

點滴是生命
a Drop of Life



2016 - 2017

Annual Report



2016-2017 Project Summary

Ensuring access to the most basic life necessities for people in need has always been a mission of A Drop of Life.

At the core of our charity endeavours is the provision of clean water to people living in water-stressed rural areas, helping them counter problems arising from water shortage. In 2016, we expanded our footprint from Mainland China to Nepal and Cambodia. After a year's steady development, we have successfully made clean drinking water more accessible - from homes to schools, to those in need.

Water Projects

Mainland China	Cambodia	Nepal
1,063 Water cellars	810 Water wells and pumps	1 Gravity flow water supply system
4 Water dams	900 Biosand filters for home use	7 Water purification systems in schools
15 Water purification systems in schools	20 Large biosand filters in schools	

Children Development Projects

Nepal	Cambodia
2 Schools rebuilt	3,600 Nutritious meals provided to sick children

Local Services

7,083 goodie bags distributed to disadvantaged groups in Hong Kong

A Word from Our Chairman



Year 2017 is coming to an end. Over the year, we visited various remote mountain areas in China, Nepal and Cambodia, bringing clean water and hope to villagers suffering from drought. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all our benefactors, volunteers and colleagues, whose grace and support have made all these possible.

During each visit to the mountain areas, I have casual chat with local villagers whose bright smiles vividly portrayed their inner joy. They are always willing to tell us their own experiences, each being uniquely inspiring. From their sharing, I understand that no matter the difficulty, it is just a trifle in our life-long journey. As time passes by, all these challenges will become touching and motivating stories of their own.

Thanks to your dedication and support, large-scale water purification facilities have been installed in a number of schools in the distant mountain regions over the past few years, bringing potable water to children and teachers. Whenever I see the children bringing their cups joyfully to the pantry during recess, I can taste the sweetness in the clean water. “We will cherish every precious cup of water. Previously, we studied hard in order to leave the mountain and lead a better life. But now, it is our wish to come out of the mountain to acquire knowledge, so as to be able to help others and contribute to society just like those caring uncles and aunties,” the children told me.

In the eyes of these children, an ordinary cup of water does have more profound meaning for life.

I have been asked what defines success.

Now, I realize that success is not defined by what one possesses, but what one has contributed. If we can work towards our goals diligently day by day, we can help and make a life-changing difference to those in need.

Thank you all! For creating more possibilities for them!



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Our Consultants and Ambassadors



Anita Yuen
Honorary
Consultant

Time flies. My acquaintance with A Drop of Life has entered the 10th year. My son was only 6 months old when I joined the organization for the first time to Gansu to learn about the lives of water-stressed villagers. Every scene is still vivid. To me, the most heart-breaking thing was that many kids were deprived of schooling as they had to fetch water for the family. This keeps driving me to support the water cellar project. With water, they can go back to school and lead a better life, not only for themselves but also future generations.

Changes to my life and the surrounding environment have been inevitable over the past 10 years, but my loving heart remain intact. I wish I could have a positive influence on my son, so that he will care and help the disadvantaged whenever possible.

A Drop of Life will be celebrating its 20th anniversary next year. I sincerely wish them all the best in their philanthropic endeavours with a broader benevolent footprint. As a cordial supporter, I pledge to give even greater support!



Richie Jen
Honorary
Consultant

Imperceptibly, I have been an Honorary Consultant for A Drop of Life for six years. Work continued to be busy throughout the year, but I still made room for the society's charitable activities.

Despite a hectic schedule, every now and then I recount memories of my previous visit, which was back some years ago. Located deep down a giant mountain in Gansu, the village we visited demands a two-hour walk along a rugged and rough path after getting off from the car. Compared with the peasants living in underprivileged areas, the hard times that we had was just in a blink an eye, yet what they had to face was a lifetime challenge – how to bring the family out of poverty. I missed the villagers and the schools I visited before. I wish I could tell the kids how the world is like out here while patiently listening to their dreams. I hope to encourage them to boldly pursue what they like. To me, every visit is soul cleansing, reminding me to appreciate the essence of being blessed is to give than to receive. Though living in the city, my heart is with those in the rural mountains. I am ready and look forward to my next visit and joyful interactions with the children. In the forthcoming year, it is my sincere wish that more kindhearted parties will join hands with A Drop of Life to bring love and care to those from afar in the remote mountains.



Alex Fong
Honorary
Consultant

Assuming the role of goodwill ambassador for charitable organizations and participating in wide-ranging philanthropic activities have been indispensable throughout my entertainment career. In the beginning, I just did what I was told to. But gradually, with more participation and involvement, I began to learn more about the target beneficiaries of different charity groups, and developed a strong sense of mission and gratitude that my contribution can help promote positivity to more people. Now, I am more proactive in charitable works, largely motivated by passionate organizers, donors and volunteers who shared the common goal of giving, regardless of their wealth and fame. I am moved by this straight-forward and pure collaboration. I feel like being recharged during each activity, as if I was pulled away from the fascination of fame and fortune to a moment of peace and serenity. No longer do I find volunteering a matter of giving, but rather an exchange of positive energy between the givers and takers. This is in fact a virtuous cycle. So wait no more and join us now!





Stephy Tang

Honorary
Consultant

Constant dropping wears away a stone
This is not the power of water, but persistence

Another year has gone by. Have you ever pondered if you had the very life as the year before? How many things have you persisted on? How many things have you given up midway?

