



ISSUE 18

# Holding on to Every Second of Happiness

Love will Heal Pain and Suffering  
I am Happy that You're Happy  
Wordless Gratitude





## MISSION STATEMENT

# Your LOVE changes LIVES

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

## TO THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Walk With You With  
Everlasting Love,  
Believe That  
Love Changes Lives.

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# Love

## Will Heal Pain and Suffering



In the blink of an eye, Chris and I have lived in China for fourteen years. The people and circumstances around us are always changing. We have seen countless destitute and disabled children that prompt me to ask the question: "Why are there so many children that need help?" Then I'll answer it myself: "It's because they are children, so they are helpless, and they need help from the adults." Therefore, we keep our own undertaking.



In two years since the founding of the Myanmar Silver Lining Family Village, we have taken in almost a hundred orphans and extremely impoverished children. We want to document some of the children's stories and share them with everyone. Upon inquiring a few children about the happenings before, they could not come up with answers as they left the past behind them. I asked them why couldn't they remember? Their responses are quite remarkable: "Here at the Village, we have food, we study, and we have a mother who loves us, so we forget the things in the past." I realized in an instant that in a caring environment, they can really forget the unpleasant memories from the past, and obviously, I am grateful for them.

Upon seeing the Family Village children study together, and they sing and dance together, I'll shed some tears of joy for them with deep gratitude. It's because they no longer need to live in uncertainty, terrified about war, worry about food and clothing, take refuge, and the opportunity to get an education. They can finally go back to live the normal children's life at the Family Village.





## Holding on to Every Second of Happiness

It's my honor to receive the invitation to visit the Silver Lining Family Village in Myanmar. Before departure, I was feeling the excitement nervousness! It's exciting because this would be my first visit to Myanmar and I have never visited an orphanage before. I also had some apprehensions about the hygiene of Myanmar. Then I don't know if the children would like my gifts to them, and whether they might be shy enough to connect with me. So I embarked on the journey to Myanmar with restlessness.

After arriving at the Silver Lining Family Village when I realized my apprehension was unfounded. The hygiene at the Family Village is very good, some areas are even better than Hong Kong in their cleanliness, and the facilities are well equipped. There are about 80 children at the Family Village, all of them are well-mannered and cheerful. They have smiles on their faces all the time and there is a feeling they strive to hold on to every second of happiness. They waited patiently in line while I was giving out the prepared gifts. Then they thanked me with reverence, and their innocent and charming demeanors won me over totally.

What moved me the most was not their maturity, it was rather their ability to share with others their love and joyful heart. I remembered when I was teaching the children how to knit bracelets, upon finishing the ones they made for themselves, then they began knitting another one without



hesitation. Out of curiosity, I asked them why they kept on knitting, and they told me that they were for the mothers and other children of the Family Village. That was such a touching moment for me! For I know they do things from the heart, a pure desire to share the joy with everyone around them. One day, the children and I went to the lawn to play games. With so many children running around, it became inevitable someone would bump into each other. Whenever a child fell inadvertently, the other children would come to his assistance promptly. All the above goings-on impress me that the Silver Lining Family Village is really filled with love.

I think it's the invaluable group of "mothers" that the children are so loved. Every mother will take care of ten children as they live as one family at the Silver Lining Family Village. I lived with one of the mothers for one day and I saw that she would teach the children about respect and proper behaviors, in addition to taking care of their daily lives. The parent-children dynamics are no different than an actual family. I sincerely admire these mothers because it's not doing a job when they take care of the children, as they treat them as their own. I heard that one of the mothers asked for a few days off to visit relatives back home. Her children were reluctant to let her go once they got words of it and they kept begging her to stay. It's obvious the children and their mothers at the Family Village have already established close relationships and trust, and they become a non-blood related family.

Although the children are very happy at the Family Village, let us not forget that they are orphans, and the inner healing won't happen in an instant. One day during the visit, a boy that was particularly close to me yelled my name at me while I was playing with the other children. He wanted me to play with him, but I did not hear it because the place was quite noisy. He was quite dejected when I failed to respond, and he kept asking other



people: "Is my sister snubbing me? Is she deserting me?" I was very upset once I learned about it because I knew what was going through his mind. He lost love and care once before. Although he has this extended Silver Lining family now, he is still quite insecure deep inside, and his heart is eager for warmth and love, and he's afraid to lose the care of the others again. Therefore, we need to give our children more love and support, so they receive healing for their wounded hearts.

