

HKDSA Report of 2021

As the leading organization serving people with Down Syndrome in Hong Kong, we have always strived for the betterment of our service users. Our key services can be separated into Integrated Family Support Services and Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Below are some highlights that we have offered for our Down Syndrome members and their families in 2021.

- **Pre-natal & New Born Counselling & Support Service for Parents of Babies with Down Syndrome**

The service provides families with appropriate counselling and referral services to new parents and parents-to-be. Besides, our Concern Ambassadors will carry out regular visits to families of newborn babies with Down Syndrome and share their experiences in nurturing Down Syndrome children. Under the pandemic, we had provided them with various video counselling and zoom activities etc. Also, we had organized a Newborn Baby Massage Introduction Session to teach parents how to improve their children's muscle tone.

- **Providing timely support to the families**

As the pandemic continues, our service projects have successfully played their roles in strengthening the care and support among our members. A group of parents of children with Down Syndrome acted as Concern Ambassadors, kept contact with our members regularly to send their condolences and understand their needs. Moreover, the Association is grateful for the support received from corporates, organizations and well-wishers, they have become good partners of us. we are delighted to received donations from individuals, corporates and organizations to help our members in need by delivering anti-epidemic kits to all members door-to-door, so as to provide timely support to families in need.



- **Developing the art talent of people with Down Syndrome**

i) Original musical 'Go Go Go'

After over 18-month training, a group of people with Down Syndrome performed in an original musical "Go Go Go" in late 2021. The performance attracted over 200 guests, family and friends of the performers and the public. The members' exquisite performances helped the audience to learn more about the artistic talents of people with Down Syndrome. The success of the musical also reflected the hard work of the Down Syndrome participants who have been rehearsing for the past year without fear of the epidemic. All the audiences were greatly impressed by their enthusiasm and perseverance.



ii) 'I Hug · I Love' Whatsapp Sticker Competition

We organized the captioned competition in the celebration of the World Down Syndrome Day. With the theme of 'Love', 'Caring' and 'Companionship', all participants expressed their love to family, friends and community.



- **Community Education - DS Ambassadors**

Our DS Ambassadors has served a wide range of service users last year. They have cooperated with different organizations and groups. In the activities, DS Ambassadors could share the characteristics and talents of the people with Down syndrome. Also, through preparation, discussion and compromise before the activities, they actualized the spirit of "Self-autonomy", "Self-determination" and "Self-motivation".



● **“A Brush for Every Smile” & “Brush with Fun” Incentive Scheme**

Studies show that people with Down Syndrome are more likely to have oral hygienic problems than the public. The association has organized several programmes in collaboration with our dental advisor, hoping to raise our service users' awareness towards their oral hygiene. An artist was invited to star in a Music Video, “A Brush for Every Smile” with our members, to encourage our members to be more aware of their own oral hygiene in a more relaxed and interesting way. Accompanying this music video, the Association has also launched the “Brush with Fun” Incentive Scheme to motivate the participants to develop a self-motivated habit of proper daily oral care to prevent dental diseases.



● **Down Syndrome Employment Support Scheme**

Last year was the second year of the establishment of "Down Syndrome Employment Support Scheme (DSESS) ", we continued to provide preliminary career information to people with Down Syndrome and their families through different pre-employment career counseling services, helping them to plan for their future more effectively. Besides, we also issued "Job Job News" to provide different job information and employment related contents to our service users.

In the coming year, the Association will launch various new programmes to meet the needs of people with Down Syndrome and their families. The road ahead is always full of challenges, but we believe that as long as we keep our faith, we will be able to ride the waves and sail steadily forward!