



Silver Lining
Journal



It's Time to be Genuine

A Different Life at **Silver Lining**
World Cerebral Palsy Day (Oct 6):
We are here, Art together!

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Through our stories, Silver Lining Journal
hopes to share love and hope with our readers.



Mission Statement: "Your Love changes lives."

Silver Lining is committed to help the impoverished orphans, students and disabled children in mountainous area, through improving their lives, education, job opportunities, rehabilitation and providing emergency medical assistance. With our love and action, we hope to send care and blessings to the marginalized and neglected, help them overcome poverty, while re-establishing their dignity and hope.

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A CHILD FROM
SILVER LINING FAMILY VILLAGE
IN MYANMAR

Photo by Laurence Lai

Close Like Family

"Thank you!" – Two simple words from Haiwei have tears streaming down my face at the Hong Kong Humanity Award award-presenting ceremony organized by Hong Kong Red Cross.

Over the past decade of serving disabled children, I am fortunate to have my husband by my side! I feel especially touched and delighted to receive the award with my husband. Yet, what touches me most is to see the progress of the disabled children and witness how their families regain strength! Haiwei's mother sobbed and told us, "Uncle Chris and Auntie Lydia, your unconditional and unrelenting love for us and our children is as warm as family love."

To the disabled children and their parents, we are the one who help and they are the recipients. To us, however, they are the real practitioners of Silver Lining's mission. "To walk with you with unconditional love; to bring hope to lives" – this is the belief we share with parents, who in turn also raise their children with the same belief! They really made an effort to demonstrate the strength and persistence behind this belief to other disabled children and their parents.

By Lydia Yeung



Haiwei is one of the beneficiary children with cerebral Palsy at Silver Lining. What a delight to have her and her mom at the ceremony!

If you remember the news series of Silver Lining on Cable TV two years ago, you may be aware of the connections between Lydia and me. Such encounter did not only result in my favorite news series in my journey as a reporter, but also led to my nomination for Lydia and Chris at the Hong Kong Humanity Award by Red Cross.

Due to my job, I learnt about this award and many touching stories of past winners. The word "Humanity" could be vague yet concrete – sometimes even a thousand words cannot explain what "humanity" is. But when you are touched by other's humanitarian spirit and their perseverance in humanitarian work, you will know what "humanity" means. Such moment of "enlightenment" was very assuring. I guess that was how I felt when I met Lydia and Chris.

Hong Kong Humanity Award usually receives individual nominations, but I insisted on nominating both Lydia and Chris in a single entry because of their mutual dependence on their journey of humanitarian work. Silver Lining would not have come to this day without them. The prize has added to their journey, but the greatest recognitions would be the inspirations they have brought to many, and the beautiful smiles on the faces of the beneficiaries.

Yuki Pang



From the Founder



Currently, about 25 children are staying at Silver Lining Family Village in Myanmar.

Opening Ceremony of Silver Lining Family Village in Myanmar

At the end of October, Chris and I went to Myanmar again. Besides visiting the villages, we also attended the opening ceremony of our Family Village in Myanmar!

Back in June, we have shared here why we decided to extend our service to Myanmar. My experience of serving in Myanmar is just the same as my experience 12 years ago when I visited the rural orphans for the first time in Guangxi. It was not my choice to go there but God's!

12 years ago, my volunteer experience had changed our whole family - within a short period of time, my husband and I took our three kids and moved from the prosperous United States to Nanning, Guangxi to serve local orphans. This time, when I visited the war refugees and orphans in rural Myanmar, my heart was as heavy as it was 12 years ago.



At the opening ceremony, the children were dressed in traditional costumes and brought remarkable dance performances.

The needs of children in Myanmar remind me of the situation of the rural children in China back then. Therefore, we have set up an orphanage within a short period of time to take care of children in need. The Family Village in Myanmar has received a lot of support and blessings from many friends and supporters. With all your blessings, we look forward to the future days with a thankful heart. I hope you will continue to walk with us, and that more people will join us to strive for a better future for these children! ☺

Give my Bag Program 2017



The Give My Bag Program has entered its fourth year. In order to concentrate our resources this year, we tried to shorten the collection period to a week. Despite the change of time, the response was great and nearly 4,000 schoolbags were collected in a single week! We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all our partners including Laurence Lai Gallery, the Metroplaza, East Point City and New Town Plaza (Phase 3) for their collection venue sponsorship.

In addition, we would like to thank all volunteers who helped to clean and organize all collected schoolbags in a very short period of time, so that the bags could be sent to the children smoothly. We could feel deeply the love of Hong Kong people! All school bags have been shipped to Guangxi, where our local colleagues will deliver the bags to the children with Cerebral Palsy and other students in rural and mountainous areas.