This visit leads me to a broad introspection about life. Once again, I can tell my present life is a very happy one, and the troubles and stress in my work are insignificant. Happiness is plain and simple. We must learn to live a life of contentment, instead of assuming a sense of entitlement. There are still many children living in poverty around the world who need our help. I hope to share the thoughts and feelings of the visit with the people around me. Finally, I want to say thank-you to Lydia and Silver Lining, because of your love and support, opportunity and hope await for the children's robust development!





I am Happy that  
You're Happy

The phrase "I'm happy that you're happy" is undoubtedly fitting towards our relatives and loved ones, but it seems odd using it to address the strangers. Would you randomly cheer for the happiness of a stranger? Lydia, however, is such a person as she is willing to extend her comforting hands and to lavish selfless love to some strangers. It's this love that makes the Silver Lining as we know today. I also feel profound about this love during my visit to Myanmar.

I recall the moment I walked into the Silver Lining Family Village meeting every one of the smiling faces in classes, games, and dances. Their joyful appearances almost make me forget that they are orphans. I truly believe that the Village has become their new extended family where they are being loved again as well as learning to share the love.

After several days of interactions with the children, I found that the older children not only help the younger siblings in their daily lives, they also volunteer to help relieve the burden of their foster moms by rinsing and cutting the vegetables that they bought them home. They are good kids, self-disciplined, affectionate with each other, eager to learn and grateful. I hope these well-mannered children will lead a life of happiness as they continue to spread the love and make this world a better place. I hope everyone will also support Silver Lining, and to sustain this selfless love.



## A Growing Up Experience

During this Easter break, our team of eight members, including my four family members paid a six-day visit to the Silver Lining Family Village in Myanmar. I was very excited about the trip, and we made lots of preparations and rehearsals before leaving, such as designing the run down, games, activities, songs, bible stories, messages, snacks as well as souvenirs.

The first day upon our arrival, many adorable children greeted us with smiles on their faces. We presented the children with lovely animal balloons and pocket notebook with pen sets as a gift in a large classroom. We then sang the worship songs and played some games with them. The highlight was a special treat we made to look like the face of Jonah. By using cotton candy dipped into chocolate and laying eyes made with frosting as well as an M&M chocolate nose on top. That was the first time ever the children tasted cotton candy. They were in awe of its taste, and we chatted with them while they were sampling the treats.

The temperature soared above 38°C the next day. To combat the hot weather, we indulged the children in a game of water balloon fight at the outdoor basketball court. Although the outside heat was intense, my younger sister and I went out with the children. We filled up a thousand water balloons to play the game. It was super fun and we were ecstatic. We ended up getting ourselves all wet, but there was not a better way to cool off.

The work habits of the children impressed me a great deal. They began the day with classes between six and seven o'clock in the

morning before going to school, and they went to tutoring groups after school. We taught them some English story during our stay. They were very eager to take in all the knowledge and they also tried to sing the songs in English with us. They were very enthusiastic in both learning and meeting new friends. They inspired me a lot.

Moreover, the children are responsible for doing household chores like washing their clothes and cleaning the dishes after every meal. That work was a lot more than what my sister and I would do. The children would take every opportunity to learn whatever is available to them. Now that I have seen how hard these children work. It challenges me to put in extra effort to catch up with them and I should never give up on anything.

One of the most precious things I come across this trip is their smiles. They all smile every day, every minute, and even every second. They never complain, and they ask to do more. They are always grateful for what they have. Their smiles simply melt my heart for they are priceless. We should all learn from the children to be grateful for what we have. Although it was hard to say goodbye, I could never forget their smiling faces. I know I need to stay strong for them.

The trip wasn't like anything I have ever experienced before, and mere words cannot describe how much it changed me. I am so thankful that I have learned so much from this trip and it is so meaningful to my life. I hope I'll get a chance to meet them again and I can't wait to see what the future holds for them.

# The Joy of Sharing



The Singapore team and I visited the Myanmar Silver Lining Family Village in mid-May. On the first day, we had to make a flight transfer from Yangon to Mandalay, then we arrived at Pyin Oo Lwin in a ride. This small hill town is located at an altitude of 1,000 meters, having a cooler climate than Yangon, but the average temperature is still above 30°C with very dry weather.

The Silver Lining Family Village has about 150 children aged between 3–12, about 100 are Family Village children, the other 50 are impoverished children from the local community. They are all very well-mannered and disciplined, and their demeanors are so affable. When they heard us calling: “Kids!” They would respond instantly: “Quiet, please!” Then a hush swiftly fell over and it was just so lovely! During the visit, we sang, made a craft as well as storytelling with the children together, and they also performed skits and rhythmic dance. The talent show competition was the most memorable event. The children were skillful, passionate and they performed with dazzle that earned a big round of applause from us.



