



CELEBRATING
HONG KONG



The Spirit of Hong Kong Awards

The Spirit of Hong Kong awards seeks to recognize the unsung heroes in Hong Kong.

The culmination of seven months of reporting under the purposely-created Spirit of Hong Kong editorial series, these awards reward ordinary people who demonstrate inspirational behaviour: decency or honesty, perseverance or kindness, selflessness or dedication.

Their acts are not self-serving. They strive not for financial gain, commercial or business success. They stand for what they believe in. They are people who do not seek publicity for personal benefit, and wouldn't ordinarily make headline news.

Yet they are the essence of the Hong Kong spirit and make us proud to call this our home.



The Spirit of Hong Kong Awards

As one of the eight elements of South China Morning Post's Celebrating Hong Kong initiative, The Spirit of Hong Kong Awards represent an important effort to connect our English language readers with the hidden local underbelly of Hong Kong.

Relatively privileged and with less interaction with Chinese language communities, our English language newspaper readers depend on us to connect us to a world they seldom see: a world of struggle, self-sacrifice, service to others and support of worthy causes.

The stories and the people we discovered in the process of this editorial series were inspiring, beautiful and honest. The final award event was emotionally uplifting and unforgettable.



An Event Worth Celebrating

**CONTENT. CONNECTION. COMMUNITY. CONSCIENCE.
COLLABORATION. CREDIBILITY. CELEBRATION.**

The Spirit of Hong Kong was built upon a strong collaboration between South China Morning Post's Editorial and Marketing departments resulting in seven months of over 100 feature articles in print, online and shared socially, a strong marketing and community outreach campaign, culminating in an award event described as 'inspirational'.

The community outreach component is extensive for our newspaper, reaching beyond our English language core: from our readers to non-readers, to 85% of secondary schools in Hong Kong via our Young Post student reporters, through nursing and NGO communities, government, through public transport travelers and through grassroots and social media.

Targeting opinion leader engagement, we gained the support of 8 of Hong Kong's most respected VIPs as judges, and reached out to our readers for nominations and voting.

We have built a powerful perennial editorial and awards event that has far reaching benefits to the community, and builds great value, goodwill and credibility for our brand.



Key Components

APRIL – NOVEMBER 2013

**THE SPIRIT OF
HONG KONG
EDITORIAL SERIES**

100+ FEATURE STORIES in IN PRINT
AND ON SCMP.COM
SOUGHT OUT BY OUR REPORTERS,
BY OUTREACH TO READERS, NGOS,
AND SOCIAL MEDIA

<http://scmp.com/spiritofhongkong>

APRIL – MAY 2013

ASSEMBLE VIP JUDGE PANEL
AND ENLIST CELEBRITY
AMBASSADOR, DONNIE YEN

JUNE – NOVEMBER 2013

THE SPIRIT OF HONG KONG
DEDICATED WEBSITE

<http://spirit.celebratinghk.com>

JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2013

OUTREACH MARKETING CAMPAIGN
TO SECURE NOMINATIONS

OCTOBER 2013

OUTREACH MARKETING CAMPAIGN
TO SECURE PUBLIC VOTES

OCTOBER 2013

JUDGING PANEL VOTING

25 NOVEMBER 2013

**THE SPIRIT OF
HONG KONG AWARDS**

ANNOUNCE WINNERS
AT GALA AWARD EVENT AND
FOLLOW UP NEWS COVERAGE

[http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/
article/1365703/spirit-hong-kong-awards-
winners-embody-spirit-city](http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1365703/spirit-hong-kong-awards-winners-embody-spirit-city)

VIP Judges



Chairman:
Sir David Akers-Jones
KBE, CMG, GBM, JP
Former Acting Governor and
Chief Secretary for Hong Kong



Dr David Pang
Chairman,
SCMP Group



Wang Xiangwei
Editor in Chief,
South China
Morning Post



**The Hon
Ronald Arculli**
GBM, CVO, GBS,
OBE, JP Former
HK Stock
Exchange
Chairman and
LegCo convenor



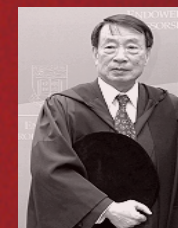
**Shelley Lee Lai
Kuen**
GBS, OBE, JP
Ex Secretary for
Home Affairs
HK Government