Although a school bag may not worth much, it carries the blessings from every donor. All effort is well paid when we see the beautiful smiles of our children!

18 parties took part and supported this program (with no specific order):

- Castle Peak Hospital
- Wells Fargo
- Island Resort
- Metroplaza
- New Town Plaza (Phase 3)
- East Point City
- Ma On Shan Centre (Nam Fung Group)
- HKEx
- Kerry Centre
- Scout Association of Hong Kong
- Swarovski
- WTT (Wharf T&T)
- The peak tramways Co Ltd
- Laurence Lai Gallery
- SKH Ma On Shan Holy Spirit Primary School
- North Point Methodist Primary School
- Property Management, Nam Fung Group
- Sino Property Services



Schoolbag Mascot promotes Give My Bag Program at shopping centers.



Schoolbag donors bring their schoolbags to Silver Lining's office.



Besides donating schoolbags, some participants also write card to send their blessings to the children with Cerebral Palsy and those from rural areas.



Volunteers work hard to organise and clean the schoolbags.

Sponsor Gathering

On September 30, a group of "angels" who joined child sponsorship gathered to share little moments during their sponsorship journey. Lydia, co-founder of Silver Lining, also shared about the latest work of Silver Lining in Guangxi and Myanmar. Most importantly, she took the opportunity to thank every sponsor for their love and support for the sponsored children and their families!

Silver Lining does not only hope to change children's life in a positive way, but that sponsors can also be blessed and transformed during the sponsorship journey. We hope the two sponsors' sharing below will encourage everyone to share more love and blessings!



Besides sharing about her sponsorship journey, Silver Lining Ambassador Becky Lee also performed the mandarin version of Silver Lining's theme song, "Precious Child, we're here!"

In 2009, I had started to make a regular donation after listening to Silver Lining founder's sharing which touched my heart deeply. Sometime later, I received a sponsorship handbook from Silver Lining. I did not know they had paired me up with a sponsored "daughter". I was thrilled and I started to think about what I could do for her and how to bring joy to her childhood, etc.

However, since I was busy at work, I could only contribute to this relationship in material ways. I always thought of her during travelling or seasonal changes when I would buy her some clothes; I would also make her cookies and buy her drawing tools, etc. The staff at Silver Lining always encourage me, "Don't just gift. Write her something!"

I had a chance to visit this girl a few years back. I got anxious, fearing that my Mandarin is not fluent and it would be embarrassing. I did not expect my "daughter" to hold my hand and give me a tour when we first met. We played games, took pictures and had dinner at her house. She said goodbye reluctantly when we parted. I visited her again the next year, and when I had to leave, I saw her standing behind a column, looking sad. I could never forget that moment. I hadn't really done much for her, but she remembered and treasured me dearly. Such love is simply heart melting!

Beatrice (a 5-year-old Child Sponsor)



About 7 to 8 years ago, Lydia and Chris took a band formed by disabled orphans to a sharing session, during which they performed songs composed by themselves. I was deeply touched by every song and had since paid attention to the work of Silver Lining.

Having met with some of the lovely children at Silver Lining, I kept thinking about them and their needs. Since I was unable to visit them often and take care of them, becoming a child sponsor has become a very good way to support them, and to let them know that someone cares about them!

I remember there was a time at Nanning's Rehabilitation Center, a crawling competition for children with Cerebral Palsy was held. Although they are disabled physically, they made every effort to finish the competition and there was not a second they wanted to give up. Their positive attitude had really impressed me and my child!

Although orphans seem to be lack of resources, their love is richer and more overflowing compared to ours! Although children with Cerebral Palsy are physically disabled, their attitude towards life is very positive. They have become the light and inspirations for our life!

Anna (a 4-year-old Child Sponsor)



Silver Lining co-founder Lydia (fifth from front left) presented souvenirs to sponsored angels who have supported Silver Lining for some time.



On behalf of every little angel, I want to thank every sponsor angel for your company in our childhood!



The angel on the pins have double identity: 1) It can be a "sponsor angel" representing the sponsors who send blessings to children; 2) It can also be a "little sponsored angel" who share blessings with their sponsors in another way!

World Cerebral Palsy Day (Oct 6) We are here, Art together!



World Cerebral Palsy Day has been established for five years with support from 62 countries and regions around the world. Yet, there is not enough attention for this special day in Hong Kong. This year, Silver Lining has started the first World Cerebral Palsy Day initiative in Hong Kong with the theme "We are Here". Not only do we hope that the general public would acknowledge people with cerebral palsy and their needs, but also to call on more people to show their acceptance and support towards people with cerebral palsy.