I come away with many precious memories and thoughts from this visit, and everything is hard to forget. The other team members and I have more opportunities to understand and interact with each other, and we cherish our friendships. Moreover, we ran into many unexpected situations during the trip, but we hung in there and worked together to give our team a boost.

Although the children are orphans, they are humble, courteous and independent under the care and guidance of Silver Lining. Not only will they do their own laundry, but they also help in housekeeping and cleaning. Even younger children learn to develop their responsibilities. The Silver Lining Family Village operates under the family model. Every family has foster-mother taking care of ten children of different ages. Seeing the warm interaction among the family gives me good vibes. Every mother regards the children of the Family Village as their own children, showering them with care and love. The Mother’s Day happened during our visit, the children gifted their mothers with their own made flower bouquets to confess their gratitude and love towards them. Upon receiving the gifts, the mothers were so overcome with emotions as they cried while hugging their children. It’s in fact very difficult to take care of 10 children all at once, but I believe every mother’s heart is full of joy and satisfaction by the children displaying their virtue.

This trip also stirs me to think about many things. For example, we failed to find any fan at the Family Village. Initially, we were

quite disturbed as in such hot weather, why was there not any fan installation? After inquiring in earnest, it turned out the local electricity supply was inadequate to cover even the most basic demands, so the fan was a luxury. On the other hand, urban dwellers are not in lack of anything, as fans and air-conditioning are widely available. Having this opulence, we cannot fancy ourselves to long for a simple life. Moreover, the children will not leave any leftovers after they eat, and they will continue to wear their worn clothing despite the holes. I am so grief-stricken! While we are all about staying forefront with fashion, there are still so many people in this world that are struggling to meet their basic subsistence.

It really touched me, however, upon seeing the children growing up strong despite the adversity. I remembered one day a little boy brought a glass of water especially for me after dinner. Although he was a bit shy, he had a caring and loving heart. The children willingly shared with us while eating their snacks. We took our bites sharing with joy. In fact, happiness is so simple, it’s the joy of sharing! Finally, I would like to thank Chris and his daughter Rachel for their company and care, and I thank you for your sustained efforts. I’ll continue to bless the children of the Silver Lining Family Village, as I see the joy of simplicity in them! I also see the power of courage and diligence!



## FANG FANG

### Foster Mother of Myanmar Silver Lining Family Village

I'm grateful for the opportunity to become a foster mother working for the Silver Lining Family Village. I remember dealing with many challenges when I first came to this big family. For example, I had a hard time dealing with the children when they threw tantrums, and I also felt exhausted physically and mentally having to care for the children around the clock. Once I learned about the children's past and their happenings, I felt strongly it's such meaningful work to become their mother and raising them. Since many of these children have lost their entire family, their emotions become sensitive and vulnerable in the absence of parental care, and the path of growing up is shrouded in darkness and confusion. My work is to guide them with love, so they'll find their directions and goals in life as well as giving them a home.



The Silver Lining Family Village's mode of operation is quite unique that sets it apart from the traditional orphanage. At the Village, ten children will form a small family, and a foster mother will take over to take care of all facets of life for the children. This family model fosters a tighter knit relationship between the mother and children, and the children are better off in their development. In the evening, the children will gather by my side for story-telling, once it's over, I'll engage them individually for counseling and discussions so that I can monitor their physical and mental states. We hope the children will pick up the long-lost feeling that someone care for them, and the revival of the family bond. Therefore, these orphans who receive love and affirmation, and their development will make it back on a solid footing.

Our previous residence had tight living quarters, and the number of rooms was inadequate. Each room housed seven to eight children in a crowded environment

and the children were more susceptible to infectious diseases such as flu. The construction of a new Silver Lining Family Village was completed last year. The new Village is in fabulous condition. I still remember the day when we moved into the new home, the children were so ecstatic that they jumped up and down like crazy. I can still recall these images vividly. I believe the new Family Village offers a better setting for the children's development.

Finally, I'd like to thank the overseas coworkers who are always there to help and support us. Your fervent support keeps the Family Village going. In addition, Silver Lining provides an assortment of training to the foster mothers to help us learn how to care for the children. There are times when we feel tired or frustrated from our work, but we can share and encourage each other, and we feel reinvigorated to keep going forward. I pledge to give good care and my endless love for every child in the days to come.

