

**A Decade of Love**  
Congratulations from 10th Chairman Mr. Henry Tang

Before I was elected as chairman, the Executive Committee entrusted me with the important position of being Treasurer and I was a long standing member of Love the Elderly & Children Foundation. Now, at its 10th anniversary, I hope as the 10th Chairman, I can live up to the names of the past Chairmen by working conscientiously and with gusto.

Reaching this ten year mark is a huge milestone. It has not been easy to come this far and achieving what has been achieved. As I look back on the past and the obstacles we have overcome, I am reminded of the strength of the Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel.

It had all started when a group of concerned individuals noticed that Chinese elderly people were constantly confined at home largely due to language and cultural barriers. Their children were usually busy with work and unable to take care of their aged parents. The day-to-day attention, home safety and medical problems proved to be too much of a hassle. The various concerned individuals thought that their Indo-Chinese community was in desperate need of a well-equipped elderly hostel to provide quality services.

Thus, in 1988, Indo-China Chinese Association decided to take the lead and together with other organizations from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, set themselves upon the ambitious project of building an elderly hostel. Later, the Australian Government echoed its support and offered to sponsor the project on the condition that we were able to raise a million dollars. To raise a million dollars twenty years ago was a phenomenally difficult task. We conducted multiple fund raising activities but the result was still unsatisfactory, resulting in many disappointing and frustrating delays in the progression of the project. Organisations from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos thought that it was near impossible to raise sufficient funds and they intended to quit. Frustratingly, there were also different opinions within the Indo-China Chinese community. Sadly, at one point, all the organizations including Indo-China Chinese Association had given up on the hope of founding an elderly hostel.

However some of the executive committee members from Indo-China Chinese Association, were unwilling to abandon such meaningful project, so Phuoc Thang Tran, Van T Chung, Harry Tang and I re-planned the project, recruiting other people who had a similar vision to ours. Almost immediately, we received great support from Dr. Peter Wong AM, Mr. Oai Trieu, Mr and Mrs Som Sak Ma and Mr Henry Ngai. A total of 31 people from various sectors, each donated ten thousand dollars, and became the trustees of Love the Elderly & Children Foundation.

Subsequently, we received further support from other organisations and enthusiastic people. The motto 'everybody works hard and the work will succeed' indeed was true. All our efforts had paid off. We finally raised a million dollars and received the government funding. The construction of Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel commenced in September 2001 and was completed in March 2003. It is a garden-style hostel with 30 rooms. Each room is well-equipped and built to ensure safety for the elderly, the comfortable and beautiful living environment ensures high satisfaction among employees and residents.

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The elderly hostel commenced serving the community in 2003. It has now been 10 years, during which time, our staff have made substantial efforts to provide quality services and attentive care to the elderly. We have insisted on doing our best to satisfy our three major stakeholders: the residents, the resident's families and the Department of Health and Aging. The manager, Ms. Veronica Hon has always said, "It is our duty to care for the elderly." is a role model for her staff in the past 10 years and has unified staff members to provide professional and compassionate services to the elderly.

Since then, we have found that the number of elderly who wish to stay at the hostel are on a constant rise. To meet the community's need, we raised money for the construction of a new wing to the hostel, obtained a grant of two million dollars and received a low interest loan of six million dollars from the Federal Government. The construction of the extension commenced in July 2012. It is expected that the project will be completed by the end of November 2013. Upon completion, the number of rooms in the hostel will increase from thirty to eighty-eight. As a result of having gone through the process of constructing the existing premise, we are now better qualified to handle the extension project. I am glad to report to you that this new and beautiful building will include many facilities, which will be well equipped and computerized.

A modern hostel will bring a vibrant, peaceful and comfortable environment for the elderly to enjoy. Our efforts were aided by the great support from communities, organisations, individual donors and the selfless devotion from our staff. They are truly reflecting the Chinese traditional virtue of respecting the elderly. Let our good deed goes down in history through our ongoing biography of Love and devotion.