

ISSUE10
June 2017



A Loving Family

Beihai Family Camp

You are not alone
Silver Lining in Myanmar
Dream Comes True—A Charity Marathon

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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.

Publisher : Chris Yeung

Editor : Sally Ko

Design : Samuel K.



Thank you mom!

Photo | Danny Lai

Silver Lining in Myanmar

By Chris & Lydia Yeung



We visited some families in the village.



Part of Silver Lining's orphanage in Myanmar

Why Myanmar?

In 2011, Silver Lining Family Village was officially established in Dahua county. In the past six years, we have witnessed the growth of the orphans at the Family Village, with uncles and aunts who love them and take care of them like their own children. We noticed that their development is quite different from those growing up in orphanages where they are taken care of in large groups. Children who grow up at a family model orphanage tend to be happier, and receive better development physically, emotionally and spiritually. We therefore wish to utilize our experience from the Family Village in Dahua to help more orphans in other parts of the world.

Two years ago, we started to actively look for suitable locations to build orphanages and people who are willing to take care of orphans. Until February this year, we had an opportunity to visit Myanmar and got to know more about the work locally. We realize there is a great need there. Myanmar, located in Southeast Asia with a population of 55 million, has been suffering from civil wars for over 50 years and the wars are nowhere near the end. Years of fighting have resulted in huge casualties and financial loss, as well as worsening problems of drugs.

Civil wars and drug abuses have cost innocent children their parents. When we first set foot on Myanmar to visit the children, our hearts were very heavy. A boy in front of us lost his father to drugs and his mother passed away due to illness when he was not even two years old. He was only left with his grandmother. Yet, his grandmother was unable to afford his school fee so he had never attended school as a 8-year-old. This was not an isolated case in Myanmar.....

Having understood the needs in Myanmar and found the right people to take care of the orphans, we decided to set up a Silver Lining Family Village in Myanmar and continue to adapt the family model here for childcare. We hope the children can feel loved again in this home. We do not only want them to enjoy all-round development physically, emotionally and spiritually, we also want them to develop their own talents and to become a person with compassion, responsibility, good attitudes and values, so that they can contribute to the society and influence the development of Myanmar positively.

From the
Founder

Early Setup of the Orphanage

In Myanmar, our first year's target is to form four families in the orphanage, with each taking care of 8 orphans, making a total of 32 children. Since we are unable to receive a large number of orphans at once, we will launch rural areas sponsorship program scheme simultaneously to help orphans who are a bit older to go to school, since there is no free education in Myanmar.



Girls who moved into the orphanage.

We hope we can raise enough funds to set up an orphanage for 200 children in two years. If you are willing to walk alongside Myanmar's orphans, we invite you to donate and support our work in Myanmar. You may also become a child sponsor to support the livelihood of these children and bring them joy and health!

The Unchanging Mission of Silver Lining

To let the orphans experience family love and care is one of the most important missions of Silver Lining.

We often ask ourselves, "If the same thing happens to our own children, what would we do?" We will never abandon our children! We want the orphans to experience the same kind of love, so that they would come to learn that although their past was unfortunate, they are not alone because there are still people who care about them and they have chances to enjoy a happy growth too. May there be more people to share love and transform lives! ☺



One of the officers-in-charge (first left) of Silver Lining's orphanage in Myanmar

We have moved!

Time flies! We have moved to our new office in San Po Kong for a month already. We are grateful that our moving process was smooth and had soon resumed our normal operation. The Lion Rock from our office window is the best view, especially during sunset.

Situated under the Lion Rock, Silver Lining will work even harder and stay true to our beliefs, serving more children and families in need, so that more lives may be changed, renewed and blessed. ☺



"Slow Angel" Marathon

In response to the national day of persons with disabilities (May 21) in China, Silver Lining Guangxi organized a special marathon called "Slow Angel" Marathon. Over 100 volunteers turned into "Dream angels", and took turn to push the wheelchairs of children with cerebral palsy, so that they could finish a 5km marathon together.

Most people think that people with physical disabilities must always rely on others. However, they also share the spirit of marathon runners, such as persistence and never give up easily. Through this special marathon, Silver Lining hopes to raise public awareness of the needs and development of people with disabilities, and facilitate their integration into mainstream society. ☺

Happy Mother's Day!

At Silver Lining, you will find some of the strongest and toughest mothers! As mothers of disabled children, they are carrying huge pressure in life and psychologically. On this special day, Silver Lining's children have expressed their love and gratitude to their mothers in different ways. ☺



"Mom's Caring Heart" - I spent two hours drawing this for my mom!



I handcrafted the flower, as my mom is as beautiful as flowers!



Mom, you usually dress me up. Let me help you wear your jacket today!



Mommy, does the fruit taste good?



Let me give you a massage!