## GUILAN

### Foster Mother of Myanmar Silver Lining Family Village



I'm the new foster mother Zhao Guilan, having joined the Silver Lining Family Village less than a year ago. I remembered at the time of my arrival, the children and I still lived at the old Silver Lining Family Village. We didn't know each other that well at that time and they didn't care to get close to me. After completion of the new Family Village, the children and I are having a much closer relationship because we live and stay at the new home together, and I also play with them and prepare their meals every day. Eventually, the children open their heart to me and our relationship is flourishing. I'm happy and elated when I hear them calling me "mom" and saying, "I love you".

For example, when I was playing with the children, they would hold onto me happily calling me "mom"; when I was preparing dinner at the kitchen, they would come over to help me and they stayed around to chat with me; after finished cooking, they would also say "Thank-you mom, I love you!" I'm happy not only because they accept me, but more importantly, I know they have a

pure and grateful heart filled with love. Therefore, it touches me a lot whenever I hear them calling me "mom" and saying, "I love you".

I feel for these children and their pain because I lost my father when I was a child, and my mother remarried while I was brought up by my uncles. I have much sympathy for the circumstances of these children. I really love my children, even when I was grumpy, their innocent and charming traits would relieve my anxiety. The family model is the best orphan adoption model I have ever seen because the children really have a "home". I hope that I can nurture them to grow up with happiness and they'll have a joyful childhood.

Finally, thanks to everyone for your giving and support. Your generous funding support help covers all the children's needs, so they have a home and the opportunity to go to school. Blessings and happiness to all of you!



*Holding on to Every  
Second of Happiness*



## Little Angel Child Sponsorship Program

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

**US\$38 / Month**

Invite you to become a Sponsorship Angel!



Silver Lining Missions

16 Corning Ave., Suite 206,  
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[www.silverliningmissions.org](http://www.silverliningmissions.org)

Embark the Journey of Love with us!

# 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\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 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

## Donor Information

Name : Mr/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Tel : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
(please use capital letter ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Donation Methods

☐ Check

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

☐ Automatic Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Monthly

Bank Transfer Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Half-yearly

Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Yearly

Checking Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature X \_\_\_\_\_

I authorized my bank to transfer the amount indicated above from my account regularly.  
A record of each donation will be included in my monthly bank account statement.

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☐ **VISA** ☐  ☐ 

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CVV Code\* (Note below) \_\_\_\_\_ Card Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/YY) ☐ One Time

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature X \_\_\_\_\_

I agree the validity of this agreement will continue before or after the expiry date of my credit card account. Regular donations paid by Credit Card will be debited automatically from your account until further notice.

\*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.)

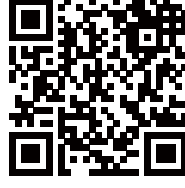
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For donations of US\$20 or above, an official receipt will be issued for tax deduction purpose.

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Please glue and seal

## 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](mailto:info@silverliningmissions.org) or fill out and return the form below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donor ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Become a Silver Lining Partner



With only  
**US\$20**

You can make a difference in a child's life!  
Your helping hand will bring a silver lining to children in need!

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 Your Partnership,  
We Can Go Further!



# Love Breaks New Ground



## Opening Ceremony of VCC Conductive Education Center

The Silver Lining is committed to helping impoverished orphans and children with disabilities. The main service areas are Guangxi, China, and Myanmar. We are bringing good news this year with this announcement! At the beginning of 2019, the Conductive Education Center in Hanoi, Vietnam is formally complete and in service. It offers rehabilitation training for local children with cerebral palsy, giving them hope and love.

The opening ceremony of the VCC Conductive Education Center was held in March 2019. The entire roster of the Center's instructors, children as well as their parent are present for the event. There is even songs and music to celebrate the completion of the Center. The founders of Silver Lining, Chris and Lydia are also present. They pledged to work diligently in the days ahead with the teachers and parents as they navigate with the children in their rehabilitation journey. The expectation for the Center is to bring hope to the parents and to make them partners so they can support each other in times of difficulty. Although the caring of children with disabilities is a journey fraught with challenges, we truly believe they are never alone in their walk. We hope all the parents and children at the Center can lead their lives with reasons to smile. We bless the VCC Conductive Education Center for its future growth, and it will get to help more children with cerebral palsy.

## Wordless Gratitude

Hi Everyone, I'm writing this letter to express my gratitude to you, and to your wonderful contributions at the opening ceremony of the VCC Conductive Learning Center in March. We really appreciate your presence at the event.

We must deal with many challenges while operating this cerebral palsy center, and we acknowledge that there's no easy task. It's still very worthwhile because we are creating opportunities and a future for children with cerebral palsy.

The sight and sound of your songs and dances at the ceremony cheered us and they gave us much joy. Your sharing and testimony touched us deeply, and we

had a hard time holding back our tears. Nothing will take away those precious moments from our memory.

