



ChildDevelopmentFund

Newsletter 03

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Flying dreams come true

The sky is the limit.

The Child Development Fund (CDF) aims at promoting the longer term development of young people from a disadvantaged background. In October 2015, a group of CDF participants joined the “Journey of Dreams” flight programme organised by Dragonair for the first time. Through the programme, not only were they able to fulfil their dreams to fly but they also gained a better understanding of the aviation industry.

Our CDF participants were first arranged to attend an interactive educational workshop of Dragonair, “Aviation 360”, to know more about behind-the-scenes aviation operations. Together with their families and mentors, they had their first real flight three weeks after the workshop.



Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie LAM, and Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Matthew CHEUNG, shared the excitement of CDF participants in the cabin.



Triumph in the skies

Dragonair's "Journey of Dreams" on 15 November 2015 enabled 52 CDF families, totalled 166 individuals including CDF participants, their family members and mentors, to enjoy a happy and memorable first-ever flight together.



Officiating at the event, Chief Secretary for Administration Mrs Carrie LAM remarked that the "Journey of Dreams" was a name that fitted the event very well. It realised the dreams for a flight journey of CDF participants, and, at the same time, matched the CDF objectives to encourage children to pursue their dreams and maximise their potentials by consistently learning and equipping themselves in their growth process.



Dragonair's Chief Executive Officer Mr Algernon YAU hoped that the programme would provide participants with a unique flight experience and give them the inspiration and motivation to plan for their future.





All participants had to go through the normal boarding process including airline counter check-in, customs clearance as well as travel document check by immigration officers before they could approach the boarding gate.



The information panel was showing that Flight KA 8795 from Hong Kong to Hong Kong was ready for boarding. The flight took off from the Hong Kong International Airport and circled over the South China Sea for approximately 90 minutes.



A participant was trying out the modern amenities and the inflight entertainment system inside the cabin of Airbus A330-300.



While some participants were enjoying their inflight meals, some were eager to check out whether it was true, as reported on the Internet, that being in the air would reduce the sensitivity of their taste buds to foods by 30%.



The event attracted a lot of media attention.

Interactive workshop “Aviation 360” offers behind-the-scenes insights into airline operations

Dragonair organised an interactive workshop “Aviation 360” on 25 October 2015 as a precursor to the real flight event to help CDF participants to know more about behind-the-scenes airline operations at first hand from aviation professionals, as well as to prepare themselves for their first flight.



Speaking at the event, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare Ms Doris CHEUNG was looking forward to collaborating with more caring companies like Dragonair to help enrich the experiences of CDF participants, enhance their knowledge and broaden their horizons.



Some ground staffs were demonstrating their duties such as preparing passengers for boarding.

The workshop was held at the Dragonair House. Through talks, interactive activities and demonstrations, Dragonair’s pilots, ground staffs and engineers pared down complicated aviation concepts into bite size pieces to help participants understand the principle of flight and the function of different parts of an aircraft. The cabin crew also explained the process step-by-step from check-in to boarding.

What they say...

LI Wing-man

Aged 15
Participant of the Industrial Evangelic Fellowship's
"Vision is possible: The voyage of love and dream" Project
(Hong Kong Island)

Wing-man, a Form 4 student, is a participant of CDF's fourth batch projects. She boarded the "Journey of Dreams" flight together with her mother, brother and mentor. Wing-man always wanted to be a flight attendant so that she could travel around the world to widen her horizons. However, she had once thought of giving this up because her language proficiency and body height might not meet the entry requirements. Through CDF's Mentorship programme, she met her mentor Janice who encouraged her to learn new languages. Apart from taking English and Japanese courses, Wing-man also planned to spend part of her targeted savings on studying French to equip herself for the job.

During the "Aviation 360" workshop, Wing-man had the opportunity to try serving drinks in the mock-up cabin. She also successfully reached and opened an overhead luggage compartment and won applause. The experience strengthened her determination to be a flight attendant and she even joked about working hard to grow taller.



Wing-man was serving beverages in the mock-up cabin.

