

Ms Gigi Tung Oi-lai

Ms Gigi Tung Oi-lai is best known as the founder of Bo Charity Foundation Limited and its seminal project, Food Angel. Founded in 2010, it started as a registered charitable organisation and in 2011, with the goal of promoting “Waste Not Hunger Not”, it initiated a food rescue and assistance program titled Food Angel. This program endeavors to rescue edible food surplus from local food industry and recycle the rescued food items into nutritious meals, to be served warm under a strict food safety protocol, for the needy in the community.

It all started with a kind thought. In 2010, Ms Tung noticed that some 300,000 elders live in poverty and could not afford to have adequate or healthy meals in Hong Kong. Yet ironically, news about the amount of food wasted in Hong Kong is shocking. She immediately acted on it and contacted catering and supermarket businesses for a generous donation of their food surplus daily to champion her cause. At first, she simply reheated the food collected from catering providers in a community center in Sham Shui Po and served about 20 meals to those in need there. The scale of her program has now been expanded to preparing and distributing over 6000 meals daily, with 1000 bowls of soups, for more than 150 local charities, rescuing over 1020 tons of food from landfills annually. While more than 80% of the meals are distributed daily to the elderly, 20% of them will be given to low-income families, unemployed, and the disabled in Hong Kong. The Foundation started running centralised kitchens in Sham Shui Po and Chai Wan to better process and serve food closer to the needy. Together with her colleagues, Ms Tung has widened their scope from elderly care to providing community-wide services.

Ms Tung’s determination to conduct elderly care can be attributed to her parents’ values and teachings. Her father, Mr Tung Wai, an eminent businessman, widely known as ‘the father of stock market’, had taught her at a young age to practise the time-honored Chinese tradition of filial piety. She learned from the model of her parents in the way through which they care for, and spend time with, their elders. This is something she takes to heart and practise to the full. Besides, her Christian faith has also reminded her of the need to serve the poor. Realising that what the elderly needs is not simply money and food, Ms Tung broadened her scope of services by setting up a community centre in Sham Shui Po in which the elders in the neighborhood can make use of its day-care services and participate in its interest classes and activities.

Family has always been Ms Tung’s top priorities, and that’s also what motivated her in the business of food recycling. Upon graduating from Pui Ching Middle School, Ms Tung followed her sister’s footsteps and studied Finance at University of Western Ontario, Canada. After graduation, she first worked in a securities company, but later realised Finance does not interest her. She soon found her passion in the retail business, but had to quit when she became pregnant. In retrospect, taking care of her two daughters was a blessing in disguise. It was around that time that Ms Tung started doing charity work, and the child caring experience had dawned on her the importance of physical and mental health for children. She found My Gym Children’s Fitness Center with the goal of introducing innovative programmes for the physical development of children, while educating the next generation to treasure food and resources. This is challenging in a highly consumerist society. However, she believes that these important messages—relating to caring for the elderly and conserving for the environment—should be communicated to young people the soonest possible. Rather than feeling frustrated over not utilising her talents in commerce, Ms Tung chose to respond to her maternal instincts by promoting a sense of care for others, because she thinks women are more sensitive to the interests and needs of people around them.

The success of Food Angel proved yet again the wisdom and valuable lessons we could learn from failures ahead of success. Ms Tung remarks that her modest achievement was simply being aware of the needs of the society and responding to it. She hopes that people can relate Food Angel as a caring organisation. The core of its service is to serve food to the needy while promoting love and care for the community.

Ms Tung has a message for our graduates and young people. “You need to go and reach out to people in society, have real interaction with others rather than relying on cyber-contact alone. Make an effort to understand our society, to work hard and sustain for your goal, regardless of short-term setbacks. You will be happy and successful, if and only if you strive towards your goals.”