I used to think that charity is about donation, sponsoring children, giving unnecessary items to those in need etc. But having assumed the role of Honorary Consultant for A Drop of Life for several years, I would say what underlies “Charity” is “Persistence”.

Working in a charitable organization is no different from other corporations, with problems and challenges everywhere. Nonetheless, unlike the majority who centre on money, those in charity focus relentlessly on the vulnerable ones deprived from water, food and education. Their persistence is to better others, selflessly.

Once again, you can see my picture on this year’s Race for Water poster. Having joined the race for a few years now, no longer do I treat it as an event, but rather a positive spirit and power. To me, completing the whole course and crossing the finish line marks the beginning of the next journey. Thanks to this annual event, which enriches my life, one step at a time.

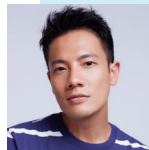


Yoshi Hon

Photography
Consultant

During each annual visit with A Drop of Life to the isolated mountainside, I would recall the hectic lifestyle in Hong Kong, which makes us easily forget how blessed we are and thus neglected the people and things around us.

In Hong Kong, it is not uncommon to see people with their heads down working hard without any smiles. Yet in Nepal’s mountain regions, the locals are more joyful despite a tough life, including the need to spend 3-4 hours daily to fetch water. I remember my conversation with a local university professor, the truest of which being “While education is very important to every poor family, what comes to the foremost is water.” Right here, I would ask myself, how can we help them? What can a charitable organization do? What are our goals behind all these efforts? Why do they live so happily despite the unfavorability? So are they considered blessed or not? Well, the least I am certain of is that their lives are difficult, and they need our selfless support to make a positive difference.



Real Ding

Public Relations
Consultant

In September, I paid a visit to the elderly in a volunteering activity organized by A Drop of Life and Hong Kong MX Mooncakes. Sharing love, care and hope with seniors in person is a memorable experience. Their stories are always thought-provoking. From our conversation I understand that what appears a stumbling block today will eventually become trivial. Every challenge one faces today is indeed a motivation for growth, strengthening one’s mind and sending one to an even higher level.

This is the fifth year I joined hands with A Drop of Life. From contributing to its PR strategy and promotion for Race for Water, to participating in charitable programs and singleton elderly visit, I am impressed by, in each unique occasion, the strength and power the organization laid upon its staff, partners and beneficiaries, which collectively enriched the lives of many. In the year ahead, I look forward to more collaboration with the charity, going from strength to strength together to bring hope to society and the world.



Stephanie Au

Ambassador

Living in Hong Kong has no worry over water. One can always find bottled water vending machines just around the corner. As a swimming athlete, my level of water consumption seems even more lavish. However, there are still many places over the world which are deprived from this life necessity.

After the 2016 Olympics, I was granted a vacation during which I have done many things other than swimming. The most meaningful one was my first ever charity visit, in which I joined a 13-member delegation of A Drop of Life to visit a mountainside primary school in Nepal.

My feeling for Nepal was profound. I have seen and experienced in person, how local women, regardless of age, wear slippers to make 5 to 8 20-minute water fetching trip every day. While I am clinging to a teeny 0.01 second difference in my water world, they are struggling to collect droplets of water over the mountain.

Undoubtedly, the identity as an athlete gave me the opportunity to travel to many places away from home, yet none of them is comparable to Nepal. An ambassador has the responsibility to take the lead and tell more people what they ought to know, who they ought to protect and assist. Being an ambassador for the second year, I hope more people could understand the hardships in drought-stricken areas, thereby treasuring what they have now while lending a helping hand to the needed ones.

Our Sponsors and Partners



Wilfred Lau

Chairman of East Asia Community Engagement Committee, Arup

Our strategic partnership with A Drop of Life is based on shared values of community development, a shared vision of a world where no person lacks access to clean water and a collaborative relationship where Arup people can contribute to improve the lives of the less fortunate.



Dillen Chiu

Managing Director, Beauty of ImagineX Group

AVEDA has set aside a whole month to love and celebrate our Earth Month in every April, raising funds to protect the Earth and Clean Water, living our mission to care the world we live in. In Hong Kong, we have collaborated with A Drop of Life since 2007 to pursue a collective goal of clean water projects. Every year, we recruit our guests and partners to invest in communities to protect our planet, restore places and ways of life, and transform ways of thinking for a sustainable future.



Jason Lee

C.E.O., Chung Yung Cycle Co.

Established 67 years ago, Chung Yung Cycle Co has been committed to contributing to society while achieving its business objectives. A fundraising cycling activity seven years ago marked the beginning of our collaboration with A Drop of Life, which continued through today.

Full of passion is what I would use to describe A Drop of Life. The love and care they have for the underprivileged groups never wane. My colleagues and I enjoy taking part in their volunteering activities, sharing care and food with singleton seniors and elderly homes during festivals.

Without any flowery speech, what we can see within the charity is but genuine passion.

Although the business environment is less favorable recently, we will continue to support A Drop of Life for the betterment of the disadvantaged groups. To echo the saying, "We are more blessed to give than to receive".



Timas Liu

Managing Director, Destination Design & Production Ltd

It has been the 7th year that Destination Design & Production Limited works with A Drop of Life. Looking back to the very first trip to Silk Road a few years ago, every single moment was still in my mind, one of the most unforgettable things was to get water up and down the hill in a distance of 2km away from the school. However, the water we got was full of mud and half of it spilled off after the rugged journey. When I returned from the trip, I wish to spread the message of "save water" and influence my circle of friends to experience their difficulties.

