



## 病童靠氧氣機助呼吸開支大 「電費助貧弱」解困救命

香港生活指數愈來愈高，通脹不斷攀升，專家預計今年通脹逾百分之六，弱勢社群更感吃不消。有呼吸困難及左邊身體機能衰退的少年勝仔，倚靠氧氣機幫助呼吸，連睡眠亦要睡眠窒息機，賴以生存，每月使用儀器的電費開支大，不少與勝仔一樣的綜援長期病患者，要在僅足餬口的綜援金中支付，變相剝削日常支出，生活更苦，亟需要社會熱心人士支援及伸出援手，減輕他們要支付額外電費開支，紓解困苦。

15歲的勝仔，在12年前一次腦部手術失敗後，導致呼吸困難及左邊身體機能衰退，包括視力、聽力、說話及活動能力。現在24小時需要使用氧氣機，晚上還要配合睡眠窒息機才可保髮性命。

「小兒在三歲的時候，發現腦生瘤，1996年進行手術希望可以將瘤切除。可惜手術失敗了，我們一家都非常傷心。丈夫在1999年因病去世，自此我們三母子便開始依靠綜援為生。」多年來都要身兼父職的翁太，似乎有著說不完的經歷。

### 酌量減輕經濟壓力

翁太手上拿著近幾個月來的電費單說：「每期電費差不多900元，當中有700元都是花在勝仔的醫療電器用電量上。近期樣樣都加價，勝仔平時都是靠胃喉進食奶粉，綜援金內並不資助勝仔的每個月將近2,000元的營養奶粉，生活更加苦不堪言。」翁太一家三口每月綜援金共9,000多元，她訴說：「扣除勝仔的醫療費1,000元及主要食糧奶粉的2,000元後，所剩無幾，交租金1,400元、水電煤800元後，每月只有3,000多元作三人食用、勝仔哥哥上學的雜費及交通費。」翁太又說：「上一期電費單獲聖雅各福群會資助582元，多少都可以減輕我們的經濟壓力。」長期生活在貧窮環境下，對小朋友的成長也有一定的影響。在經濟蓬勃的同時，善長可留意到貧苦病弱者的苦況嗎？聖雅各福群會的「電費助貧弱」計劃，本著有多少幫多少的宗旨，倚靠有限善款支持，減輕長期病患者要支付額外電費的負擔，避免他們及他們家人或要面對更大的苦難。

該會有關計劃每月接獲約30個求助及批核個案，善長若有意減輕他們生活的重擔與壓力與憂慮，可致電2835 4321或8107 8324查詢。

## Electricity funds for the feeble poor help sick boy defray high cost of using oxygen machine

Hong Kong's cost of living index is rising steadily and inflation is climbing non-stop. With experts predicting a 6% inflation rate for this year, it is hard for the disadvantaged to cope. Young Sing Chai is plagued by breathing difficulty and dysfunction of one side of his body. For survival he relies on an oxygen machine to keep breathing, and must use a CPAP machine even when sleeping. The use of these appliances results in a hefty monthly electricity bill. For many chronically ill recipients of CSSA like Sing Chai, the bill can only be paid with money from their CSSA, which is barely enough to stave off starvation. It leaves them with even less money for daily expenses, and life becomes harder still. They are in urgent need of support and help from concerned members of the community to lighten the burden of the extra electricity cost and ease their difficulties.

Sing Chai is 15. An unsuccessful brain operation 12 years ago left him with breathing difficulty and dysfunction of not only the left side of his body but also his eyesight, hearing and ability to speak. Now, just to stay alive, he must use an oxygen machine round the clock, and a CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machine at night.

"My son was found to have a brain tumor when he was three. In 1996 he underwent surgery to remove the tumor. But the operation failed, and our entire family was stricken. In 1999 my husband died of illness. Since then the three of us have been living on CSSA." Mrs. Yung, who has been father as well mother for years, seemed to have much to tell.

### LIGHTENING FINANCIAL PRESSURE

Waving holding electricity bills from recent months, Mrs. Yung said, "Each bill is about \$900, of which \$700 is consumed by Sing Chai's electrical medical appliances. Lately prices have gone up on everything. Sing Chai is fed powdered milk through a stomach tube. The CSSA does not subsidize his powdered milk, which costs close to \$2,000 a month. Life is really hard." Mrs. Yung's family of three gets just over \$9,000 of CSSA each month. She said, "After paying \$1,000 for his medical expenses and \$2,000 for the powdered milk, not much is left. Rent is \$1,400; water, electricity and gas come to \$800. The three of us are left with only \$3,000 for food and for Sing Chai's older brother's schooling and transport expenses." She added, "For the last electricity bill we received a subsidy of \$582 from SJS. It is a relief to our financial burden." Constantly living in poverty has a definite effect on the growth of youngsters. When the economy is booming, do you notice the hardships of the poor and ailing? SJS's Electricity Funds for the Feeble Poor Project aims to render as much help as possible. It relies on limited amounts of donations to lighten the burden posed by extra electricity expenses on the chronically ill, so as to prevent them and their families from falling into greater hardship.

