# Care and Support

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I. Goal

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## I. Goal

Chinese New Year, the Duanwu Festival, and the Mid-Autumn Festival are the three main traditional holidays in Taiwan. Prior to each holiday, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office teams up with various social welfare institutions to express its care for those under its charge through group events for individuals under probation, and support for families of individuals under probation who are financially challenged. Through these expressions of care for those underprivileged in society, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office hopes to improve their ability and morale for

self-sustenance, and encourage improvement for the better.

# **II. Targets**

Individuals under probation, individuals under protection, victims, and the families of these individuals.

# **III. Details**

 Prayers for hope during Chinese New Year

The Taipei District Prosecutors Office works together with the Fo Guang Shan Compassion Foundation in offering messages of care to underprivileged individuals under probation. The Fo Guang Shan Compassion Foundation invited Mr. Lin Hong-hsuan to share his experiences. When he was 16, Mr. Lin fell under ill influences and became a juvenile delinguent, and was

<sup>1.</sup> Authored by Probation Officer.







sentenced by local courts to corrective education on charges of altering firearms. After release, he went on to manufacture firearms and sell drugs, and also fell into an malignant lifestyle under drug addiction. As a social reject who had spent nearly two dozen spells in prison, Mr. Lin finally felt the compassion of the Buddha, and became a reformed follower of Buddhism. Through his personal experience, Mr. Lin hopes to encourage others under probation to change for the better, and aim for a bright future in their lives.

Finally, the dean of the Fo Guan Shan Compassion Institute led probation subjects and their families in chanting prayers for hope, while the Taipei Honorary Probation Officer Association handed out NT\$3000 in emergency care funds each to 10 individuals under probation in poverty, to encourage positive behavior and thoughts in the new year.

### 2. Duanwu Festival care and support

16 individuals under probation and 24 of their family members were invited to an event to make Duanwu Festival fragrance pouches, with the aim of reconnecting families.

The Duanwu Festival holds a particularly significant place in Chinese folklore, and is one of the main holidays when families reunite. Through this event, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office aimed to bring families closer, and express wishes for good health through







the traditional fragrance pouches for the holiday. Three individuals brought their aged mothers with them to make fragrance pouches by hand, and expressed their thanks to their mothers in front of the chief prosecutor. In his speech, Chief Prosecutor Tsai mentioned that some of these families were socially underprivileged, yet even under difficult circumstances, they remained committed to reforming for the better. The Taipei Honorary Probation Officer

Association gave out monetary presents to eight probation subjects living in poverty, and numerous individuals from society also contributed gifts. This event aimed to let those under probation feel the warmth of society, and to encourage them to persist in reforming themselves.

3. Mid-Autumn Festival care and support









Chief Prosecutor Hsing and a hundred rehabilitated, victims and the families participated in making moon cakes, and former chairman of the Consumer's Foundation Bai Hsing-san gave a speech on fostering an ideal future life.

For this event, which began at 14:15 on 11 November 2016 (Sunday), a hundred rehabilitated and their family members went to the Kuo Yuan Ye Museum of Cake and Pastry in Taipei's Shilin District. Chief Prosecutor Hsing, Taiwan After-Care Association director Lin Bing-yao, Taipei Honorary Probation Officer Association chairman Huang Feng-yi, and former Association for Victims Support director Lai Chenghsin also participated in hand-making moon cakes.

The Taipei District Prosecutors Office, the Kuo Yuan Ye Corporation, the Taipei Honorary Probation Officer Association, the Taipei branch of the Taiwan After-Care Association, and the Taipei Branch thereof for Victims Support all took part in this Mid-Autumn Festival event to celebrate the holiday. Through making moon cakes and lectures encouraging improvement, authorities aimed to improve self-esteem in the rehabilitated; furthermore, the Kuo Yuan Ye Corporation lent its support in demonstrating concern for social responsibility and rehabilitative justice.

Participants showed their creative side by making six animal-shaped mini moon cakes to take home and share with their families. Chief Prosecutor Hsing, Taipei Honorary Probation Officer Association chairman Huang Feng-yi, Taiwan After-Care Association director Lin Bing-yao, and former Association for Victims Support director Lai Chenghsin also took part in making moon cakes with the rehabilitated and vic-

tims. While waiting for the moon cakes to bake, former chairman of the Consumer's Foundation Bai Hsing-san gave a speech on fostering an ideal future life. In his humorously animated lecture, Mr. Bai used his own experience in school, enterprise, and volunteer work at the Consumer's Foundation to talk about building a career and a family in times of hardship, and to contribute back to society in a positive new life. Finally, the Kuo Yuan Ye Corporation presented moon cake gift boxes to all participants; the Taipei branch of the Taiwan After-Care Association and the Taipei Honorary Probation Officer Association also respectively presented gift boxes of meat-filled pastries made by the rehabilitated and pomelos to 32 underprivileged families, in a display of support and encouragement to the rehabilitated and victims.