Daryl Ng
Executive
Director,
Sino Land also
Event sponsor



Dr Rebecca Lee
First female to
reach North and
South Poles,
Polar Scientist
and explorer



**Professor
Nelson Chow**
Hon Professor
And Chair of
Social Work
and Social
Administration
Hong Kong
University



Ronald James Blake
GBS, OBE, JP,
C Eng, FHKEng,
FHKIE, FICE,
FISSTructE, FCIHT,
Ex Chief Officer,
Kowloon Canton
Railway Corporation

Judging Criteria

Spirit of Hong Kong Awards are given to individuals or teams who have demonstrated integrity and kindness, setting good examples through their perseverance and achievement; and have created big impact to community through their act. The following criteria are utilized in story selection, reviewing and judging nominations:

Integrity – The nominee has demonstrated a specific act of kindness, generosity, selflessness, giving and caring, honesty, self-sacrifice and/or moral courage. These are specific acts in concrete situations, when the person has truly chosen to be the best person he/she can be in accordance with human values.

Impact — Impact is measured by the extent to which the act has met social needs and concern. Consideration should be given to the significance of act or actions, longevity of service, the number of people that received services or influenced, implications for the benefits of community and positive future of Hong Kong, etc.

Inspiration — The nominee has set a good example to the community with his/her endeavours, dedication and achievement against adversity. Consideration should be given to how much he/she uses his/her stories, knowledge or ideas to inspire people around to find confidence and strength.

Celebrity Ambassador



Donnie Yen
Actor, Director

Arguably Hong Kong's top current action star, Donnie Yen is best known for his role in the iconic Ip Man films (Best Film, Best Actor in Hong Kong Film Awards), in which he plays the titular wing chun patriarch (Bruce Lee's martial arts teacher), launching a legendary story about a benevolent, community protecting hero and family man who stands up for justice and the oppressed.

Veteran of 60 films and Director, Action Choreographer and Producer of over 20 more, Mr Yen was instrumental in lending a heroic lead to this unsung hero award, and providing enhanced publicity and credibility to the event.

Mr Yen will be filming his next lead role in the Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon sequel.

Award Structure

A total of 11 awards were given.

There are no unique award categories for the first 10, and all awards were judged upon the same criteria.

The 11th award is voted by SCMP readers and is entitled the Peoples' Choice Award.

JUDGES AWARDS

Ten awards were given to individuals or teams of individuals that score highest according to the judges.

PEOPLES' CHOICE AWARD

One award was given to the individual or team of individuals voted most popular and most deserving by SCMP readers.



Full Marketing Campaign

SPIRIT OF HONG KONG ARTICLES

WEBSITE

HOUSE ADVERTISING

SOCIAL MEDIA

NOMINATIONS OUTREACH

PRESS RELEASES

PAID AND PARTNER MEDIA

POST EVENT SUPPLEMENT

Microsite

A dedicated bi-lingual campaign website launched in July

Here, a constant flow of stories was uploaded, and links back to a dedicated Spirit of Hong Kong editorial section in SCMP.com enabled readers to read more archive Spirit stories.



<http://spirit.celebratinghk.com/>

Editorial Coverage

The Spirit of Hong Kong series benefited from a fully dedicated commissioning editor and editorial team plus additional outreach to all our journalists and freelancers for these hidden stories.

We achieved over 100 Spirit of Hong Kong stories in print and on scmp.com.

Through scmp.com, readers from all over the world can hear about the true spirit of Hong Kong people, and our city's finest ambassadors.

<http://spirit.celebratinghk.com/>



Nomination Campaign

Finding the hidden heroes is not easy.

They are low key and often lead ordinary lives.

We built the editorial library of stories through outreach via SCMP channels: house Ads, banner, eDM, facebook, mobile and newsletters.



