

## GEG Community Nursing Scheme Grooms Local Community Nurses

As with many other parts of the world, Macau is experiencing an aging population and, as a result, a growing need for community nurses. That is why the Galaxy Entertainment Group Foundation launched the GEG Community Nursing Scheme in 2016, in line with the relevant policies of the Macau government. The Scheme includes a training program comprising a



series of professional development courses for in-service community nurses. Faculty members from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University's School of Nursing and the Macau Polytechnic Institute's School of Health Sciences cover topics such as long term care for the elderly, end-of-life care, rehabilitation nursing and care of older persons with cognitive impairment, etc. Over 100 nurses from 18 NGOs' 55 units had participated in the program thus far.

When asked about their experiences, three community nurses who participated in the training program offered insights into their profession. Community nurse Chan Chi Hong said that she is inspired by the joy of seeing her patients improve. "Some patients might not be able to even eat or talk when they are transferred to our center, but their condition has since improved markedly after receiving care at our center. They have regained their skills and can now eat and talk."

She added that the training had not only enhanced participants' theoretical knowledge, but also provided a good platform for them to exchange their experiences. "Through

the training program, we had the opportunity to discuss the solutions to the different challenges and problems we face every day."

Meanwhile, two participating nurses who currently work in the hospital, Tang Weng I and Cheong Mou Han, both considered that the training program had taught them more about the field of community nursing and the special demands faced by community nurses. "In hospital, care is based on the current situation of our patients, while community nurses are required to be more independent and have higher judgment," said Cheong.

Through its various initiatives, the Foundation seeks to nurture the professional development of young people and promote Macau's development as an inclusive and harmonious society. Since its launch in April 2015, GEG Foundation has carried out various in-depth and sustainable projects to support the development of the community, including the GEG Community Nursing Scheme, GEG Chinese Literacy Development Pilot Scheme and the GEG Sign Bilingualism Co-enrolment Pilot Scheme.

### What is Community Nursing?

Wong Cheng Wa, Director of the Nursing Department at Kiang Wu Hospital, explains how community nursing differs from hospital nursing.

"The Macau Government has been promoting the concept of 'a hospital without walls,' which means developing integrated healthcare services for the community." She says that community nurses help patients recover while relieving the pressure and burden on the city's hospitals.

"Community nurses need to have professional knowledge in many different fields of nursing and they possess strong communication skills. Our nurses who completed the GEG Community Nursing Certificate Course agree that the courses have helped them improve their effectiveness and efficiency."



Nurse Wong Cheng Wa

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY MAKING A COMMITMENT**