

Ms Louisa Lee, Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council: The Good Homes Community Housing Movement is run by the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council. We have applied to be the operating organisation of the project in response to the invitation from the Hong Kong Council of Social Service. This project is funded by the Hong Kong Community Chest and the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund. We pair up two families, each with two or three persons, to live in the same flat, where they will share the use of the living room, kitchen and bathroom. There are a total of 60 transitional housing units, all of which are two-bedroom flats, with a tenancy period of two years. At present, over 80 families have moved in, i.e. we are currently serving some 200 residents.

In addition to providing transitional housing to needy families, we encourage them to foster a good neighbourhood relationship. That's how we came up with our theme "co-housing, co-managing and co-living". What does it mean? "Co-housing", as the name implies, means two families living in the same residential unit. For "co-managing", we have a "floor captain" system. Out of some 80 households in this project, we have appointed six floor captains. Their role and responsibility is to find out the needs of other residents in the same building and the topics that are of the residents' interest. For instance, if the floor captains have found damaged facilities in the common area of the building, they will let us know. They will also assist in organising activities through which to cultivate neighbourhood relationship. In fact, their roles are like leaders or goodwill ambassadors.

For "co-living", we have launched a "neighborhood store" volunteer bonus scheme. Residents who, say, are good at cooking, are holding a plumbing or electrical work licence or are skilled at home repair can leverage these skills to help out with other residents' daily needs and earn bonus points in return. They can then exchange their bonus points for daily necessities. We found that this mode of operation can encourage the residents to help one another.

The most direct effect of the scheme is that over 80 households can live in a more comfortable environment at a more reasonable rent level.

Our way forward is to help residents plan ahead for themselves in case a public rental housing unit has yet to be allocated to them when this scheme ends. We will start discussing with them about their housing plan in future.