

Blessed are those who give

A Message from Mr. Oai Trieu, The Chairman of The Preparation and Construction Committee of Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel Project

A fund-raising dinner was held on the 14 September 2003, to raise funds towards the construction and operation costs of our aged hostel. I have personally written 7 poems, for the launch of the 'Gold & Silver Bricks' to raise funds, which were also auctioned out on that night. It was a memorable night for me as it marked a successful beginning for the hostel and the incoming new Foundation.

During a press conference in 2001, I unequivocally pointed to the media that we must succeed and not fail. Succeed means to provide our elderly folks an excellent place to grow old in and failure means a lasting shame to the Indo-Chinese community for not able to fulfil our responsibility to our elderly folks.

It has taken us 15 years to fully complete this hostel project since it was first funded in 1989 by the then Commonwealth Government. Many efforts have been made to get the project off the ground with the help of many people and some returned to complete what they had first started. Therefore, this project has pushed to its limits to achieve the community dreams.

Then in 2001, there was 'new blood' and enthusiastic persons joining the call to reach this goal. Not long, 31 people pledged commitment and agreed to form Love the Elderly & Children Foundation to ensure the completion and the operation of our aged hostel in September 2003. However, it was not until 1st May 2004 that the Opening Ceremony of the aged hostel and Inauguration Ceremony of the Foundation to mark its full completion and operation. It demonstrated to Governments, community and donors that the Foundation has successfully executed its plan as promised and that our hostel is finally operational and fully occupied.

Thus, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who supported Multiculturalism; the Governments who have been very patient and continue to encourage us to complete till the end. A total amount of \$2.5 million was used to complete this project and may I thank all the generous people and sponsors and individuals for support in the last 15 years. I believe, without your help, our aged hostel would not have been operational and our elderly folks would not have enjoy such a wonderful facility and caring service today.

It is indeed an honour to serve the community and I hereby show gratitude to all the trustees, life members and volunteers for constant support including the support and encouragement from the Governments, during my time as the Founding President.

May I eternally thank you for your unselfish service to the community. I hope that the present Committee would work very hard and put all its effort to develop further and provide a quality care service to the Indo-Chinese community.

Mr. Oai Trieu