Co-organised by the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the event has received support from 15 organizations that aim to promote awareness of Cerebral Palsy and other special needs. To launch the event, there was an onsite painting project involving both participants with and without disabilities. A 20-metre long painting was created by over 200 students with Cerebral Palsy and other individuals in half an hour. We strongly believe that as long as the society is willing to provide equal opportunities and sufficient support and encouragement, people with Cerebral Palsy or other types of disability can also contribute to the society with their unique strengths and live their life to the fullest!



Besides painting creation, there were some booths of art creations and experiential activities, music performances and sharing sessions by those with cerebral palsy and their families. We hope our continuous effort would help realize a community that allows full integration of people with disabilities!



Art exhibition by people with Cerebral Palsy



Sharing session by people with Cerebral Palsy and their families



Students from Hong Kong Red Cross Margaret Trench School performed the song "You raise me up".



Dance performance by students of Hong Kong Christian Service Pui Oi School.



Wheelchair dance performed by members of Hong Kong Red Cross John F. Kennedy Centre.



Echo Valley Evangelistic Association For The Handicaps performed a special dance.



Tote bag handcraft booth by Footprint Gallery.



Experiential game booth by Department of Rehabilitation Sciences of HK PolyU.

Silver Lining has launched World Cerebral Palsy Day in Hong Kong for the very first time. As one of their long term partners, Hong Kong Polytechnic University Department of Rehabilitation Sciences is honored to co-organize the event. We also hope to take this opportunity to raise community awareness towards the minority group. During the event, our student volunteers had a chance to work with individuals from different social sectors, and to join people with Cerebral Palsy to complete various meaningful tasks including painting. In addition, some students also shared with participants about their experiences and reflections after serving children with Cerebral Palsy in China. It has been an inspiring event for the students. Apart from learning more about how the society can help people with Cerebral Palsy, they were also impressed by the wonderful performances such as wheelchair dances and choir.

After this event, we hope the society will understand more and increase their acceptance of people with Cerebral Palsy, and take action to improve their quality of life.



Dr Grace Szeto, Associate Professor, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University (second from right)



Ms. Wong, Principal, St. Paul's School, Lam Tin (right)

"We are here, art together!" I am delighted that two teachers and all 8th grade students from our school were able to attend World Cerebral Palsy Day on October 6, and to create a painting with people with Cerebral Palsy. We saw organizations from different sectors came together because of Silver Lining and witnessed their unconditional love and appreciation towards each other. From students and volunteers' attention to details, to the wonderful performances by friends with Cerebral Palsy, all these helped me understand that despite our individual differences, we can each contribute our parts and encourage each other to achieve more.

I am grateful for Silver Lining's invitation to take part in this special event. Let's work together to unleash the abilities beyond physical limitations!



I am delighted to see a group of children with Cerebral Palsy and other secondary school students get along well! I hope there will be more events like this, so that more will better understand and accept people with cerebral palsy and their needs. I hope corporates can also play a part!

— Mr. Lau Man-ching, Executive Director, SH Group (Holding) Limited



Although we are physically disabled, we are capable of contributing and facilitating a harmonious, mutually-accepting society. I hope this event can also promote equality for the disabled and raise public awareness towards disabilities.

—Mr Wan Sheung-yin (Guest speaker)



I feel strongest about sharing the message of an abundant love through painting creation!

—Wilma, Founder, Footprint Gallery Co. Ltd



I am glad to be invited to take part in World Cerebral Palsy Day, where students had a chance to perform and share their paintings. I hope people in Hong Kong can better understand the needs of people with Cerebral Palsy, and be more inclusive and encouraging towards them, so they can live more happily in the society.

—Ms So, Hong Kong Christian Service Pui Oi School



I was thrilled to witnessing the energy and confidence from their (people with disabilities) amazing performance. Instead of feeling inferior or complain about life, they shine with their liveliness, which is something we should all learn from! I hope more will support World Cerebral Palsy Day!

—Mr Ho Wai-kwan, Echo Valley Evangelistic Association For The Handicaps.





Thank you all sponsors and guests who came to support the World Cerebral Palsy Day Charity Walk.

World Cerebral Palsy Day Charity Walk



About 90 staff from Shanghai Commercial Bank and their families and friends participates in the Charity Walk.

