



Union Hospital, Operation Concern and Ronald McDonald House Charities™ of Hong Kong “New Life” Charity Programme

Press Release

(9 January 2007, Tuesday) Union Hospital, Operation Concern and Ronald McDonald House Charities™ of Hong Kong announced joining hands to participate in the “New Life” Charity Program which sponsors 10 charity operations for the needy in Hong Kong and China today. The patient of the charity operation to be done this time is a 14 year old boy from Shannxi, China. He will stay in Hong Kong for ten days to receive correction and osteotomy surgeries.

Dr Anthony Lee - Chief Hospital Manager and Medical Director of Union Hospital said “Union Hospital launched the Healing Heart Initiative in September last year. Sharing the same mission of helping the poor and needy, Union Hospital, Ronald McDonald House Charities™ and Operation Concern join hands together to provide patients of the “New Life” Program free medical treatment. We hope that through this meaningful initiative, those who are not able to afford the operations can receive prompt medical treatment”. The three organizations want to arouse the public’s concern on this charity operation and hopefully donations from the public would benefit more poor and needy in Hong Kong and China.



Prof Leung Ping Chung – Chairman of Operation Concern told, “The 14-year-old Shannxi boy nearly died from severe infection of his left knee when he was 2 years old. After infection subsided, his left knee became deformed and the left leg was shortened. He was able to limp at 5, but the left knee became inwardly angulated at 10 and the left leg was shorter than the right by 4 inches. He started to experience pain at 12 and could only walk for 5 minutes. In October 2006, Operation Concern visited Fu Ping Shen of Shannxi in its routine charity service. Operation Concern could offer the child surgical correction which was deemed drastic, but preferred doing it in Hong Kong for safety reasons. And now, he is arranged to stay in Hong Kong for 10 days to undergo the correction and osteotomy operations.”



Ms Angela Lee - Convener of RMHC New Life Program said, “The estimated budget for each case is HK\$60,000 which includes hospital expenses, transportation, daily allowance and training. The charges for medical staff and operation are waived. The Ronald McDonald House Charities™ target is to sponsor around 10 cases every year. At the end of each year there will be a report about the children who benefited from this program.”

About Union Hospital

Being established in 1994, Union Hospital is the one and only private hospital in Eastern New Territories. Last year, the Hospital launched the charity programme “Healing Heart Initiative” and aimed to offer 10 quotas each year for the needy to undergo surgeries free of charge. This year, the Hospital also participated in another meaningful community service by sponsoring the operation and hospitalization costs for patients in Hong Kong or China referred by Operation Concern who need to undergo surgeries but cannot afford to pay for them.

The roles of Union Hospital in New Life Program

- Provide operation and hospitalization
- Sponsor the charges of operation, hospitalization and anesthetist.

About Operation Concern

This is a team of volunteer Orthopedic Surgeons, nurses, physical and occupational therapists and rehabilitation technicians established in 1993 to give free rehabilitation services to the depressed, disabled people in remote areas in China. Services included surgery, nursing, physical training and rehabilitation aids. The team consists of over 200 volunteers to date. The working approach is to give training through actual services, using local equipment and drugs, so as to ensure that the work could continue after the volunteers leave. In the past 13 years, Operation Concern has established 11 service centres. It has served over 10,000 people, performed over 2,000 operations and numerous trainings. Only the most complicated surgeries will need to be done in Hong Kong.

The roles of Operation Concern in the New Life Program

- Arrange patients for operation
- Provide surgical and rehabilitation staff for the operation

About Ronald McDonald House Charities™ of Hong Kong

Ronald McDonald House is the corner-stone project of Ronald McDonald House Charities™ of Hong Kong. It was established in 1996, providing a “home-away-from-home” service to families with critically ill children. The “New Life” program is a joint venture of Ronald McDonald House Charities™ with “Operation Concern”, and the aim of this program is to provide free medical treatment in Hong Kong for the children who suffer from critical illness in Mainland China, to give them a “New Life”. The Shannxi boy is the fourth case of “New Life” Programme.

Ronald McDonald House Charities™ “New Life” program will:

- Sponsor the cost for patients who require treatments in Hong Kong
- Provide accommodation at the Ronald McDonald House
- Bring in one parent or caretaker for training of post operation care
- Provide rehabilitation services to the patient near their home town

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