CELEBRATING HONG KONG 加香
油港

e*traordinary
Celebrating the remarkable achievements of ordinary people
Nominate now!

We want to honour the unsung heroes who make our world a better place. But we need your help to find them. Do you know any ordinary people whose achievements deserve wider recognition? They can be of any age, from any walk of life, but the one thing they must be is extraordinary.

Help them achieve the recognition they deserve. Submit your nomination now:
celebratinghk.com/spirit
Enquiries: shk@scmp.com
Deadline: **Monday, 30 September 2013**

Sponsor: 信和集團 Sino Group

THE SPIRIT of HONG KONG AWARDS

110th ANNIVERSARY 1943-2013

SCMP South China Morning Post

Nomination Campaign

Beyond inviting readers from SCMP to nominate, we also placed ads in HK Magazine (a free distribution English paper), AM730 (a local Chinese freesheet), Bamboos Nursing Services (with a network of over 80,000 nursing professionals), Young Post (our Student newspaper), Facebook and worked with NGOs and all our ambassadors, partners and associates to hear the stories that warm our hearts.

Local subway transport partner MTR donated 150 billboards for further local outreach.



Celebrity Outreach Campaign

With Donnie Yen as our Ambassador, we were able to gain greater publicity pulling power. We leveraged his celebrity profile, which he gave freely, through SCMP channels: editorial, house Ads, banner, facebook and newsletter

Outdoor channel:
Tram wrap and posters at shopping malls.



Editorial and Social Media Outreach

Over the course of seven months we reached out through print and online, through facebook and many other channels to ensure awareness was widespread.



The Award Event

The editorial series culminated in the Award event, a Gala dinner at the Marriott Ballroom for 300 Judges and their families, other VIPs and Celebrating Hong Kong ambassadors, winners and their families, editorial staff and partners/advertisers.

Opening speech from Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary for the Hong Kong administration. (Hong Kong's second in command senior government official).

Full multi-media presentation of the print and online articles and excerpts from filmed interviews.

Each winner was preceded by a recap of their stories from a member of the judging panel, and followed with their own acceptance speeches.

Each winner took home HK\$10,000, and an award trophy.

South China Morning Post – Celebrating Hong Kong
South China Morning Post's 110th Anniversary initiative

CELEBRATING
HONG KONG 加香
油港



The winners flanked by the sponsor and SCMP executives

The Award Event



Award Souvenir Booklet

A 32 page booklet detailing all the finalists' stories and sharing thoughts from the judges was given to each guest.



The Results

HK\$1.5M SPONSORSHIP AND CHARITY DONATION SECURED

(50% used to cover editorial series and award dinner costs and 50% donated to Celebrating Hong Kong poverty related charities.)

SEVEN MONTHS OF POWERFUL AND MOVING EDITORIAL

Leading to donations, recognition and community support for these unsung heroes.

GOVERNMENT, VIP, ADVERTISER, READER AND PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF OUR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

A BOOST TO JADED AND CYNICAL HONG KONGERS

To inspire them and remind them of what these amazing people with much less than they have, do to help and inspire others.

AN AWARD EVENT THAT BENEFITED FROM SEVEN MONTHS' EXTENSIVE BUILD UP AND HARD WORK:

There wasn't a dry eye in the house and our guests remarked that it was a moving, inspirational event they'd never forget.

Testimonials

“... I congratulate and commend SCMP on this very meaningful Celebrating Hong Kong campaign initiative, especially Spirit of Hong Kong awards...these (nominees) are the people that have kept the Government always striving for improvement, otherwise the usual bureaucratic inertia will not really push us into action.”

Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary, Hong Kong SAR Government

“I and my wife , also our guests, enjoyed the evening and indeed found it a very moving experience. Congratulations to SCMP and all involved.”

Ronald James Blake, GBS, OBE, JP, Ex Chief Officer,
Kowloon Canton Railway Corporation

Testimonials

“I have never been so humbled in the presence of so many amazing people...truly inspirational.”

