



受惠者言 Client's Remark

「點解？」

「全屋電線都開始霉爛，電器插頭已鬆脫，真係好危險，間屋又易著火，一個人行動又唔方便，著起火來唔止燒死自己，還會波及鄰居。」居於上水一偏遠村屋的70多歲楊伯伯說。

「唯一的兄弟已於2年前死亡，現在是孤身一人。」年青時務農的他，由於自覺收入不多，故至今仍未有結婚。「我叫過人更換電線，要數仟圓，我又是獨身，無人照顧，領綜援已有4年，怎有能力應付呢？」

幸楊伯伯的情況被外展社工，於探訪鄉郊長者時被發現，將其個案轉介本會之家居維修服務。由於楊伯伯居所遠離馬路，義工需帶同材料徒步一小時以上，在烈日高掛下，登山涉嶺才可到達。

「如果你地唔幫我，隔離睇相佬話我會有火險。每逢天氣潮濕及回南天時，我晚晚都睡不好，擔驚電線會走火，人也變得情緒低落。」楊伯伯指著發霉發黑的電線說。

為免楊伯受驚受怕，義工在其火燭的屋內，將楊伯伯的住屋，包括睡房、客廳、廚房、浴室、洗手間的電線及插座全部更換，除裝上一全新的電制總箱外，更將所有電線藏於膠喉內，以防其木屋漏水而洩電；由於楊伯伯屋外入夜時漆黑一片，義工恐楊伯晚間回家時跌倒，也特別替他裝上防水的牆外燈。楊伯伯喜極地說：「晚上我從隔離屋睇完電視返來，都有燈光照路，你地真係夠細心。」

「點解你地咁辛苦步行咁遠、帶咁多材料，仲流著大汗不肯停下來幫我拆走舊電線、從新鋪新電線、裝電制總箱及新插座，怎解？」當楊伯伯知悉所有工作人員，均是義務為他服務時，驚奇地問。

「點解重有善長捐錢俾你地買材料及支付所有費用？我話比隔離屋睇相佬聽，佢話我福星高照，行運。」當轉介社工多番向他解釋，全部工程費用乃由善款支持，頓然解去他支付費用的憂慮，而驚喜地說。

「多謝你地的幫忙，以及不識我的善長的慷慨解囊。」當義工於黃昏工作完畢離開時，楊伯伯揮著手與義工道別說。



“WHY oh WHY?”

“Electric wirings in the house are all worn out with sockets fallen off. It might catch fire easily and it's really dangerous. I'm old and physically weak. I might not be able to escape in case of fire. The worst thing is it might hurt the neighbors too,” said Grandpa Yeung who's living alone in a remote Sheung Shui village house.

“My only brother died two years ago, I am now all alone.” Once a farmer when he was young, Yeung stayed single as he didn't think he could afford a married life. “I have asked someone about changing the wirings and was told that it would cost a few thousand dollars. I am alone and without any support, relying solely on the CSSA for four years. How can I afford that?”

Fortunately, Yeung's situation is discovered by our outreach social worker during our regular countryside elderly visits. The case is then referred to our Home Maintenance Service team. As Grandpa Yeung's house is situated away from the road, our volunteers had to walk for over an hour under the bright sun to reach it, while carrying all the necessary tools and equipments. “If you don't help me, the fortune-teller next door predicts that I would encounter a fire accident. Whenever the weather gets wet and humid, I cannot sleep tight fearing that the circuits would get short. I become anxious and moody.” Yeung pointed at the rotten wirings and told us.

In order to relieve Grandpa Yeung of the fire hazard, our volunteers change all the wirings and sockets of the house, including the bedroom, sitting room, kitchen and bathroom. In addition, a new fuse box is installed while all the wirings are covered by waterproof rubber tube. Besides, a waterproof lamp is also installed on the external wall to facilitate Yeung's late return in the dark night. Grandpa Yeung uttered with joy, “I don't need to worry about returning at night from my neighbors after watching television. There is a light to shine my way. You are really thoughtful!”

“Why would you bother to come and help me, having to carry so many tools and materials and take such a long walk under the sun, to tear down the old wirings and replace new sockets and fuse box? Why oh why?” Yeung could not help asking surprisingly when he learnt that all the service we tendered are for free.

“Why would anyone willingly pay for all the tools and materials? I told the fortune-teller next door that I must run into some good luck.” Yeung exclaimed with surprise and joy when the social worker explained to him that the expense for the work was all paid by donors and he has no need to worry about the bills.

