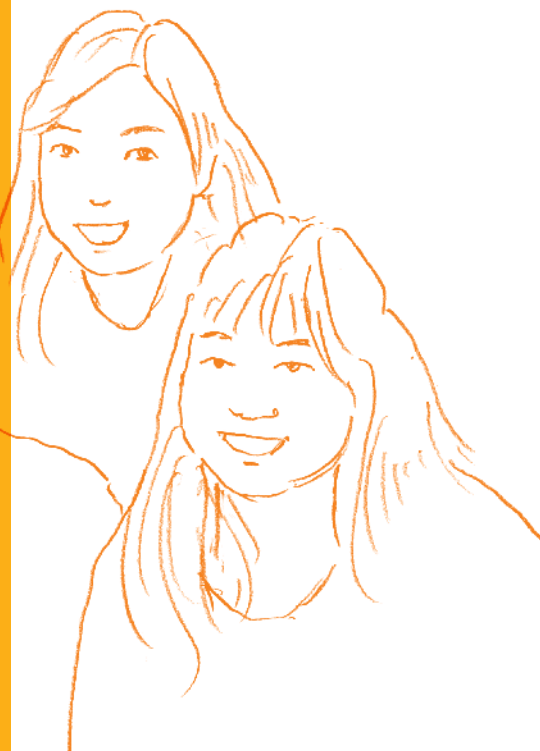


義工四人行

Four Mighty Volunteers



當被問及四人的小組為什麼被命名為「叱吒風雲義工組」時，小組內的兩姐妹Candy和Jessica大笑着異口同聲地回答說：「雖然我們不是叱吒風雲嘅人物，但我們是叱吒風雲的義工。」Candy更補充：「這句是我們永遠的開場白。你們又忘記了！」義工組另外兩位成員Esther、Queenie和社工Kevin連說，「好老套啊！」「幸好這名字不是我改的！」餐桌上傳來數人愉快地互相打趣的聲音，從笑聲中彷彿可以一窺十多年前的光景——五人為同一個目標而奮鬥、長達二十載的友誼亦從中誕生。

Sisters Candy and Jessica laughed when they were asked why the voluntary team named “Mighty Voluntary Team”. “Although we are not powerful figures, we are certainly mighty volunteers.” “This is our opening remarks. Why you guys always forget?” Candy added. “Sounds corny. Luckily, it was not named by me.” Volunteers Esther, Queenie and the social worker Kevin replied cheerfully. Five people have fought for the same goal for about 20 years. They have also developed deep friendships.



由零開始 計劃活動

「當年我們十五、六歲左右，知道義工招募，就參加了。」那時的她們絕沒有想像到一個簡單的行動，是如何影響了四人的人生。Jessica開玩笑地說：「因為那時並未拍拖，所以參加了。」但實際上，她們的工作絕不像Jessica的口吻那般輕鬆。「由決定一年的主題開始，到寫計劃書、向政府申請資金、組織活動，全部都是由零開始，要一手一腳負責。」

四人形容當時還是學生的她們是「非一般的青少年」：在大多數青春歲月的晚上，均是在組織義工組的活動中渡過。被問到當中哪個最為令人印象深刻時，四人如數家珍：「其實我們對每一個舉辦過的活動都印象深刻，因為我們在每個活動上都花了好多時間去準備、去計劃每年主題。我們那時組織過很多活動，有獨居老人、兒童之家、新移民補習，曾經有為聾啞人士服務而去學手語，亦有幫失明人士錄製每日超市特價貨品的資料。」

推己及人 用心關懷

負責撰寫計劃書的Candy提起一個名為『耆英長者心連心』的活動，「當時我們寫了很厚的計劃書。」她們談到構想這個活動的原因是當年有很高的長者自殺率，但如果由她們來服務這群長者，亦未必會達到很好的效果：「老人家可能會覺得你們青春無限，當然對人生充滿希望。但如果由長者去做義工，就可以傳達到『老人家並非沒有寄托』的訊息。」



Starting from Zero Planning Programmes

"We were about 15 or 16 years old when we joined volunteering." They could not imagine how that small action has affected their lives. "No one dated me, so I joined." Jessica laughed. Their work was not as easy as Jessica had mentioned. "We had to decide on topics, write proposals, apply for government funding and organize activities all by ourselves at the beginning."

They described themselves as extraordinary teenagers as they had spent most nights organizing activities. When asked about the most impressive programme, "We were impressed by every programme we had held since we spent much time in preparing for all the topics. We organized many activities, such as visiting singleton elderly, Small Group Homes, teaching New Arrivals, learning sign language to serve the deaf mute and recording the special priced goods for the blind."

Being Considerate of Others Caring Wholeheartedly

Candy wrote a proposal named "Caring for the Elderly" because the suicide rate of the elderly was high at that time. "We had written a long proposal." It seemed that it would be less effective for teenagers to serve the elderly. "The elderly may think we are hopeful about the future because we are young. Therefore, we invited the elderly to volunteer so as to convey the message that the elderly can also have a fulfilling life."

