



養和醫療
HKSH MEDICAL GROUP

For Immediate Release

HKSH Village Volunteers Raise over HK\$1 million for Supporting Individuals with Visual Impairment and Multiple Disabilities through “Walk For A Vision”

(26 March 2023, Hong Kong) Over 230 staff and friends of HKSH Medical Group (HKSH) today took part in the 15th “Walk for a Vision” organised by HKSH Village Volunteers and raised over HK\$1 million for Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired (Ebenezer). The fund will be used to purchase a custom-designed 24-seater minibus for providing safe transportation to children, youth or elderly with visual impairment, intellectual or other disabilities.

This is the second time Ebenezer has been selected as the beneficiary of HKSH’s annual fundraising event. **Dr. Joseph CHAN, Chief Medical Officer of HKSH Medical Group, Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, and Chief Volunteer Leader of HKSH Village Volunteers**, said, “For people with visual impairment and multiple disabilities, safe travel is important for them to integrate into the community and explore the world. Fourteen years ago, HKSH raised HK\$740,000 to purchase a purpose-built school bus with 12 customised seat belts and three wheelchair spaces to cater for Ebenezer passengers with special needs. Considering that the existing mini-bus has worn out after more than a decade of service, we decided to raise HK\$1.02 million to purchase a brand-new school bus for Ebenezer. I am pleased that our staff and friends show their unwavering support to Ebenezer as ever for helping people with visual impairment and other disabilities to travel safely and integrate into our community.”

Dr. Alice YUK, CEO of Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired, said, “Once again, we are honoured to receive the generous support from HKSH. Their donation of more than one million dollars will be used to purchase a new school bus. Since 2009, HKSH has been supporting Ebenezer through various voluntary initiatives, such as providing free medical consultation to the students of Ebenezer New Hope School and organising health talks on disability-related illnesses (e.g. respiratory diseases, autism, depression, and child psychiatric illnesses) for our staff to better understand the needs of our service users. These volunteer efforts not only provide tangible support to us, but also generate public awareness and support for Ebenezer. We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to HKSH Village Volunteers for their support and contributions.”

According to the data from the Census and Statistics Department, there are 199,600 people with visual impairment in Hong Kong, which accounts for 2.7% of the total population. Among these individuals, about 57% (113,900 people) have multiple disabilities (note 1). Ebenezer New Hope School is the only school in Hong Kong that caters to students with visual impairment, intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities. **CHENG Man Ching**, a student of Ebenezer New Hope School and a participant of “Walk for a Vision”, said that in addition to regular classes, the School also offers a variety of outdoor activities such as field trips, inter-class tours, sports events, and residential camping. Therefore, a school bus with wheelchair spaces is indispensable to pick up students for school and other extra-curricular activities.

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“This is the 15th anniversary of HKSH’s ‘Walk For A Vision’. We have raised over HK\$6.7 million and funded 14 medical-related projects through this charity walk. Over the years, HKSH has been actively fulfilling its corporate social responsibility through different forms of charitable medical services and activities. We encourage our colleagues to serve our community with their medical profession. Therefore, HKSH Village Volunteers offer volunteer opportunities, such as paying home visits to elderly to help them measure blood pressure and help them understand the medication they are taking. We also collaborate with other foundations to subsidise patients with financial needs to undergo cardiovascular surgery such as transcatheter cardiac intervention or cancer treatment such as radiotherapy at HKSH,” added **Dr. Joseph CHAN**.

“Walk For A Vision” is an annual charity event organised by HKSH Village Volunteers to support medical-related institutions and charity projects. Beneficiaries in the past years include Children’s Thalassaemia Foundation, Families of SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy) Charitable Trust, Children’s Cancer Foundation, St. James’ Settlement, Ronald McDonald House Charities Hong Kong, among others. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual walkathons were held in the past three years. This year marks a welcome return to a physical format in addition to a virtual option. The 8-km walkathon route starts at the Hospital, passing through Sing Woo Road, Blue Pool Road, Wong Nai Chung Gap Road, and Violet Hill hilltop before concluding back at the Hospital. Apart from HKSH staff, FWD Group, Olympus Hong Kong, Siemens Healthineers, Pui Tak Canossian College, Walk The World, etc., were also invited to form teams to participate in this year’s walkathon.

