DREAM FOR OUR CHILDREN E-Newsletter

DEC 2024



The HKSPC "Happy Childhoods Uplift Us All" Conference was successfully held on November 1, 2024. The event examines the three key aspects that contribute to a well-rounded upbringing: physical health, mental health, and interpersonal relationships. It has attracted over 400 childcare workers, social workers, teachers and parents from HKSPC and outside HKSPC.

We were honoured that Mr Chris Sun, JP, Secretary for Labour and Welfare HKSAR joined us to deliver an opening speech for the conference. We also had more than 10 experts speaking on various topics. These speakers contributed a lot to children's physical and mental health development in their professional fields. We believe that all attendees have gained valuable knowledge and inspirations from them.

Mr Sun expressed his pleasure at seeing HKSPC having actively implemented a series of measures to enhance service quality and organisational governance over the past two years, including fostering a culture of child safeguarding, establishing child safeguarding policies, improving internal monitoring mechanisms, and strengthening staff training and supervision. He also mentioned "Children's Residential Home," highlighting its efforts to actively create a child-friendly environment and improve child care services to meet the developmental needs of children.

To support residential child care services in better service quality, the government has allocated grants from the Lotteries Fund, to support HKSPC to deploy AI technology in monitoring CCTV footage in our Children's Residential Home. System should be in use from Mid 2025 onwards.

We also held a press conference to release the results of the "Survey on Awareness and Perception Towards Child Safeguarding," which is the first large-scale survey in Hong Kong focused on public awareness of child safeguarding. The results found that about 75 percent lacked an understanding of the concept. In the future, we will continue to strengthen public education on Child Safeguarding and work with other stakeholders to make Hong Kong a child-friendly city.

We sincerely hope that this conference can promote exchanges among different social welfare organisations, educational institutions and parents. Everyone can contribute to bringing happiness to more families and children in the community.







Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services visits HKSPC



On 19 November, 2024, members of the Legislative Council(Legco) Panel on Welfare Services and a few other Legco members visited three service units of HKSPC, including the Children's Residential Home (CRH), to learn about our work over the past two years. Members who participated in the visit were the Chairman of the Panel, Reverend Canon Peter Douglas Koon, and Deputy Chairman, Ms Doreen Kong; Panel members Mr Stanley Li, Mr Kenneth Leung, Mr Tang Ka-piu; as well as other Legco members Dr Junius Ho, Mr Edward Leung and Ms Joephy Chan.

Members first listened to a briefing from Mr. Vincent Lee, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Ms. Subrina Chow, Director, on our services and operations. During the meeting, Chow shared the current operational challenges faced by child care centre, expressing her hope that the government would review the subsidy model, allowing our child care centres and nursery schools to more flexibly utilise their reserves to support more children and families in need.

Chow highlighted that children in CRH have different backgrounds than those in regular childcare centres. Most of these children come from families without proper care or facing emergencies. Approximately 80% of these families have a history of drug abuse, and around 70% of the children tested positive for drugs in their urine at birth. Social workers and the Social Welfare Department refer all cases.

The Rev. Canon Peter Koon Ho-Ming expressed concern for the frontline staff, noting that the unique backgrounds of the CRH children may complicate the caregiving process. He emphasised the need to communicate this unique situation to the government to gain more support.

Members then observed the facilities and environment of CRH, as well as the Air Cargo Community Day Creche and the Children and Family Services Centre (Sham Mong Districts), to learn about our child care and family support services.

Members exchanged views with HKSPC representatives on issues such as establishing effective regulatory mechanisms, improving service quality, strengthening staff training and further promoting a culture of child safeguarding.

Looking ahead, we are committed to planning new services and continuing to optimise existing services to respond to the ever-changing needs of society, creating a happy childhood for children in Hong Kong.





Little Artist Charity Exhibition 2024

On 7 - 8 December 2024, HKSPC held a charity exhibition at the Phillips Auction in the West Kowloon Cultural District, attracting around 300 guests and members of the public to enjoy the delightful artworks created by children.

Over the past month, our "Little Artist" transformed their ideas of "play" into incredible art pieces and invited their family and friends to donate in support. 107 individual or group participants submitted 63 pieces of artworks that include oil paintings, sculptures, photography and digital art. Group participants include three nursery schools and two Children and Family Services Centres of HKSPC.

The opening ceremony and awards presentation took place on December 7. We are honoured to have Ms Jacqueline Chow, Honorary Secretary of the Executive Committee; Mr Evan Chow, Executive Committee member; Mrs Lorraine Malingue, Co-founder of Kiang Malingue Gallery, as well as Ms Yvonne Fong, Phillips's Senior Specialist & Director of Modern & Contemporary Art as judges for the event. They presented the awards for "Top Fundraiser ", "Most Playful Piece", "Most Environmental Friendly Piece", "Most Colourful Piece", and "Most Interesting Composition".

Our judge, Mr Evan Chow, is the Board of Trustees at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York City and the Co-Chairperson of its International Leadership Council. Mr. Chow also serves on the International Council at Tate Modern in London and the Board of Governors at the Hong Kong Arts Centre.

The "Little Artist" fundraising event will end on December 31, and over HK\$700,000 has been raised so far. The money raised will go towards renovating the playground at HKSPC headquarters and other playbased programmes.













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