Destination is a caring company and our team spread positive messages to families, friends and even clients through participating voluntary services, "Race for Water" and "Walk for Water".



Jimmy Siu

Director, Elite Partners CPA Limited

Elite Partners CPA Limited ("Elite Partners" or "We") has always been committed to corporate social responsibility. Elite Partners provides professional services of Audit and Assurance, Control and Compliance as well as Mergers and Acquisition Transactions. Elite Partners goes an extra mile to engage with the communities by organizing and participating in various sustainability activities, render support and care to the underprivileged people in hopes of building a harmonious, sustainable and inclusive society.

Elite Partners was delighted to participate "Walk for Water" on 7 May 2017 for promoting the importance of clean water and the living conditions of remote areas. We were very proud to see our colleagues completing the assigned 3km race route with 4.5L of bottled water on their back while experiencing the hardship of rural villagers in mountainous areas fetching water far from home.

Thanks a lot 'A Drop of Life' for inviting Elite Partners as Platinum Sponsor to join this meaningful and stimulating event. We sincerely hope all participants would rediscover their ability to find beauty in everyday life and be grateful for the things and people around them.



Eve Leung

Head of Marketing, Branded Products, Maxim's Group

Maxim's Group has been supporting various public welfare activities.

For the 5th consecutive year, HONG KONG MX Mooncakes works in cooperation with A Drop of Life for mooncakes distribution activity, benefiting more than 3,000 people in Hong Kong. Hoping that the mooncakes and fruit with love will allow those in need to regain the warmth of the Mid-Autumn Festival. Let our beloved ones savour the most festive taste. The Mid-Autumn taste - the complete taste under the full moon.



Siuhak

Multimedia Artist & Creator of Panda-a-Panda

Carrying My Past Self

The Japanese are masters of packaging. Whatever gets introduced into Japan will become exceedingly refined and delicate. Tantra was transmitted from China to Japan in the Tang Dynasty, and it later became Shingon Buddhism. Those who have been to Kyoto should know that all their temples are amazingly spick and span. Another example is the concept of "let go" in Buddhism. The Japanese modified it into a philosophy of "Disconnection, Disposal and Detachment". Starting with tidying up one's home, this approach is absolutely pragmatic as the very first thing to let go is always one's possessions.

As a Buddhist disciple – though not an enthusiast – I had come across the idea of "let go" quite some time ago. That's why I did not spend much time on reading those books related to "Disconnection, Disposal and Detachment". After all, isn't it better to put this concept into real life practice than to read voluminous of sutras? In my middle age and about to move house, the perfect timing was right here for me to learn "Disconnection, Disposal and Detachment".

Owing to attachment, piles of items, including unresolved thoughts, have been kept with me for the first half of my life. All these had to be eradicated. For instance, I had once ordered four large custom-made cabinets to store over a thousand pieces of VCDs and CDs. These cabinets literally took up the space of a wall. With the speedy advancement of flat TVs - I don't even know how many K they are up to now - watching VCD with blurring edges is merely a disrespect to the movies themselves. So, throw them away! For those DVDs and CDs selected, I spent two days removing them from their boxes and putting them into plastic disc folders. Finally, four large cabinets became one small house-moving box. Not to mention clothing, I donated or threw away many as only a handful got picked from the wardrobe most of the time.

And there was a stack of outdated magazines, among them was a collection of my columns for 12 consecutive years. Previously, I intended to keep them as proof to my son of his daddy's accomplishments. Yet, think deeper, isn't it a superfluous act of self-image building? When keeping all kinds of possessions, the most foolish motive is to upkeep one's value, as most of them stem from fear. Let the past be the past. Things are best kept in one's heart. If you keep an item which was registered with regret, such regret lingers. When you throw it away, you will find relief from the regret. Why bother keeping the love letter from your puppy love? The actress has long become a mother of two daughters, grown fat and is working hard to repay home mortgage. She is no longer the very same person once you knew about. For those memorabilia difficult to detach, simply take a picture, save in the computer and let them take up the virtual space!

Using this logic, I spent a week cleaning up and threw away heaps of rubbish in a dozen of red, white, blue nylon bags. Without any lifts in my old place, that week I had to carry two nylon bags every night and walk dozens of meters to the nearest refuse collection box. I was somehow like carrying 'my past self' and had it thrown into the bin smilingly – detached, disposed, and just about to disconnect from the samsara cycle.



David Mong

Chairman & CEO, Shun Hing Group

Shun Hing Group has been a sponsor of the annual event of A Drop of Life for the 7th consecutive year. To let all participants who join "Walk for Water" wear comfortably and brightly, we started our sponsorship for production of well-designed and high quality event t-shirts last year. We hope that all participants would wear the t-shirts not only on the event day, but also when they do exercise and volunteering work. In this connection, the spirit of taking up new challenge and caring for the needy, which is the motto of A Drop of Life can be widely spread.



Simatelex Manufactory Co., Ltd.

Simatelex has always been committed to supporting a wide array of fundraising and volunteering activities besides sustaining its business, encouraging participation from employees and their families to join hands and help the disadvantaged in the society. This Mid-Autumn Festival, the Company and its volunteers took part in A Drop of Life's Get-together for Moon Gazing activity, sending mooncakes, fruits as well as festive greetings to singleton elderlies in Shek Kip Mei Estate, bringing them love and warmth in addition to delicious mooncakes. A special thanks to A Drop of Life for giving us a meaningful and love-filled experience.