On Oct 8, two days after World Cerebral Palsy Day's event, a charity walk named "A Small Step for us, a Big Step for them" was held at the Aberdeen Country Park to raise funds for children with Cerebral Palsy and their families. Over 200 participants joined the walk, including Haiwei, a girl with Cerebral Palsy currently studying at Silver Lining's rehabilitation center in Guangxi, and her mother. Their participation has brought much special meaning to the charity walk!

Participants started off at the Aberdeen Country Park P.H.A.B. Site, walking along the Aberdeen Reservoir

for 5km for fundraising. During the event, there were exhibition boards, handcrafting workshop, experiential games area and handcrafts charity sale for participants to learn more about the needs of people with cerebral palsy.



At the opening ceremony, singer-songwriter Mr Peco Chui shows his support by performing the theme song he wrote for Silver Lining.



During the event, they are exhibition boards to explain Cerebral Palsy, the origin of World Cerebral Palsy Day and work done by Silver Lining in this area.



D.I.Y Tote Bag Workshop



Participants are thrilled to be able to join the walk with Haiwei, who has Cerebral Palsy, and her mother.



Children writing cards for children with Cerebral Palsy in Guangxi.



Volunteer students from the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences of Hong Kong Polytechnic University explain to participants about the physical limitation of people with cerebral palsy.

My "Hong Kong Travel Diary"

10-year-old Haiwei has been receiving rehabilitation training and education at Silver Lining's Rehabilitation Center in Guangxi. Every child with Cerebral Palsy and their parents need to face a lot of challenges just on daily tasks. They indeed need a lot of support and acceptance from the society – which is one of the key messages World Cerebral Palsy Day(WCPD) hopes to deliver.

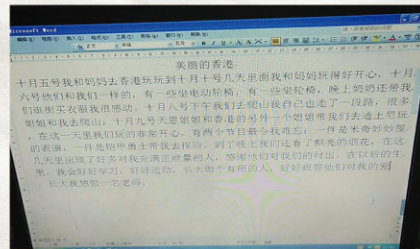
Silver Lining has made a special arrangement for Haiwei and her mother to take part in the meaningful WCPD initiatives in Hong Kong, as well as to show them around the city. Let's read through their Hong Kong Travel Diary!

Beautiful Hong Kong - Haiwei

I travelled to Hong Kong with mom from October 5 to 10. In these few days, mom and I had a lot of fun! On October 6, (I met some people), they are like us - some of them on electric wheelchair and some on the traditional ones. I was so touched that an auntie took us to shop for clothes on that evening.

In the afternoon on Oct 8, we went hiking with many people. I walked for a bit too. The next day, sister Tianen and her friend took us to Disneyland! We enjoyed this day a lot. There were two unforgettable events: The Mickey Mouse Clubhouse performance and Iron Man! We also stayed for the fireworks at night.

In these few days I have met many friends who are very positive to me. I am grateful for what they have done for us. In the future, I will study and work hard, I will keep up with my physical training. When I grow up, I want to be a teacher.



Haiwei typed up her own travel diary.

OCT 6

I took part in World Cerebral Palsy Day's event, where I saw a group of friends who also use the wheelchair like me. All the programs were amazing and exciting!



OCT 8

At the World Cerebral Palsy Charity Walk, I walked a section of the trail myself! It was fun to have many friends to hike with us!



OCT 9

I have waited this day for so long! Hong Kong Disneyland here I come!



Your Love has shown us Light and Hope - Haiwei's mom

We took part in several events during the six days in Hong Kong from Oct 5 to 10. Among all the activities, I felt most deeply about World Cerebral Palsy Day. I saw volunteers and other participants who supported and helped us.

Your help has provided opportunities for every child with cerebral palsy in poverty to receive rehabilitation education and development. Although a door is closed to our children, you have opened a window for them. At this moment, I experience a lot of love and happiness. My children, let us work hard together to overcome all the challenges and obstacles. A beautiful future is in store for you.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and care for impoverished children with cerebral palsy! We are grateful for His provision. ☺





Little Angel Child Sponsorship Program

With your support, every child can become a little angel that blesses others!

US\$38/Month

Become a child sponsor and connect with your sponsored child through letter correspondence or visit. Your monthly donation will enable Silver Lining to care for orphans and impoverished children in the mountainous areas, as well as children who suffer from cerebral palsy. Your love changes lives!



Become a Sponsor and bring me home!



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Silver Lining Missions

16 Corning Ave., Suite 206,
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US Donation Form

Register Date: ___/___/___

Donation for General Fund

"Silver Lining Partner" Monthly Donation ONE TIME ONLY

US\$20 US\$50 US\$100 US\$500

US\$ _____

Request Little Sheep

Your little sheep will be sent to your address.

