



Media Coverage

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CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Vincent Chan, general manager of the Charles K Kao Foundation, and social worker Chau Mei-ye of the Christian Family Service Centre help the elderly at a cognitive training class in Kwun Tong earlier this month. Photo: May Tse

COMBINING RESOURCES FOR DEMENTIA FIGHT

Charles K Kao Foundation and Christian Family Service Centre team up to provide cognitive training and assistance for sufferers, families and carers

Eddie Lee
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Lau noticed last year that her 85-year-old mother was becoming increasingly forgetful. "She often ended up going to the wrong place after we had fixed a location to meet," the daughter said.

As her mother's condition deteriorated, Lau sought help from the Christian Family Service Centre in Kwun Tong, a facility that treats elderly Hongkongers in varying stages of dementia.

After Lau's mother was referred to health professionals and diagnosed with dementia, she began receiving treatment and taking part in activities that slowed her cognitive decline. "My mother has learned to draw and make crafts at the centre," said Lau, who declined to use her real name. She said she believed the new

activities had helped improve her mother's condition by exercising her body and brain. "My mother remembers things now," Lau said. "She is also very happy."

Tong Choi-ying, the centre's programme director for elder care, said her team had helped more than 200 patients at three

locations across Hong Kong. Tong said the centre held training sessions for elderly people with mild to moderate dementia to help them maintain their cognitive abilities. Besides people with dementia, the centre also supports their carers.

The Christian Family Service

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Centre works with the Charles K Kao Foundation to offer financial support for cognitive training and day care services for Hongkongers with dementia and their families.

The foundation, established in 2010 by Professor Charles Kao Kuen and his wife Gwen Kao Wong May-wan, is dedicated to raising awareness of Alzheimer's disease and enhancing support for patients, families and carers.

Kao, who won a joint Nobel Prize in Physics in 2009, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2004. He died in 2018 at the age of 84.

This year, the foundation is a beneficiary of Operation Santa Claus, the annual fundraising campaign organised by the *South China Morning Post* and public broadcaster RTHK.

Vincent Chan Wing-hong, general manager of the foundation, said the funds would enable his team to help meet the needs of dementia patients.

"Our project opens up an alternative path for our clients to receive early intervention, while waiting for long-term government services," he said.





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香港公益金會員機構
Member Agency of The Community Chest

Prepared by CU 20191122