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Note 1: According to Special Topics Report No. 63 “Persons with disabilities and chronic diseases” (Appendix 4) issued by The Census and Statistics Department, “persons with seeing difficulty” referred to those who had perceived themselves as having long-term difficulty in seeing with one eye or both eyes whether with or without correcting glasses / contact lenses or using specialised visual aids/tools at the time of enumeration. Nevertheless, nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism and presbyopia were not included.

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About HKSH Medical Group

Officially launched in September 2017, HKSH Medical Group promotes public health and advanced medicine through a multi-faceted, coordinated approach across clinical services, medical education, scientific research and public health education. Members of the Group, including Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, HKSH Healthcare and HKSH Eastern Medical Centre, are dedicated to offering top-quality holistic care to patients, upholding the motto “Quality in Service, Excellence in Care.”

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About Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital

Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital is one of the leading private hospitals in Hong Kong. Living up to its motto of “Quality in Service Excellence in Care,” the Hospital is committed to serving the public as well as promoting medical education and research.

About HKSH Village Volunteers

About HKSH Village Volunteers Established in April 2009 and became an approved charitable organisation in July 2018, the HKSH Village Volunteers, which consists of HKSH staff members, doctors, nurses, nursing students, alumni of the School of Nursing and retired staff, has taken part in various community and fundraising activities to promote the health and wellness of people in Hong Kong through care and love. Two main fundraising events are the annual “Walk For A Vision” and “HKSH Christmas Party in Benefit of OSC”. In recent years, more volunteer programmes and services have been developed, i.e., “HKSH Health Buddies”, “HKSH Health Talks”, “HKSH Caring Friends” and “HKSH Trekkers”.

About Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired

Founded in 1897 by Hidesheimer Blindemission, Germany, Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired is a charitable agency of which all activities are founded in Christian faith. Ebenezer provides comprehensive educational, rehabilitation, career and boarding services for children with visual impairment and those visually impaired with intellectual and / or other disabilities, as well as residential care and nursing facilities for visually impaired elderly. Ebenezer is committed to “Nurturing PRIDE for a Better World” not only for the visually impaired but also for the community as a whole.

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Photo Captions :

1. Organised by HKSH Village Volunteers, the kick-off ceremony of the “Walk For A Vision” is officiated by Dr. Walton LI, Chief Executive Officer of HKSH Medical Group and Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital (fifth from left) ; Dr. Joseph CHAN, Chief Medical Officer of HKSH Medical Group, Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital and Chief Volunteer Leader of HKSH Village Volunteers (sixth from right); and members of Clinical Governance Committee and Hospital Management Committee of HKSH.



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2. Dr. Joseph CHAN, Chief Medical Officer of HKSH Medical Group, Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital and Chief Volunteer Leader of HKSH Village Volunteers (third from right), together with Ms. LOK Wai Kwan (second from right) and Ms. Sammi TSUI (first from right), Sub Group Leaders of HKSH Village Volunteers, present the cheque of pledged donation of HK\$1,020,000 to Dr. Alice YUK, CEO of Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired (fourth from right) and Ms. WONG Tin Ling, Principal of Ebenezer New Hope School (first from left).



3. The distinguished guests joined together to call for public attention on safe transportation and community integration for the visually impaired and multiple disabilities.



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- Addressing at the kick off ceremony, Dr. Joseph CHAN, Chief Medical Officer of HKSH Medical Group, Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital and Chief Volunteer Leader of HKSH Village Volunteers said HKSH has consistently supported medical charity and activities in various forms, such as providing free medical consultation and health talks, aiming to encourage staff to serve the community with their healthcare profession.



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