Mommy, thanks for your caring. Let me comb your hair!

“ We might not be able to say a complete sentence or walk independently; we do not have rich parents nor many toys. It seems that we lack a bit of everything, but in my mom's loving world, we already have everything! ”

Funny Classroom Stories

from children with cerebral palsy



On Forming Sentences

"Everyone please use 'attentive' to form a sentence," the teacher said.

The students were eager to answer.

"I read attentively."

"I observe attentively."

"I look for things attentively."

"Any others?" the teacher asked.

"I don't know how to form sentence with 'attentive'!" Cancan said loudly.

"Then please try again."

"I don't know how to form sentence with 'attentive'!" Cancan said loudly again.

"Think and try again!"

"I already have the answer." Cancan said loudly once again. "I don't know how to form sentence with 'attentive'!"

"Huh?" the teacher looked puzzled.

Cancan shook his head, sighing, "Our teacher also has cerebral palsy. She doesn't understand what I am saying."

Everyone in class burst into laughter.

The teacher almost fainted...



Grandma accompanies Jiayuan to have class at the Rehabilitation Center regularly.

It's tea time!

During tea time on regular days, many children will share their cakes with their parents after receiving their share. However, Jiayuan did not seem interested in sharing his with grandma...

When the teacher noticed that, she asked Jiayuan, "Why don't you share the cake with grandma?"

"She's on diet..." he said hesitatingly.

After a few seconds of silence, the whole class bursted into laughter.

Children with cerebral palsy do not have much social experience. Their thoughts are simple and straightforward. In their world, everything is good and pure. This is why they may not have considered consequences and other people's feelings. Yet, it was not intentional. They are just being innocent and friendly! ☺



Jiayuan is a cute little boy with many facial expressions.

You are not Alone

A Letter from a Mother to her Daughter with Cerebral Palsy

By Xiaoyun's mother



On Mother's Day,
who as a mother wouldn't want to hear
"I love you" from her children?

Yet, a mother chose to write a long letter to her daughter,
with a humble wish that one day she would hear the word
"mommy" from her daughter.

Child Story

My dear daughter Xiaoyun,

Mommy loves you so much, but I just don't know how to tell you. I chose to write a letter to express my love for you. I hope someday you can understand me.

Mom is a village woman and had four kids after getting married. When you were born, we didn't notice anything unusual. Only until four months later, we found that your body had been very soft, but we did not pay attention as we thought you were just still small. When we took you to the doctor, they said it was due to lack of calcium, and that we should give you more calcium and sunlight. Yet, when you reached nine months old, you still couldn't lift your head. It was then I realized your issue was serious. We took you for a check-up at the hospital and the result completely broke my heart.....my adorable daughter has cerebral palsy!

Mom has been a tough person, but when I saw you at that time, I was scared! I wanted to end our lives but I could not let go of your siblings. I searched on the internet for successful recovery cases of children with cerebral palsy and felt slightly relieved. And then I took you to Guangzhou hospital for treatment. Seeing you crying hurt my heart! I blamed myself and asked myself repeatedly why I could not give you a healthy body and a wholesome life.

Yet, a poor family with a "special" child cannot avoid gossiping by others. Even our relatives told us, "Just give up! Don't burden your family with a disabled child. Your family is not rich and you have three other children to take care of." Every day was torturing to me. To make things worse, at our most difficult time, your dad was diagnosed with lymphoma in 2013 and had to be sent to hospital for treatment, which costed us a lot.





At that moment, my heart was undecided. Facing a child with cerebral palsy, I actually preferred to use the money to treat your dad. That night, we packed your stuff and was ready to send you away. You were usually quiet but you were crying so hard. My tears kept falling and I cannot let you go! You did nothing wrong and you should not bear all these pain. We are your only family...if you were abandoned, you would become an orphan. All of us cried. Your sister and brother told me in tears, "Mom, we don't want to abandon our little sister. However tough it is we want to be with her!"

Sometime later, I heard from a friend about a rehabilitation center named Silver Lining in Guangxi. We soon learned that Silver Lining specializes in providing free rehabilitation training for poor children with cerebral palsy. I immediately took you there. The teachers taught me how to do massage and stretching with you. When other people trained for two hours, I trained for four. I was always the last one to leave the Center! After getting home I had to cook and do chores, as well as training with you. I usually go to bed after midnight.

Every day we repeatedly work on the rehabilitation exercise. You were so tough that you never cried and threw tantrum. I felt mixed seeing you like this! Now you are already six. We have walked alongside you for more than 2,000 nights. From being unable to sit to now being able to sit still, lift your head, tell others when you felt hungry, as well as expressing with your eyes for communications. Mom is so happy and relieved to see your improvement!