LAU Ka-ho

Aged 16
Participant of the Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong's
"Growing Partners" Project
(Shatin)

Ka-ho was an active participant during the Dragonair programme and was eager to try new things. He was most impressed by the story of Captain Max MAK who shared that he had no flying experience until he was admitted to the cadet pilot programme which required him to fly to Adelaide, Australia, for the training. He was in the cockpit receiving his training the second time he was in the air. Ka-ho realised, after Captain MAK's sharing, that he should follow his dream even it appeared hard to achieve at the moment.

Ka-ho is a participant of CDF's fourth batch projects. He invited his mentor, TSOI Kong-sang, to join the flight with him. Ka-ho recalled that he had no purpose in life before joining the CDF project, not to mention planning for the future. Through the Mentorship programme, Ka-ho met his mentor who came from a similar background. It was due in great measure to his mentor's selflessness and encouragement, Ka-ho is now a hard-working student at school. His plan is to become a social worker to help those in needs referencing his own experience.



A snapshot of Ka-ho (right) with Dragonair's First Officer.

About the Programme

The CDF participants taking part in the "Journey of Dreams" flight were shortlisted through the "Plan For Your Future, Dreams Come True" competition organised by four NGO operators – The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong, Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service, The Industrial Evangelic Fellowship and Hong Kong Playground Association. Through artworks, photos and short essays, CDF participants shared their dreams ranging from becoming a pilot, doctor without borders, ballet dancer to travel around the world.

Majority of the participants for the flight have joined the CDF projects for two years and have completed the two-year Targeted Savings programme. They will make use of the savings to implement their Personal Development Plans this year.

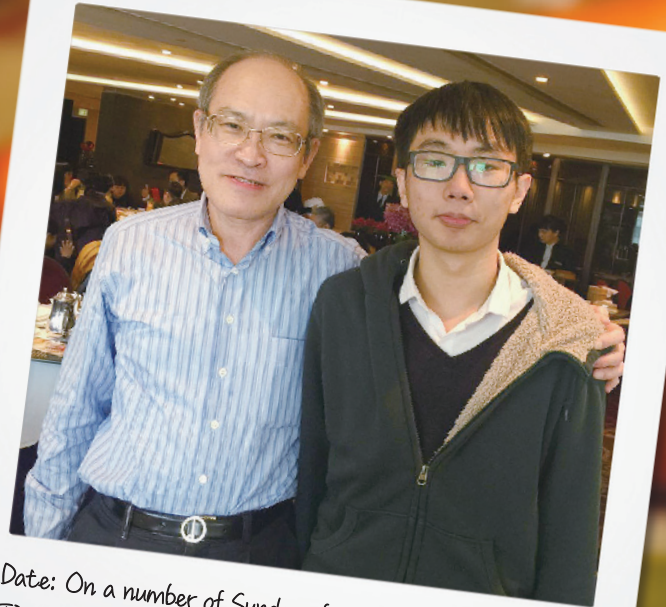
Supporting Organisation:



DRAGONAIR
港龍航空

“The more you give,
the more you receive.”

Established in 2008, the Steering Committee on the Child Development Fund oversees and monitors the implementation, promotion and the relevant consultancy of CDF, as well as considers other related matters. In this issue, Committee Member Mr Michael WONG Yick-kam is invited to share his experience as a CDF mentor.



Date: On a number of Sundays from mid-2009 to 2012
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: A food court in Tung Chung



(English Translation)

Michael WONG Yick-kam

Mr WONG obtained both his Bachelor and Master degrees of Business Administration from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and had been working in the business sector since graduation. He retired as an Executive Director of Sun Hung Kai Properties in 2010. Mr WONG is active in voluntary and community services. He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of New Asia College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Deputy Chairman of The Open University of Hong Kong. Previously he was also the Chairman of the Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association.

Overcome language hurdle to scale new heights

This was where and when I started my mentor-mentee relationship with LEE and seeing him regularly.

I had never been a mentor to secondary students before LEE. I did join with some basic understanding of mentoring given my involvement in CUHK's Mentorship Programme in which I had been a mentor to university students for a few years to share my business experience and some interpersonal skills in workplace. And with the encouragement of my fellow Committee Member Dr LEUNG Nai-kong, I decided to give it a go.

LEE was accompanied by his mother when I first met him. "We do not mind being poor, but we do not want our next generation to be the same. Sending him to university is our biggest hope in life," his mother said to me. These few words reflected a mother's expectation on her son and at the same time empowered me to take responsibility for his development.