Lisa Christensen, Co-Founder of Ecovision and CEO Doppler Asia

“I attend many business functions and ceremonies...I must say that (The Spirit of Hong Kong Awards) was the most impactful..it made me proud to be in Hong Kong...it was very special and SCMP should be congratulated for the initiative.”

Jay Walder, MTRC CEO

South China Morning Post – Celebrating Hong Kong

South China Morning Post's 110th Anniversary initiative



Editorial

Monday, September 30, 2003

CITY

SOCIETY

HUMBLE HERO OF SARS CRISIS: I WAS JUST DOING MY JOB

Police officer contracted the disease from which he was trying to prevent others as he worked to help contain the lethal outbreak

As political aides quit, do we need to replace them?

Speculation about their recent resignations shows there's a larger issue of replacing talent

A number of government bureau runs smoothly without political assistants

16.9%

THE SPIRIT OF HONG KONG AWARDS

The Spirit of Hong Kong Awards celebrates the achievements of remarkable Hong Kong people who make our city a better place. The ordinary people who do extraordinary things. Please nominate someone you think deserves recognition today for more details, please visit celebratinghk.com/spirit

信和集團 Sino Group

Monday, August 26, 2003

CITY

CITY BEAT

Loss of giant banyan shows us that trees don't grow on money

Concrete and incense burners kill natural space that has been growing for 400 years

HERO'S INSTINCTS TOOK OVER AS WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

After Lee Yee-ming got his instincts to tell him to leave his job, he was right

A bosses' plot to hold down wages, unions say

Each second meant life or death. Do I save a stranger, who would throw without me, or find the person I love most?

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信和集團 Sino Group

Monday, October 14, 2003

CITY

CITY BEAT

Consensus the only way to gain universal suffrage

Moderates in both the pro-democratic and pro-establishment camps need to compromise

GRIT, DETERMINATION AND A CAMPUS INSPIRATION

Student activist Tung Tsz-ho may not be known on the Hong Kong, but when she shows others how to do it, she can be more than just a student

There have to be more activities for ordinary people and disabled people - Theoretical education is not enough

Winged invaders create a buzz in Tuen Mun

Locals believe the swarms of flies are coming from the nearby landfill - and it's getting worse

5,000

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信和集團 Sino Group

Monday, August 12, 2003

CITY

From Nanning with LOVE

Thousands of babies left inside a hospital without explanation from their Hong Kong adoptive parents, thanks to one woman's dedication

5

extraordinary

Celebrating the remarkable achievements of ordinary people

Nominate now!

THE SPIRIT OF HONG KONG AWARDS

The Spirit of Hong Kong Awards celebrates the achievements of remarkable Hong Kong people who make our city a better place. The ordinary people who do extraordinary things. Please nominate someone you think deserves recognition today for more details, please visit celebratinghk.com/spirit

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CELEBRATING
HONG KONG

62 Monday, September 2, 2013

South China Morning Post

CHARITY

CITY

From left to right: Spirit of Hong Kong Awards 2012 winners, including the 10-year-old girl who helped the poor and the 10-year-old boy who helped the poor.

BEATING WASTE AND PUTTING FOOD ON PLATES FOR NEEDY

Philanthropist learned the importance of environmentalism at a young age, and made this his area of focus by helping the hungry of Hong Kong.

When he was 10, he learned the importance of environmentalism at a young age, and made this his area of focus by helping the hungry of Hong Kong. He learned the importance of environmentalism at a young age, and made this his area of focus by helping the hungry of Hong Kong. He learned the importance of environmentalism at a young age, and made this his area of focus by helping the hungry of Hong Kong.

I started digging deeper with my partners and we realized there really was a huge problem

When he was 10, he learned the importance of environmentalism at a young age, and made this his area of focus by helping the hungry of Hong Kong. He learned the importance of environmentalism at a young age, and made this his area of focus by helping the hungry of Hong Kong. He learned the importance of environmentalism at a young age, and made this his area of focus by helping the hungry of Hong Kong.

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At first... the local charities were also reluctant to receive help from us

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WEDDING

Rent of tiny flats jumps 20pc and they get smaller

The city's poorest are forced to cram like sardines in tiny flats that are getting smaller and more expensive.

