



## The first “Clubhouse Model Orientation Program” was successfully completed.

I'm glad to be the Putunghwa interpreter for the four-day Orientation Program.

The Program ended on September 16, 2005. This is the first time the clubhouse launched an orientation program after developing a partnership with ICCD for such an event.

We invited Mr. Jack Yatsko (Training Director of ICCD) to be the conductor of the training course. He was assisted by clubhouse staff & members. We all worked hard to prepare for the event: selecting syllabus, translating articles, arranging for hotel accommodations etc. Furthermore, we conducted a Putunghwa course for the members to better their communication ability. Several professors in psychiatry & doctors from different parts of Mainland China including Beijing, Shanghai & Chengsha came to the orientation. During these 4 days, participants would acquire useful information from how to operate a clubhouse through working side by side with members, to the philosophy of clubhouse operation. We also made arrangements for them to visit Baker & Makenzie so they could see first-hand what a typical transitional employment situation was like. The goal of all these activities was to explain how the clubhouse model played an important role in the recovery of people suffering from mental illness.

Although the Clubhouse Model has not been established in Mainland China, all participants believed that the clubhouse concept could help members regain their self-confidence and increase employment opportunities. Overall, they expressed confidence that they could promote this model to help people recovering from mental illness in Mainland China.



Michelle Y

## Thoughts on the Transitional Employment Development Training

Phoenix Clubhouse held a training session transitional employment development in mid-August. Representatives from Kapok Clubhouse, Take Your Way Clubhouse, and Amity Centre Clubhouse attended the training. We were honoured to have Mr. Ralph Bilby from ICCD to be our speaker, and with Eva acting as his assistant. Anita, Amanda and I along with representatives from other clubhouses were “students”.



A week before the actual training, everyone had a chance to visit at least one big corporation with Ralph to promote transitional employment. Eva, Ralph and I had an interview with one of the executives of an international advertising firm where I, as a member of the clubhouse, tried to share with him how much we long for a chance in transitional employment.



During the weeklong training, we worked in small groups under Ralph and Eva. We role-played the art of convincing a potential employer to provide us with a position. Basically, we introduced the clubhouse, the Asian Clubhouse Conference, our goal of a part-time job from them, and the difference between transitional and full-time employment. We also explained to them the nature of our members, safety issues at work and the necessity

of not having a job interview (since the clubhouse sends out a member suitable for the job).

We visited the transitional employment sites of Eli Lilly and Shearman & Sterling Law offices where Ada, Wing, and Daniel worked. Eli Lilly had an attractive, tidy and classy office with a panoramic view of the harbour. Ada's boss, the CEO of the company and her colleagues, welcomed us with refreshments. They praised Ada's efficiency and told us that while they began the project with a view to helping our members, they, in the end, were the ones benefitted from it. Daniel worked at the Shearman & Sterling law offices, which was an American law firm. They were so impressed with Daniel's performance that they gave him a permanent job after the nine months of transitional employment, and still retained that position for another member of the clubhouse.

It had been an exciting week for us. We learnt how to talk to a potential employer, and shared with them how a new generation of drugs could help us. All in all, it was a very fruitful week.

## The 13<sup>th</sup> International Clubhouse Conference (Finland)



I was honoured to represent Phoenix Clubhouse at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Clubhouse Conference in Finland. Eva and I were responsible for a plenary and a seminar titled “Clubhouse development in Hong Kong and China” and “Stigma in and out of the Clubhouse”. At first, I was shy but with the help of Eva, I soon regained my confidence.

This conference gave me education, experience and pleasure all at once. First of all, getting to know various representatives from all over the world like Sweden, Ireland, Italy, America, Canada, Japan and Australia really opened my eyes. In four and a half days, I heard all kinds of languages. It was fun!

I was most impressed by the representatives from Australia, Ireland and Italy. Mr. Mortensen from Finland outlined five priorities of a clubhouse. They were: increased public awareness of mental illness, co-operation with other organizations, acting as counsellors to other clubhouses, regular accreditation to ensure clubhouse quality, and fund raising to provide continuous service to clubhouse members.

Secondly, it was a precious experience for me to fly to Finland and to room and dine with Eva. We attended a soiree and a farewell party in a big house in the suburbs. I even danced at the party!

Thirdly, we had fun spending our leisure time walking around Finland, enjoying the famous Finland saunas and swimming in the pool. We walked around the city after the meetings, visited a church and just enjoyed the streets of Finland. I bought some souvenirs for my friends and relatives in the shops near the hotel on our last day there.

I miss the Finland countryside and the fresh air, but most of all I miss the long day light hours of summer. It was still very bright when we took a walk on the streets after the farewell party at 10:30 p.m.! I feel that the public security in Finland is very similar to that of Hong Kong.

