

Chapter 1

GENERAL

1.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REMARKS

We are witnessing a new poverty, possibly in epidemic proportions, the extent of which has no historical precedent. It seeps into all levels of society, with its strongest impact on the most defenceless, the youngest and the oldest.

The causes are legion: breakdown in the nuclear family, the scattering of extended families and, in technologically developed societies a paucity in human communication, as the digital —Facebook, Twitter, iPad and the computer — often becomes a substitute for personal contact. Digital communication tends to isolate people, as it has no feeling or caring conscience.

His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical on the *Integral Development in Charity and Truth*, identifies isolation as being one of the deepest forms of poverty. "If we look closely at other kinds of poverty, including the material, we see that they are born out of isolation, from not being loved or from difficulties in being able to love. Poverty is often produced by a rejection of God's love, by man's basic and tragic tendency to close in on himself, thinking himself to be self-sufficient or merely an insignificant and ephemeral fact, a 'stranger' in a random universe" (*Caritas in Veritate [Love in Truth]*, # 53).

These simple words from the Holy Father describe a fundamental and disturbing reality about today's world—relational poverty. The word poverty traditionally refers to the material, but the poverty of today is wider than the financial.

Relational poverty, which results from isolation, is a growing and disturbing reality. More and more people are searching for personal contact in terms of love, commitment, sympathy and encouragement. Sometimes just a willing ear or a caring heart is all they yearn for.

A society unable to respond to the needs of others becomes a breeding ground for relational poverty. The people it affects can be described as *the Last, the Least and the Lost*. They do not share in the



benefits of our society adequately nor enjoy the privileges mainstream life can offer.

These are the very people our Agency is reaching out to and serving, as we believe relational support enables change, growth and development into an integrated person.

It enables a former offender to reintegrate into the community, a person with particular physical or mental needs to cope and to discover that they too have gifts to share with others.

Relational support is especially important to people in their sunset years. It helps them cope with failing strength and wearing bodies, and do once simple things like go shopping, take a bath or remember medication.

Isolation is at the root of all poverty, especially relational poverty, which ultimately impinges on what is most sacred in society; the people, or the spirit. Poverty of spirit denies the ability to find a meaning in life and clouds the ability to understand what is happening or experience and accept God's love.

We believe we are called to serve those who are unable to access what society offers. The Agency is dedicated to seeking new ways of addressing isolation, which is at the root of relational poverty.

We pray that our efforts may give birth to genuine, personal and lasting relationships in all sectors of our service; in the home, workplace, neighbourhood and network communities, as we work to build a more relational world.

Rev Michael M. C. Yeung, VG

1.2 CARITAS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2010/2011

Theme of the 2010/2011 Campaign : “Give Them a Ray of Hope”

Appeals for support and running bazaar stalls made to parishes, schools and associations were met by encouraging responses. A total of 62 parishes / mass centres, 238 schools and over 40 organizations participated in this year’s Campaign. For the six bazaars held in Hong Kong, Tuen Mun, Kowloon, Shatin, Tsuen Wan and Cheung Chau, they were operated by 426 stalls and more than 10,000 enthusiastic volunteers. The Hong Kong Bazaar was officiated by The Hon Matthew Cheung Kin Chung, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, while the Kowloon Bazaar was opened by Dr the Hon Leong Che Hung, GBM GBS JP, Chairman of the Elderly Commission. The other four Bazaars were opened by local dignitaries.

Under the able leadership of Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (Asia), the total income of the Campaign came to a record high of \$26.64 million. This included \$5.71 million from the six bazaars, \$12.38 million from the sale of raffle tickets and \$8.55 million from the Friends of Caritas (*through fundraising activities like Charity TV Show and Charity Walk*), patrons of the Campaign, corporate donors and individual benefactors.



Amidst the applause of students, Dr the Hon Leong Che Hung participated in the stall games in the Kowloon Bazaar at Fa Hui Park



Performers danced with smiles and joy in the parade of the Charity Walk

1.3 CATHOLIC CHURCH LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2010 AND GRANT FROM LENTEN ALLOCATION

For 2010, the Catholic Church Lenten Campaign Organizing Committee chose “Who is your neighbour? 誰是你的近人?” for its theme. Caritas - Hong Kong serving as the Organizing Committee’s Secretariat, helped in the organization work of the campaign, designing of the posters, management of the webpage, coordinating the production of Lenten theme songs, printing and distribution of Lenten messages, “Way of the Cross” booklets, DVDs, Lenten Boxes and Paschal Lamb savings boxes for collection of donations.

With the support of parishes, Catholic schools and organizations, a total of \$5.56 million was raised in response to the appeal in 2010, as compared with \$5.57 million raised in 2009.