Other Request: _____

NO Sheep

Little Angel Child Sponsorship Program

I'd like to be a Child Sponsor and sponsor _____ needy child(ren).

Monthly US\$38 Half-Yearly US\$228 Yearly US\$456

Please Cut

Silver Lining Missions would like to send you updates on our work and activities, please indicate your preference:

I want* / do not want to receive updates from SLM
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Your personal data will be kept strictly confidential and used only for communications purpose.

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Name : Mr/Ms _____ Tel : _____

E-mail : _____

Mailing Address : _____
(please use capital letter)

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Check Payable to "Silver Lining Missions" and send it with this completed form.

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(Please send a "VOID" check) Address: _____

Routing Number: _____

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Monthly

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*Note: CVV code is a 3 digit value printed on the signature strip on the back. (American Express 4 digit CSC is printed on the front of the card.)

Donation Receipt

For donations of US\$20 or above, an official receipt will be issued for tax deduction purpose.

Please send me a receipt (Receipt made to: _____) To help save administration costs, please do not send me a receipt.

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Become a “Silver Lining Partner”

Every Silver Lining Partner will receive a little sheep bank as a souvenir!



Since 2005, Silver Lining has been doing poverty relief work in Guangxi. We are committed to help disabled children or those living in poor rural mountainous area. Become a “Silver Lining Partner” through a regular monthly donation of US\$20 or more, you can partner with us and bring hope to children and families living in poverty.

With only
US \$20
a month
**you can make a
difference in a
child’s life!**

Your helping hand will bring a silver lining to children in need!

With your partnership,
we can go further!



CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE

Thank you for your support to Silver Lining Missions. Please help us keep our records updated by reporting any changes. You may send your updates to: info@silverliningmissions.org or fill out and return the form below:

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緬甸

雲彩家園

A sketch of Silver Lining Family Village in Myanmar by Laurence Lai.



Laurence Lai.
07 May 2017.

雲彩家園

It's Time to be Genuine

By Rachel Yeung



Rachel (right) is the second daughter of Chris and Lydia, founders of Silver Lining.



Selfie with a group of children at Silver Lining Myanmar.

I didn't know love at first sight was real until I saw the kids running across the courtyard to greet my parents, "Papa Chris, Mama Lydia!" It was instant, like I had just gained a whole family of younger brothers and sisters that I had known my whole life, and they were all so precious.

We were visiting the Myanmar Family Center in the morning. A little after we got there, most of the children changed into their green and white uniforms and got ready to go to the local school to learn Burmese. During this time, I got to teach some other children English. "One...ONE! Two...TWO! Three...THREE!...Four...FOUR..." They were like parrots, great at shouting and repeating what I had told them, it was the most adorable thing! Every one of them were so eager to learn. They would come up to me and asked about phrases in English and how to write them.



Mother Zhang (right) and her son Hao both work at Silver Lining Myanmar.



Girls dressed in traditional costume perform at the opening ceremony.

I spent a lot of time with Mama Zhang and her 16-year-old son Ah-Hao. Ah-Hao is one of the teachers at the Family Village Center and he really reminded me of my life in China when I was younger. Just seeing how much he loved and took care of the children really brought peace to my heart because they have such a good role model to look up to.

In late October, I attended the opening ceremony of the Family Village. It was filled with traditional dancing and singing and it was really a miracle in disguise. Five months ago, this orphanage was a mere idea, now, twenty-six precious little children have started their new life here. The children wore vibrant red and blue outfits, with huge smiles on their face as they performed dances that they had practiced every night before. Watching them dance brought me so much happiness, I had a smile on my face throughout the entire ceremony.

The next few days I traveled with the volunteer dentists and eye doctors and did translation for them. We saw people in the villages who have never seen a dentist before in their life and we met people who had terrible eyesight and didn't even know what a clear world looked like. We would see about twenty-five patients every day. Even as a mere translator, I would go home every night exhausted, but this team was so great to work with, they were here to just serve and I could see that they were truly a blessing to the people in Myanmar.



We set up a temporary clinic in a village primary school to provide dental and eye checkup for local villagers. I serve as a translator during the process.

To sum this experience up, this trip was really a trip of God. People in Myanmar are different. They're genuine. Genuinely nice, genuinely happy, genuinely simple; and that's the mindset we want to be at. This trip I had a great example of what genuine people are like, they aren't selfish, aren't expecting anything in return even from strangers. When we asked people for directions they wouldn't tell us to go, they would tell us to get into the car and they would bring us there. It's time to be different, it's time to be genuine. ☺

A Different Life at Silver Lining

by Xiaoyu, Rongchang, Auntie Bin, Auntie Xiaolan

About six years ago, Xiaoyu joined the big family of Silver Lining. Under the loving care of the aunts at Silver Lining, she changed from a shy and timid girl to a happy and cheerful girl. Xiaoyu is now in form six, getting ready for her college entrance exams and pursuing her dreams.