At the age of six, however, you still could not speak. How I wish to hear you call me "mommy". Doctor told me earlier that your hearing is severely impaired and could only hear sound when the plane took off. You would have to wear an audio phone or have a cochlear implant, but the cost is high and we could not afford it. But I will not give up! I still believe you can hear one day and call me "mommy"!

Love,
Mommy



Child Story

Daddy's Sharing:

Thanks Silver Lining for taking care of Xiaoyun! I work in Guangdong province. Since I have poor health, I cannot do tough work and only have very little income. Yet, I am the only financial support for our family. My wife takes care of Xiaoyun in Nanning and our other three children can only take care of themselves at home.

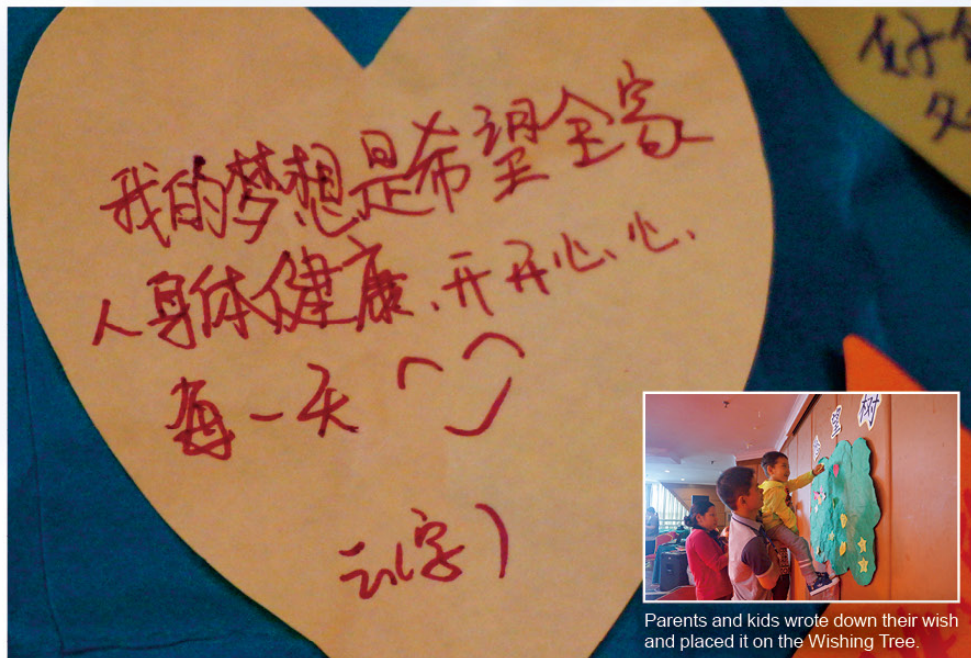
Sometimes I got worried but nothing can be done! Seeing Xiaoyun's improvement, I am really grateful towards the teachers at Silver Lining! It is tough for my wife to take care of Xiaoyun alone. When we got old we will still be worried about Xiaoyun. I hope she can walk by herself and take care of herself one day.



Family with children with cerebral palsy faces numerous challenges and obstacles. Plenty of them chooses to give up, but a lot more choose not to. The parents find hope when seeing all the efforts made by their children. Despite all the difficulties, they will persist! Silver Lining is willing to walk alongside these families with unconditional love.

A Loving Family — Beihai Family Camp

By Editor



Parents and kids wrote down their wish and placed it on the Wishing Tree.

Relations in Families having Children with Cerebral Palsy

Every May and June, many people would celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day. On these special days, sons and daughters will usually make time and plans to express their gratitude towards parents. These celebrations are surely sweet and heartwarming. Yet, to cultivate and nurture good family relations in the long run, day-to-day communications and interactions are much more important.

Parent-child relation is an important bond in a family, and their intimacy would affect the overall harmony in the family. Parents of children with cerebral palsy have to face unusual challenges in daily life. These challenges often create living and psychological pressure which directly and indirectly influences the family relationship. Due to the uniqueness of children with cerebral palsy, they have a strong need for a stable and healthy family where each family member can find enough support.



At Silver Lining Rehabilitation Center in Guangxi, most of the children with cerebral palsy are taken care of by their mother. Due to their special situation, the mothers are constantly worried about their health issues and physical development. Many are concerned that the children cannot walk properly and will have to face many obstacles in life later. All these worries have kept them from discovering other sides of their children. For the dads, most of them are away from home to make a living and cannot stay with their children, let alone growing up with them. To strengthen and improve these families' relationship, Silver Lining organized a three-day parent-child camp in Beihai, Guangxi, for them to spend some quality time with each other.

In this camp, we introduced some fun games to the children and parents. For example, the parents had to wear an eye mask on the beach and to look for their own children. With beautiful weather and the endless ocean, parents were able to temporarily leave behind all the burdens and focused on having fun with their children at the beach. Look at the beautiful smiles on their faces!



