

Many people are curious as to how we acquired our name "Watchdog" and as a matter of fact the name has been made into a joke sometimes. We even had a caller wanting to donate towels to us for taking care of puppies!



Let me share with you the history of how we acquired our name.

Watchdog was set up by a few expatriate parents with special needs children living here in Hong Kong. Initially it was simply a parent's mutual support group sharing special needs information. Subsequently a small magazine called "Watchdog" was produced in 1980. The name was chosen because children with learning difficulties in Hong Kong need a guardian protector to watch over them. This small magazine became widely circulated and aroused some attention in the city eventually becoming the prototype of who we are today. After a while, upon receiving generous sponsorship from various enthusiastic groups, Watchdog officially registered as a service in February 1983, providing early intervention training for English and Cantonese speaking children with special needs in Hong Kong.

From day one until now, Watchdog has always been supported by numerous parents. For example, one of our former parents, Leslie, contributed her knowledge in organising Caregiver Workshops for us and also helped brainstorm and facilitate our "Run with Watchdog" project. This project aims to encourage parents to outreach the Watchdog spirit to different communities, inviting and encouraging more people to be aware of the concerns of SEN children. It also serves as a platform for parents to appreciate, inspire and stand alongside each other. I know many parents personally that met at Watchdog and continue to maintain a strong friendship even after their children have been discharged from our school. This heartens us, as this kind of support and understanding between parents is crucial on the long road of raising a special needs child.

Therefore we were excited to kick off the "Run with Watchdog" project in October 2019. The project's first activity was in collaboration with its founder, Leslie, whose family gave it their full support. Leslie's daughter, our ex-student, Teri, has severe global developmental delay with only a two-year-old mental capacity. In the year of Teri's 23rd birthday, Teri's sister Dana decided to run a charity marathon in Boston, USA, in honour of Teri. All monies raised in this fundraising initiative was donated to Watchdog. Running her first half marathon, Dana not only showed respect for her sister but also illustrated how the family perseveres and supports Teri. Leslie's family continues to demonstrate its full commitment to accomplish the "Run With Watchdog" spirit alongside children with learning difficulties. They even organized a fun day with our Watchdog parents on 16th November 2019 with games and a casual social gathering, which all attendees thoroughly enjoyed.

"Run with Watchdog" is a long term project. For as long as it takes, we intend to instil into our parents and outside communities the concept of joining hands together and encouraging each other to overcome the many difficulties faced by special needs children.

Message from the Executive Director ◆ 總監隨筆

好多人會好奇「監護者 Watchdog」名字的由來,有時候甚至 會引來笑話。試過有人致電說要捐贈毛巾予我們照顧狗隻! 就讓我趁此機會說說歷史,談談「監護者」的點滴過去。

「監護者」由一班外籍家長成立,他們都有特殊教育需要的孩 子。最初純粹是家長彼此之間的支援,分享一些特殊教育的 資訊,在1980年更辦了一份名為《Watchdog》的小雜誌, 取名的由來是寄望每一位香港有學習障礙的孩童能受到保 護、有監護者去守望。數頁的小小雜誌,引來熱烈的迴響, 也成就了今天「監護者」的雛型,及後得到熱心團體的贊助, 讓「監護者」 終於在 1983 年 2 月正式投入服務,開始為本港 有特殊教育需要說英語及廣東話的孩子提供早期介入的訓練 及服務。

由成立到現在,「監護者」背後總有 一班默默支持的家長。例如舊家長 Leslie,她不但貢獻自己所長為我們 舉辦「照顧者工作坊」,更積極協助我 們構思及推動 [Run with Watchdog] 計劃。「Run with Watchdog」旨在透 過不同類型的項目去凝聚「監護者」家



長,鼓勵家長結連不同的群體延展「監護者」的精神,讓更多 人持續地關注特殊教育需要的孩子。這也是一個讓家長彼此 鼓勵的平台,好讓大家互相啟發及結伴同行。在我認識的不 少家長之中,他們在「監護者」彼此認識,並且建立了深厚的 友誼,即使在孩子畢業或因為其他原因離校之後,他們依然 保持聯繫。我們感到非常欣慰!因為在養育特殊孩子這條漫 長的道路上,家長十分需要同路人的諒解及支援。