By Nicky Ip in Shanghai

For the poorest of the poor in Shanghai, the search for a place to live is a never-ending struggle. The city's poorest are forced to cram like sardines in tiny flats that are getting smaller and more expensive.

10

THE SPIRIT OF HONG KONG AWARDS 2012

THE SPIRIT OF HONG KONG AWARDS 2012

ENVIRONMENT

The Ministry of the Environment, 2013

Damaged liner caused leak, but no pollution

By Nicky Ip in Shanghai

The Ministry of the Environment, 2013. The damaged liner caused a leak, but no pollution. The Ministry of the Environment, 2013.

The Spirit of Hong Kong Awards

The Spirit of Hong Kong Awards celebrates the achievements of extraordinary Hong Kong people who make our city a better place. The criteria people use for extraordinary things. Please contact someone on your list below.

contact us at our website, please visit enr.hkaward.com.hk/enr

Sponsored by:

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THE SPIRIT OF HONG KONG AWARDS

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Carmen Yau: an amazing work in progress

Carmen Yau-Kamman comments Special Molecular Anomaly patients like herself

[Automatic Events](#)
[enmanews@enmanews.com](#)

[R0101402](#)
[Wednesday, 09 September, 2014 2:04pm](#)
[\(Updated: Monday, 07 October, 2014 7:46pm\)](#)



Carmen Yau-Kamman (Photo: SCMP/Photoes)

Carmen Yau-Kamman is a lifelong infirmary, for which she is taking medication. The doctor wanted her to go to hospital, but she quietly insisted, preferring to go to her office, where the work is absorbing and takes her mind off her ailing life.

Eight years ago when she graduated she could still walk, albeit with a cane. Now she uses an electric wheelchair and sometimes needs two hands to fit up the stairs when she heads outside, per usual.

Yau knows she has limited time to make the most of her working life and study on the can comment other Special Molecular Anomaly (SMA) patients like herself who are not in research, but more empirical.

She works for the Families of SMA, based in North Point. The disease alleges the name - Yau, who is 32, says she is "elderly".

"In China they can call the 'frozen people'," she says. "The muscles seize up and eventually patients cannot be a wheelchair as the longest step ending."

Yau lives in some years. Children can start deteriorating as toddlers and for some is a hospital bed after a birthmark by the time they are five. So despite her own health issues, "Yau is realizing that her goal is to help those children feel positive and give them a purpose in their lives."

Living independently, it's not easy," says Yau, who travels from her home in Yuen Long to North Point by bus every day. "The journey consumes me to be a domestic helper. I can speak good English. I can organize events for parents and carer's team. Talk on the phone. It seems I'm very capable. But I can't change my own clothes, I can't take a bath. And at night I get numb. So my helper has to turn me in bed."

Most people in Hong Kong work to live, but, for me, I live to work

enmanews.com



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[www.scmp.com/hong-kong/article/1317570/carmen-yau-amazing-work-in-progress](#)



The Winners' Stories

The Winners' Stories



Jenny Law Chun-heung

Every second Thursday of the month, beautician Jenny Law Chun-heung, 62, transforms the quiet halls of Grantham Hospital in Wong Chuk Hang into a hair salon. Armed with a pair of scissors and an electric shaver, Law gives each patient a haircut, be it a trim or shave, and cuts their nails. Law has been offering haircuts, toenail clipping and facials to elderly patients for the past 27 years, for free. She came up with the idea of giving free haircuts when she visited a friend in a hospital, and noticed the elderly patients around her had long toenails. Law was also disheartened by how downbeat some of the patients looked. So she asked some patients if they would like a facial to cheer them up. They happily agreed. And 27 years later, she is still bringing smiles to patients' faces. Through her love and care, patients regain dignity and confidence, and become happier.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1167045/hospital-hair-doctor-cuts-free-grantham-hospital>