Enjoying beach time with parents.



Moms hitting the waves with their children.





Making colorful butterfly by hand.



Handicraft time!



Workshops for Parents and Children

Though the parents are interacting with their children all the time, it does not mean they know how to get along with them. Every day, the mothers have to attend rehabilitation training with their children, and when they get home, besides keep up with the training at home they also have to manage the housework. They are so occupied that they never really have breaks to enjoy their time with children. Sometimes, they would channel their pressure and emotions onto their children without even realizing it.

Through the workshops in this camp, the parents have learnt how to love and accept themselves and their children, as well as ways to create quality family time, develop healthy emotions and teach their children, etc. Parents were able to better understand themselves, their own problems and limitations. The workshops were fruitful and they had a chance to respond to each other's sharing. On the other hand, children and parents made some crafts together during the craft session, which not only brings back some childhood memories of the parents but also provides a good opportunity for the children to express their creativity.



At the closing ceremony, some children with cerebral palsy sang a song called "When you turns old" for their parents. Though they were unable to sing the lyrics clearly or follow the rhythm, that was not important at all. Watching the children on stage singing with their best effort, everyone in the room were deeply moved and many parents were in tears.

Besides that, a special video was filmed for the parents. In the video, the children were asked, "One day when mom and dad turn old, what would you do?"

"They will never get old!" A boy answered innocently. Some other answered, "I hope I am healthy. So I can take care of you." "I will take care of you! I will eat with you and wash dishes for you." "I will learn to walk now. When I can walk, I will cook for mom and dad."

"I didn't know our children can be so understanding and mature. I am deeply moved. I will never give up our own children!" "My dear child, mom and dad will always walk with you....." After hearing their children's singing and watching the video, all moms and dads couldn't wait to express their love to their children and many were hugging each other. It was a very touching scene!



It is true that the path to recovery for every child with cerebral palsy is long and winding. However, with the unceasing love from parents, though full of challenges, the path is still filled with strength and hope! ☺





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 students in the mountainous areas, as well as children who suffer from cerebral palsy. Love changes lives!



Become a Sponsor and bring me home!



Stamp



Silver Lining Missions

16 Corning Ave., Suite 206,
Milpitas, CA 95035, U.S.A.



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

Your personal data will be kept strictly confidential and used only for communications purpose. 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

*I prefer ☐ email or ☐ mail.

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

(Please send a Routing Number: _____ ☐ Yearly

"VOID" check) Checking Account Number: _____ Signature X _____

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A record of each donation will be included in my monthly bank account statement.

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C V V Code* (Note below) _____ Card Expiry Date _____ (MM/YY) ☐ One Time

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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.)

Donation Receipt

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

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

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Please glue and seal



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 following:

Name: _____

Donor ID: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Street _____

Apt. # _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

A young child with dark hair and bangs is sitting at a wooden desk. They are looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. In their right hand, they hold a pink pen with a floral pattern. Their left hand is raised to their head, touching their hair. They are wearing a dark blue jacket with red and white striped cuffs. On the desk in front of them is a worksheet with Chinese text and diagrams. In the background, another person's hands are visible working on a green notebook.

Education should not be a dream

Photo by Laurence Lai

Yuqin demands her best in every task at work.

Dream Comes True — A Charity Marathon

By Wei Yuqin (Director of Silver Lining Guangxi)

Helping others makes us happy! Wei Yuqin, director of Silver Lining Guangxi demonstrates Silver Lining's spirit with actions: May our love and actions help and bless the children and people in difficulties, so that they will find joy and hope in life.

Last year, Yuqin was honored the title of "Most Beautiful social worker in Guangxi" and "Top 100 Social Worker in China", etc. Upon receiving these titles, she responded humbly, "I think this is more a recognition for the effort of the whole Silver Lining team."



Yuqin spent most of her time in Dahua's rural areas.

After graduating from university, supposedly I should take the path to medical profession according to my parents' arrangement. However, after encountering rural villages and poverty development, I found that it is more meaningful to help children in rural areas. When seeing improvement in their situation, it fuels my passion and motivation at work.



The staff team of Silver Lining in Dahua

Tough Route will never Deter Steps Forward

Since my entrance to the charity profession in 2003, I spent most of the time in villages and rural area. I still remember the first time going to the rural: Taking a two-hour bus from the city to a town, and walked another two hours onto the hill. We did not see any people on our way and the cliff was steep. The mountain was infertile and we could not see any signs of life. At that moment, I started to doubt my choice, I wanted to cry and I missed home! Yet, when I remembered my decision and determination, I regained my motivation to press on. Soon after, a small village appeared in front of me. The school I had to go to was near. And that's where everything started...

