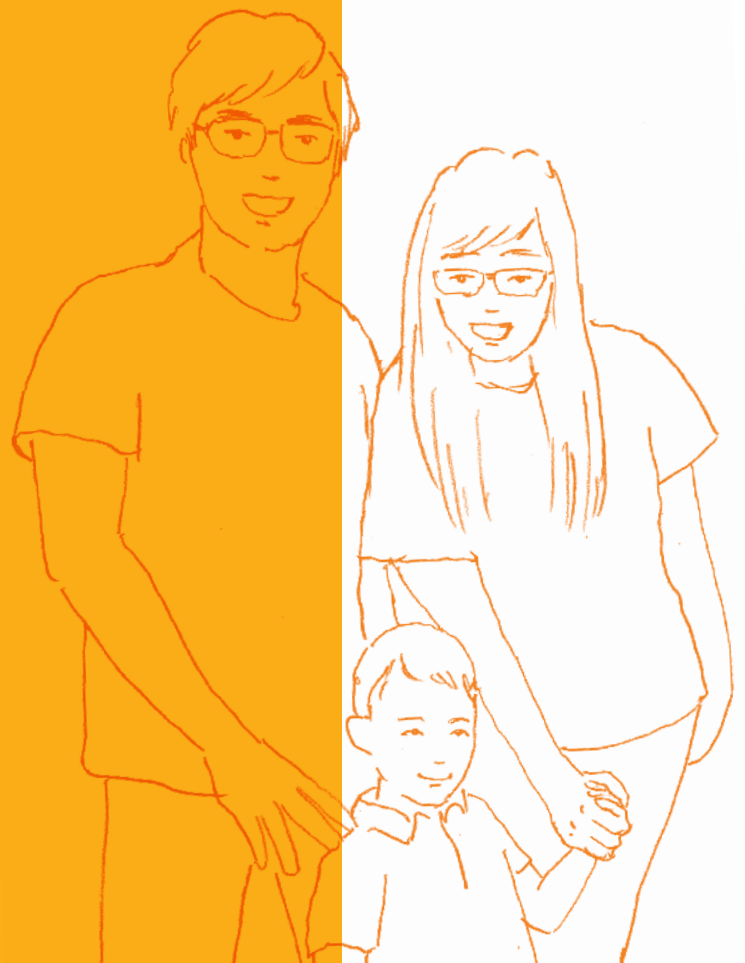


一家義同樂

Cheerful, Parent-child Volunteering



Emily及Leo從二零零八年起加入了職青義工隊，屈指一數，時間已接近十年。Emily笑指當初參加義工隊，一來是因為與Leo「一起了很久，除了食飯睇戲外，也想找些不同的事做」，而另一個更主要的原因是「好多事只有做義工先可以睇到、經歷到，即使是讀書時，亦難有機會接觸到社會的另一面。」因此，剛畢業的Emily義不容辭地找當時還是男朋友的Leo一起參加義工服務，而當韓姑娘邀請兩位參加正在招募義工的職青義工隊時，更是毫不猶豫地答應了。

Emily and Leo have participated in the Voluntary Team for working youths since 2008. They have joined it for nearly 10 years. "Besides dining and watching movies, I wanted to do different things with Leo in dating. A more important reason for joining was that volunteers could see and experience many things. It was hard to experience the other side of the society even we studied." Emily laughed when she mentioned the reasons. Therefore, when Emily had just graduated, she invited her boyfriend to volunteer together. Also, when Miss Hon invited them to join a new Youth Voluntary Team, they agreed without hesitation.

當時作為第二、三名加入職青義工隊的Emily及Leo回憶起韓姑娘邀請他們的說辭時都大笑出聲：「她說『加入職青義工隊有歷奇、有很多活動玩，不過你們是第二和第三個加入的人，所以還未有那麼多活動。』」從職青義工隊甫成立時便參加的兩位元老提到後來義工隊的成員多達五、六十人，可謂是見證着義工隊的發展，韓姑娘當年許諾的活動亦不會再因人數不足而無法舉辦。

活動中獲益良多 深感「義工無限耆」

在最初義工隊還未有足夠人手籌辦自己活動時，Emily和Leo便在不同的中心活動中幫忙。探訪長者、攤位活動、服務精神康復者，學手語歌及表演，只要有需要義工幫助的地方，都能看到他們的身影。後來職青義工隊壯大起來後，兩人更是全心投入義工服務中。「職青義工隊給了我們一個很好的機會，因為通常義工隊主要都是青少年。最重要的是識到好好的社工，韓姑娘。」Emily不忘提及當初邀請兩位進入義工隊的韓姑娘：「她是我們的最大動力，因為她會組織很多活動，令義工隊慢慢壯大，變成一個融洽的小組。」

Leo指在義工生涯中最大的得着是可以接觸不同的事物，每一次服務都是一個開心的回憶，每一次活動都能令他們從中學學習。在當中，印象較為深刻的一個活動是與象山邨耆康會的一群退休長者義工一起服務社區。無論是一起去探訪獨居長者，又或者是平日活動時教Emily和Leo包粽子、餃子、芋圓等，都能使他們體會到認識一班長者義工的意義重大。「認識這班老人家令我有動力繼續做義工，可能持續到退休都會一直做下去。」Emily坦言看到一群長者六、七十歲亦願意盡一己之力幫助其他人，對她影響深遠。「義工不分年紀、階層，只要願意『擺個心出來』，任何人都可以做到。」