“Thanks a lot indeed for your help. Thanks also to the generous donors who don't even know me.” Yeung waved goodbye to the volunteers as the evening drew to a close when the work was completed.

「點解我遠居山內，都有人幫？」坐在椅上的楊伯伯說。
“Why they come to help me as I live in a remote hill-side.”
Grandpa Yeung said.



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福利改善難抵通脹 貧老盼助電費紓壓

雖然當局增加貧而無依老者每月綜援金4.4%，以及推出為期一年共\$3,600之電費補助，在鑑於現今百物騰貴，市民部份副食品也脹價30%，話雖經濟援助已有改善，但「加不抵脹」，貧困無助老者的生活依然吃力。

「雖然每月增加105元的綜援，即是說每日多了3.50元使用，試問這些錢可以全部抵消樣樣都加的物價嗎？」患上多種慢性疾病兼呼吸病的李伯伯說。「多病痛，自然睇病及食藥次數都比人多，支出當然也會多哩。」

「105元已是很多錢了，但要應付高通脹的生活，105元便顯得微少了。」李伯伯似乎有說不完的生活壓力。

年70歲居於柴灣區的李伯伯，年青時由內地偷渡來港，由於在內地農村沒有接受教育的機會，在港只可跟隨同鄉做一些粗活的工作，收入不多，故未敢結婚；於58歲時因患上慢阻肺病，無法工作而被迫退休，隨後不久便領取綜援至今。

「每日都要用呼吸器助呼吸，加上居所面向西北，每日大部份時間都要開冷氣機，以助呼吸暢順，雖然有300元的電費資助，但還要我再多再付約200多元的電費，生活真是吃力。」李伯伯氣急敗壞地說。「無兒無女，有誰可以幫我解決電費支出的問題呢？」

由聖雅各福群會推出的「電費助貧弱」計劃，乃針對殘弱老者因須使用醫療儀器以助控制病情，而推出的電費資助，以藉此減輕他們的經濟壓力；雖然他們有著當局每月300元之資助，惟電費仍超出此數目，故特呼籲社會人士伸出援手，作出捐助，以使一群貧困殘弱者可舒一口壓力。施善查詢熱線：2835-4321或8107-8324。

「得著援助，我可舒一口氣了。」

"Being subsidized I can breathe now."



Ailing Elderly are suffering under rampant inflation, Donate for SJS's Power Subsidy Program

The 4.4% increase on social security assistance for the ailing elderly in addition to a one year special electricity fee supplement amounted to HK\$3600, does not seem to offer much relief in view of the rampant inflation in recent months. As food cost alone has already increased by 30%, a meager increase in assistance scheme is just far from enough to help poor elderly out from the misery of daily life.

"In actual terms the social security assistance is increased by \$105 per month, which means \$3.50 per day. Can this \$3.50 possibly offset the ever increasing cost of living?" said Uncle Li, who suffered from several chronic diseases and had respiratory problem. "Being unwell, I have to constantly visit doctors and pay for the medications. After settling those medical bills, I've got not much left."

"In normal times this \$105 is a huge increase, but now it is just like a drop in the bucket when compared with the high living cost," continued Uncle Li. Facing the life pressure, Uncle Li is helpless.

The 70-year-old in Chai Wan Uncle Li was once an illegal immigrant in Hong Kong. Without receiving any formal education in rural China, he could only take up physically demanding but low paying jobs after moving to Hong Kong. Living from hand to mouth, he was never married. At 58 of age he contracted a chronic lung disease and was being forced to retire from then on. He then relied upon social security benefits to support himself.

"I am now breathing with the assistance of a respiratory apparatus. My housing unit faces north-west, so I have to switch on the air-conditioner most of the time to ensure adequate air ventilation. I am getting a \$300 electricity fee supplement every month, but it is just about enough to cover more than \$200 electricity charge. Even with this supplement, life is no easier for me." Hearing the groans, one could feel the misery of Uncle Li. "I got no kin, who's going to help me on the electricity expense?"

'Power Subsidy - Ailing & Handicapped' is a program organized by St. James' Settlement, specifically set to help those ailing elderly like Uncle Li, who must rely on certain medical apparatus to keep their health condition in control, through subsidizing them on the extra electricity charges for running those apparatus. As we understand, they need more than \$300 per month to run those apparatus. We are now calling for your immediate actions to donate in order to lift some life burden among those poor ailing elderly. Please call us up at 2835-4321 or 8107-8324 for more details.