In the following five years, the work of Silver Lining was gradually established. We have launched service in different villages in Guangxi mountainous areas, attending to village children's health and education, taking care of the minorities including disabled orphans. Our service scope was slowly widening.

Footprints
Staff Sharing

Realising Rural Children's Dream to Education

One time we were on our way to a village visit, I met a skinny girl who was around 10 years old. The village representative told me, "That girl cannot see. She's an orphan. Her dad passed away and her mother married someone else; The girl only has her grandma. She once told me, 'I want to go to school. Can you help me?'" Knowing the girl wants to study, we really want to help. After communicating with a school with special education, the girl finally has a chance to leave the rural area and receive education in school. Later, she finished junior high school. In these few years, Silver Lining has encountered many similar cases. Seeing that our work help brings these children out of poverty, that they may embrace their own future, it strengthens my determination to continue serving orphans and disabled children.





Feeding the children is quite a challenge!

Serving Children in Difficulty with Professionalism and Sincerity

In 2009, Silver Lining was planning to build an orphanage based on family model in Dahua county. Dahua's natural resources are not desirable. The geographical feature is poor and transport is extremely inconvenient. It is not an easy task to lift local residents out of poverty. In Dahua, many children become orphans when their fathers pass away or mothers re-marry. However, it is hard to take in a large number of orphans in a family model orphanage, and there are still many orphans being left struggling in the village.

Silver Lining project staff visited many villages to collect cases and build up a case intervention and follow-up system. When a child is sick, we will take the child with their guardian to see the doctor and provide treatment. Silver Lining also sets up a "Home for Children's Growth" in the community, so that the orphans can gain support emotionally as well in their study.

In 2011, we start attending the needs of disabled children. Many people see disability as an illness and the society is lacking acceptance and inclusiveness. Silver Lining has launched projects including rehabilitation education, social engagement, and disabled children's family support in order to normalize disabled children's rehabilitation. It also helps to facilitate a more inclusive society. The happiest moment in my work at Silver Lining is when I am with the children, and the most valuable thing is to enjoy happiness at work!



“The happiest moment in my work at Silver Lining is when I am with the children, and the most valuable thing is to enjoy happiness at work!”

Footprints

Staff Sharing



The entire staff team of Silver Lining

Home is the warmest bay

As the projects in Silver Lining expand, there is a greater need of time and effort. Every month, Yugin spends half of her time in the villages and does not get to meet her family often.



Yugin has a beautiful family with two daughters. Her husband also works in the charity profession. Because of their common vision, they can support each other in terms of work. Yugin is not always home as she always works in the field, so her husband is responsible for taking care of the children and elderly at home. With the great support from her family, she can concentrate on her work without having to worry about her family. It is her positive attitudes and her lovely family that keep her young and beautiful. 🌸



Easter Visit to Nanning

In the past Easter, a group of Silver Lining supporters went to Nanning to visit the children with cerebral palsy and their families. They also joined them in a three-day family camp. How has this visit changed or inspired them? Let's take a look at some of their sharing!



Changing each other's lives Denise's Family

Thank to Silver Lining for giving us a chance to visit the rehabilitation center for children with cerebral palsy, pay home visits and join the Beihai family camp. It was a valuable lesson for us all and we have learnt how to give and experience more love and grace.

There is only one reason for me to join this visit. It was to respond to God's call. I believe that we will receive more than we give because God loves these children. As long as are willing to step out, we will definitely see what God has done for Silver Lining.

On the first day we arrived at the Center, we were already touched by the children's innocence, the parents' persistence and the teachers' passion! Before we entered the classroom, one of the children already came to shake hands with us and welcomed us. During the training, parents and children were all focused on the teacher's instructions. A simple act like waving or making a step is not simple to them.



Home visit helps us to learn more about the life of family with a cerebral palsy child.

Footprints Visitor Sharing



Denise's (first left) family visited Silver Lining Guangxi.

After class, we proceeded to home visit. It was a very good opportunity for us to understand their daily life. Though facing difficulties every day, parents would motivate and support each other. Together with the help from Silver Lining, they found hope in despair.

In the three-day family camp, our group split into five small teams and organized different activities and talks in the camp. These three days have become a beautiful memory for us and the children and parents at Nanning. We only have one wish, and that is to bring love to everyone. The most heartwarming part was to see their innocent smiles on the beach. It really melted our hearts!

On our last day, we did some sharing and exchange at the closing ceremony. We sincerely hope for the best for the children, parents and staff at Silver Lining and hope we will keep in touch in the future.

It is a valuable chance for my whole family, from young to old, to participate in this event. Everyone gave their best in their roles. I was blessed to see my daughter who learnt to respect and cherish life through the beautiful witness of the children and parents. I hope everyone will keep their hopes up and continue to influence each other's lives!