An amount of \$4.39 million was allocated to Caritas - Hong Kong to fund the services for the needy through its social, medical care and education programmes.

In the spirit of solidarity, a sum of \$0.4 million was allocated for overseas and local emergency relief activities with Caritas - Hong Kong providing the administrative and secretarial support.

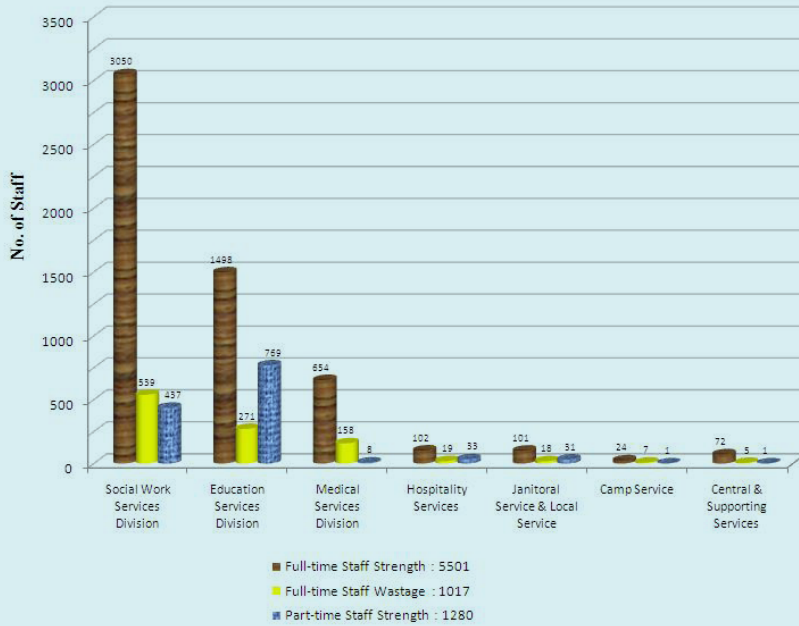
1.4 STAFF POSITION

The number of regular full-time staff and part-time staff as at 31 March 2011 was 5,501 and 245 respectively. Compared with the combined number of 5,669 a year ago, there was a modest increase of 1.4%. The overall turnover rate slightly rose to 18.6% in the year 2010/2011 mainly owing to the turnover of Government subvented programme workers and programme assistants.

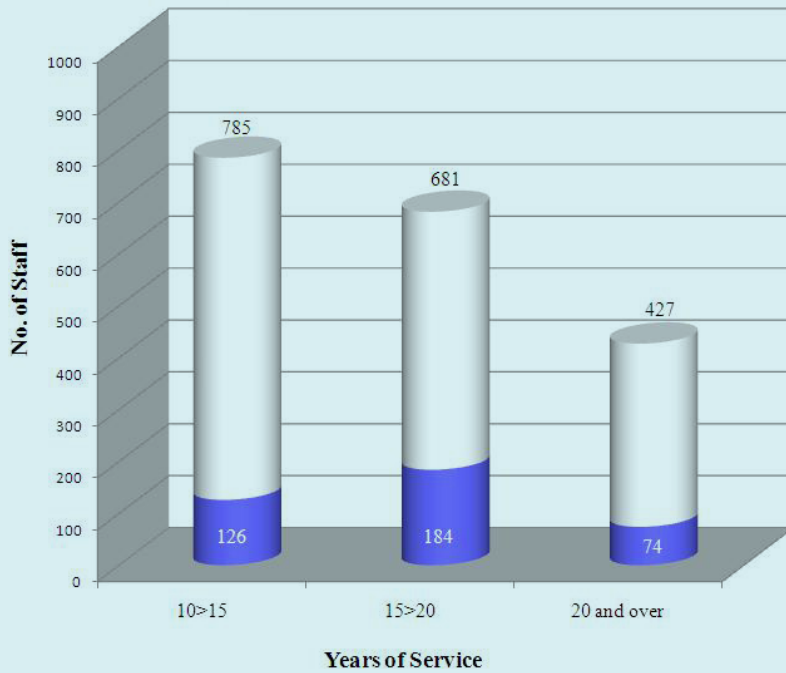
The number of part-time staff employed for short term as at 31 March 2011 increased by 12% compared with that as at 31 March 2010.

The diagrams below give a fuller picture of the distribution of full- and part-time staff and the wastage of full-time staff in various Divisions and Services, as well as the position of long-serving staff in 2010/2011.

Staff Strength as at 31.03.2011 and Turnover in 2010/2011



Position of Long Serving Staff as at 31.03.2011



■ No. of Staff awarded 10-year, 15-year or 20-year Long Service Awards