Queen Mary Hospital (QMWH).
Feb 18 A Chinese Soup Gathering was held at PWH. Around 70 bowls of soup were shared among parents, caregivers and medical staff in the ward. Eight parents attended the sharing session.

Feb 20 Six survivors from the Outward Bound 2015 training had a reunion with their two coaches.

Feb 20 & 27 Special thanks to New World Development Company Limited. Nine parents and three children learn how to farm at Yuen Long.

Mar A group games session was conducted for two patients at QEH. Two arts & crafts activities were conducted for seven patients at PWH and QMH.

Mar 3 Photo booths were set up at CCC, QEH, QMH and TMH to celebrate Child Life Month. 49 families and medical staff from the wards participated.

Mar 12 Special thanks to Chow Tai Fook Charity Foundation. 40 persons including 13 patients and their families had a day of fun at the Ocean Park.

Mar 13 Eight parents and nine children attended an Easter eggs making class at CS & RC.

Mar 16 A corporate volunteers orientation was conducted for six volunteers from Great Eagle Holdings Limited.

Mar 18 Special thanks to Engineering Impact Limited. 53 parents and 47 children enjoyed a Maria Cordero’s Concert at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Mar 18 A Chinese Soup Gathering was held at QMH. Around 70 bowls of soup were shared among parents, caregivers and medical staff in the ward. 12 parents attended the sharing session.

Mar 20 Special thanks to Ng Kwok King Charitable Foundation Limited. 38 parents and 38 children had a day of fun at a family day camp held at the Garden of Life.

Mar 24 Special thanks to Sino Group of Hotels. Nine parents and 12 children attended an Easter Party held at Island Pacific Hotel.

Mar 30 Special thanks to seven volunteers of Great Eagle Holdings Limited. An Easter Party was held for seven Sunshine School students and 13 family members.

Apr 1 Special thanks to Chartered Institute of Housing Asian Pacific Branch. 27 parents and 33 children enjoyed a Kung Fu Panda 3 movie at The One cinema.

Apr 9 Special thanks to Gold Coast Yacht & Country Club. 65 participants, including 58 retinoblastoma (RB) patients/survivors and their families attended the Child’s Vision 4th Anniversary Party. A survivor shared at the party his experience in fighting the disease.

Apr 9 Special thanks to Ground and Round Theatre. Three parents and three children enjoyed an Interactive Drama – People Live in Ming Dynasty at CS & RC.

Apr 14 A Chinese Soup Gathering was held at TMH. Around 60 bowls of soup were shared among parents, caregivers and medical staff in the ward. Four parents attended the sharing session.

Apr 17 Seven parents and nine children visited the Jao Tsung-I Academy and Dialogue in the Dark Experiential Exhibition.

Apr 30 – May 2 Special thanks to Gold Coast Yacht & Country Club. 13 volunteers manned the balloon twisting booth to raise funds for CCF at the 2nd Gold Coast Cardboard Boat Charity Regatta. CCF Sunshine Crew team with six survivors participated in the regatta.

Financial Assistance

Nov 2015 – Apr 2016 Financial assistance was given for the following:

1) seven drug sponsorships at HK$598,558
2) Sponsorship of two prostheses at GBP$7,029 and HK$57,783
3) one gene test sponsorship
4) three wigs
5) living expenses
6) funeral expenses
7) travelling allowance
8) supermarket coupons
9) subsidy for home removal

Half-way Homes

Nov 2015 – Apr 2016 A total of six families used the Half-way Homes.

Publication

Jan 2016 CCF Newsletter Vol. 49

Hospital Services

Dec 9, 2015 The quarterly Coordinating Committee and Palliative Care Task Group meetings with CCF and doctors from the five major public hospitals were held at QEH.

Medical Training

Dec 7, 2015- May 27, 2016 A doctor from Xin Hua Hospital Affiliated to Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine received training at QMH.

Mar 8-Jun 6 A doctor from Shandong Provincial Qian Fo Shan Hospital received training at CCC.

Mar 15-Jun 6 A doctor from Children’s Hospital of Changqing Medical University received training at CCC.
### Research Grants

**Nov 2015 – Apr 2016**

1. HK$179,600 for a two-year project on Multi-modality evaluation of cardiac function in children late after cancer therapy: the emerging field of paediatric cardio-oncology conducted by the Departments of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, The University of Hong Kong.

2. HK$2,179,600 for a two-year project on Multi-modality evaluation of cardiac function in children late after cancer therapy: the emerging field of paediatric cardio-oncology conducted by the Departments of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, The University of Hong Kong.

3. HK$320,000 in support of the genetic tests for a four-year project on Chinese children cancer group–acute lymphoblastic leukaemia multicentre clinical trial (CCCG ALL2015) conducted by The Hong Kong Paediatric Haematology & Oncology Study Group.

4. HK$1,633,396 for a three-year project on Cellular therapy for paediatric cancer patients and haematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients conducted by the Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, The University of Hong Kong.