I was born in a poor village family where I live with my parents, my grandpa, two brothers and a sister. Our main sources of family income are harvesting and dad's income from outside job. At that time, there was not any highway near the village nor electricity supply, let alone telephone and television. Our only light source at night was a gas lamp. Though our family was poor, we were happy together. When I was little, I had no concept of poverty and assumed life was like that. Now that my life is better, I would not want to live the life I had before!

The dark days really came when my dad passed away. I was only nine, my brother seven and my sister three. My youngest brother was only a few months old. My dad's sudden decease had made my family life tougher. For us, the world was ending. My second brother and I had to take care of all farm work. I always cried due to long hours of work, but I knew it was useless to cry and life goes on. So we always cried while working. When mom saw us crying she would come to give us a hug and we cried together. I have already remembered the scene until now. When I thought of this, my tear still comes down on my face. Back then, I envied other families with a father because they could get their farm work done quickly, but my family.....

Later, mom had her second marriage and left four of us behind. Even so, I did not hate my mom. Our home was too poor and tough and she had a rough time. I hope she could find a good partner and I wish her happiness. Yet, my life had to continue. After my mom got married, all family matters had fallen on my shoulders. I would wake up very early and went up to the hills with my aunt to find some wild vegetables for the pigs, and took my brother to school. I always hid myself and cried due to fatigue, but I told myself I'd be brave and would not let my brother and sister suffer. I thought if I could do more, they could have a better life.



(Left to right): Second brother, Xiaoyu, Grandpa, younger brother, third sister

Maybe my effort had paid off. I remember it was the second semester of 5th grade. One day, someone from Silver Lining came to my home and brought me the Caring Centre in Dahua. I was stunned by how advanced the city was and life was easy. I no longer had to do farm work, and someone would even cook for me and teach me homework. I was very happy and touched, but only at the beginning. I thought my brothers and sister would join me at the Center too but they never came...



Xiaoyu (front row second left), who just arrived at Silver Lining Caring Center.

I kept wondering if my siblings were still doing all the difficult farm work. At that time, I just arrived at Silver Lining and I did not dare to ask around. Yet, I missed my brothers and sister every day. The uncles and aunts at Silver Lining felt my sadness and came to comfort me, yet I did not tell them the reason behind. Until sixth grade, my brothers and sister finally arrived at Silver Lining! I was finally smiling and that was when they realized why I was upset.

I was happy with my brothers and sister at Silver Lining. Time flies and I have already lived at Silver Lining for six and a half years! Silver Lining is my home. I receive care and attention from the aunts at home; there is always someone to guide me when I made a mistake at school. I am now in my senior year and had to stay in school dormitory. I would see my siblings in Sunday afternoons. Although I cannot be with them all the time, I am not worried since there are aunts to take good care of them.



Auntie Bin (first left) and the children she took care of.

“ I cherish all that I have now. I am grateful to have come to Silver Lining, where my suffering has been turned into blessings! ”

Sharing by Auntie Bin:

During our first year living together, everyone got along well. However, in the following year, 12-year-old Xiaoyu became very sensitive and impulsive, and she got angry very easily. Sometimes she would lose temper, throw things around and kick the doors for some minor issues. She wouldn't listen and sometimes even lied to us. I felt that she was not as well behaved as before and I was frustrated.

Later, Silver Lining gave us some training. Mr and Mrs Yeung (Silver Lining co-founders) told us about the psychological development of children of different backgrounds and ages. After some further observation, I believed Xiaoyu was entering the teenage period. I started not to criticize and scold her but to care about her, love her and take a stroll with her, waiting for her to grow and transform gradually.

After she was promoted to junior high, her temper got better and she improved on handling her own emotions. She was more mature in interacting and communicating with others. She treated me better and more politely. I am relieved to see her growing up day by day.

Xiaoyu is now a senior high student. I miss her quite a lot as I can only see her in the weekends. She has turned into a young lady now and I feel sweet seeing her!

Rongchang, 13, is a shy boy. In the previous summer camp, he shared his childhood memories and his life in Silver Lining, expressing gratitude towards Silver Lining, which gave him a chance to study. He is also grateful for his aunts' caring and teaching that make him feel at home.



