

2022 CanCare Centre CEO Annual Report

Rev. Jackie Chan

I. Foreword

Shortly after the commencement 2020, Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") started impacting the world severely. In order to reduce the risk of infection amongst our volunteers and patients, we reluctantly suspended most of the activities including Support Groups activities, Public Meetings, Anniversary Thanksgiving Dinner and in-person training courses. The pandemic has come to a downward trend after waving for more than two years. Since we understand cancer patients has great desire for spiritual supports, we gradually resumed various in-person activities from March 2022, trying our utmost effort to provide them with feasible caring services. Nevertheless, to safeguard the health of patients, all of our activities conducted must at the same time strictly comply with the epidemic prevention measures implemented by the government.

II. Education and Training

Because of the uncertain situation of COVID-19, many in-person training courses have been suspended. As a result, less training courses were conducted in 2021 than expected. However, through our partnership with Chinese Theological College Australia (CTCA), we have successfully held two in-person courses, enabling us to study and learn together with the faculty and students of the seminary. It is truly grateful.

Facing the various challenges brought by the pandemic, we attempted making use of the online platform as a means of performing training activities. In mid-January 2022, we invited Dr Carolyn Ng from Singapore to present a lecture on the topic "伴行於死蔭幽谷". Through online learning, our 74 volunteers in Sydney experienced the advancement and convenience brought by technology. In addition, another breakthrough is we held two online training sessions and one in-person training session in Brisbane in the first half of 2022.

When the pandemic started to slow down, we conducted in-person caring training courses in two suburbs of Sydney, namely West Ryde and Chatswood. Some learners even subsequently applied to join our volunteer team, enabling them to practice what they learned in the classroom in real life. In this financial year, around 410 participations in our training courses throughout the year.

Going onward, we will move with the times and continue to develop various types of online courses.

III Media Advocacy

We adopt various communication channels including social platforms, WhatsApp, WeChat and e-Newsletter to widely deliver encouraging messages and videos to patients and the community. Our aim is to let both patients and their carers pay concern to the services and news of "CanCare". The videos we produced are extremely diverse. Topics cover "Cancer Classroom" which are lectures presented by medical practitioners,

"CanCare Kitchen", the brand-new version of "Life Education", etc. Through different aspects including but not limited to dietary issues, medical health and spiritual care, we hope we can disseminate comprehensive information to cancer patients.

We resumed broadcasting the radio program named "康恩伴你行" commencing January 2022. We invited different fields of professionals including pastors, medical practitioners and nutritionists to deliver the most up-to-date news to the community over "atmospheric radio wave". Topics cover "self-treatment" at home intended for patients suffered from COVID-19, food nutrition assessment, discussions on life and death education during the pandemic, etc. We had a total of 25 episodes broadcasted at the end of June 2022.

CanCare Drama Group is organizing rehearsals to perform a drama adapted from the fairytale story of "Cinderella" for our Support Groups in the second half of 2022. They are now composing new dramas and writing micro-film scripts as a means to promote life and death education.

IV. Publication

"Amazing Resilience" was published in 2021. This book describes the experiences of 10 cancer fighters. Through their "stories", we hope we can let readers have a positive understanding of life and visualize their extraordinary vitality. Unfortunately, due to the lasting pandemic, we cannot launch the book recommendation program as scheduled. However, we were able to formally introduce it in the Thanksgiving Dinner held in May 2022. The real experiences of these 10 "fighters" can be shared with more and more readers.

V. Finance

We are very grateful that the Thanksgiving Dinner can be held this year. We hope we can receive sufficient donations that "CanCare" can continue offering more services and activities to cancer patients and the community going onward.

VI. Support Groups

The Support Groups set up in Westmead, Hurstville, Lidcombe and Surry Hills have resumed in-person gatherings commencing April 2022. For sharing and support purposes, patients had been asking for face-to-face functions for a very long period of time. Thus, once the gathering activities resumed, many patients attended. In the gatherings held in June, there were over 100 people attended.

VII. Walking Groups

The two Walking Groups also resumed their activities from April 2022. Launching bracing walking activities in the comfortable weather of autumn let patients have the chance to do stretching exercises in an outdoor environment. Everyone felt extremely joyous.

VIII. Visitation Groups

Despite the pandemic, "CanCare" did not terminate any visitation and caring services for patients, though most of them were conducted via telephone. Nevertheless, in emergency situations, we did go to hospitals to visit those patients who were on the verge of death. We baptized them so that they could attain spiritual fulfillment before death. We have resumed in-person home visitation to our patients from May 2022.

IX. Strategies for the coming year

Although the pandemic persisted during these two years, we have not stopped our work. On the contrary, we were actively preparing everything with an expectation that the following services and activities can be rolled out immediately once the pandemic is showing a downward trend:

- “Companion Telephone Support” Service
This is a support service offered to cancer patients through phone text messages. Volunteers going to participate in the “Companion” Telephone Support Service are cancer survivors and they are willing to share their experience with other patients in order to witness God's love and grace together. Currently, we are recruiting volunteers. We scheduled this new service to be launched in the second half of 2022.
- Caring Ministry in Brisbane
"CanCare" has expanded its service domain to serve cancer patients across States. "CanCare" has already received the support from Australian Chinese Alliance Churches Committee (ACACC). ACACC is now encouraging members who are Chinese speaking cancer survivors from the Chinese Alliance Churches in Australia to join the CanCare volunteer team to participate in the “CanCare Companion Telephone Support” Service. Amongst these churches, there are three that are having very positive response as they are preparing to carry out caring ministry in their churches. They are Southside International Church, Brisbane Chinese Alliance Church and Brisbane New Hope Community Church.
- Support Group for cancer patients in Chatswood
We understand there are many Chinese living in Chatswood. Hence, there must be a certain number of cancer patients together with their carers needing external support. To let them know that they are not fighting cancer alone. "CanCare" and CECA MosaiX Missional Church will jointly set up a Support Group located at Lemon Grove Shopping Centre. We are planning to hold various activities including special lectures and group interaction functions. We aim to let people joining the activities to know each other and to share their experiences in a relaxed environment. Through attaining positive energy, they can be strengthened to move forward along the road of fighting against cancer.

X Epilogue

"CanCare" needs to face various sorts of harassment caused by the pandemic. In spite of this, with God's keeping us in His hands and supplying us with what we need, coupled with a unified team of volunteers and support of devotees from all walks of life, we will strive to carry out our mission well. We will continuously serve cancer patients and their carers through Jesus' love.

We thank for everyone's dedication. It is more blessed to give than to receive. May God bless everyone. May glory be to God.