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youngpost

13 charities to benefit from OSC

Operation Santa Claus is once again reaching out to those in need, and it wants your help, writes **Wong Yat-hei**

Last night, Selina Tsang Pow Siu-Mei, wife of the chief executive, Franklin Wong Wah-kay, Director of Broadcasting, Reginald Chua, editor-in-chief of the *South China Morning Post*, and singer Kary Ng launched Operation Santa Claus (OSC) at Cyberport.

Now in its 22nd year, OSC is an annual charity campaign co-founded by the *Post* and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). Proceeds this year will go to 13 local charity organisations to help the elderly, children and young people in crisis, victims of drug abuse, the ill and people with physical or mental disabilities.

The Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service is seeking OSC funding to carry out its Stand by U project, which aims to help children between the ages of six and 12 whose parents are suffering or rehabilitating from mental illness.

"Our project aims to help these families re-enter society and live a more positive life," said Chan Sau-kam, senior service co-ordinator for the service.

Working with OSC for the fourth



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year, End Child Sexual Abuse is looking to continue education seminars that teach students to protect themselves. Stella Ho, executive director, said funds raised will be used to support education seminars for upper primary students.

Operation Dawn is seeking funding to provide facilities for rehabilitating drug users to help them integrate with society.

Funding will be used to provide life-guard training and bakery workshops for the men and dance workshops for the women, who will perform at the OSC closing ceremony.

Surinder Punjya, executive director of Nesbitt Centre, an organisation that provides services

for English-speaking young people with mental disabilities, said the centre plans to open a coffee shop at St John's Cathedral. The young people will be trained to work there.

The Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation is seeking funding for "The C Word" project, which aims to help young people with cancer by holding a visual arts exhibition under the guidance of performance artist and writer Rae Leung, who suffers from cancer.

Environmental charity WWF is seeking funding for its Marine Detective project, which aims to educate underprivileged youngsters about sustainable development.

The programme will offer 20 half-day tours to the Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre for 600 children and their parents.

"In Hong Kong, less privileged families are somewhat confined to the districts they live in and have little chance to go to the beach and interact with nature," said Ellen Shek Ching-wan, manager of the WWF Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre.

"I hope this project will let

children learn about marine conservation and marine life in Hong Kong. It's a valuable experience for them."

Little Life Warriors Society aims to promote better communication between child sufferers of cancer and hopes the OSC can fund its Little Life Warriors: Growing Stronger, Going Further project.

"Most of the money will go to the daily operations of the Home of the Little Life Warriors, which is a place for young cancer patients to hang out," said Dr Shing Ming-kong, the society's honorary chairman.

He added that the home

organises recreational and educational activities for children with cancer, such as camps, field trips and tuition classes.

Since its launch in 1988, OSC has raised more than HK\$129 million in cash, goods and services for more than 90 local charities. Last year, it raised HK\$11 million.

Schools that raise more than HK\$5,000 this year will have their school name printed on the OSC Christmas tree, which will be featured weekly in the *Young Post*. The top fund-raiser will be presented with a certificate and invited to attend the closing ceremony.

Be involved

- Set up school fund-raising events
- Think about creative ways to raise funds - walkathons, singathons, sporting events and other competitions
- Get your friends to participate in the HK\$5 per student campaign
- Don't forget to write and tell us what your school is doing
- Donate online by credit card at osc.scmp.com
- Donate by cheque, payable to SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus, and mail to: Operation Santa Claus, Morning Post Centre, 22

Dai Fat Street, Tai Po Industrial Estate, New Territories, HK

- Donate by ATM or at any HSBC branches: a/c number 502-676299-001 for SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus

Official receipts will be issued upon request for donations of HK\$100 or more. Send the completed donation form with the original bank receipt and your name, address and phone number to 2680 8158.

Contact us at osc@scmp.com, or 2680 8159, or online at osc.scmp.com