Frances Lee

1978, F5

Member of Zonta Club

"PAY IT FORWARD"

Frances started her social services at Zonta Club of Hong Kong East 6 years ago after what she described as a humbling experience which she remembers vividly to this day with a tear in her eye. She visited the home of a new immigrant single parent and asked the mother of a young child if she had a wish, what it would be. The mom said in a matter-of-fact tone: "I want to ride the star ferry with my child." Frances quickly jumped in to offer directions to the star ferry but found out too soon that they could not afford to go because the nominal travelling expenses of such a trip, that Frances didn't pay any thought to, was easily the daily meal expenses for the woman's entire family. Frances was dumbfounded and embarrassed. It was this eye-opening experience which motivated Frances to always be grateful for her abundance and to pursue "pay it forward" in reciprocation to society.

Frances now serves as an active member of Zonta Club, an international service organization of executives who devote themselves to civil and social welfare. The seed of contributing to society was sown way back in her SPCS days when she served in the Legion of Mary. She knew about Z Club back then, which was why it immediately clicked when she was invited to join Zonta a few years ago.

Frances shared a Zonta project she is proud of: they helped to remodel a centre for mentally handicapped persons in Nam Cheong. Not only was funding provided, members of the Club each pitched in with what they are good at: one did interior design, one liaised with the contractor and another found a sponsor to donate air conditioners. They also provided a course to help mothers of mentally disabled children to manage their stress and to live more optimistically.

Paulinians spirit taught Frances to be passionate in helping others and she urges the younger generation of Paulinians to appreciate how lucky they are, to be thankful and to "pay it forward".

Written by Yvonne Kwok (1994, F7)