Lee Ming-sun

After Lee Ming-sun got his children to a life raft in the Lamma ferry disaster, he returned for his wife ... but then he heard a stranger's calls for help. Lee, 48, was with his wife and two children aboard a Hongkong Electric boat for an evening out to go and see the National Day fireworks last year in Victoria Harbour. But the evening would swiftly end in tragedy when the boat collided with a Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry just off Lamma island, leaving 39 people dead. Lee, a trained rescuer, pulled his children to safety aboard a rescue boat, then returned for his wife, but heard a stranger's plea for help. He managed to hold on to the panicking man, and also brought bodies to the boat. Lee's heroism and concern for strangers is extraordinary at a time when he didn't know where his wife was. His wife has subsequently said she fully supports what Lee did.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1299350/heros-instincts-took-over-world-turned-upside-down>

The Winners' Stories



Chan Kit-ying

Chan Kit-ying has worked for 25 years for Mother's Choice, the charity which promotes loving, nurturing care for single girls facing crisis pregnancies and babies and children needing permanent homes. Chan, 50, now director of services at Mother's Choice in Hong Kong, spent more than a decade from the mid-1990s helping to change policy in one state orphanage in Nanning, in the Guangxi Autonomous Region in mainland China. Her dedication led to hundreds of babies being adopted abroad and a change in mindset among officials there. Having been invited into the state orphanage she was appalled to see many babies were dying. So she asked to take some out, initially nursing them back to health in her hotel room and later creating a network of foster parents in the neighbourhood. Chan developed her relationship with the orphanage to help increasing numbers of babies. Now Chan is "auntie" to hundreds of children who have been adopted in North America and elsewhere.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1295983/small-miracles-how-hundreds-babies-left-squalid-orphanage-found>



Willy Law Wai-cheung

Willy Law Wai-cheung believes in practical assistance for people with severe disabilities, like himself, to ensure they can live independently and not in an institution. Law recently helped produce a 45 minute video documentary on the lives of the severely disabled to be shown at schools. He filmed some of it with a camera strapped to his head. For the first 11 years of his life, Law lived on the floor of his mother's Shek Kip Mei public housing flat. She would go out to clean, leaving her disabled son with food on the floor, the rice covered with an iron bowl to stop the rats from eating it. Law has only received a primary school education, begun at the age of 12, but he has been central over the past decade to fighting for key government policies to help the severely disabled, including providing helpers in flats.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1315463/independent-thinker-unfazed-his-disability>

The Winners' Stories



**Mandy Tsang
Tsz-kwan**

Tsang Tsz-kwan is a blind student, whose inspiring story touched hearts and attracted lots of media attention during the Diploma of Secondary Education (DSE) exams. The former student of Ying Wah Girls' College, scored 5** in Chinese, English and Liberal studies, 5* in English and Chinese literature, and 4 in maths. This was despite losing her eyesight during early childhood and being hearing-impaired since Primary One. She lacks sensitivity in her fingers and so needs to read Braille with her lips as well as using a specially adapted Braille reader. Tsang was modest about her achievements and told the media she was just keen to get on with studying translation at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Tsang has also been using a keyboard that is lighter than a typical Braille typewriter, developed by the Polytechnic University's Jockey Club Rehabilitation Engineering Centre.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1330982/blind-students-words-speak-grit-and-spirit>



Pastor Lee Mo-fan

Pastor Lee Mo-fan, 84, has been helping elderly and the homeless for more than half a century. These days, even though he's elderly himself, Pastor Lee oversees four homes for elderly men, who have often been abandoned by their families. Lee has found these men sometimes living on the outside of a shopping mall, or moved on from living in a fire escape – and at its homes they've entered a new phase of their lives, one surrounded by the love and caring nature of Lee and his wife. Lee helps those whose children have forgotten them, or those who have fallen through the cracks. While his work is that of an exceptionally giving man, his stories of how some Hong Kong adult children treat their parents is a sad indictment of some aspects of society. But at least in their last few years they are able to find a loving home.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1286480/homeless-man-86-finds-peaceful-place-call-home>