The project handles about 30 appeals for help each month. Members of the public who wish to bring relief to the heavy burden, pressure and worries of the ailing poor can telephone 2835-4321 or 8107-8324 for enquiry.



## 我們需要你的捐助 We Need Your Donation

### 「我真係好無安全感」

假若你是一位無親無故、貧困、體弱、年83歲兼患有氣管疾病的長者，當要支付高額的電費時，可有任何感想呢？

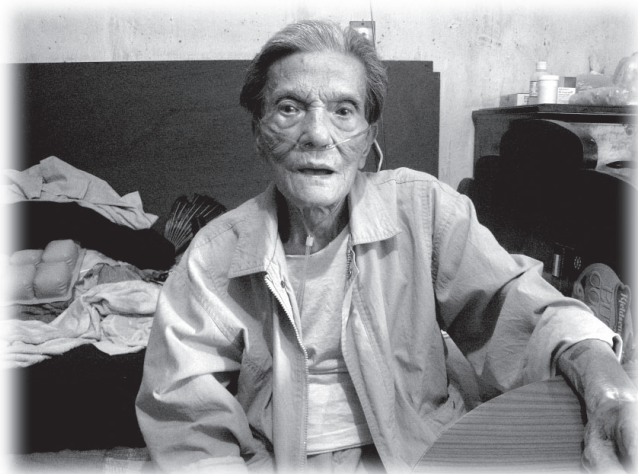
「我唯一可以做的，是要慳。」83歲的胡新伯伯說。「家中無必要時，我也不會開燈，用電。」胡伯伯領取綜援金已超過15年，一向獨身的他，在港並無親人，約6年前因呼吸出現困難，後被診斷為支氣管疾病，需使用氧氣機助呼吸已有5年多。胡新伯伯近年病情日趨惡化，每天必須24小時帶上「貓鬚」，以助呼吸暢順，因而使電費上升，使他苦惱非常，每月擔憂因要支付高額電費，而會影響他的生活。

「案主患有哮喘及高血壓，常常感到氣速及身體瘦弱，需要使用氧氣機。由於病情嚴重需要長期開啟氧氣機，令電費昂貴。案主身體瘦弱，需要進食營養食品。」轉介至本會「電費助貧弱」計劃的基督教信義會沙田多元化老人社區服務中心社工說。

每月支出也很多，除咗一定要俾起碼450元的電費外，還要交900元租金、最慳要用1,500多元作膳食、生果、奶粉及早餐費，已是最慳了、租氧氣機費用約400元、租平安鐘100元、每月覆診費連交通費要100元，因不能步行費出外時要俾50元租輪椅，試問每月只靠3,500多元綜援金；想慳些少錢作急用都無辦法，更何嘗為家中添置任何必須物品？」胡新伯伯逐一細說他每月的開支說。

「我真係好無安全感。」當再次談及他的拮据苦況時，胡新伯伯似有無限哀愁感。

善長們，你們可有意為胡新伯伯伸援手，助他減除電費支出的壓力，可令他可有餘力以應付日常生活的支出。善款請用支票，抬頭：聖雅各福群會，支票背面請書上：電費助貧弱；逕寄香港灣仔石水渠街85號一字樓105室。瀏覽網址www.thevoice.org.hk，施善查詢：2835-4321或8107-8324。



### I'm so helpless

Imagine if you are a 83 years old no family member and poor individual with respiratory illness, what could you do when you need to pay high amount of electricity fee but couldn't afford?

"The only thing I could do, is to save." said the 83 year-old Wu Sung. "If not necessary, I would not turn on any lights or use electricity at home". Wu Sung does not have any family member in Hong Kong and has been getting CSSA for over 15 years. Six years ago, he started experiencing difficulties in breathing, which later has been confirmed as respiratory illness and were required to use a machine to assist breathing for nearly 5 years. Recently the problems have gone worse and he has to wear the oxygen mask 24 hours a day to help him breath, and because of that, the electricity fee has been increased tremendously. He could not afford the extra expenses and worried that it may affect his normal life.

"Wu Sung has asthma and high blood pressure, and he always feels lack of air and weak, therefore an oxygen machine is a must, which makes the electricity expenses very high." said the social worker from Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service who referred him to our electricity fee donation program.

"I have lots of monthly expenses which include a minimum of \$450 electricity, \$900 for the rent, and \$1,500 for meals. I tried to cut my expenses as much as possible, however, renting an oxygen machine costs \$400, having an emergency alarm costs \$100, not being able to walk will also costs me \$50 to rent a wheelchair, how am I suppose to pay all these expenses with my \$3,500 monthly allowance?" Mr. Wu said.

"I feel so helpless!" When talked about his current situations, Mr. Wu sounds sad and worried.

If you would like to help Mr. Wu, ease his burden from the of electricity payment and enable him to resume to normal life, you could make a donation by writing a cheque payable to St. James' Settlement, State Electricity Funds for the Feeble Elderly Program at the back of the cheque and send it to No. 85 Stone Nullah Lane, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Please also view our website, www.thevoice.org.hk, or call 2835 4321 / 8107 8324 for details.

永遠「貓鬚」及氧氣機不離身的胡新伯伯。  
Mr. WU Sung has always to wear the oxygen mask 24 hours a day.