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Ms. WONG Miu-yan Cecilia

January 2025

My dear friends,


This issue is written and translated with the assistance of Mr. Adrienne Tsang, our social worker at the City Challenge of Youth Outreach (the City Challenge).

The following story is about one of our youth (Hinson) and how he has grown up from a confused boy into a high-flyer.

Hinson is a whizzkid but his talents was nearly wasted! During his darkest hours, there appeared someone in his life who saw his abilities and appreciated him. How Hinson could eventually reorient himself amid a lost life and make a fresh start is exemplary for many of the youth whom the YO serves.

Wishing that on the journey ahead, we can all become companions of the youth and walk alongside them.

Sincerely,



Executive Director of Youth Outreach
Carlos Chung

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Am a **Father**, Soon to be an **Undergraduate**, and was a **F.4 School dropout**.

My friends call me Hinson. I am 23 years old and was born into an ordinary grassroots family. My parents worked tirelessly to provide for my younger sister and me, so we often lacked their company and guidance during childhood. As a result, I frequently wandered the streets, causing trouble. I was hoping to pull myself up by my bootstraps without having to attend school.

At the age of 15, I left school to pursue an unconventional path. I took a part-time job at a fast-food chain near my home. However, with just a Form Four education, I could only get low-status jobs, and the pay barely covered basic living expenses. I began to question the meaning of working and whether my life would pass by in mediocrity. I even considered following some friends into shady dealings to make easy money. I came to a fork in the road and could not decide which one I should take. Fortunately, two major influences touched my life positively.

The first influence was my high school teacher, Mr. Si. During my darkest hours, he invited me to participate in a 3-day-2-night camp as a “big brother” to younger students. And this was how I first encountered The City Challenge of Youth Outreach (The City Challenge), the platforms where I could grow and develop healthily.

In fact, the staff of The City Challenge turned out to be the second major influence in my life for good. During the camp, I was introduced to adventure-based counselling. Being active and sometimes “too energetic,” I found it both fascinating and challenging in a good way. However, it was summer, and most activities were either outdoors or involved hiking through forests in the scorching heat. I struggled through the activities, constantly complaining and vowing never to participate in such training again. Fortunately, the social workers, instructors, and program assistants encouraged me right through the process. Their constant support and debriefing sessions after each activity helped me relieve my emotions, re-examine myself, and look into my strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. I eventually started to think positively about my future.

The camp itself was painful but rewarding. During the time, I learned from the instructors that there were vacancies in the unit, and they were more than welcome to hire underprivileged youth. I applied, but was not accepted immediately. Later, I started as a volunteer, and after two weeks of satisfactory performance, I became an adventure program assistant.

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Positive changes took place for me during my time with The City Challenge.

In terms of work, I started as a program assistant overwhelmed by work pressure and constantly thinking about quitting. But, working hard with a group of passionate and caring colleagues who supported each other, we slowly learned and grew together. Now I am an adventure instructor leading younger colleagues to serve other youths in need.

In terms of academics, I went from being a F.4 school dropout to a Higher Diploma graduate in Early Childhood Education, starting as a mature student at the age of 21. My thanks are due to the constant guidance and encouragement of social workers and colleagues. This year, I will soon to become an undergraduate student, with the fact that I have been admitted to the Education University.

In terms of personal growth, I went from being an aimless and confused son, to being a husband and father. I married my long-time girlfriend two years ago, and last month, according to our plan, we had our first child. (Many people think we got married young because of an unplanned pregnancy, but in fact that was not the case.)

In summary, my time with Youth Outreach (YO) was a journey. It started with me being lost, then being loved, learning to love, and now loving others. I am grateful to have had these influences in my life, especially when I was most confused.

Hinson Lee
January, 2025
Translated by Adrienne Tsang, Case Worker