所以我們十分高興「Run with Watchdog」能在2019年10月 啟動,而首個活動便是由舊家長 Leslie 一家攜手策劃。Leslie 的小女兒,我們的舊生 Teri,她患有嚴重的發展遲緩,只有 兩歲小孩的智商。她的姊姊 Dana 在 Teri 踏入 23 歲的這年, 為她在美國波士頓跑了一場慈善馬拉松,善款悉數捐予「監 護者」。第一次完成半馬拉松的 Dana,既為了向 Teri 致敬, 也藉長跑標誌家人多年與妹妹堅毅同行的鬥志。他們一家人 切實地體現了 [Run with Watchdog] 的精神 - 持續地與學習 障礙的孩童同行。他們的親朋友好更於11月16日與「監護 者」的家長玩玩遊戲、談天說地,歡樂地共渡了大半天。

[Run with Watchdog] 將會是一個長久的計劃,不管路遠路 近,步伐快慢,冀盼能夠透過各位家長結連不同的群體,彼 此互相激勵,在學習障礙的孩童的成長路上,一同跨越重重 困難。

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Stella Wong 汪慧梅

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Lai Chi Kok Centre in Operation 荔枝角中心啟用

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched a two-year Pilot Scheme On-site Preschool Rehabilitation Services (OPRS) in 2015. Watchdog was pleased to be able to participate as one of the NGOs to provide this service to our children with special educational needs at the earliest possible age. As one of the NGOs participating in the Pilot Scheme, we continue to receive funding from the SWD to provide OPRS to our participating kindergartens upon its regularisation in October 2018. We started with 25 service quotas partnering with 6 kindergartens in 2015. Since then our service team "School Success for All Children" continues to grow. As of September 2021, we have expanded to 135 service quotas partnering with 37 kindergartens. We are glad to be able to offer complimentary early intervention to SEN children at our partnering kindergartens, to support their parents and to provide professional training and advice for kindergarten teachers throughout this period.

Subsequent to the expansion of our OPRS services we need more training space and office area. As a result, we have opened our third centre at Lai Chi Kok and it has in fact been in operation since February 2021. This would not have been possible without The Rusy and Purviz Shroff Charitable Foundation for sponsorship of the renovation costs and also Mr Chase, our Architect parent who did the layout design of the Centre. Watchdog is deeply appreciative for their outstanding support!





▲ 會福利署在 2015 年推出了為期兩年的先導計劃一「到校學前康復服務」(OPRS),我們有幸可以參與其中,並提供 25 個學額,與6 間夥伴幼稚園合作,藉此盡快幫助更多有特殊教育需要的兒童,讓他們盡早獲得早期介入服務。2018 年 10 月到校服務恆常化,我們的「樂共融」服務隊不斷擴展,截至 2021 年 9 月,服務的學額已增至 135 人,參與的夥伴幼稚園亦多達 37 間。我們十分高興能為就讀於我們夥伴幼稚園有特殊教育需要的兒童,提供免費的早期教育到校服務,也為家長提供支援,並為該校老師提供專業的培訓和諮詢。有鑑於「監護者」的到校服務不斷擴展,我們需要更多的訓練及辦公地方,故此我們成立了第三間中心-荔枝角中心,並且已於 2021 年 2 月開始啟用。我們在此衷心感謝 The Rusy and Purviz Shroff Charitable Foundation 贊助裝修費用、我們的家長建築師 Chase 負責中心的設計,沒有他們的幫助,荔枝角中心也不能落成。





We post our letters to mummy and daddy! 我們寄信給爸爸媽媽



Due to Covid-19 we need to have our sessions online 在新冠肺炎肆虐下,我們也要來視像上課







Summer Programme 暑期活動







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Caregiver Workshop 照顧員工作坊

Our ex-parent and workshop tutor, Ms Leslie Hsu, often hosts Caregiver Workshop for us. The aim of the workshop is to equip caregivers with knowledge and techniques in taking care of children with special educational needs. The caregivers did very well indeed! May they continue to keep up their good work.

我們的舊家長及工作坊導師 Leslie 常幫中心主領照顧員工作坊, 裝備照顧員掌握知識及技巧,以照顧有特殊學習需要的兒童。各位 學員,你們做得十分好!

> We were completely unprepared for the Covid-19 pandemic towards the end of 2019. Consequently we are deeply grateful to the SWD, The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Sa Sa International Holdings Ltd., The Community Chest of Hong Kong, the OTCex and Caring for Children Foundation who donated adult's and children's face masks to our Centres enabling our staff and families to be well protected.