Never give up (Lau Lai-ling)

Before we took off, since we had to prepare some games for the camp, I tried to imagine the ability of the children with cerebral palsy and the obstacles faced by their parents. I tried to picture the heaviness of the parents and wondered what I could say to encourage them.

I remember on the first day we arrived at the Center, we sat in their training and saw the teacher instructing their motions, "Raise your left leg...raise your right arm...." It sounds easy to us but not for the children there. But with their parents' help, every child tried their best to finish the moves. It was a beautiful scene!



Children trying their best in the rehabilitation training

In the following days, we joined the Beihai family camp. Through spending time and playing games with each other, I found that most parents are positive and pleasant. I wondered why they are happier than us given they have to take intensive care of their children every day? A mother told me one night at the dinner, "At Silver Lining, there is nothing to compare since we are pretty much the same. We just help each other out." Their encouraging attitude is a good example for us.

Since the children cannot control their limbs very well, they need to wear a feet aid to help them walk. Most of the time they will fall. When I wanted to lift them



Lau Lai-ling (left) looks forward to visiting the children again

up, the parents would only ask them to try getting up by themselves. It is for their own good. Lydia (one of the founders) said one of the children told her he isn't afraid of pain, when he falls he just gets back up..... The children would become stronger when they climb with their own strength.

At the final closing ceremony, a group of children sang a song called "when you turn old" for the parents. It reminded me of the first day of class that their hard work was for one day when they can take care of their own parents. It moved me deeply because it was love! The love I saw was from the parents to their children, who wear a big smile because of the love they experience. Parents also experience love from Silver Lining, where there are teachers, staff, and supporters with a love heart.

I am really blessed to be able to join this journey. I thought I had to encourage the children and parents but it was the other way around. It makes me understand that giving up is easy but to persist is difficult. Yet, with Silver Lining, a place filled with love and people who would never give up on any parent or child who keeps trying, I see many smiling faces with joy and thanksgiving!

Give Wings to Dream

(Lee Mon-kei)

In Nanning, I see dreams. Dreams that I wanted to give a pair of wings to.

In this visit, our team introduced a mini game to the children and parents called "Tree of Wish". We want them to write down their wishes and place it onto the Tree.

When the game started, we saw the parents struggling to think about their dreams. In fact, we never told them the wish may come true after placing it on the tree, but they took the game seriously and wrote down all their wishes. They think and write and make corrections to what they wrote. In the process, I saw that they didn't treat it as a game only, they expressed everything in their heart, their dreams and their expectations towards their children.

Watching them placing their dreams on the Tree one by one, dreams that sounds simple but not at all easy for themI couldn't hold my tears.

The dream of Gege (a child with cerebral palsy) is to walk. Others' include driving, taking care of brother, working in a factory, doing what he wants to do, going on a spontaneous trip, etc.



Footprints

Visitor Sharing



They may not be able to walk; may not be able to take public transport. They are being taken care of but wish to take care of others. They are just like us who wanted to do their own things. They wanted to go travel but is tied up by reality just like us - maybe due to work or just life.

Is it simple? Yes; Is it easy? Not at all. When my eyes were still filled with tears, I lifted my head and saw them all happy and energetic as they put their cards of wishes onto the Tree, all feeling satisfied at their seat. That moment I was ashamed of myself. Why should I pity them? Though their dreams have not come true yet, their soul is changing unnoticeably.

Although I don't feel I have done much for them in this short visit, I feel like we are like a tunnel, for them to walk through and wait with hope. The light on the other side of the tunnel would be the love of God, shining over our path and give us confidence and strength to press on.

"I believe love can change the world." ☸

Introduction of Lower Limb Orthosis for Children with Cerebral Palsy

By Au Yeung Choi-kam (Prosthetist at Prince of Wales Hospital)



Au Yeung Choi-kam(left) provided treatment for individual children at the Rehabilitation Center.



Au Yeung Choi-kam (left) exchanged with Mr. Pan on the technicality in fabricating orthosis.

Before this year's Lunar New Year, I visited Silver Lining Rehabilitation Center in Guangxi for the first time. This visit was mainly for meeting with the teacher and therapist, understanding what the children need in terms of special aid, as well as providing treatment for several difficult cases. Most importantly, I met Mr. Pan, who make orthosis for the children so we can exchange our ideas and techniques.

Though there is not the most advanced medical device, every smile on the children's faces and the active participation from parents, teachers and staff devotion has attracted me. I know the path for Silver Lining since

its establishment in 2005 was never easy. Yet, having a dream in heart makes the road easier. My best wish to Silver Lining!