LEE was a Form One student of a Chinese secondary school in Tung Chung and enjoyed playing video games at his leisure. He was good at mathematics but his English proficiency was not as satisfactory. A good result in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), in particular English

language, is a prerequisite for university admission. To help improve his English, I shared with him my own learning tips such as writing English daily diary and book reviews, watching TV news on the English channels and reading English journals etc.

When LEE was in Form Five, he once failed an English test which truly saddened and worried me. In addition to helping him to pick up the key revision points, I also sought help from a friend who was teaching English in a secondary school to give LEE some advice. All CDF participants are encouraged to accumulate savings for implementing their personal development plan under the Targeted Savings programme. LEE spent almost all his savings on taking English tutorial lessons.

I was extremely glad when I learnt of the news that LEE received satisfactory results in DSE 2014 and was admitted to the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. In January 2016, I got a WhatsApp message from LEE who invited me to a "yam cha" gathering with him and his mother. The gathering turned out to be a nice reunion which brought back many moments we shared together – It was my practice to offer LEE ice-cream every time after our meeting but he picked a cup to take home and share with his family instead. Today, LEE is a university student with big aspirations. I believe I will still have a part to play as his mentor and can provide career advice that he can count on in the days to come, which also means our relationship is going to last longer. All of us left with feelings of contentment after the two-hour gathering.

When I look back over our mentor-mentee relationship, I find that communicating with young people is absolutely a pleasant experience. It can keep your mind always up-to-date. It is also great to see the development of a young person into an adult who is able to contribute to the community. The satisfaction is simply beyond words. As the saying goes, "The more you give, the more you receive".

黃奕鏗

Club Deposit: Building up savings in a disciplined manner

A new trend was emerging among project operators to open individual savings account for their participants and enroll them into a monthly deposit savings plan (Club Deposit) to manage their targeted savings. Mr William NG Man-sui, Social Work Supervisor, Caritas Mok Cheung Sui Kun Community Centre (Caritas Hong Kong), shares his thoughts on the Club Deposit approach.



Caritas Hong Kong's CDF project covers a wide range of areas in Hong Kong including Cheung Chau, Stanley, Shek Tong Tsui, Aberdeen, Kennedy Town and Caine Road. With a partner like the Bank of China Hong Kong (BOCHK) which operates branch offices in all these places, Caritas Hong Kong's CDF participants would then be able to access the banking services conveniently. BOCHK offers each participant an individual savings account and a Club Deposit saving plan with no administrative fees and minimum opening deposit or balance required.

Promoting autonomy, self-discipline and a greater sense of responsibility

With the two accounts, participants can check their balance anytime through passbooks, ATM machines, monthly statement or the Internet banking services. Targeted savings are made via autopay from the personal savings account to the Club Deposit account on a monthly basis. In other words, participants have to ensure that there are sufficient deposits in their personal savings accounts to make this happen. Otherwise, they will receive an advice of payment from the bank. "Our participants find the whole matter more serious and business-like as compared with receiving reminders from our social workers. This will help them develop self-discipline and responsibility," said Mr NG.

Growing a sense of accomplishment

CDF's Targeted Savings programme aims to cultivate a saving habit among participants. "Enabling our participants

to 'see' their savings grow will make them feel a sense of accomplishment. When there is a motivation, they will be less likely to give up."

Building an early understanding of banking operations

Given the prevailing requirement for minimum opening deposit, many participants from a disadvantaged background are not able to open their own bank accounts, thus affecting their access to various banking services. "We insist to arrange all participants, accompanied by their parents, to open their personal or joint account in person. By going through the entire process from filling in application forms to collecting their passbooks or ATM cards, they will appreciate that this is a real business and that every step and procedure must comply with stringent requirements. This will also give them a better idea of banking services and operations."

Reducing administrative burden

Project operators can also enjoy reduced administrative burden by providing their participants with access to various banking services, enabling a smoother and easier implementation of the Targeted Savings programme.

Apart from Caritas Hong Kong, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, The Praise Assembly, Chai Wan Baptist Church and Po Leung Kuk also have partnered respectively with BOCHK, Bank of Communications and Citibank to provide Club Deposit savings plan for their participants.