兒子開心做義工 享受與別人溝通

Emily和Leo的信念更體現在他們的家庭中：自從他們的兒子Oason出生後，他便已是一個小小義工。「我們會帶他一起做義工。在探訪獨居長者時，老人家見到小朋友都會開心很多。」四歲的Oason樂呵呵地應道：「我都開心！」Emily從懷孕時已「帶着」Oason一起做義工，到出生後手抱着一起出現在活動中，Emily憶述起Leo背着只有幾個月大的Oason在中心走來走去做義工的場景時臉上浮現起甜蜜的笑容。

As the second and third person joining the team, Emily and Leo laughed when they recalled Miss Hon's invitation. "She said that there would be many activities if we joined. However, as we were the second and third person participating, there weren't any activities at that moment." Later, there are 50 or 60 people in the team, the cancellation of activities no longer happens due to the inadequate number of participants. They were witnessing how the team have changed into the current big one.

Fruitful Experience in Voluntary Work Volunteering is Not Only Confined to the Youth

At the beginning of forming the voluntary team, there were not enough people to organize activities and Emily and Lo had to help in different Centres. Visiting the elderly, running a booth, serving ex-mentally ill people, learning songs of sign language or giving performance, they all served as volunteers. Later, when the team had grown, they had devoted themselves to volunteer work. "The Voluntary Team have given us a good opportunity because it just involved young people and we could meet a nice social worker, Miss Hon." Emily did not forget to mention Miss Ho who invited them to join the volunteer team. "She is our biggest driving force because she has organized many activities to make the team grow and we have got along well with each other."

The most Leo has gained from voluntary work was to get in touch with different things. They found the voluntary work experience fruitful and happy. The most impressive activity was to serve the community with the retired volunteers from the Hong Kong Society for the Aged in Cheung Shan Estate. Meeting the elderly have meant a lot to Emily and Leo, no matter what they did together, such as visiting singleton elderly, teaching them how to make rice dumplings, dumplings and taro balls. "This group of old people is our driving force in volunteering. I may continue to do until I retire." Emily has been impressed by a group of 60 or 70 years old people willing to help others. "Everyone can be volunteers if they are willing to be regardless of their age and social class."

Their Son is Happy to Volunteer Enjoying Communicating with Others

Emily and Leo also practise their faith in their family. Their son, Oason has been a volunteer since he was born. "We also bring him to volunteer. The singleton elderly is happy to see children." "I am happy too." Four-year-old Oason replied happily. Emily has brought Oason to volunteer since she was pregnant. Emily smiled when she recalled Leo carrying Oason on his back, moved around in the Centre and volunteered.

「我覺得Oason與其他沒有做義工的小朋友有很多不同。」Emily提到Oason很會關心人，會留意到細微的事物。他更不怕陌生人，即使是初次見面的人亦很願意去聊天，在探訪長者的時候會和他們搭話。在公司裏亦有參加義工隊的Emily看到一些同事會帶着已經二、三十歲的女子一起參加義工活動的溫馨場景，感覺父母和孩子一起做義工使他們之間的溝通更多、關係更親密。

珍惜親子時間 推廣義工精神

目前Emily和Leo正努力向商界推廣「親子義工假」的意念，具體內容是讓父母在與小朋友做義工後能獲得一天的假期，目的在於讓親子間更多相處時間，同時亦是支持更多人投身社區服務中。

只要有時間便一定會在活動中幫忙的Emily和Leo從不覺得自己是在幫助人，反而認為是其他人在細微的地方中幫助他們。「我們有機會參加很多活動，把自己當成參加者，每次都玩得很開心；更認識了很多一樣理念、方向的朋友，生活圈子大了許多。」Emily、Leo和Oason一家三口的幸福神態溢於言表：「如果不是做義工的話，我們接觸到、學到的會比現在少很多。如果仔仔以後願意的話，會一直繼續一家人去做義工。」



"I think Oason is different from other children who do not volunteer." Emily thought he is very caring and detail-minded. He is not afraid of talking to strangers and willing to communicate with the elderly. Emily's colleagues also did voluntary work with their 20 or 30-year-old children. She thought it was heartwarming and improved parental relationship and communication.

Treasure Parent-child Time Promote Volunteering

Currently, Emily and Leo are promoting parental volunteer leave in the business sector. It aims to have one more holiday after volunteering so as to have more parental time and encourage people joining volunteering.

Emily and Leo always assist others in organizing activities in their spare time through which they have never thought they are helping others. Instead, they have gained a lot. "We have many opportunities to join activities. As participants, we play happily and meet many friends with same thoughts, which enlarges our social circle. If we had not been volunteers, we would have learnt and experienced less. If my son is willing, we will continue volunteering together."

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Everyone can be volunteers if they are willing to be regardless of their age and social class.