I am attaching this photo together with the thank-you note that reminds us of this unforgettable moment.

Please always keep us in your prayers. It's a long journey, and we'll need our Lord to lead the way.





## Pioneers Follow Their Dreams Social Workers in Action

Social Work Theme Promotion and New Year Activities

The Guangxi Silver Lining Social Service Center is always committed to serve the children with cerebral palsy and to offer them comprehensive rehabilitation training and education. On March 19, a group of Guangxi Silver Lining's social workers, teachers, and volunteers led more than ninety children with cerebral palsy and their parents to a spring outing at the Nanning Garden Expo, bringing the children in touch with nature as well as learning about the buildings of various countries. Due to their handicaps, children with cerebral palsy seldom got the chance to join excursions, so they were very excited about the visit. To direct the other Garden visitors' attention to Silver Lining and social workers' undertakings, the social workers staged wonderful dance performance as well as doing promotions in the Garden, with the hope that more people would support us!



## Thoughts from the Silver Lining Children

Zhong Xinyi

Guangxi Silver Lining Fourth Grader

We took the bus to the Garden Expo on a beautiful sunny morning. After arriving at the main entrance, the teachers instructed us to get off the bus to line up. My initial feeling was: Hey! What a huge Garden Expo! There are many kinds of flowers and trees in the park, and the setting is very elegant and comfortable. The place that impresses me the most is the ASEAN Friendship Garden. There are ten beautiful buildings that look like towers. Each tower displays many exhibits from the ASEAN countries, and there are huge monitors introducing the countries' tourism and cuisine. Although it was very hot weather that day, there was a cool breeze blowing through the ASEAN Friendship Garden that felt so comfortable. This event allowed me to see the beautiful scenery of the ASEAN countries without going abroad. I have a great time!



During the tour, the children admired the beautiful scenes in the Garden and they learned about buildings of many foreign countries in their distinct architecture that they found unique and interesting. We hope this outing will broaden the horizon of the children with cerebral palsy, and to let them know and learn more about the surrounding things, thus making them more adroit to fit into society. At the same time, taking a trip together with the parents can strengthen communication between children and parents, bringing their relationship closer. Many parents reported that the children kept up their excitement after the tour as they really enjoyed the activity.



# Follow Your Dreams, Angel! Build an Amazing Life

## 2019 National Disabled Day “Follow Your Dreams, Angel!” Marathon

May 19, 2019, is the 29th National Disabled Day. To rally behind its purpose to raising community awareness and support for people with disabilities, the Guangxi Silver Lining Social Service Center and the Nanning City Disabled Association together with the community charities organized a major marathon with the theme “Follow Your Dreams, Angel! Build an Amazing Life” on May 18 at the Nanning Nanhu Park. Four hundred invited children with disabilities and their parents from all over Guangxi were present at the event, as well as participation by the Silver Lining teachers, community advocates, and high school volunteers. The Silver Lining children Wei Fugang and Nong Simin had the honor to host the event and the opportunity to showcase their talents.

Shepherded by the parents and volunteers, the children with disabilities participating in the marathon walk overcame many obstacles to finish the 5 km course. The children, smiling all the way through challenges, finished the course with perseverance and determination. The event helped them to build up their self-esteem while their positive attitudes and never give up virtues were on display to the public. We hope it will create an opening for the broader appreciation and acceptance of people with disabilities, and to help them integrate into society as well as inspiring the fully-abled and disabled to live in harmony.

We believe the rehabilitation for children with disabilities is like running a marathon, drawn-out with many challenges, and we hope you can walk with us, so they are never alone in their rehabilitation.



## Thoughts on the Event

### Wei Yuqin, Director of the Guangxi Silver Lining Social Service Center

We wish to give the children with disabilities the opportunity to pursue their dreams through their participation in the marathon. It's no trivial task, however, to organize a marathon for people with disabilities. It requires cooperation and support from many groups. Fortunately, the event went off successfully with help from the community and volunteers. It buttresses our belief that it's not an over-reach to help the children, so their dreams may come true.

### Wu Quanhui, Volunteer

Besides helping the children with disabilities, I reaped a lot of benefit by participating in the marathon. I observe their many virtues in children with disabilities. I really appreciate their positive attitudes and their smiles are so transcendent that make me feel more confident about life.