Mr Chairman, for her dedication to the charity work of helping the underprivileged and her contribution to bettering the society, may I present Ms Gigi Tung to you for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

English citation written and delivered by Professor Lisa Leung

董愛麗女士

董愛麗女士是「小寶慈善基金」及「惜食堂」的創辦人。小寶慈善基金是註冊慈善團體，於2010年成立。一年後，基金開展首個食物回收及援助計劃名為「惜食堂」，以「停止浪費、解決飢餓」為宗旨。「惜食堂」團隊致力向本地飲食界回收合乎安全標準的剩餘食物；然後通過嚴格的食物安全程序，加上義工的愛心，將食物煮成營養均衡的熱飯餐，派發給社會上需要食物援助的人士。

「惜食堂」緣起於一份簡單的心意。2010年，董女士知悉全港大約有30萬貧困長者三餐未得溫飽及欠缺足夠營養；與此同時，亦從新聞報道驚聞每天有大量剩餘食物遭浪費。她迅速聯絡一些餐飲業及超級市場的經營者，請他們每天提供剩餘食物。最初，她只是收集餐飲業提供的食物，在深水埗一個社區中心進行翻熱，每天派發20個飯餐給有需要的人士食用。到了今天，準備的熱飯餐已增加至每天6,000份，加上1,000分熱湯，分發到超過150個慈善團體。「惜食堂」每年拯救逾1,020噸食物免於被棄置在堆填區。超過百分之八十的熱飯餐送給貧困長者，百分之二十分派給低收入家庭、失業人士及殘疾人士。為了集中處理食物，方便在社區提供給有需要人士，基金在深水埗及柴灣設立中央廚房。在董女士和她的同事努力下，除了為長者提供膳食外，更擴展至其他長者社區服務。

董女士認為，她決意投身服務長者，是受父母的價值觀和身教影響。董女士父親是有「股壇教父」之稱的知名商人董偉先生。自幼的家庭教導，令她認識到中國傳統孝道的重要，也學會尊重家族的長輩以至所有長者。她的父母一直用心照顧長輩，花時間與他們相處，成為了女兒的好榜樣。對於父母的身教，董女士不但銘記於心，還徹底付諸實行。她是一位基督徒，深深牢記服務貧困是基督徒的使命。董女士明白金錢與食物並不是長者唯一的需要，因此，她將服務擴大，在深水埗設立社區中心，為街坊長者提供其他服務，例如日間照顧、興趣班及舉辦各種活動。

對董女士來說，家庭永遠排在第一位；這也是她投身回收食物慈善事業的一個原因。在培正中學畢業後，董女士追隨姊姊腳步，到加拿大西安大略大學修讀金融學位課程。大學畢業後，加入證券公司工作。後來她發現金融業並非志向所在，她的真正興趣是零售業。但做了母親後，為了專心照顧兩個女兒，她選擇放棄事業，這讓她後來有機會參與慈善工作。作為母親，她意識到小孩的身心健康是非常重要的，因此她創辦了My Gym Children's Fitness Centre兒童健身中心，推廣創新的運動課程，幫助小朋友鍛煉健康的體魄，同時亦教育下一代不要浪費食物。香港是一個高度消費的社會，要說服及提醒小朋友不要浪費及節省資源是一個挑戰；但董女士認為，在孩子年幼時，父母必須教導他們這些重要觀念，包括保護環境和關顧長者。雖然放棄了原來的工作，但董女士並不覺得她在商業方面的天分浪費了。董女士感到女性對瞭解別人的需要更為敏感，她順著自己母性的本能，發展一番有意義的事業，照顧社會上需要幫助的人士。

「惜食堂」的成功，正好體現「失敗乃成功之母」這至理名言。對於自己在慈善事業的成就，董女士謙稱她只是察覺到社會的需要並作出反應而已。她希望人們視「惜食堂」為一個關懷社會的組織，提供食物給有需要人士，在社區推廣愛和關懷。

董愛麗女士寄語所有畢業生和年輕人：「請你們走進社會，與人真正互動溝通，不要只靠網上接觸；要親身認識社會上的事物，努力堅持，不怕吃虧。只要盡力付出，最終必會獲得幸福和成功。」

主席先生，為表揚董愛麗女士對扶貧助弱慈善事業的熱忱，以及對社會的貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予董愛麗女士。

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