Clara Man

Marketing Communication Manager, Watsons Water

Watsons Water has been producing pure distilled water in Hong Kong for over 110 years and fulfilling our corporate social responsibility. For many years, we have been participating in various initiatives that help promote and encourage public awareness in environmental protection. In 2015, we became the first in Hong Kong to take on a revolutionary approach to transform plastic bottles - a transparent bottle body made of 100% rPET material. This does not only reduce the use and wastage of plastic, but also helps cut carbon emissions and truly eliminates waste straight from the source.

We have been supporting the non-profit organization, A Drop of Life over the years through sponsoring events, such as "Walk for Water" and "Race for Water". In addition, we are proud to be able to help build water facilities in various regions. We will continue to fulfil our corporate social responsibility and contribute to the community and environment.

Water Projects

Water is a vital source of life. Nonetheless, 663 million people in the world are deprived from safely managed drinking water, leaving them prone to life and health risks.

A Drop of Water believes that water is of equal importance to everybody, who should have the basic right to access to clean water. Over the past 19 years, we have been dedicating our efforts to ensure clean drinking water is made accessible to water-stressed people through proper measures and development that enhance water provision and sanitation, thereby bettering their lives with nourishment and bliss.

A drop of water, so readily accessible by many of us, is invaluable to those beyond reach.



A Drop of Life extended its water projects from Mainland China to Cambodia and Nepal in 2017, installing water facilities in remote villages and rebuilding schools with water purification facilities. While pleased to make steady strides in these countries, we look forward to receiving your support to better the lives of more people in the future.



Water - Making Lives More Beautiful

Mainland China Water Projects

To many country dwellers in the remote Northwest of China, water is something remote and afar.

A quarter of the population in Mainland China is drinking contaminated water. To survive, they have to spend hours tramping over mountains every day to fetch water. Sometimes, what they collect is but stained water consumed by both human and livestock, posing serious threat to their health.

Every sip of water is precious, brought by steps of sweat and tear.



With your generous support, we have built water cellars, water dams and purifying systems in Mainland China's mountainous regions since 2008, bringing clean water and hope to some 660,000 people.



With water cellars, villagers are no longer required to trudge over long distance for this basic life necessity. From now, water becomes accessible.

Water Cellars

People always say that money cannot buy time. Yet, a water cellar can help spare water-stressed dwellers from water-fetching, thus leaving them more time to study and farm, resulting in better lives. So, money can indeed buy time.

Gansu is one of the most arid regions in Mainland China. This year, A Drop of Life built 1,063 water cellars in Pingliang, Gansu, bringing clean water to more than 4,252 people who can finally celebrate the joy of going to school and good harvest.

As of today, we have built 52,856 water cellars in Mainland China, benefiting over 200,000 people.



Water Dams

In 2017, A Drop of Life built 4 water dams in Dingxi and Pingliang in Gansu, benefiting near 4,000 people. Peasants in these regions, arid with minimal precipitation, struggle to make a living because of water shortage and outdated irrigation facilities.

Thanks to the water dams, we now have water for both irrigation and drinking. It is so amazing that the water dams not only help us enjoy better harvest, but also improved road access, less soil erosion and a better ecosystem!



A total of 29 water dams have been constructed since 2011, setting our beneficiaries off on the road of hope.

**Water is the essence of life
School is the cradle of future leaders**



Water Purifying Projects

Drinking contaminated water can impair children’s body functions, let alone tooth decay. With all of us putting strong emphasis on children’s healthy development, there is no reason to remain indifferent.

This year, A Drop of Life has installed large-scale water purifying systems in 15 primary and secondary schools in Hebei, Gansu and Shanxi provinces. Filtering chemicals and contaminants from polluted water, the systems benefited over 8,000 teachers and students with access to tasty clean water simply by turning on the water taps.

Now, the students are getting healthier, their study is getting better, and their smiles are even brighter.



Water Projects in Cambodia



Four million people living in the remote villages in Cambodia are deprived of clean water sources, let alone basic hygiene knowledge. In 2017, we partnered with local charity organizations to provide a variety of water facilities – from water supply to purification – to different villages. More importantly, we educated villagers on the proper ways to maintain good hygiene as well as its importance so as to improve their health and living from the core.



Water Well and Pump

Cambodia enjoys a decent source of groundwater, yet the traditional open-style water wells leave water easily contaminated with bacteria and contagious diseases. With hand-pumped water wells drilled to a depth of 20-25m, villagers can gain access to much cleaner ground water.

Over the past year, we have installed 810 water wells and pumps in six towns in Siem Reap for families to use for cooking, drinking and cleaning. Building a water pump is not easy as villagers have to drill and loosen the mud inch by inch before successfully obtaining clean groundwater. Every drop of water, which comes at no ease, is the source to make a life-changing difference.





Biosand Filter

A Drop of Life has installed biosand filters for 900 families in remote villages this year. With layers of sand and micro-bacterial films to filter out bacteria and contaminants in dirty water to make it suitable for drinking, biosand filter is a simple and cost-effective solution that cleans water quickly.

Placing equal emphasis on the quality of drinking water and sanitation in schools, we have installed large-scale biosand filters in 20 schools on the outskirts of Kampot, which are home to 6,936 students, in addition to organizing workshops on proper handwashing. From water to sanitation, we aim to improve the living and learning environment for students, one step at a time.