### Staff Training

**2015**

**Nov 27**

A Social Worker attended a workshop on Palliative Care: How It Helps Patients, Families and Health Care System organised by The Hospital Authority.

**Nov 30**

The Services Director, Professional Services Manager – Palliative and Home Care Service, Professional Services Manager – Family Counselling, Nurse Specialist and Social Worker attended the 1st Paediatric Palliative Care Interest Group meeting convened by Dr C K U.

**Jan 7-9**

Three Child Life Specialists attended the Central Commissioned Training of Childhood Cancer on Multi-disciplinary Management of Brain Tumours in Children and Adults organised by the Hospital Authority.

**Jan 8, 15, 22 & 29**

Three social workers attended a four-day training on Bereavement Counselling organised by the Centre on Behavioural Health, The University of Hong Kong.

**Mar 11 – May 27**

A registered nurse attended a 10-day Advanced Training on Bereavement Counselling organised by the Centre on Behavioural Health, The University of Hong Kong.

**Apr 2, 4 & 11**

A social worker attended a training on 點滴親和婚姻治療訓練課程 organised by 中華基督教會香港區會婚姻及家庭輔導學苑.

**Apr 12-13**

The Professional Services Manager – Family Counselling attended a training on 非霍奇金淋巴瘤工作坊 organised by Talent Heart Consulting and Training Services Ltd.

**Apr 15, May 27 & Jun 17**

A social worker attended a training on 小組臨床督導及個案研討 organised by Green Pastures Whole Person Development Centre.

### Others

**Nov 5**

The Professional Services Manager – Palliative and Home Care Service gave a lecture on Palliative Care and Bereavement Care for Children Experience Cancer to undergraduate students of Department of Nursing, University of Hong Kong.

**Nov 18**

The Professional Services Manager – Palliative and Home Care Service gave a talk on End of Life Care to the nurses at the Department of Paediatrics, PWH.

**Nov 18**

The Professional Services Manager – Family Counselling and Community Services Coordinator gave a presentation on Enhanced Support for Brain Tumour Patients to 25 medical staff of PWH.

**Nov 27**

The Professional Services Manager – Palliative and Home Care Service gave a talk on Paediatric Palliative Care to the staff of Haven of Hope Sunnyside School.

**Nov 30**

The Professional Services Manager – Palliative and Home Care Service gave a presentation on The Experience of CCF Palliative and Home Care Service Provided for Non-cancer Child Patients and Their Families at the 1st Paediatric Palliative Care Group meeting convened by Dr C.K.U.

**Dec 3**

The Services Director was invited to give a presentation on the services of CCF at the Yew Chung Community College. Around 40 students from the Early Childhood Education Programme attended.

**Dec 13**

The Services Director and Professional Services Manager – Family Counselling attended a presentation on Paediatric Palliative Care in Hong Kong at the 1st China Paediatric Palliative Care Conference organised by the Butterfly Children’s Hospices at Changsha, China.

**Feb 29**

The Services Director – Palliative and Home Care Service gave a talk on CCF services at the Spring Reception held by Hospital Chief Executive of PMH and the 5th Meeting of PMH Community Partners Coordinating Committee.

**Mar 3**

The Professional Services Manager – Child Life gave a presentation on Counselling for Cancer Children and Families at the Post-registration Certificate Course in Paediatric Oncology Nursing organised by the Institute of Advanced Nursing Studies, Hospital Authority. The class consists of around 10 registered nurses / nursing officers working in paediatric units of various HA hospitals.

**Mar 17**

The Services Director, Professional Services Manager – Family Counselling, Community Services Manager and a Social Worker attended the 14th ACR Clinic Meeting organised by the Child Assessment Centre of the Department of Health.

**Mar 22**

A Nurse Specialist gave a lecture on Home Care Support from Children’s Cancer Foundation to nurses in an Enhancement programme on Paediatric Palliative Care organised by Institute of Advanced Nursing Studies, Hospital Authority.

**Apr 13**

The Vice Chairman, Services Director and Child Life Specialists joined the QMH Radiotherapy team to attend the award ceremony receiving an outstanding award of Paediatric Radiotherapy in a Fun Way granted by the Hospital Authority Hong Kong West Cluster.

**Apr 19**

The Professional Services Manager – Palliative and Home Care Service gave a presentation on Palliative and Home Care Service to the health care professionals working for paediatric patients in TWH.

**Apr 21**

The Professional Services Manager – Palliative and Home Care Service gave a lecture on Palliative Home Care Service for Paediatric Oncology Patients to the nurses studying in a Post-registration Paediatric Oncology Course organised by Institute of Advanced Nursing Studies, Hospital Authority.

### Public Education

**Nov 2015 – Apr 2016**

Talks on life education were given to 16 secondary schools, with more than 3,028 students attended.
Family Day Camp at Garden of Life

Let's learn more about these cute animals!

The doggy performance is amazing!

Awww...I get to hold them too!

Doggy is such a good goalkeeper!
Family Day Camp at Garden of Life

Would you like some?

Oh... I love colouring!