I will introduce several common orthosis and explain their design below:

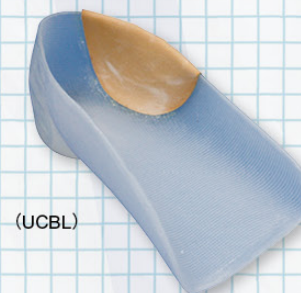
Orthosis is an external device to help improving nerves, muscle and skeletal systems' function and structure. It is common for children with cerebral palsy to have lower limb articular contracture and distortion, leading to peculiar posture, malfunction, step deviation, etc. Yet, the use of orthosis would replace the lost function of children with cerebral palsy with human engineering to improve their walking and self-control ability.

Lower limb orthosis usually has the following function: to control muscle tension and movement mode, to restrict involuntary movements and reduce undesirable reflexes, avoiding unusual joint activities and limit motion area. It also avoids and fixes distortion, replacing some of the lost functions. When in action, it helps to provide stable foundation and facilitate treatment and training's outcome, aiming to improve walking posture ultimately. Besides, orthosis can also help strengthening the training.

Polyethylene or Polypropylene is the common material used to make the lower limb orthosis. Its advantage is being light, easy to clean and durable. Depending on the treatment goal, it can be differentiated into fixed and joint design. Common orthosis include:

(1) UCBL Foot Orthosis and Supra-malleolar orthosis (SMO)

Fixed design is most commonly used. Its function is to stabilize and maintain the feet bone's position and alignment, fixing or supporting platy podia, improving extroversion or inversion, reducing muscle tension and uplift of heels. This kind of orthosis has to be placed inside shoes, sandals or flip flops are not advised.



(UCBL)



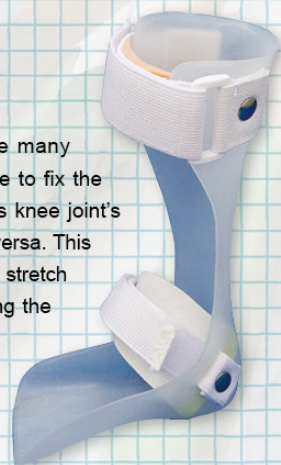
(SMO)

Knowledge

Professional rehabilitation
volunteer sharing

(2) Ankle Foot Orthosis (AFO)

Most children with cerebral palsy would use AFO. There are many designs and the most common one is Ankle Foot Orthosis. It is able to fix the ankle joint to a default position and the angle depends on the child's knee joint's position when they walk: when squatting, the angle is larger and vice versa. This AFO can help fixing spasticity, inversion and extorsion, as well as to stretch the muscle on the back of calf and avoid triceps contracture. By fixing the ankles, it can strengthen stability of lower limbs.



(RAFO)



(HAFO)

AFO is only suitable for children who have comparatively normal plantar flexion and dorsiflexion and those calves were not over tense, or it may cause knee joints squatting posture in long term. Its benefits include helping the kids to stand from sitting position, to squat and to walk up and downs on stairs, helping them to have a more natural posture.

The top of GAFO is needed to be pressed in the lower half of patella or on the patellar ligament. Its main function is to push calves towards the back when the feet are placing flat using ground reaction force to avoid squatting; when the ankles lifted up it pushed the knee backward to avoid bending the knees. This kind of orthosis is not suitable for children whose knee joints are stretched out and is inconvenient for them, particularly difficult for them to stand up from the seat.



(GAFO)

(3) KAFO

KAFO is not for children with cerebral palsy to walk. Its function is to help keeping the knee joints stretched, avoid contracture as well as to control ankle sagging and inversion issues. Prescription of orthosis has to depend on the child's situation and treatment goals. When using the orthosis parents should have enough communications with therapist and orthotist to make good use of orthosis.

Knowledge

Professional rehabilitation
volunteer sharing



For children with cerebral palsy, it is important to have suitable rehabilitation training as early as possible, and to provide timely medical help and device aid. These help is crucial to their development and growth.

Last year, Jingjing (a child at Silver Lining) received an operation at the University of Hong Kong Shenzhen Hospital through Cornerstone's scheme and received rehabilitation training two months after the surgery. After returning to Nanning, Silver Lining continues to provide frequent rehabilitation training to Jingjing and found a suitable orthosis and walking aid for her. After over three months of practice, Jingjing can already use a walker to walk by herself and her posture is much nicer and more stable! Now she starts to learn standing by herself. 🧡

BEFORE



Jingjing was unable to stand straight and would fall after a few steps before the operation.

AFTER



Jingjing's walker and orthosis.

"The Wonders of Stories" Initiative

Through our many events we have observed the undeniable benefits of reading with children. Children's stories contain messages about love, friendship, responsibility, and self-worth. These stories help us instill into children qualities such as wisdom, courage, and honesty, and enable them to blossom into individuals with strong virtues.