Water Projects in Nepal



In Hong Kong, we are accustomed to convenient access to safe drinking water simply by turning on the tap at home. Yet to many mountain dwellers in Nepal, this life essential is no less luxurious than diamonds. Many senior villagers told us that they have worked painstakingly for their entire life, but now with their hair turned grey, a stable water supply is still beyond reach.



School Water Purification System

Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, sees rapid development and at the same time increasing water pollution due to industrial wastes. In this connection, we installed water purification system in 7 schools, bringing safe and clean drinking water to 784 students. Furthermore, we renovated the lavatories and fitted them with handwashing facilities while providing relevant teaching to students to enhance their hygiene awareness.



Access to clean drinking water and good hygiene are vital to staying healthy. It is encouraging to see the students developing a habit of handwashing with soap after using the toilet and before eating. By teaching the hygiene basics to students, we hope they can share the good practice with their families and hence make a change to this habit for generations.



Water supply system is crucial to alleviate problems such as poverty and schooling deprivation



Gravity Flow Water Supply System

Nepal's mountainous landscape makes water sources distant from many villages. Local women have to shoulder the responsibility of water-fetching, spending several hours every day to make multiple water-fetching trips along a rugged and hilly path.

In 2017, we celebrated the completion of our first gravity flow water system in Gorkha. Through a 9,220-m water pipe, water sources uphill are made available to 33 water taps in the village, benefiting 629 people with a steady water supply.

Children Development Projects



Children is our hope and future pillars of society. Vulnerable and fragile, not only do they need proper protection, but more importantly, a safe and healthy environment for growth. In 2017, we continued to spare no efforts in this regard by providing clean water, nutritious meals and education to help them open a bright new chapter.



School Rebuilding Project in Nepal



More than a year's effort has finally paid off. In October 2017, we celebrated the completion of our first rebuilt school in Phujel, Gorkha District, Nepal. Although construction delayed due to the monsoon season, we remained steadfast in rebuilding the school. The building was painted in blue to signify the warmest blessings of our donors.

There are 1.2 million children aged between 5 and 16 deprived from any education or have dropped out of school in Nepal. As the earthquake in 2015 has destroyed many schools, many students are forced to stay at home and help grow crops. Such a way of living becomes habitual and the children no longer wish to return to schools.

In view of this, subsequent to inspecting and hosting an opening ceremony at the newly rebuilt school during our Nepal trip this year, we visited a number of earthquake-affected schools located in the mountainous regions of Dhading and Tanahu. After the visit, we decided to rebuild and refurbish two of the schools, and planned to extend our effort to more disaster-affected schools in 2018, so that more students can return to school for good.



The then bamboo scaffolding has now become a safe and sound school building. No matter how far the distance, we are determined to offer a safe environment for students to learn and grow.



Hospital Nutritious Meals in Cambodia



Every nutritious meal comes with our warmest blessing of good health and growth for the children.

Meat is rich in protein and iron while rice is high in carbohydrates. These are common sense to many of us living in the city, but for those residing in distant rural villages, such knowledge can hardly be heard in a lifetime.

In 2017, we made nourishing meals available to 3,600 ill children in Angkor Hospital for Children by sponsoring the hospital to purchase nutritious food and additional kitchen utensils while teaching parents on proper diet and its importance in children's healthy development. To ensure the children discharged from hospital can continue to enjoy a balanced diet at home, we funded hospital volunteers to pay subsequent home visits to keep track of their progress of recovery. All in all, it is our hope to see all children growing up in a healthy environment.



Local Services

Let's impact life by life, spread love by love



Hong Kong, a bustling metropolis, is home to many lonely hearts.

A Drop of Life strives to bring hope and care to the needy during festive occasions. During Chinese New Year and Mid-Autumn festivals, many corporate and individual volunteers joined us to visit the disadvantaged with bountiful goodie bags to pass on love and care.



Chinese New Year Goodie Bag Distribution

Chinese New Year is the most important traditional festival in the Chinese community. On Chinese New Year eve, near 500 volunteers joined us to send warm blessings and goodie bags to 3,020 beneficiaries, whose homes were festively adorned with our branded couplets with auspicious messages.



In quest for happiness, simplicity is the key



Sharing by volunteers

While we are purposed to spread love to the needy through the visit, we are the one who benefited most. During each visit, we were greeted by nannies and grannies with lovely grins. They were always willing to share what they have gone through since youth, and tell us their own personal stories even when we met for the first time. From the visit, we have a deep feeling that a simple greeting, patient listening, a welcoming eye contact and smile are all they need to be contented.

Get-together for Moon Gazing



The Mid-Autumn Festival is a special time for family get-togethers. This year, A Drop of Life continued to collect mooncakes from the public, donating them to 4,063 beneficiaries including seniors, persons with disabilities and people of former mental illness on the eve of Mid-Autumn Festival. Besides mooncakes and goodie bags, we also had interesting group games and heart-to-heart talks with the beneficiaries. Artists Ruco Chan, Stephy Tang, Li Lai-ha and celebrities Real Ding and Betty Chan were among the volunteers who spent a great time with the elderly, filling the day with fun and laughter.

Thanks to our supportive individual, corporate and institutional donors as well as volunteers, who made the event a great success. As previous year, Hong Kong MX Mooncakes donated 3,000 mooncakes in this event to enrich our Moon Festival goodie bags. Besides collecting mooncakes from corporates, we invited donation from primary and secondary schools, encouraging students to share with those in need.

Our heartiest appreciation goes to our benefactors from all spectrum of the community, who collectively made our 2017 charitable efforts a huge success. With your continuous support, we are well poised to continually spread warmth in this international metropolis.



