**The Birthright Society Ltd.**

Report of the Executive Committee for the period July 2018 to June 2019

***The Birthright Programme***

1. Through the Caritas Family Service a total of 44 cases were handled (16 new intakes and 28 brought forward from last year). Detailed service statistics are illustrated at Appendix A.

***The Choi Wan Hostel***

2. The Caritas Choi Wan Hostel service is a service programme for women who need temporary accommodation. After the closure of the Pui Man House in September 1999, residential services are provided for birthright cases at the Choi Wan Hostel. The Choi Wan Hostel offers a capacity of 3 beds for birthright cases. During the period under review, a total of 11 mothers took residence at the Choi Wan Hostel.

3. We trust that these young mothers will enjoy a comfortable life during their stay to prepare for their future. Even a short stay will help these mothers overcome their distress. The Birthright Society contributes funding support to those cases who have financial difficulties. I have to stress that without the generous donation from our members and friends, we are not able to tender our support to these mothers who otherwise have nowhere to turn to.

***Prolife Programmes***

4. The Birthright Society joined the Diocesan Pastoral Commission for Marriage and The Family in the Signature Campaign on the 2019 International Day of Families on 15 May 2019 with the themes of: Defending Marriage, Protecting Families and Treasure Life.

5. The Birthright Society joined other Prolife Groups in the Diocese at the Mass on 31 May 2019 on the Prolife Day at the Catholic Cathedral celebrated by the Most Rev. Bishop Joseph HA. Mr. Bernard Chan, our executive member was one of the readers to lead the intentions of the Prayer of the Faithful in the liturgy.

6. The Birthright Society works with Caritas Hong Kong in the “Project Hyacinth” to provide service to prevent repeated abortion among those vulnerable young females aged under 24. These cases are identified when these young mothers attended public hospitals. A close liaison is maintained between the hospital and the project team to establish counseling and assistance whenever necessary. Another recruitment is conducted at those spots frequented by these young females in the youth outreach programmes. The service also aims at assisting young females to develop their life goal, providing close and intensive psychosocial postpartum follow ups, and developing a supportive system among them and their families.

7. The Project has during this period recruited 155 new cases, and organized a number of training programmes:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Service provided | No. of programmes | No. of participants |
| 1 | Vocational training | 5 | 52 |
| 2 | Parent-child attachment training | 9 | 142 |
| 3 | Mutual support program | 19 | 113 |
| 4 | Couple group | 1 | 10 |
| 5 | Family activities | 2 | 77 |
| 6 | Job placement referred to Greenbaby | 1 | 16 |
| 7 | Maternal Grandmother and TeenageMother Parallel Group | 1 | 14 |

8. Vocational trainings were offered to help these young mothers to secure job opportunities. Parental training is organized to help the young mothers and their children on Positive Parental Practice.

9. Other supportive services include 4,421 casework service delivery on home visits, counselling session, interview with family members and joint interview with other professions. 37 groups with 107 sessions of community training, supportive groups and activities on child care and parenting talk, parental training, mutual support and stress management programmes were held. 23 ex-teenage mothers were recruited to receive helpers training. Another 20 ex-drug abuse young mothers were also recruited as helpers.

***Fund Raising***

10. The Birthright Society took part in the Caritas Kowloon Bazaar at the Fa Hui Park on 11 November 2018. A net proceeds of $13,027.10 was raised. The activity offered the public the opportunity to get to know about the services of the Birthright Society in addition to raising funds to support the various activities.

11. The Birthright Prolife Walk was planned on 15 April 2018 at the Peak. However, the Walk was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Walk is postponed to 14 October 2018 at the same venue. It was a day full of life and support. A total of $44,260.00 was raised in this event.

12. Again, I wish to thank all members and prolife friends for their faithful support and participation in our fundraising activities.

13. The Birthright office has maintained a hotline to answer enquiries or assistance for help. During the period under review, a total of 111 enquiries were handled. The hotline service offers an immediate response to the help-seekers who sometimes need a word of support. An analysis of these enquiries is attached at Appendix B.

***Finance***

14. The total income during the period is $149,170.65. The total expenditure is $164,111.60.

15. As a token of welcome, the Birthright Society presented a red packet of $500.00 to the mother of the each new born of the cases under BR care to express support in their upholding the prolife spirit overcoming their difficulties.

**P*ublicity***

16**.** The Birthright Society has maintained a website ***http:birthright.catholic.org.hk***for the promotion, publicity and education of prolife programmes.

17. The Birthright Society joined the Diocesan Pastoral Commission for Marriage and The Family stall at the Book Fair held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre during 18 to 24 July 2018. We distributed prolife pamphlets introducing the activities and services to the visitors.

18. The Birthright Society organized a “Family Day Visit” on 25 May 2019 with 12 families of the young mothers under the care of Project Hyacinth. It was a day full of fun and laughter. These happy faces appear in the BR website.

***Obituary***

19. Members of the Birthright Society joined the mourning of the departure of the late Bishop Michael Yeung who passed away on 3 January 2019. Bishop Yeung, Patron of the BR, has urged utmost concern on the respect of life, born and unborn, especially to show practical support to the vulnerable young mothers who sometimes are fallen into misery. May his concern remains with us in our services. We pray for his continual blessing from heaven together with all Saints.

***Acknowledgement***

20. We wish to thank all members and friends for the support. We extend our appreciation to Caritas Hong Kong for the professional services offered in the care for the young mothers at the Choi Wan Hostel and all other supporting services; to Messrs. F.S. Li & Co. for their complimentary services to audit our accounts. Our sincere gratitude also goes to all donors, benefactors and volunteers for the generosity which have helped join hands to relieve the mothers in distress and to promote the treasure and respect for life.

Dr. Peter Au Yeung Kar Kit

Chairman

The Birthright Society Ltd.

18 October 2019