About the Programme

Target Savings is one of the three major components of each CDF project. Every participant is encouraged to save \$200 per month in the first two years of the project. Project operators, with the support of the business sector and individual donors, will provide matching contribution for the savings accumulated by the participants. The Government will provide a special financial incentive for those who can complete the Targeted Savings programme. Participants can make use of

their targeted savings to implement their personal development plans in the third year of the project.

Methods of implementing and managing the Targeted Savings programme among project operators can be broadly categorised into two. The first one is to set up a bank account in the name of the project. Participants are required to deposit their savings monthly by autopay, cash or cheque, and submit their bank-in slips to the project operators. The second one is to assist participants in opening their own savings accounts, and check their bank-in slips or passbook record on a regular basis.

YIP Fong-tung

Participant of the Industrial Evangelistic Fellowship's
"Keep chasing my dream, vision is possible" Project
(Wong Tai Sin)

A confidence-rebuilding journey



Fong-tung (first left) was showcasing her talent in the Ueno Park together with her fellow backpackers.

I learnt about Youth Square's Backpacker Challenge from our school social worker Mrs MA. The fact that they would send short-listed participants onto a nine-day and eight-night Japan trip for free was very attractive, especially to a student like me who came from a grassroots family. I submitted my application but did not hold out much hope as I rarely did well in school.

Somehow, my application was considered and I was qualified for a selection interview. I was the most junior student among the interviewees and unable to think out any new insights during group discussions. However, I did try my best to perform in the talent quest. At last, I was selected as one of the 12 Backpack Ambassadors. The whole team, led by Mr LEE Ming-hay, the round-the-world cyclist cum backpacking expert, flew to Tokyo for a nine-day and eight-night nomadic backpack challenge, and experienced an extraordinary expedition from low-cost travelling regime.

My favourite place had been Sendai. When we arrived, the place was celebrating Tanabata Festival and everywhere was decorated with colourful ornaments. We also visited Arahama Elementary School which survived the March 11 tsunami and earthquake. The visit left a deep impression on my mind.

This trip has changed the way I look at things and helped me realise what is important to me. I do better in school as I realise that I have to make efforts to achieve my goals. No pain no gain. I hope I can go to Japan again to visit the scenic places, enjoy the

gourmets and have fun. All of these motivate me to study harder so that I will be more prepared for a job that can support my trips in future.

There was also a lot of teamwork and mutual support throughout the trip. As the youngest member on the team, I received an encouragement letter from each of my teammates. While these letters kept me going during the trip, I am still relying on them to cheer me up at times when I feel sad. The trip has deepened my understanding of team spirit and selflessness, and fulfilled my dream to travel. I have rebuilt my confidence. I am doing better in school and do not look down on myself anymore. I am a happy person now.



Fong-tung (middle) expressing herself in the talent quest.

Christmas and New Year fun

In December 2015 and January 2016, almost 300 CDF participants, together with their families and mentors, were given the opportunity to enjoy "The Nutcracker" performed by Hong Kong Ballet and "The Sound of Movie" concert presented by Hong Kong Music Academy.

What they say...

"The Nutcracker"

CHEUNG Pui-ye

Participant of Po Leung Kuk's "The Flying Dreams" Child Development Fund Project II (Tai Po and North)

"I found the dancing scene by the beautiful dolls representing different countries of the world the most impressive. I was also surprised to see that Chinese Kung Fu and ballet dance were well-matched!"



WONG Wan-wai

Participant of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals' "Dream Together" Project (Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong)

"My favourite character had been the Nutcracker. He fought bravely against the Mouse King, and did not give up even when things went tough. I admire his courage and I wish I can overcome difficulties like him too."



Supporting Organisation:

HK BALLET
香港芭蕾舞團

"The Sound of Movie" concert

Supporting Organisation:



TSANG Kit-yu

Participant of the The Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service's "Step Up 5 - Life Guiding" Project (Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong)

"Through the concert, I realised that by working hard, one could earn a chance to perform on stage irrespective of age. The performance on the day was of master-class."



LEUNG Ka-ki

Participant of the Po Leung Kuk's "The Flying Dreams" Child Development Fund Project II (Tai Po and North District)

"The concert was a special one as it featured Disney stories and the audience really engaged in the interactive session. It also offered me a wonderful opportunity to enjoy music together with my mentor, something that both of us are interested in."



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