Fundraising Activities



Challenge One Self to Better Others

Enthusiastic support and participation of benefactors from all walks of life are instrumental to the success of A Drop of Life's two annual fundraising events, Race for Water and Walk for Water. Thankfully, the two mega events raised HK\$4.2 million and HK\$2.3 million respectively, enabling us to make steady progress in our charity endeavours.

This year, our Charity Walkathon assembled a group of benevolent hikers to Mount Fuji in Japan. Completing the hiking journey with joy and challenges, a total of HK\$410,000 was raised for the construction of water purifying facilities in 13 schools in Cambodia. In the experience-focused volunteering teaching trip in Cambodia, our teachers, apart from teaching, turned themselves into pump ambassadors to help villagers build water pumps. A sum of HK\$50,000 was raised to build water pumps in local remote villages and purchase essential tools.



Race for Water



Race for Water – Race for Hope for the Water – Stressed People



Honorary consultants Mr Richie Jen, Mr Alex Fong and Ms Stephy Tang joined the 15km race with all other running heroes to experience the hardship of running with water on their backs, giving mutual support to each other before crossing the finish line.

“Race for Water, Race for Hope for the Water-Stressed People”. A slogan and a starting pistol marked the beginning of the 5th Race for Water on 12 March 2017. On a much blessed sunny day, honorary consultants Mr Richie Jen, Mr Alex Fong and Ms Stephy Tang joined our running heroes of 15km and 30km to complete the race.

“Unlike usual running, it is undoubtedly much tougher to compete carrying heavy weight in this race. But for such a worthy cause to help the water-stressed villagers, we are willing to endure this once-a-year hardship, which is absolutely trivial compared with the mountain villagers who have to fetch water every day,” said a running hero.

With the staunch support of our running heroes year after year, Race for Water has been able to improve the lives for more villagers. This year, our beneficiary footprint expanded from Mainland China to Nepal and Cambodia. Thanks to the contribution from sponsors, collaborating institutions, donors, runners, volunteers and staff, who collectively made the race a great success.

Shouldering on us is not just 4.5 litres of water, but a mighty mission of bringing clean water to the disadvantaged by our own sweat.





Aveda Walk for Water

Every footstep of yours brings clean water a big stride closer to those in quest of water



Walk for Water 2017 is graced by MC Ms Leung Ka Ki and many guests including Ms Qi Qi, Mr Orlando To, Mr Alex Fong, Ms Stephanie Au and Ms Kate Tsui. Guests fill up the box with water-droplet balloons, implying each participant's love and care will collectively be transformed into abundant water sources.



A touching scene with Mr Alex Fong, Ms Stephanie Au and Ms Kate Tsui bringing their family members along to experience the hardship of water-stressed people.

Fundraising Activities



Our mega event Walk for Water falls in May every year. On event day, individuals, families and corporate teams came together with 4.5L bottles on their backs to raise funds for water-stressed people while experiencing the hardship of water-fetching. Despite intermittent rains, 2,500 participants weathered the wind and rain with us for this worthy cause. Merely a 3km walk has already left many of us drenched in sweat. So one can imagine how tough life could be for those living in the other end of the world who have to carry more water, and walk for a much longer distance every day.



Fundraising Activities



Charity Walkathon in Mount Fuji, Japan



Climbing to the Peak of Japan to Raise Fund for Clean Water

In an 8-day climbing tour which set sight on the peak of Mount Fuji, participants first went to Nagano to tramp through Tsugaike, Hakuba Iwatake, Ejje and Mt. Iizuna, as a warm-up prelude to conquer the highest peak in Japan.

As participants trekked up to the peak of Mount Fuji, mutual support and encouragement became the driver propelling everyone forward. From strangers to supporters, from running with ease to pain, the touching moments of reaching the highest point of Japan can only be appreciated by those who trudged step by step.



We have walked through the most difficult path in the week-long journey, yet many villagers are climbing over mountains to fetch water every day. That said, are we still in the right position to complain about 'hardship'?

At any rate, only by taking part in charity walkathon can one be truly able to appreciate the essence of spreading love and care to others by actions.

Sharing by Henry

Charity walkathon in Mount Fuji. I don't know how I completed this mission impossible...

We had to walk approximately 10km of mountain trail every day throughout the 8-day tour. Life got tougher as we hiked closer to the peak. Trekking from day till night we were struck by heavy rains. Muscle fatigue and tiredness gradually emerged. "Beware of a mud pit in front", "Have some candies, we are just footsteps away from the peak, cheer up", "Grasp me if you find the stair too high", all participants were helping one another throughout the whole journey.

It was amazing to see every one of us stepping out of our comfort zone in this charity walkathon. We were capable of both challenging ourselves and caring for others. So long as every person pursues good deeds with courage, I am sure there will be better lives, and a better future for the world.

So come and join us now!

Sharing by Chung and Viann

We still remember the numerous headlights blazing through the dark, our sweaty smell, the many exhausted selves quietly moving forward until we finally hit the peak – an altitude of 3,776m above sea level - to enjoy 360-degree amazing view as well as fresh air, all being so invaluable.

After this journey, I have a feeling that today's human beings are pursuing a convenient lifestyle, with every facility built for the convenience of people. So why didn't we sit back and relax at home but rather spent a few months' time preparing ourselves, coming all the way to brave the storms to climb to the top of Mount Fuji? This sounds contradictory to the natural instincts of animals.

