

Brief Biographies of Awardees

Mr. Ho Ping-chiu has been a member of St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Auxiliary Medical Service for many years. With knowledge of first aid and hospice care, Mr. Ho has been actively promoting home safety and care for single elderly. Always ready to help bereaved families overcome their grief, he fosters mutual support in the community and has taught first-aid over weekends for the past 59 years. Concerned about senior citizens and their welfare, he is a member of Elderly Alliance, Alliance for Subvented Residential Care Service and Alliance for Universal Pension, and is keen to voice out aspirations of the elderly to relevant government officials and Legislative Councillors.

Mr. Edward Sin Wing-sang on retirement decided to serve children with special learning needs and help them become independent. He is a qualified teacher of International Mathematical Olympiad. Self-taught in Braille and sign language, he helps visually and hearing impaired people, wheelchair-bound students, prisoners and injured children. Mr. Sin is the founder of the Grace Tutors Association Limited and Knowledge Tutors Group and invited many retired people to become teachers. As a professional insurance practitioner before retirement, Mr. Sin has also been invited by many insurance companies to share his knowledge and experience to enhance the quality of services in the industry.

Dr. Peggy Lam Pei organised and participated in numerous training activities over the years, ranging from cultural, regional, sports to environmental initiatives. She is the founder of the Hong Kong Federation of Women, Hong Kong Sex Education Association, Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, and has served as Tai Chi ambassadress promoting healthy lifestyle. Dr. Lam was awarded the “Gold Bauhinia Star”, “Political Leaders Award” and named one of the 100 outstanding persons affecting China after reform and opening-door policy. She has made remarkable contributions to local women's affairs and regional organisations, and helped develop charity institutions.

Mr. George Yuen Kam-ho has always been active in public affairs. He is one of the founders of The Hong Kong Society for the Aged (SAGE). With his excellent public relations and management skills, SAGE developed rapidly. He is one of the frontline workers visiting hidden elderly and promotes elderly care in Mainland China by inviting interested parties to Hong Kong to observe the operation of elderly homes. Mr. Yuen, who is especially interested in physical and mental health, is actively involved in youth education and Mainland affairs, sharing his managerial experience and expertise through the Hong Kong Institute of Directors.

Professor Chan Ching-chuen has been actively engaged in scientific research for the past 50 years, coordinating world seminars on engineering and sustainable development. He wrote a book on electric vehicle (EV) technology and received two patents. Professor Chan, who focuses on training the next generation, and his students jointly published 52 papers on the technology in international academic journals.

Last year, he established the "International Institute for Advanced Study" promoting cultural and academic exchanges. Professor Chan invented a variety of EV engines and related devices laying the foundation for EV development. He is regarded as the "Father of the EV."

Mr. Kwok Kai began learning computers after retirement. For the past decade, he has taught computers at various organisations, helping the elderly in repairing and maintaining their systems. He plays golf and practises kung fu every week and does more than 200 hours of voluntary work per year. A pioneer in self-learning, he is one of the founding leaders of the U3A Centre of the Cyber Senior Network Development Association. He and his friends developed "Stroke 5" Chinese character input method to facilitate the elderly in learning computer. He is truly an all-rounder when it comes to creativity.

Ms. Veronica Chan Yiu-kam is a soccer enthusiast who founded the Hong Kong Ladies Football Association and the Asian Women's Football Confederation. She was the "Iron Lady" of the local football scene in her heydays, managing teams such as

Rangers and Caroline Hill. To train youngsters, she often led, and is still leading, them around the world participating in competitions. At 87, she is promoting Cantonese opera to football players and the elderly, organising Cantonese opera troupes to visit elderly centres. She intends to spend every minute possible contributing to society by organising hospital visits, washing soccer uniforms, or even being “water boy” for soccer teams.

Mr. Wong Wai-chiu on retirement taught photography at the Marine Department Workers’ Union and became academic director of The Chinese Photographic Association of Hong Kong Company Limited. He organises photography seminars for schools and the community, and also takes wedding photos for elderly couples. Mr. Wong actively took part in community work and has received numerous awards for this. Despite his age, he joined a choir, received voice training, and learned to play the melodica when he was 80, and started playing drum at 89. In recent years, he has been teaching computer to physically handicapped elderly. In 2005, he set up a personal blog, which attracted a daily click rate of 200-300. At 95 today, he is likely to be the oldest blogger in Hong Kong.

Mr. Cheng Tin-yan on retirement embarked on a journey of self-learning, covering topics such as computer, Tai Chi, Chinese dance, Chinese drum, magic, etc., and sharing his knowledge with others. He spends two hours a day teaching Tai Chi free of charge in parks, and taught scouts on the subject so they could represent Hong Kong in cultural performances in the United Kingdom. With keen concern for the young and the elderly, he and his wife formed a volunteer group to perform magic shows in schools and elderly centres, bringing fun and joy to audiences.

Ms. Poon Lau Foon-tuen completed a special course in Chinese medicine before retiring as a midwife and became a registered practitioner of Chinese medicine in 2003. After retirement, she obtained a Master of Chinese Medicine at Baptist University in 2009, and started teaching at social welfare agencies, tertiary institutions and professional groups, serving the community by providing free consultations. Ms. Poon advocates a healthy lifestyle and promotes health care to meet seasonal changes.

She keenly supports charitable activities such as flag-selling days, fund-raising raffle sales, etc. Her achievements and effort in serving the community prove that age is not an obstacle to learning as long as there is vision, commitment and perseverance.

Mr. Patrick Kan Yiu-kwong is actively involved in helping the underprivileged, especially in the area of education. Initially, he turned his home into an office to raise funds and eventually founded the Grace Charity. Mr. Kan leads a simple and healthy lifestyle and often shares his experiences with other agencies. For more than a decade, he has regularly visited Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan and other places supervising projects to help the poor and setting up more than 1,000 schools for children living in poverty. In recent years, he aided orphans and poor children to receive schooling, helped teachers who had financial difficulties, and established medical centres in rural areas. Mr. Kan also assisted schools in setting up libraries, introduced nutritional food for children and helped build water conservation facilities. He is recognised as the "Godfather of Guizhou".

Ms. So Shuk-chun, without any formal education, only started “learning” after retirement, taking up calligraphy, painting, social dancing, computer, Tai Chi and even video production. At the beginning, there were setbacks but she eventually overcame them and became the “best student” at Caritas Evergreen College. In recent years, she uses her nickname of “Fuk Po Po” to start up her own blog, attracting more than 160,000 bloggers to visit and share her experience. She joined U3A classes to teach blogging and became an ambassador promoting IT to the elderly. Ms. So has received numerous awards for her voluntary work and her courage in facing challenges has inspired many around her.