Due to the many positive influences and outcomes of reading with children, many of our volunteers are eager to participate in events that gives them the opportunity to read with children. Silver Lining Missions has organized various "reach out and read" events. We hope that through our initiative the children and volunteers alike will experience creative thinking, develop a vivid imagination, and find new adventures. And in the course of reading and storytelling, obtain joy, knowledge, and plant the seeds of virtue in these children.

Many of the children we work with are from under privileged families or have special needs. It is our wish that our reading initiative will enable these children to influence society and encourage the public to recognize and accept children of special needs.



Our volunteers outside Sub-Acute Saratoga Children's Hospital.

Our Goals:

1. Give children the opportunity to explore the world of reading
2. Give volunteers the opportunity to interact, connect, and cherish children with special needs by participating in "Reach Out and Read" events
3. Utilize the interactions among our volunteers to positively influence people around us and encourage them to join our volunteer group

Silver Lining encourages you to be one of our volunteers to help children of special needs through this Reading Program!
Sign up now at www.silverliningmissions.org !

For further information, please contact Ms. Laurent Mak at laurent@silverliningmissions.org or (408) 905-3322.

Message from Susan Ying, volunteer coordinator of The Wonders of Stories:

It was July 4, 2015 as I was stepping into the entrance of SASCH (Sub-Acute Saratoga Children Hospital), I was in awe by glancing that erected glass atrium of bird cage filled with life birds chirping inside! The interior of the facility was painted with meadows, butterflies and blue sky, etc. This facility was once a nursing home, and now it got renovated into a long-term children hospital, serving children from infancy to aged 21 who depended heavily upon ventilators and feeding tubes.

As a lifelong avid reader to younger children, I feel rather privileged to be able to set aside from my busy schedule and read openly to them! It would be my utmost desire to stimulate their passive mental state and through reading I will bring them into that endless enchanted rainbow of imagination!

It all began when I had the opportunity to volunteer at Silver Lining Missions in China few years ago. The founders are Chris and Lydia Yeung. Through their simple faith, this family of five had decided to step out of their comfort zone and dedicate their lives to changing lives of the underprivileged and orphans in China. Schools have been established to provide opportunities to children suffering from Cerebral Palsy or other physical ailments. Both Chris and Lydia strongly believe that spreading love and hope to children in need should not just be limited to China geographically. Therefore, I was once approached

and challenged to consider extending this mission in the Bay Area as well. Through many prayers and considerations, I boldly take up this challenge and have been committed to this child reading program since then.



Susan (front row second left)

I am actively involved in liaison and I hope that youths from various academic settings would consider dedicating their times to impact the lives of SASCH! By doing so, they will not only earn community hours toward their UC applications, but most importantly, they will gain this awesome opportunity to give back to the community, learning to respect and cherish life, and possibly consider joining a life changing short mission trips to Silver Lining Missions one day!

I do believe strongly that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Children who are involved in this reading program, their lives will never be the same again!

To be honest, not everyone will feel comfortable seeing and interacting with patients at SASCH who are bed bound or in their wheelchairs. But I will be there to guide and minimize their possible level of discomfort. We will all work together as a team throughout this journey!

Susan
 Volunteer coordinator

Volunteers' message:

Reading to the children was a very rewarding experience. Silver Lining gave me the opportunity to help those in need of a little love and support. I learned to appreciate what I had. Such a simple task like reading could have a large impact on the children's lives.

Victor Li



Participating in the "The Wonders of Stories" reading program made me realize how fortunate and lucky I am. Moreover, reading to children in the Sub-Acute Hospital encouraged me to care and help others.

Serena Leung

I feel very grateful to be a part of the reading program. I still remember the first time I went to the hospital to visit the kids with Cerebral Palsy. I felt a little overwhelmed as I didn't expect their condition to be that severe. In fact, this showed how big the need was. It has been a rewarding experience to see God's love in their lives. Even though you might not be able to tell every time how much they heard or understood, you can feel God's compelling love through your reading and prayer. You could sense their spirits were full of joy. It also meant so much to their care givers that they were not alone and there were people who truly cared about them. Hope you can join us to share your love!

Lushi Zhang



Lushi (third left) with other volunteers.

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)



LOVE for the Disabled

Rehabilitation Special Education Center
(Conductive Learning)
Sponsor the rehabilitation service and education for children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy



Emergency Medical Assistance

Provide immediate help to sick children

Silver Lining Workshop

Provide job training and opportunities for disabled youth and women



JOY to the students

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

From:

Silver Lining Mission

16 Corning Ave, Suite 206, Milpitas, CA 95035

Tel: 408-770-2018

Email: info@silverliningmissions.org

TO:



Watch us on



Silver Lining Channel

<http://www.youtube.com/SilverLiningChannel>

Website

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Silver Lining Missions