I have read a book which talks about the major difference between human and animals. Animals live to survive, but on top of that, humans have a self-challenging spirit, making them the highest order of all living forms. For example, cheetahs will not care for running faster so long as they can get their preys. Yet humans strive to fulfill their dreams and exploit their potential. We, who challenged Mount Fuji, are among them.

A vacation with sumptuous feast and fun is to relax ourselves.

An experience tour to cross rivers and hills is to understand our inner selves.

The world is vast. When will humans genuinely jump out of the box and explore the people and things around them?

Cheer up, we are near the peak. Don't give up!





Volunteering Teaching in Cambodia

Hello! ជំរាបសួរ



A Drop of Life made its foray to Siem Reap, Cambodia in 2017, teaching local primary and secondary school students Mandarin. On top of 6 days' teaching, our volunteering teachers also experienced the difficulty of getting clean water by personally building water pumps with our local water partners.

Despite a packed week-long schedule, our teachers were full of energy and smiles without a tint of tiredness. Language is no barrier between teachers and students. At the end of each class, students would say "goodbye" to our teachers at the road intersection, reflecting their keen anticipation to the next lesson.

December 2016, we had a very special Christmas in Cambodia.



All "Goodbyes" from the students are filled with keen anticipation to the next lesson. Volunteering teaching – full of heart-touching moments.



Sharing from Shirley Hui

This is my second year joining A Drop of Life's volunteering teaching program. What makes this year so special is that we have to teach Mandarin in Cambodia. The enthusiasm of children touched me most, especially when I saw through the classroom windows that many children, coming from neighboring villages, quietly standing outside and listening to us. We gave them textbooks, on which they jotted notes, diligently, day after day.

Some students even brought their little siblings who just learn to walk to the classes as they would have been left unattended otherwise with working parents. All are so memorable.

After the third day of teaching, we went on to build water pumps ourselves starting from transporting sands to making concrete, topping out and building fences. The whole process was painstaking, but it was rewarding to physically build our own donated water pumps.

Although I have no idea how much the children acquired over a few days' classes, I am plainly gratified to see the innocent and cheerful smiles on their faces.

Support from Corporates



Rotary International Brings Hope to Mountain Villagers in Nepal

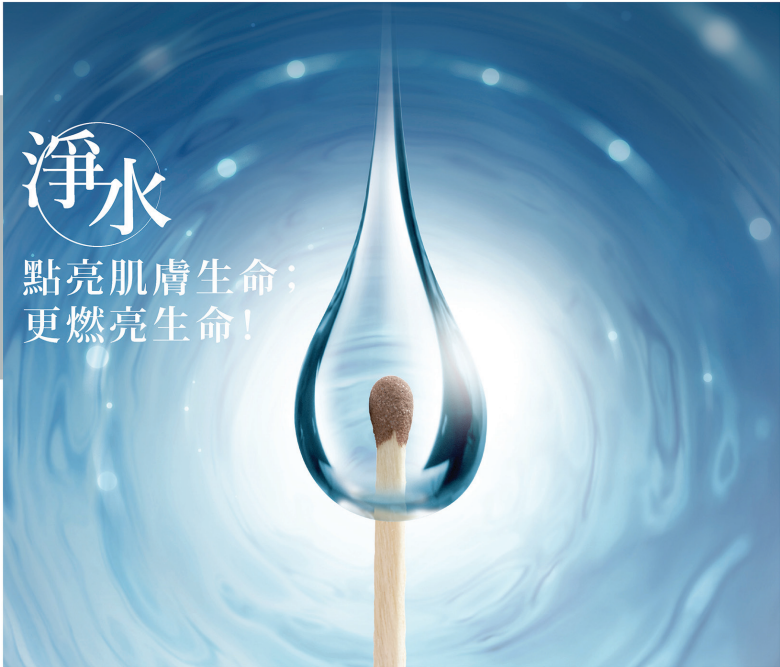
Rotary Club of Kwai Chung continued to support A Drop of Life by pledging a donation of HK\$40,000 for the School Rebuilding Project in Nepal, while another HK\$180,000 was received from Rotary International District 3450 Area 6 Rotary Clubs (9 Clubs) to construct water supply systems in rural villages there.

The earthquake in 2015 has left devastating impacts on the basic infrastructure in many disaster-stricken villages. Displacement of water sources aside, water supply systems and schools were also destroyed. Rotary International sends them hope by restoring the basics to improve their living conditions.

Bioderma Charity Sale Adds Bliss to Life with Clean Water

Bioderma paired up with A Drop of Life for the second year in a row in a charity sale to fund the construction of water purifying facilities for children living in remote mountain areas in Mainland China. Sharing the belief that “Clean Water Can Make a Life-Changing Difference”, A Drop of Life has been committed to providing remote villagers access to clean water, while Bioderma offers products with clean water to enliven skin and life.

A total of HK\$100,000 was raised in the charity sale, bringing clean water to students in Hebei mountainous regions.



FUND RAISING CYCLING
國賢慈善環島單車
2017-1-21

"KEEP THE WILL MOVING"

Application Period 報名日期
1/11-30/11

Online Application 網上報名
<http://skyleefrc.com>

Students and public applications are welcome
歡迎學生及公眾報名

Check our official website and Facebook page for more details
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“Keep the Will Moving” Fundraising Cycling

Simon K Y Lee Hall of The University of Hong Kong held a fundraising cycling activity in January 2017, donating a sum of HK\$230,000 (after deducting all necessary expenses) to A Drop of Life for the School Rebuilding Project in Nepal. With a theme of “Keep the Will Moving” – taking similar pronunciation of “Wheel” and “Will”, the activity aimed at conveying the message that rotating the wheels is like spinning “the will of hope” for the children in Nepal, where a safe learning environment will be built to help them change their life with education.