### Liang Xiuchun, Parent of children with disabilities

Today I bring my grandchildren of eleven-years-old twins to participate in the event. They have been stricken with cerebral palsy due to brain damage at birth. Their hands and necks were limp at six months of age and their bodies were not capable to perform basic functions like looking up and sitting, let alone learning to crawl and walk like the other healthy children. Then we brought the children to the Silver Lining Social Service Center to receive rehabilitation therapy and their conditions have improved a lot! Two years into the training, the younger brother can move freely and he's in grade school while the elder brother continues his rehabilitation training at the Service Center. As for the children, although they have been saddled with pain and suffering since birth, with the support from all walks of life, they have gradually gained confidence with the hope to live like typical children in the future. I feel this event is a great help to the children, they were so happy to participate in the marathon walk as they received the services of so many volunteers who embraced them lovingly.





## Walk with the Cerebral Palsy Carnival Your loving presence required

The Silver Lining organized “Walk with the Cerebral Palsy Carnival” on May 12. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of cerebral palsy for the people of Hong Kong and to debunk public misconceptions about the people stricken with this condition. It helps to reduce discrimination against them, and it allows them to receive care and support from the community members. The event received the support from Mr. Ricky Chu, Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission; Dr. Hon. Fernando Cheung Chiu-hung of the Legislative Council; artist Det Dik as well as over thirty schools and organizations, and it attracted a large resident turnout partaking in the festivities.

The day was packed with activities! It happened to fall on Mother’s Day, besides game booths and stage performances promoting the cooperation of the physically handicapped and able-bodied, the organizer also invited mothers of children with cerebral palsy to share their journey of years’ experiences caring for their children that resonated well with the participants. “A forum with friends of the cerebral palsy” is the key segment of the Carnival as guests from different sectors conducted an in-depth review on the living support systems for people with cerebral palsy, and it facilitated the participants’ reflection and discussion.

We would like to give another shout out to all the volunteers for the event. It’s such a success because you labor in hot weather to support the material handling, and venue and organizing booth setups. Your help and support empower us to better inform the public about cerebral palsy and to advance our quest to create a society of harmony and inclusion. Thank-you!



## Volunteers’ Thoughts

### — Vivian Law, Student —

Thanks to Silver Lining for letting me participate in this event, and I would also like to thank the staff and the other participants that helped make it a success. What impressed me the most was the wheelchair dance performance. The student always had smiles on their face despite the hot weather, and they managed to dance to the beat with a rhythm that won my admiration. Watching their positive and cheerful performances reminded me about a movie that I saw. There’s a dialog in the movie: “We don’t have the right to choose not to sit on a wheelchair, but we can choose how to sit on the wheelchair.” As a student of occupational therapy, I hope to convey this truth to future service users and to encourage them to live their lives with a positive attitude.

### — Nicholas Leung, Student —

I think the “Walk with the Cerebral Palsy Carnival” provides a platform for the guests and representatives from all walks of life. They delve deeper into the positioning of people of cerebral palsy in society and medical groups, and it serves the public with a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of this group. In addition, the student volunteers get to interact with people from all walks of life. Besides the public, the carnival volunteers, by learning through practices and sharing, can also attain a better perspective about people with cerebral palsy, improving the learning outcome. All of the above-mentioned circumstances make the “Walk with the Cerebral Palsy Carnival” held on Mother’s Day a valuable lesson and it has left me with cherished memories.

### — Hills Chan, Student —

On the day of the event, one of our booth games was a wheelchair obstacle course, with the purpose to allow the visitors to experience the daily life of wheelchair users. As they played the game, I observed that people with cerebral palsy fared even better than the able-bodied. I really admired how seemingly easy for them to opening and closing doors, making turns, and even lifting heavy objects. Everyone, no matter healthy or sick, deserves equal treatment because we set and run our own race, so it’s unnecessary to compare yourself with others. An able-bodied person, if confined to using a wheelchair, will have a difficult time to go places. Therefore, I hope we’ll devote more interest to patient rights as we create an equal, inclusive and diverse society.

# Life-Changing Perseverance

Silver Lining Rehabilitation Center - Lin Zhiru



Hi Everyone! My name is Lin Zhiru, and I'm 10 years old. I have an adoring and fun-loving brother, and grandma, grandpa as well as mom and dad.

I was born on July 21, 2008, stricken with cerebral palsy after birth. When I was at eleven months old, my mom took it upon herself paving the way for my rehabilitation, and my dad took up the burdens of the entire family. We used up his meager wage to cover all expenses, including the cost of my rehabilitation therapy. I was in poor health then and I often came down with cold, fever and asthma. My mom used to carry me on her back by herself to see the doctors in the hospital. As I was always sick, on medication or under IV, my motor ability was quite poor. I failed to walk on my own during the prime rehabilitation period, as I needed the aid of walkers.

