

## **Tung Sin Tong – 125 Years of Society Solidarity**

### **Origin:**

Tung Sin Tong was established in 1892 (18<sup>th</sup> year of Emperor Guangxu of Qing Dynasty) with a history of 125 years, which is one of the most time-honoured charitable societies in Chinese community in Macao. At the beginning, it was initiated by a group of Chinese merchants in Hong Kong and Macao who are passionate about charitable activities, and the “Tung Sin Villa” was formed. The purpose is to gather the capable persons from all sectors in Chinese community in Macao to achieve the goal of Chinese people saving themselves; working together to help the old, weak and poor people among the Chinese community of Macao during that time. Subsequently on 1<sup>st</sup> December of 1892, it applied at the then Macao-Portugal Government to become a formal charity organisation.

### **Objective:**

The objective of Tung Sin Tong is “Serving the world together whole-heartedly, welcoming all people with benevolence”. Through everyone’s concerted efforts, we serve the society with one heart and one mind, and treat others with a caring and kind heart.

### **Services:**

Free Social Assistance, Free Medical Services, Free Education, Free Nursery Services, and Free Elderly Services are the major daily services of Tung Sin Tong:

#### **Free Social Assistance**

When it was first established, Tung Sin Tong provided timely assistance for those in need; showed concern and care for the old, weak and disabled people; distributed free congee and winter clothing to families with financial difficulties; when there was natural disaster or major tragedy, they instantly offered help and sent condolences. They distribute in practical manner, with the voucher provided by Tung Sin Tong every month, help-seekers who are old, weak, disabled and single-parent families can get the supply of that month, and they can even receive festive items during the festive season. Since 2015, they distribute rice vouchers of supermarket and coupons instead, so that they can get the required food and goods. In addition, in order to fund the rehabilitation centres and assist the disabled people, the “Ho Kam Yung Foundation” was specially set up to aid the needs.

#### **Free Medical Services**

Since the first establishment of Tung Sin Tong, providing free medical treatment and medicines was one of the core services, allowing the needy to receive the most suitable and timely diagnosis and treatments; while the old, weak and poor people can be provided with discounted or even free Chinese and Western medicine services. Initially, the free medical service was restricted by financial condition, thus the approaches of limited quota for free medical service and medicine that keeps its expenditure within the limits of the revenue was adopted. According to the demands for social development of Macao, under the kindness of the chairman, Chui Tak Kei, the manner of service is reformed, and the clinical service is arranged on schedule. At present, both Chinese and Western medicine services include Internal Medicine, Orthopaedics, Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Acupuncture and Moxibustion, Dentistry, Maternal and Child Health, etc. With the donation given by the kind persons as well as allowances and subsidies provided by the government, the medical services have been improving with more comprehensive treatments to offer. Moreover, medical equipment is constantly updated to provide elementary medical care, implementing diversified basic medical services.

### **Free Education**

To encourage self-improvement through knowledge and the spirit of continuous learning, from the establishment of “Tung Sin Tong Free School” in 1924 to the construction of “Tung Sin Tong Primary School” in 1965, then the opening of “Tung Sin Tong Secondary School” in 1991, the scope of education is gradually expanded, and they still insist on providing education free of charge to the students. Currently it covers kindergarten, primary and secondary school as well as adult night school further education course, making a significant contribution to the free education in Macao. In order to encourage students with outstanding academic result to pursue further studies in universities, Tung Sin Tong has set up a committee dedicated for University Study Fund, which includes scholarship to provide grants and loans for students aspiring to studying in universities, nurturing more outstanding talents for the society.

### **Free Nursery Services**

In response to the needs from the society and families as well as to lessen the burden of childcare for working families, a total of five Tung Sin Tong nurseries were set up between 1976 and 2013. It strives to provide appropriate pre-school service to families in need, and allow young children to receive enlightening education from early age. The nursery service is distributed in Northern District, Central District and São Laurenço District which are high in population density. The children grow up healthily under the attentive and adequate care and concern by the professional teachers, together with the stimulating environment, their sense of exploration and self-learning are fostered, laying a foundation for life-long learning.

### **Free Elderly Services**

In response to the demand in respecting and caring for the elderly in the society, in 2013, an elderly activity centre was opened in the Tung Sin Tong Chairman Chui Tak Kei Memorial Building located at No. 1A Estrada da Areia Preta, which is the first service specially set up for the elderly to provide them a comfortable leisure environment during day time, the number of members has already exceeded 1,300. In addition, Tung Sin Tong hopes that through appropriate measures, they can share out and relieve the pressure in caring the frail elderly people for the society, thus specially set up the “Tung Sin Tong Elderly Acupuncture and Treatment Centre” at the Toi San Chinese Medicine Clinic, so as to reduce the pressure in the demand of elementary care for the society.

Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society  
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