Wendy's Kitchen – Let Delicacy Harness Human Relationship

Teacher Wendy is a cooking enthusiast who has been making bean paste flower cakes for families and friends to strengthen human bonding while supporting A Drop of Life's charity projects for disadvantaged children. Each flower cake, taking 6-10 hours to make, is an art of love and meticulousness. As of October 2017, a total of 136 flower cakes have been made, raising over HK\$150,000 to fund classroom furniture for the School Rebuilding Project in Nepal and nutritious meals for sick children in Cambodia. The exquisite flower cakes not only sent joy to the donors, but more importantly, our heartiest blessings to the children living afar in Nepal and Cambodia.



Swiss Café – Charity Lunch Supported by First Time Waitress Stephy

In a 2-day charity lunch organized by Swiss Café, our Honorary Consultant Stephy transformed herself into a waitress and took order from customers, who arrived way before lunch hour to support Stephy and the good cause. More than HK\$30,000 worth of orders were placed and the entirety was donated to A Drop of Life for building water facilities for villagers in remote mountain areas in Cambodia and Nepal.



The 10th Tasty Cup Gathers Catering Industry Elites for Philanthropy

In the 10th Tasty Cup organized by Tasty Congee and Noodle Wantun Shop, over 200 elites in catering trade gathered at the Dongguan Phoenix Hill Golf Club in an early morning for an 18-hole tournament to support charity, both physically and financially. Together with charity tea sale in all Tasty restaurants, the event is expected to raise HK\$100,000 to fund a water purifying system in Gansu, Mainland China so as to provide clean drinking water to the students. Believing that clean drinking water is closely linked to the food and beverage industry and that no restaurant can operate without water, Tasty joins hands with industry peers to promote a good cause every year.

Financial Highlights

Public Donation Income and Charitable Project Expenditure
For the year ended 31 December 2016



	HK\$'000	%
One-off and Monthly Donation	13,674	63.6%
Walkathons & Cycling Activities	7,478	34.8%
Gift-sales & Other Fundraising Activities	336	1.6%
Total	21,488	100.0%



	HK\$'000	%
Charitable Project Expenditure	9,200	54.5%
Fundraising Activity Expenditure	5,847	34.6%
Public Education Expenditure	680	4.0%
Administration Expenditure	1,163	6.9%
Total	16,890	100.0%



	HK\$'000	%
Water Project	8,416	72.4%
Children Development Programme	549	4.7%
Local Visits	235	2.0%
Committed projects completed after year end	2,421	20.9%
Total	11,621	100.0%



	HK\$'000	%
Mainland China	9,915	85.3%
Nepal	1,075	9.3%
Cambodia	396	3.4%
Hong Kong	235	2.0%
Total	11,621	100.0%

Acknowledgements

In Alphabetical Order

Race for Water 2017

2XU
3rd:move
ARUP
Adrien Gagnon
All Weather OutDoor Gear Shop
AustSports Association
Bones Communications
Brooks
Chilli Fagara
Chung Yung Cycle Co.
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Customs and Excise Department Volunteer Team
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AVEDA Walk for Water 2017

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Women's Welfare Club (Eastern District) Hong Kong Leung Lee Sau Yu Neighbourhood Elderly Centre

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Annual Report Sponsor



2018 Fundraising Events

A Drop of Life will continue to march forward in 2018 to bring hope to more people.

Save the date. Lend us your support in whichever way you wish and witness our growth, so that we can enjoy the sweetness of giving together.

Charity Tours



17–25/8/2018 (9 Days)

Charity Walkathon in Norway

Put down your cell phone and get away from the bustling city to the tranquil and picturesque Norway. A Drop of Life will bring you through the rugged mountain trails and climb over beautiful valleys with a good cause. We will even visit Galdhoppigen, the highest point in Norway, to explore the astounding beauty of nature by foot.



25/9-5/10/2018 (11 Days)

Charity Walkathon in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan was once a habitat of nomads, boasting spectacular natural landscapes with sweeping views of grassland and original mountains and lakes. We will be hiking to Kolsay Lakes, known as the Pearl of Northern Tien-Shan, and be captivated by its exceptionally attractive blue colour of water. Also, be poised to get a genuine taste of serenity when we stay in the mountain campsite 2,700m above sea-level.



22-30/12/2018 (9 Days)

Volunteering Teaching in Cambodia

Those who have joined our Volunteering Teaching in Cambodia last year should have vivid memories of the bright smiles of the local primary school students. In 2018, we will be seeing them again, giving them classes while experiencing the construction of water pumps. Let's give them a very special Christmas together!

Local Activities

Race for Water

“Take on the Challenge” is the theme of the 6th Race for Water, which will take place on 18 March. Participants are required to carry 4.5 liters bottled water to run through 15km, 30km or the newly added 42km trail to experience the hardship of villagers carrying water far from home, making access to clean water a reality. The Race is expected to raise HK\$4 million to benefit 5,000 people with clean water.



18/3/2018



6/5/2018

Walk for Water

In 2018 Walk for Water participants will continue to experience the hardship of carrying water on their backs to stroll along a designated route with families and friends. What's more, we will be introducing innovative elements to make this year's event even more fun and interesting, which will leave a lasting impression on this meaningful day.



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