Up until 2015 when my mom planned to send me to live under the care of my grandma. She needed a job and she could no longer accompany me to the rehabilitation. She did not give up on me, however, as she contacted the Silver Lining enrollment hotline. Then we received a call to ask me to go in for an evaluation. After the final evaluation, I joined the extended family of Silver Lining Family to begin my rehabilitation training. After five months of training, there are discernible improvements in my language skills. I can use the bathroom on my own, and I can read and write in simple strokes while making progress in my motor skills.

I've received four years of Silver Lining education since 2015. Now I'm able to write many characters, to memorize, copy and read aloud the textbooks. From not knowing the arithmetic to learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide, I'm also capable of journaling and essay writing.

When I was young I remembered often watching mom making cross-stitch, and she even made me a love pillow. Now I'm all grown up, I ask her to teach me all kinds of needlework. She wasn't on board initially as she was concerned that I might get a poke while handling the needle. Once upon a time, a button came off the clothing, I tried to sew it back myself, but it ended up getting my finger bloodied by the needle. When my mom saw it, she asked me right away to put down the needle and thread, and she would finish the sewing. I did not acquiesce, however, as I insisted to finish it by myself, and then I really did it. Mom praised my work once she saw the sewed button! I'm learning cross-stitch from her every day, and I hope to become a costume designer in the future!



*There's the mother for the hope of the child*

Silver Lining Rehabilitation Center - XiuXiu's Mom

I have a family that fell on hard luck, yet it was also a happy family. It's hard luck because my daughter was stricken with cerebral palsy, yet I'm happy it's a warm family. My daughter XiuXiu suffered from oxygen deprivation to her brain at birth leading to cerebral palsy. At that time, I didn't have any idea of what happened to her only knowing that she was sick. I carried her to a different hospital for treatment that failed to work, then I moved her to another one. Unfortunately, her condition did not improve. At six months old, she still could neither look up nor sit. I kept wondering why my daughter would end up that way? I was demoralized by her circumstances. Sometimes I overheard the neighbors' comments saying she was an imbecile, unable to do things at her age and nothing would get through her. People gave us peculiar looks whenever I took my daughter out, as it hurt me deep inside. Some people even suggested that I should abandon her, and those sayings were just heartrending. The child is a part of my life, how can I forsake her!

XiuXiu's father worked diligently to earn a living for our family of six while I stayed home to take care of the three children and mother-in-law. Since money was tight, we didn't have the means to set up our daughter for rehabilitation. She stayed put at home much to my reluctance, and I wondered if my child had to live like that for the rest of her life. I'm grateful that the community social worker referred XiuXiu to the Guangxi Silver Lining Center just when everything was so hopeless. We are fortunate to receive from Silver Lining the free rehabilitation training. Nowadays, every morning at six o'clock I carry my daughter on my back. From our home, we walk to the bus stop to take a two-hour ride to the Rehabilitation Center for the training, and we always make it even rain or shine.

After undertaking her training at the Silver Lining Rehabilitation Center, XiuXiu is making a lot of improvements, with thanks to all the teachers helping her. I know there are still many challenges to my daughter's journey of rehabilitation, but I'll hang in there to walk with the child through the ups and downs together. The mother is the roots and the child is the tree. The seasons and the weather don't matter. Once there are roots, and there's the mother for the hope of the child!



## The compassionate Silver Lining helped me Growing up

Silver Lining Caring Center  
Tan Lianping

Time flies and many memories fade away with the bygone days. There's a day, however, that I'll never forget for the rest of my life, and that's the day my father left.

I vaguely remember learning the sad news when I was in the sixth grade of elementary school. I only knew my father suddenly disappeared from my life forever. I don't remember how I got through those days, I only remembered the family members were in tears all the time, and I waited countless times in darkness for my father to come back. Finally, I came to understand that father had gone to another world, and the abyss dividing life and death would separate us forever. That moment I realized life's frailty and the brief pause between living and dying. Later my mother chose to remarry as I stayed with my grandmother. I know that I must be strong, to boldly go to what lies ahead, and to learn taking care of grandmother as we live together. Yet I also wondered if I could do it. After all, I was just an eleven-year-old girl with very limited abilities.

Life began to change one day. Some uncles and aunts from the Silver Lining Caring Center would pay us regular visits to learn about our well beings and to offer us financial assistance. They also visited the school that I was attending many times. They would also send me gifts every birthday so that I feel loved.

Silver Lining extended a helping hand to me when we were mired in grief and helplessness, bringing warmth to my life and helping me out of my misery as well as supporting me to go to college. I need to return the favors many times more. I'll certainly remain positive and grateful. Finally, here I say from the bottom of my heart: Thank you! May I also bless the good people for a life of peace!