他們回憶起當年每天一大早去晨運，目的是找一群快樂的長者來參與這個活動。「我們當然需要尋找一班Happy(快樂的)義工，若不然，大家一齊愁眉苦臉，怎能感染別人？」到了活動最後，她們更在麗城廣場舉辦了展覽，以引起居民對這個議題的關注。

而另一個令他們都有深刻感觸的活動，是在兒童之家的服務。「我們隔個星期去兒童之家服務，足足去了兩年。同小朋友玩、帶他們去不同活動，用了一段時間和他們建立關係。」在活動完結的時候，不止她們捨不得這群孩子，孩子們更是想要幾位姐姐的電話，想要再次見到她們。但由於兒童之家的規定，她們不能和小朋友們交換聯繫方式，道別時雙方皆是依依不捨。

齊心合力 永不放棄

要舉辦一個成功的活動，這群「非一般的青少年」總要犧牲玩樂的時間，更有無數個不眠之夜：「每到活動一半的時候都想放棄。」Queenie半開玩笑地說道。「我們經常要通宵達旦趕deadline(最後限期)，有時都會想，『這樣辛苦到底是為了甚麼?』」

「但真正只因為這些經歷，令我們今日成為有毅力的人，這樣不容易放棄。」Candy接過話頭，答道：「每次都會從上一次經歷中學習。今次太遲開始，下次就提早準備。每次都會做得比上次好。」



They recalled that they had to do morning exercise in order to find a group of happy old people. "We had to find happy volunteers to inspire others." Finally, they held an exhibition in Belvedere Garden Plaza to draw residents' attention on this topic.

Another impressive activity was the service in a Small Group Home. "We visited it once every two weeks, which lasted for two years. We developed the relationship with the children by playing with them and joining different activities together." When the programme ended, they missed one another. Those children even wanted to get their telephone numbers. However, based on those rules, they were forbidden to exchange their telephone numbers.

Working Together Never Giving Up

"No pain, no gain" applied to them. In order to hold a programme successfully, they needed to sacrifice their entertainments and sleeping time. "I always wanted to give up in the middle of the programme." Queenie said half-jokingly. "We always needed to burn the midnight oil before deadline, so I sometimes doubted why should I work so hard?"

"Because of those experiences, we become persevering and won't give up easily." Candy agreed, "I learnt each time. This time we start late, then we could start preparing earlier and do better next time."



Jessica亦補充道：「就算想放棄，攤位都不可以不做，答應了會出現就不可以失約。幸好遇着這班合作得到、投契，又不容易放棄的人。大家住在附近，通宵後可以步行回家，第二日再繼續。」Queenie形容合作無間的四人每人「都是一粒螺絲，少了哪一粒，機械都不會work」（行動），更笑稱Candy負責寫計劃書，Esther則擅長手工藝，Backdrop（背景）的字、裝飾攤位的紙花、佈景都是由Esther出手出力，而自己和Jessica就負責在一旁為她們兩個加油。

持續服務 回饋社會

遺憾的是，當年機緣巧合湊在一起的四人，在開始工作後已漸漸少有時間在義工組中服務，後來四人亦分別搬離麗城，更是難以像舊時一樣，「通宵後步行回家」。雖然如此，幾人從沒放棄過幫助其他人。Jessica仍在教會做義工，而Candy亦提到最近十年再次投身義務服務，是因為目前身任要職的她回首一看，發現許多技能都得益於從前的義工工作。

「中學時期因為做義工學到Project management（計劃管理）、Event planning（活動管理），亦會去留意時事，去觀察社會發生的事情。而且亦要管理每一個Project（計劃）的財政，好像管理一間公司。」正因如此，Candy認為是時候「重拾老本行」做回義工，亦時有演講，將她從義工生涯中學到的投放到社會中。她亦感謝了當初的負責社工Tony，令當初參與了幾次中心活動的她們意識到能以組成義工小組的方式，將原先活動形式完全改變。「一個Mentor（導師）好重要。我們自小開始參加活動，但無延續性，直至Mentor出現帶領我們，教導我們可以有持續性地服務社會。」

Candy強調道：「我好慶幸當初我們的選擇，學習了的東西都令我們成長。」而無論是陪伴叱吒風雲義工組多年的社工Kevin，抑或是曾與她們同行的每一位社工、義工生涯中發生的每一件事，都是四人成長路上缺一不可的拼圖。「當日我們成就了今日的我們。」

“Even I wanted to give up, I could not do so as we could not break the promise that we had made. Luckily, I met them who were not willing to give up easily and lived nearby. After burning the midnight oil, we went back home and continued next day.” Jessica added. “Each one is like a screw, the machine won’t work if any screws are missing.” Queenie described their relationship involving four people. Candy was good at writing proposal; Esther was good at art, backdrop words, paper flowers and setting; Jessica and Queenie mainly rooted for them.

Serving Constantly Contributing to the Society

Unfortunately, after they started working, they are less likely to volunteer and go back home together because they all moved away from Belvedere. However, they keep helping others. Jessica volunteers in church; Candy has volunteered again in recent 10 years because she finds many of her current skills mostly acquired from her past volunteering.

“In secondary school, I learnt Project Management, Event Planning and I also paid attention to current affairs through participating in voluntary work. Also, I had to manage projects’ finance, just like managing a company.” Therefore, she becomes a volunteer again and shares her voluntary experience. She thanked the social worker, Tony for reminding them of forming a group for volunteering which has completely changed the form of their leisure activities. “A mentor is very important. We joined activities when we were young but without continuity, until our mentor taught us to serve the society continually.”

“I am glad to have made such a right decision as we grow from seeing and learning.” Candy emphasized. Kevin, other social workers they walked with and other things they experienced are indispensable in their paths to adulthood. “Our accomplishments are based on our past experiences.”

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