The Winners' Stories



Elsa Tse Ngar-yee

Elsa Tse Ngar-yee was a teenage heroin addict and dealer on Yau Ma Tei's Temple Street. Now, a couple of decades later, she is back. Only, this time it is to try to rescue the girls who have taken her place. The 39-year-old mother of two left behind a life of heroin, marijuana and cough syrup abuse, and now has a full-time job as a florist - and a vocation to show others that it is possible to leave the world of addiction behind. Eight years ago she joined a group of about a dozen former drug addicts at Fuk Lam Church on Temple Street, and through the church she works for the Barnabas Charitable Service Association, a Christian charity founded in 1981 to help female drug abusers. "I believe life changes life," says Tse. "I want to show them through what I have gone through, and show that there is still hope and value in life, no matter how shattered their lives are."

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1297597/angel-temple-street>



Carmen Yau

Carmen Yau has enormous will power. At 32, her body is "elderly" as she has Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and sufferers in China are known as the "Frozen people" as your muscles stop working. Yau is now in powered wheelchair. Every day, with a helper's help, she gets dressed and travels by bus from Yuen Long to work at the Families of SMA Charitable Trust in North Point. She sometimes needs two hands to lift the phone, when her muscles feel weak. But she's still better off than many five year olds with the same condition – so she goes and counsels them and their families. At the moment she's also taking studying for a postgraduate diploma at Hong Kong Baptist University in health counselling. "Most people work to live," says Yau, "but I live to work", deriving contentment from helping the children with SMA to feel positive and keep looking forward.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1317518/carmen-yau-amazing-work-progress>

The Winners' Stories



Kan Yiu-kwong

As a telephone repairman, Kan Yiu-kwong, 66, always used to get quite a few holidays. So when he heard about a natural disaster on the mainland in 1994, he rallied a few friends to go and see if they could help. In the end, the disaster wasn't as bad as they had anticipated. But the group decided to tackle the issue of crumbling and dangerous schools in rural areas of Yunnan and Guizhou provinces. Since then, Kan, his friends, and then friends of friends, all through word of mouth, have funded the building of an astonishing 1,100 schools. Thousands of children have also been helped with school supplies and other costs. In 2000, Kan established the Grace Charity Foundation to continue these good works. Since 2007, he and the donors and 80 volunteers have also branched out into building clinics in rural areas. So far, more than 250 clinics have been built.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1325908/hongkongers-reach-out-across-border>



Elana Ho

"I'm just an ordinary mum," says Elana Ho Tsao Yuk-lan. Let us beg to differ. Ho, a lawyer's wife, went to see an orphanage in Fuzhou in 2003 – and the experience changed her life. She witnessed any number of sick children, some with cleft palates, others with heart issues, and was immensely distressed that these children had been abandoned as orphans by their parents. So Ho got together with a team, including four doctors, and they now travel regularly to the mainland, the doctors giving medical advice or conducting surgery at mainland hospitals. Already 250 babies with cleft palates, or congenital heart disease, spina bifida or club feet, have been assisted by the Starfish Charitable Foundation and given a new and promising life to look forward to. All money raised by the foundation goes towards the surgery and follow-up treatment of the children. And to think that when Ho started "I just thought if I could help five to 10 babies..."

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1333815/ordinary-mum-extraordinary-mission>

The Winners' Stories – Peoples' Choice



Jill Robinson

Jill Robinson, a former administrator for the BBC, came to Hong Kong 25 years ago. She began Dr Dog, a pet therapy scheme after seeing the horrific dog and cat food markets in Guangzhou. Dr Dog has been introduced to the mainland, but Robinson's real legacy is effectively breaking the back of the bear bile trade. More than half of China's provinces have now signed memorandae to say that they are committed to ending the bear bile trade. Many of China's healthcare experts support Robinson's Animals Asia organisation and have publicly stated how bear bile is actually unhealthy and there are far better synthetic alternatives. Many of the Asian black bears or Moon bears that have been saved from bear bile farms have been taken to Animals Asia's sanctuary in Chengdu, Sichuan province. Robinson has also founded a sanctuary in Vietnam.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1327810/one-womans-battle-end-bear-bile-trade>