My name is Rongchang. I was born in the rural areas. My dad passed away when I was very little and my family had since led a difficult life. I guess my mom was unable to accept this kind of life. I remember one day, mom took me out to shop and bought a set of new clothes for me and my brother. We went home and she held us in tears, saying that she had to go to make money somewhere far away because our family was too poor. She promised to come back with many new clothes and toys. She told me to be a responsible brother and care for my brother. I remember her words and did as she said, but until our new clothes had become old and torn, she had not come back ever again.



First visit at Rongchang's home in 2010.



Last year, Rongchang participated in a field trip.

When I got older, grandma told me that mom remarried, but I was reluctant to accept the truth. Occasionally, I also heard about my mom from other villagers and I gradually got used to it. Since then, my brother and I stayed with grandma and uncle. I became less inclined to speak with others, as I thought I was not lovable that my mom abandoned me. I thought people would look down on us. My brother was probably influenced by me and had become less talkative as well.

I remember one day in 2011, Silver Lining's uncles and aunts arrived at our house with a new schoolbag for me and my brother. I was so happy. They asked me, "If you had a chance, would you come to study at a new place?" I was not sure and was afraid to be rejected even if I said yes.

But not long after, they really brought me and my brother to the Caring Center. I felt so lucky! There were a lot of children here with backgrounds similar to ours and we shared lots of common language. A new family, including me, my brother and four other boys was formed under the care of Auntie Xiaolan. We had steaming dishes waiting for us after school; we could play together after dinner, do our homework, read and chat together... I began to see a purpose in life, and experience the warmth and love of a family.

I always thought if Silver Lining was not there to help me and my brother, how would our life be? Life was tough at our old home and there would not be any chance for me to study. We might stay home doing farm labor or follow a relative to work in some sweatshops...

“ Silver Lining has changed my life and given me a joyful childhood! I am truly grateful for Silver Lining's provision of a warm home, and a new chapter in life. ”

Child Story

Sharing by Auntie Xiaolan:

When Rongchang first came to Caring Center, he rarely spoke and I felt that he was an introvert. Sometimes, when I asked him questions, he just looked at me without giving any response and I was left confused. Spending a few months with him made me feel like ages. Facing a child who was not given adequate affection, I really wanted him to know I care about him, yet I still felt him shutting the door between us.

After I learned more about his original family's situation, I decided to spend more time building up our relations. From then, when I needed help with meal preparation, I would ask him to come washing the vegetables and preparing the meat, using the opportunities to chat with him and share with him about my childhood. Gradually, when I got busy he would stand by my side and look at me or try to help out. He also began to share with me about school, regardless of good or bad things. I felt very relieved and happy!

I found out that he likes to read and he started to interact with other kids. He had some good conversations and sharing with them. Therefore, when we had meals together, I would compliment him on his communication skills and encourage him to read more and be a model for other children.

This year, he is already in 8th grade. Although his academic grade is average, his teacher says he has good characters and his learning has been progressing. This is already a good start! I hope he would progress in all areas in life with a grateful heart, discover the beauty in life, and learn to love others. ☺



Rongchang (middle, back row) spent his first Lunar New Year at Silver Lining.



Auntie Xiaolan (first right, back row) and the children she takes care of.

Musculoskeletal Corrective Surgery for Cerebral Palsy

by Clare Cheng
(Senior Physical Therapist)

Starting from the new semester in September, Silver Lining's Rehabilitation Center in Guangxi has opened two recovery rooms where children with Cerebral Palsy can practice different exercises including circling vertical column to make turns, moving on a fit ball and some walking exercises. After an hour of intensive training, they went back to their classrooms to continue their lessons with no signs of tiredness but contentment. How is that?



Circling vertical column to make turns.



Sitting and moving on a fit ball.



Holding the bar and walk horizontally.



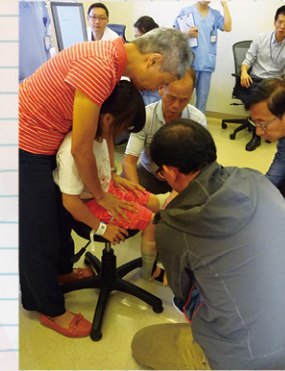
Jinxi could not stand before the surgery.



Today, Jinxi only needs mom to support by his side.

Jinxi was unable to stand straight even with the help of a ladder; he even needed his mom's help to sit on the wheelchair. But he is now able to stand and walk on his own. Several other children have also improved their walking posture and they can now walk more stably and confidently. What has brought these change?

