



【Press Release】

18th March 2009

Union Hospital, Hear Talk Foundation and Christian Action Charity Programme

Operation Help Little Orphan Xiao-Shan To Discover A Whole New World of Sound

Union Hospital, Hear Talk Foundation and Christian Action joined hands together for a charity operation which helped an abandoned deaf-mute child from mainland China, Xiao-shan, to regain her sense of hearing. Through this charity program, the three organizations provided free support to the child patient including operation, treatment, hospitalization, temporary accommodation and transportation

The child patient “Xiao-shan” is a 3-year-old girl. She looks no different from her peers and always wears a big smile on her face. A year ago, Xiao-shan was abandoned by her parents and was brought to the care of Christian Action at Xining Children’s Home in Qinghai Province. She was diagnosed deaf-mute with epilepsy.

Being born with the disabilities led Xiao-shan being an introvert; when she arrived in the Xining Children’s Home, she always felt angry and upset because she was unable to express herself properly. Sometimes she even pulled her hair to express her angry feeling. Fortunately, with the assistance of Union Hospital, Hear Talk Foundation and Christian Action, Xiao-shan received the assessments and cochlear implant surgery two weeks ago.

Xiao-shan was admitted to Union Hospital on 6 March. Union Hospital Charitable Outreach Programme provided free hospitalization and medical services, while Hear Talk Foundation arranged volunteer doctors to conduct the operation.

The surgery was successful and the implant devices will be “switched on” at the end of this month---this will be the first time Xiao-shan can hear wonderful sound in her life. Thereafter, Xiao-shan will go to Beijing to receive long term speech therapy and start her new life.

Dr. Anthony Lee, Chief Hospital Manager and Medical Director of Union Hospital said, “The charity programme launched in August 2006, aiming to provide charity operation for the needy. to undergo surgery free of charge. Total 18 applications were received through different social



service agencies and 6 cases were accepted including Xiao-shan. Currently, Union Hospital is incorporating a Charity Foundation and it will launch soon.”

The operation was conducted by Prof. Andrew van Hasselt and Prof. Michael Tong from the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. They said the earlier a child received cochlear implant surgery, the child would benefit most. Xiao-shan is at 3-year-old, it is the golden age for the surgery.

"Xiao-shan is a very blessed child because within a month, we managed to raise a good amount of money and arrange for her surgery in Hong Kong," said by Mrs. Cheung-Ang Siew Mei, Executive Director of Christian Action. She is delighted that Xiao-shan finally has a chance to live a normal life, and hope Xiao-shan's story will be an inspiration to many.

About Union Hospital

Established in 1994, Union Hospital is a progressive and contemporary private hospital, and is the only private hospital in the Eastern New Territories. The hospital launched Union Charitable Outreach Programme in 2006 and aimed to subsidy the needy to undergo surgery free of charge.

Website: www.union.org

About Hear Talk Foundation

With the support of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, a group of dedicated professionals, including ear, nose & throat specialists, audiologists, speech therapists and educators, “Hear Talk Foundation” have been establishing in late 2003. It focuses on the underprivileged children and elderly in Hong Kong and Mainland China who suffer from hearing and speech communicative disorders, promoting ear and hearing protection to the public as well.

Website: www.heartalk.org

About Christian Action

Christian Action is a Hong Kong registered charitable organization established in 1985. Our mission is to help the poor and disadvantaged in Hong Kong and Mainland China with particular emphasis upon displaced persons, irrespective of race, sex, religion or nationality. We started co-managing the Xining Children's Home with the Qinghai local government since 1998, and we started our in-house rehabilitation programme and special needs education since 2001, to provide



the basic therapy and education for our special needs children. Due to the increasing demand, we have co-managed the Huangnan Children's Home with the Qinghai government since last May.

Website: www.christian-action.org.hk

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