Mask Donation 口罩捐贈

冠病毒在 2019 年尾全球爆發,突如其來的大疫症, 讓我們措手不及。感謝社署、香港賽馬會、莎莎國際控股 有限公司、香港公益金、OTCex 及福幼基金會在 2020 年初向中心捐贈了成人及兒童口罩,好讓中心的職員及家 庭得到急需的防疫物資。

Designer of Lai Chi Kok Centre 荔枝角中心設計師



Chase Tsui is the volunteer designer of our new Lai Chi Kok Centre. In his design, he carries the theme of the main graphics from our Hong Kong and Jordan Centres and incorporates some natural elements such as wood to project a natural warmth and a relaxing atmosphere. As a Watchdog ex parent he is excited about the newly opened centre. "It's good to see the Government is putting in more resources. I hope more children will benefit," he said. We are grateful to Chase for not only volunteering himself as the designer of our new centre but also for providing valuable advice during the entire construction work and the furniture procurement process.



我們的新中心-荔枝角中心-由舊家長 Chase Tsui 義務設計,他在設計時新中心時,沿用香港及佐敦中心 的主要圖案,但在設計時加入了大自然的元素,如在 材料上用較多的木材,讓人感覺置身於大自然般舒適 放鬆。談到新中心的落成,作為「監護者」的家長他也 感到十分雀躍:「政府能提供更多的資源實在太好,希 望可以幫到更多的小朋友。」我們衷心感謝 Chase 不僅 擔任新中心的義務設計師,還在整個工程及採購傢俱 等提供不少寶貴的意見。

> Movable partition rooms for training 流動板間訓練房間





Christmas Toy Donation 聖誕玩具捐贈

Many thanks to Hasbro Ltd for donating toys to our children as Christmas gifts! Their volunteers came to our center on 9th of December 2021 to distribute the gifts and participate in the games at our classes. Thank you everyone!

感謝孩之寶捐贈玩具予我們中心作為聖誕禮物送給兒 童。他們的義工在2021年12月9日不但到香港中心 派發玩具,更與兒童進行有趣的互動遊戲。感謝你們!

Charity Raffle 慈善抽獎2021



Watchdog's Charity Raffle was held successfully on 5th February 2021 at our new Lai Chi Kok Centre. The event was a great success. We sold 3,114 raffle tickets and raised HK\$311,400 from this. Together with donations from parents and donors in lieu of purchasing tickets, HK\$472,000 net was raised which is such a wonderful outcome considering the rather difficult and uncertain times we are experiencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. All proceeds will go towards funding the expenses of our centres, ensuring Watchdog can continue to provide well rounded services and an expanded EETC programme for our centers. Thank you so much for all your active participation and support!

【 差 護者」慈善抽獎已於 2021 年 2 月 5 日 荔枝角中心圓滿地 結束,共售出 3,114 張獎券,再加上其他捐款,我們合共籌得 HK\$472,000。在新冠肺炎的影響下籌款是十分艱難及難以預算的, 然而我們仍能做出這樣不俗的成果,實有賴於每一位支持「監護者」的 家長及朋友。慈善抽獎所得的捐款將補貼中心額外的早期教育服務, 好讓我們可以持續地為兒童提供整全的治療及訓練。再次感謝大家的 支持!

Beyond Impossible 越過不可能

Watchdog has collaborated with BEYOND Foundation Hong Kong recently. We act as a service provider to offer Physiotherapy to BEYOND's community project. Their generous sponsorship allows a Downs Syndrome baby, we nicknamed him baby John, to receive his required Physiotherapy. With such early intervention, we believe baby John can receive a better foundation for future challenges.

It is always a pleasure to learn that groups such as BEYOND Foundation Hong Kong is joining hands with us to support SEN children's services. Keep it up!

L 盖護者」最近與 BEYOND Foundation 合作,成為他們的服務供應者,為他們的社區項目提供物理治療服務。他們的慷慨贊助,幫助了一位患有唐氏綜合症的男孩(我們稱呼他 baby John)獲得他所需要的物理治療服務。透過這些早期介入服務,我們深信 baby John 能打好更強的學習基礎以迎接未來的挑戰。

我們好高興有像 BEYOND Foundation 的團體,與我們攜手支援特殊兒童服務。 大家努力!





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Your personal data will be kept confidential. Data collected will be used for fostering communications for Watchdog. Please inform us in written if you do not receive further news about us.

AGENCY MEMBER

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