



Immediate Release

“Good at Facing Adversity” Children Story Project Boosts Children’s Adversity Quotients through Creative Puppetry

(Hong Kong, November 8, 2012) – Hong Kong Family Welfare Society (“HKFWS”) was grateful to have received sponsorship and support from a dynamic leisure and entertainment company in Asia, Melco International Development Limited (“Melco”), to develop a six-month program – “Good at Facing Adversity” Children Story Project (the “Project”). Through playing out stories with adorable puppets, the Project has guided 250 children age 5 to 12 to overcome adversity they might encounter.

When children are facing life difficulties and unable to deal with them, it could lead to a complex array of emotional problems. According to the casework profile of HKFWS School Social Work Service (2010/11), nearly 20% of 2,145 cases are associated with emotional and mental health. To address these problems, HKFWS is pleased to have Melco’s support, which enables the Project to run at its six service centers in Hong Kong, educating children on proper ways of emotion management and raising their adversity quotients.

The Project consists of volunteer training, children talks and groups. Social workers first guided volunteers and parents to help children make good puppets so as to enhance children’s communication skills and their relations with parents. Then together they played out adversity stories with the puppets, inspiring the children to learn the proper way to channel feelings and problem solving.

HKFWS Volunteer Service Coordinator, Ms. Jennifer Woo, shared, “A boy with Asperger Syndrome[†] loved lecturing and was desperate for approval. But his classmates did not understand him – they ignored and teased him. Not knowing how to handle the situation, he became angry and slammed tables and chairs, and even knocked his head against the wall. Thereby teachers and parents labelled him as a ‘troubled child’.

[†] Asperger syndrome is an autism spectrum disorder that is characterized by significant difficulties in social interaction, communication deficit, alongside with restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior and interests. Information source: American Psychiatric Association, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition



“In fact, children’s misbehaviors, such as skipping classes, anorexia and internet addiction, could be signs of frustration when they are undergoing some level of distress. The support from Melco enables us to conduct the Project and empower children to grow strong in adversity.”

One of the participants, the 10-year-old Lee Yee said happily, “I had a really great time with Melco volunteers and the other children! We made cute puppets and played the brave characters in meaningful stories. I learnt how to fight unhappiness like a brave girl.”

The Project also receives applause and recognition from the Melco volunteers. Under the leadership of **Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Melco Mr. Lawrence Ho**, Melco volunteers have actively participated in the Project’s children groups. One of the devoted Melco volunteers, Chan Kwok-choi, said, “I applied my engineering skills in this project – design and construction – to help children make their own puppets. When the children were proudly waving them to present the stories, I felt extremely gratified.”

To recognize children’s virtue in facing adversity and reinforce the message, the Project holds a Comic Drawing Competition, where students in Primary 3 to Primary 6 tell their own stories about overcoming difficulties in four-panel comic strips. It is a good opportunity for parents and children to participate together and win attractive prizes. Please visit www.hkfws.org.hk or call on 2771-1891 for details.

Photo 1: Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Melco Mr. Lawrence Ho and Senior Manager of HKFWS Mr. Anthony Sin (Centre of the Last Row) joined Melco volunteers to help children make “Good at Facing Adversity” puppets.



Photo 2: The participating children were made Ambassadors of “Good at Facing Adversity” by Mr. Anthony Sin, Senior Manager of HKFWS, and Melco volunteers.



Photo 3: Children share their adversity stories in four-panel comic strips and join Melco volunteers to promote the message of “Good at Facing Adversity”.



Photo 4: A Melco volunteer patiently guided a child in storytelling and passed her wisdom of facing adversity.



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