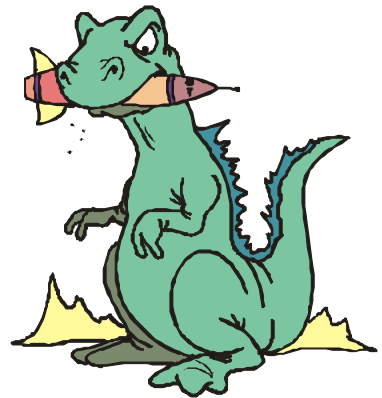
## Dinosaur Exhibition



It was drizzling on July 23. The wet weather did not hamper our excitement and anticipation to see the dinosaur exhibition at Tai Koo Shing. Our trip started with everyone assembling at the Sheung Wan MTR Station.

We arrived at the exhibition site at around 10am. We first saw the fossil of the Omeisaurus Tianfuesis. He is the ‘Giant’ of all dinosaurs. In stark contrast was

the “Dwarf”, psittacosaurus Sinensis. . They not only have great scientific value, but they were also very attractive exhibition pieces. The average age of a dinosaur is around 120 years. Some even claim that they could live up to 200 years. We also saw other dinosaur species like the Mamenchisaurus Jingyanensis, Hayangosaurus Taibaii, Lefangosaurus Huene, Mamenchisaurus Constructu, Lotosaurus Adentus, psittacosaurus Sinensis and Shunosaurus. We were amazed by what we saw and were reluctant to leave the exhibition.



Kitty



## Our 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Volunteer Appreciation

Phoenix clubhouse held a simple yet meaningful party on our 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 6, to celebrate as well as thank our many volun-

teers. Guests included doctors, nurses, social workers, volunteers, our members and their families. It was well attended.

I have been in celebrations like this in the past but this one was special for me as I was appointed “happy lady”. My job was to hand the appreciation certificates to Dr. Wong and Ms Mary Chu who gave them out to the volunteers. Even though it was a simple job, I still applied myself to ensure that the whole process was smooth. Not until I saw the many certificates did I realize that every year, many volunteers gave of their time and efforts to help the clubhouse.

I thought that they were very generous, and I should learn from them.

I am very happy to be a part of Phoenix clubhouse. I knew next to nothing before but now I have learnt a lot through the clubhouse. I thank the doctors and the staff, who continuously encouraged and supported us. Phoenix clubhouse is our second home. Thank you!



Mandy

## Clerical Unit

1. The poster boards of the Education Room and the Community Resource Room have been renewed.
2. We are renewing the Clubhouse website.
3. We have rearranged the books in the Library.
4. Many thanks to our volunteers and members who helped translate the lecture notes for the Clubhouse Orientation Program. They are: Mr. Yung, Viona AuYeung, Stella Poon, Ada and Starry Sky. We have arranged the program information and bound it.



## Administration Unit

### Administration

1. The Clubhouse Orientation Program was successfully held from September 12-16, 2005 in Phoenix Clubhouse. Staff and members shared their views on each topic. Jack Yatsko was our lecturer; Linda Chan and Mary Chu also participated. Five mainland doctors came from Beijing, Shanghai and Changsha.
2. Transitional Employment Development Training was held from August 15-19, 2005. Many thanks to Ralph who hosted the event. Eva and Ralph visited eleven organizations to promote transitional employment. Results are pending.



### Employment

Transitional Employment: Cici started work at Paul Hastings on September 1, 2005 as an office assistant. Eli started work at Baker and McKenzie law firm on September 5, 2005 as a Data Processing Operator. Mimi started work at the Hong Kong Economic Times on October 5, 2005 as an Office Assistant. Doris started work at Baker and McKenzie law firm on November 1, 2005 as a Professional Development Officer. Katherine started work at Eli Lilly on October 17, 2005 as a General Assistant. We wish them every success.

## Tuck Shop and Environmental Protection Unit

1. The pot of Ling Siu flower that we planted a year ago is now blooming. Everyone is welcomed to take a look.
2. We have designed two photo frames and three cards, all made with dried flowers. The frames are presents for ACC volunteers Sue Kwok and Rebecca Hui. Two of the cards are for the social workers upstairs, and one is to thank Rebecca Hui for teaching us interview skills in the Employment Lunch.



## Food Services Unit

1. Sam will officially retire in April 2006. He has started his long holiday, which would last till his retirement.
2. We have bought a knife sharpener in the Food Services Unit.

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Printed Matter

### **Latest News**

The Employers' Reception will be held in the Clubhouse on November 24, 2005 (Thursday). We are going to invite employers and colleagues who were or are interested in participating in transitional employment.

Program: 5:30-6:15 pm—Introduction and tour of Phoenix Clubhouse; 6:15-7:00 pm members share their employment experience and a slide show of the latest clubhouse developments.

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**Monday - Friday** : 8:30a.m.- 5:00p.m.  
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