

2023 CanCare Centre CEO Annual Report

Rev. Jackie Chan

I. Foreword

If I were to use four words to describe the situation of “CanCare” in 2023, “turning Crises into Opportunities” are the words that I prefer.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the activities of “CanCare” were substantially affected. Although we strived to provide support to cancer patients and their family through online and other electronic means, we were facing constraints under certain circumstances. With the grace of God, the situation was improving since July 2022. Every aspect of the society started functioning in its normal way. Gradually, patients and their family were more willing to move out from their home. We finally visualized the dawn.

II. Work Report for the financial year 2022-2023

1. Education and Training

With the improvement of the pandemic situation, “CanCare” resumed most of the training courses to in-person mode. Not only had it facilitated interaction, participants became more devoted to learning as well.

We conducted both in-person and online lectures with different contents and ways of presentation, inviting local residents and people living abroad to attend. The contents of the courses covered various aspects, including self-development, caring visitation, death cognition, etc. To meet the needs of people from all walks of life, our lectures were conducted in Cantonese and Mandarin. In this financial year, around 720 people participated in the training courses organized by “CanCare”.

2. Media Advocacy

“CanCare” Media adopted media plurality to promote and publicize “CanCare” ministry. Through social platforms, encouraging messages and videos were widely delivered to patients and the community. Short dramas creation, radio programs and videos production were the media means chosen by “CanCare” Media.

Short dramas creation: “CanCare” Media created two short dramas. The first one named “Roller Coaster of Life - 人生過山車” was performed at “CanCare” 16th Thanksgiving Dinner held in May 2023. The second one named “Bright Light - 亮光” shall be performed in the positive energy music concert titled “Let Love Illuminate Your Heart - 用愛燃亮你的心” held in August 2023.

Radio programs: Starting from February 2023, “CanCare Accompany you - 康恩伴你行” was broadcasted on Monday nights, with a total of 25 episodes. This program was tailor-made based on topics of interest to listeners. The contents were very rich, covering

knowledge on Chinese medicine practitioners, legal issues, financial management, medical care, mental health, art therapy, green plants cultivation, etc.

Videos production: "CanCare" Media produced a total of 12 episodes of "Cancer Lessons - 恩癌症小課堂", 12 episodes of "CanCare Kitchen - 康恩廚房", 10 episodes of "Life & Death Education - 生命教育" and two versions of "CanCare Service Promotion Videos - 康恩服務宣傳視頻". These videos were arranged to be distributed on the social platforms in connection with "CanCare".

3. "Companion" Telephone Support Service

This is a support service offered to cancer patients through telephone and cell phone SMS. Volunteers participated in the "Companion" Telephone Support Service are cancer survivors and who are willing to communicate with patients with love. This service has served approximately 15 patients since launching in November 2022. We trust more and more patients shall participate going onward.

4. Support Groups

Regarding the Support Groups set up in Westmead, Hurstville, Lidcombe and Surry Hills, there was gradual increase of patients joining the function. The number of participants was over 100 every month.

Inside the Lemon Grove Shopping Centre located at Chatswood, "CanCare" also set up a Support Group. Very soon after commencement of activities, more than 10 patients participated.

Furthermore, in Castle Hill, "CanCare" established a Support Group communicated in Mandarin. Gathering commenced in May 2023.

5. Walking Groups

The two Walking Groups of "CanCare" conducted regular walking activities. There was active participation every time.

6. Visitation Groups

We resumed paying in-person home visitation to terminal cancer patients in order to offer them personalized caring visitation services.

7. Thanksgiving Dinner

The 2023 Thanksgiving Dinner was held on 7 May having over 470 attendants. The theme is "Roller Coaster of Life". At the Dinner, Mr. Cheung Man Keung was the guest speaker. Being a terminal cancer patient, he shared his personal experience of fighting against cancer. His testimonies brought significant encouragement to everyone attending the function.

III. Strategies for the coming year

Currently, we are actively preparing for the "Positive Energy" music sharing concert to be performed in August 2023. The highlight of this music sharing concert is to let all Chinese living in Sydney have a positive understanding of cancer and expectation on death. We are going to introduce the services of "CanCare" to all patients and audience attending the concerts. Through sharing with every one of us via songs and testimonies,

we aim to deliver encouragement and cheer up each other. Guests who shall be present in the sharing sessions are medical professionals and professional singers, namely Miss Michelle Siu and Miss Angela Pang.

Regarding the work prospects for the next financial year, we will well utilize the donations received. Apart from providing more quality services and activities for cancer patients and the community, we will also keep on developing diversified training programs. Through accessing to advanced media tools, we will maintain disseminating positive and professional messages to the public such that the vision and services of “CanCare” can reach out to every corner of the Chinese community in Australia.

IV. Epilogue

Having experienced COVID-19 for more than three years, the “CanCare” team has got strengthened and the scope of our service has simultaneously further expanded as well.

During this critical period of time, I came to realize the grounds for the saying of “when there are crises, there are opportunities”. If “CanCare” had abruptly suspended all services during the pandemic, we would not be able to resume all services to the current status so easily and so speedily, enabling us to provide cancer patients and their family with the needed support in a timely manner.

I also envisaged that if there are companions accompanying each other during difficult times, patients would be able to persevere more. It is exactly what the Bible says, “*Even when I walk through a valley of deep darkness, I will not be afraid because God is with me*”. I firmly believe that God's promises are faithful. He keeps on supplying “CanCare” with everything it needs.

The vision of “CanCare” is to accompany and give encouragement to cancer patients as well as their family such that they can attain spiritual comfort. During the difficult days of the pandemic, I witnessed that all volunteers of “CanCare” held on to their posts with courage, faith and perseverance. Their selfless dedication really touched me with great admiration and respect.

Once again, let me express my gratitude to all volunteers of “CanCare” for their great efforts. May God Himself repay every volunteer in the “CanCare” team as well as all devotees who constantly support the ministry of “CanCare”.