



For Immediate Release

Donation Ceremony of Ebenezer New Hope School Bus
by Village Volunteers of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital

(5 July 2011, Hong Kong) Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital (HKSH) is committed to upholding social responsibility. In 2009, the first “Walk for Vision”, a charitable walkathon, was organized with an aim to sponsor the purchase of a specially equipped 24-seater van for the Ebenezer New Hope School, which is under The Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired. A total of HK\$740,000 was raised, and a van donation ceremony was held today with the presence of representatives of both the Hospital and the school.

A Specially Equipped Van for Students with Multiple Disabilities

Before the school teaching staff, students and their parents, the donation ceremony was officiated by Dr. Joseph Chan, the Deputy Medical Superintendent of HKSH and the Chairman of Village Volunteers, and Mr. Leo Barreto, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired. Other notable guests include Mr. Timothy Lam, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mrs. Fanny Lam, Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Denny Lam, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired.

The walkathon donation was designated for the purchase of a 24-seater minibus, which was later van renovated as a 15-seater vehicle with a wheelchair platform, 3 wheelchair seats and 12 seat-belt equipped seats. The acquisition and remodeling was completed in mid-2010, and the new van is now serving the students with visual, mental or physical disabilities at Ebenezer New Hope School. As a major means of transportation for the teaching staff, students and their parents, the van has been in operation for over a year.

The Ebenezer New Hope School Van is purchased for the travel of students between school and home as well as for outdoor and life-wide learning activities. It also sends students for medical consultations in case of emergency. “Most students are with multiple disabilities, and about half of our 60 students require wheelchair assistance,” said Ms. Shirley Cheung Yuet Mei, the Principal of Ebenezer New Hope School, “This new van is a godsend to our teaching staff, students and their parents.”

The Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired is the only school for the visually impaired in Hong Kong. Under the organization is Ebenezer New Hope School, which serves children with not just visual but also mental and physical disabilities.

Free Consultation and Training for Teaching Staff and Parents by HKSH Specialists

Besides donations, HKSH has also organized wide-ranging activities for the teaching staff, students and their parents at Ebenezer New Hope School. “Since 2009, we have been sending specialists in such disciplines as ophthalmology, orthopaedics, family medicine, clinical oncology and clinical health psychology to visit the school,” said Dr. Chan, “Free health checks and health seminars are also conducted at the school each year, providing free medical advice to the students as well as health information to the teaching staff and parents.”



With serious disabilities, most students in Ebenezer New Hope School are simply unable to express themselves, and they require special care by their parents and the teaching staff. By conducting a series of health seminars on wide-ranging specialties, HKSH specialists can offer them professional advice on the daily care of students with multiple disabilities as well as stress relief. Skin allergy and nose allergy are prevalent among the students, and due to the school's financial constraint and the disabilities, students are seldom sent for consultation outside the school. Free consultations and health checkups are thus conducted by HKSH doctors during their visits, and besides allergy relief the school and parents can be better informed of their children's conditions after consultations.

Mr. Leo Barretto, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired, "We are fortunate to have a team of staff who care from the heart. Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital and its Village Volunteers also show care from the heart, that they are so generous not just in terms of money, but also in time and expertise. Their loving act warms our hearts."

In recognition of its contribution to community services, HKSH was awarded for the first time the "Caring Company" logo in 2011. HKSH promises to maintain continuous support for the students of Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired. And in the near future, the Hospital sets out to meet and listen to the disadvantaged in society by participating in wide-ranging charitable activities, serving the community with compassion, action and professionalism.

About Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital

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

About Village Volunteers

Established in April 2009, the Village Volunteers, which consists of HKSH staff members, doctors with HKSH privilege, nursing students and alumni of the School of Nursing has taken part in various community activities, such as visiting the home of the elderly and institutions for the mentally handicapped and the physically disabled, and other fund-raising activities, e.g. the annual Walkathon "Walk for Vision".

About Ebenezer New Hope School

Ebenezer New Hope School is the only school for the visually impaired and the mentally impaired in Hong Kong. Adhering to Christian spirit, the School strives to provide rehabilitation and comprehensive education to students with visual, mental and physical disabilities, enabling them to pursue good morality. Through education, students can improve their cognitive and self-care ability, overcoming the obstacles ahead and developing their potentials.

Photos

1. In the donation ceremony, Dr. Joseph Chan, the Deputy Medical Superintendent of HKSH and the Chairman of Village Volunteers, and Mr. Leo Barreto, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired (ESHVI), a parent and a student of the Ebenezer New Hope School, put a “heart” on the Ebenezer New Hope School Bus, filling the vehicle with love.



2. (From left) Ms. Agatha Hu, Director of Community Services Development of HKSH, Dr. Raymond Chow, Specialist in Family Medicine of HKSH, Dr. Hui Siu Ping, Specialist in Ophthalmology of HKSH, Dr. Joseph Chan, the Deputy Medical Superintendent of HKSH and the Chairman of Village Volunteer, Mr. Leo Barreto, Chairman of the Board of Directors of ESHVI, Mrs. Fanny Lam, Chief Executive Officer of ESHVI, Mr. Timothy Lam, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of ESHVI, Mr. Denny Lam, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of ESHVI, and Ms. Shirley Cheung, Principal of Ebenezer New Hope School.



3. Dr. Joseph Chan and Mr. Leo Barreto experience the “lifting” of the wheelchair platform.



4. The Ebenezer New Hope School Van donated by the Village Volunteers of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital.



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