Last year, Silver Lining has received support from Cornerstone Association, which shortlisted the children who are suitable to receive corrective surgery and sent them to the University of Hong Kong - Shenzhen Hospital, where orthopaedic professors and Cornerstone's medical team would co-review the cases. After the surgery is completed, the children and their mothers would stay in a rental home near the hospital for three months. Cornerstone's professional volunteer rehabilitation team would pay them home visits to guide them through early rehabilitation training, so that the parents can guide their children in their daily routines and training.



Simin meeting the doctors.



Professional volunteers of rehabilitation from Cornerstone guides the training at the homes.

Knowledge
Professional rehabilitation
volunteer sharing



Mom guides Xiangxun to stand straight.

Three months later, after the plaster is removed and all other hospital checks are completed, the children will need to undergo at least a year of rehabilitation training at Silver Lining to achieve satisfactory outcome. Teachers from Silver Lining work with the professional team's advice to complete all the pre-surgery, surgery and post-surgery plans in order to facilitate the children's recovery.

Moreover, parents of these children at Silver Lining have always joined their children in their conductive education and rehabilitation. Parents are well trained and are able to handle their rehabilitation both at home and at school. Our success is largely due to their effort! **It is worthy to note that parental participation from pre-surgery planning to post-surgery recovery was unprecedented in mainland China.**

Knowledge
Professional rehabilitation
volunteer sharing

Can all children with Cerebral Palsy receive surgery?

With such great outcomes and improvements, shouldn't all children with Cerebral Palsy receive the surgery? Absolutely not! Surgery is only an aid. Children with Cerebral Palsy can only improve in mobility through learning to control and coordinate every movement: sit, stand, change of location and walking. It is only when joint distortion or tendon contracture begin to limit the improvement of posture or mobility, the surgery can be helpful.

I have shared Jingjing's case in this column back in June. When Jingjing came to Silver Lining, she could only crawl on the ground and her knee were altered, with weak muscles on the limbs. After a period of training, her muscle strengths have improved, and she was able to stand up and took a few steps. Yet, her knee joint was overly altered so she could not walk properly. After the corrective surgery, she was able to keep up with her training to achieve her current condition. If Jingjing had no concept of standing up or have weak muscle strengths before receiving the surgery, it would do her more harm than good!

Before surgery



Post surgery



Every child with Cerebral Palsy has different muscular issues and it is necessary to handle them case by case. We need to ask many questions: what sort of surgery? when is suitable? what purpose do we want to archive? How is the post-surgery rehabilitation training arranged? Can the coordination of children and parents meet the standard of surgery? We also need to consider those with athetoid Cerebral Palsy as they may have irregular walking posture, such as toe-walking, which was more a coordination issues and hence they are not suitable for surgery.

Surgery intervention cannot be reversed. In order to reach the outcome, one must observe each case carefully to correctly identify children for surgery. It is crucial for the medical team, rehabilitation therapists, teachers, parents and children to communicate and work closely. ☺



Silver Lining Workshop Hand Embroidery

Silver Lining Workshop is proud to introduce our new embroidery products handmade by the mothers of children with Cerebral Palsy. We hope they can learn some new skills while bringing an additional source of income to support their families!



Hand Embroidery Order Form

Please send us this order form together with your contact, shipping and payment information using the donation form on P.18-19.



Order Qty: _____



Order Qty: _____



Order Qty: _____



Order Qty: _____

Name: _____

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US\$ _____

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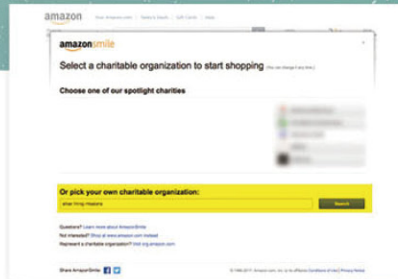
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Silver Lining Services

Missions Statement:

“Your Love changes lives,”

Silver Lining is committed to help the impoverished orphans, students and disabled children in mountainous area, through improving their lives, education, job opportunities, rehabilitation and providing emergency medical assistance. With our love and action, we hope to send care and blessings to the marginalized and neglected, help them overcome poverty, while re-establishing their dignity and hope.



HOME for Orphans

Family Model Orphanage (Silver Lining Caring Center)



Emergency Medical Assistance

Provide immediate help to sick children

LOVE for the Disabled

Rehabilitation Special Education Center (Conductive Learning)

Sponsor the rehabilitation service and education for children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy



JOY to the students

Improve the living condition and education of students in the mountainous areas

Silver Lining Workshop

Provide job training and opportunities for disabled youth and women



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Silver Lining Missions