## College Life First Experiences

Silver Lining Caring Center  
Wei Langui

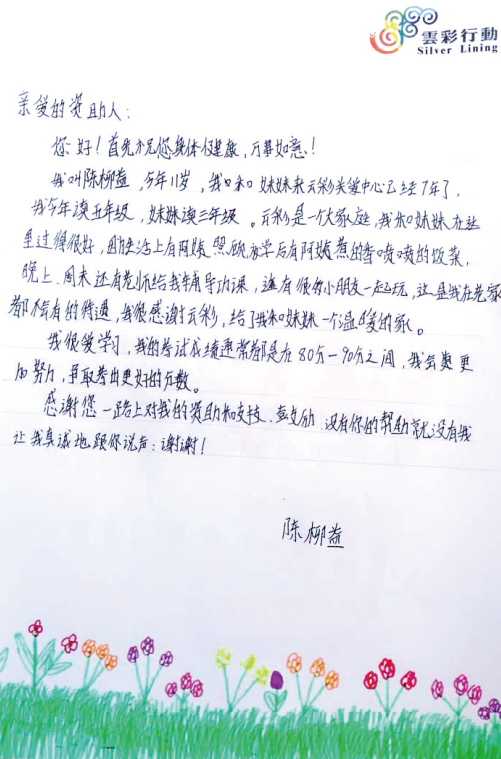
My name is Wei Langui, I'm an orphan, and I joined the Silver Lining family in 2011 when I was attending fifth grade of the elementary school. I got a family under the tender loving care of Silver Lining, and I've developed an interest in music. Last year, I was admitted to the university in Nanning. I began my college life with hopes about my prospect and curiosity. One of the most unforgettable memory has to do with the college club. I'm still very excited recalling the club interview because I learn more about myself, and I become more mature and stable, serving me well to fit myself into college life.

The club interview for new applicants requires every prospect to perform in a talent show. Since this is the first ever interview in my life, I was feeling nervous and excited, so I made a minor mistake in my stage performance. I was devastated believing I would lose out. That evening, a counselor doing her rounds at the dormitory happened to see me playing guitar, then she invited me to play and sing a song for her. After listening to my singing for a while, she became so moved as she began crying. I was quite surprised to see her reaction, but I was greatly encouraged, as I realized even if I failed the club interview, I still have many opportunities to sing, and I should not give up or be disappointed. Surprisingly in a few days, I received my admission to the club that gave me so many thrills. From now on I'll cherish all the days of my college life and to equip myself through learning.



# Chen Liuyi

Silver Lining Caring Center



## Dear Sponsors:

Hello! I wish you good health and all the best!

My name is Chen Liuyi, I'm eleven years old. My sister and I have come to the Silver Lining Caring Center for seven years. This year I'm in fifth grade and my sister is in third grade. Silver Lining is a big family, my sister and I are doing great here because there are aunts taking care of our daily living, and they also cook delicious dishes after the school's over. There are also teachers tutoring us in the evenings and week-ends, and many children play together with us. This is something I don't have in my previous home. I'm very grateful for Silver Lining, giving me and my sister a warm family.

I enjoy learning, and my test scores are usually between eighty and ninety-five. I'll work hard to do even better.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement, as I won't be here without your help. May I earnestly say to you: Thank-you!

Chen Liuyi

THANK YOU CARD

# 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

From:

**SILVER LINING MISSIONS**

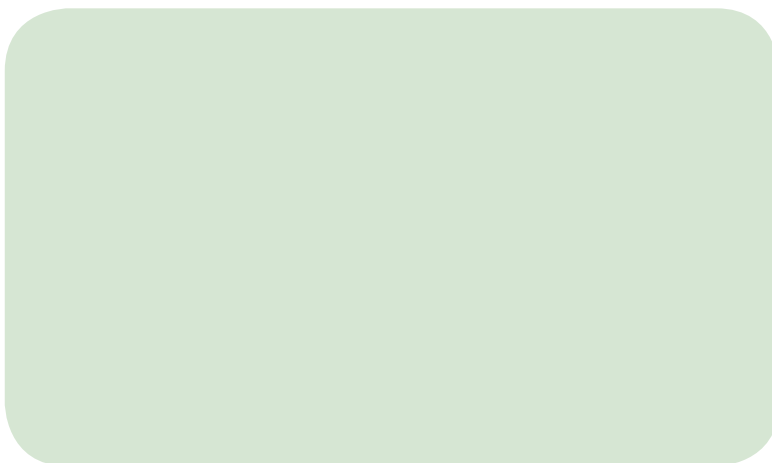
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