

## 日行微善，滴水成川 將公益事業融入自己生活

自公司成立就投入公益事業，為社區服務，二十多年從未間斷。秉持“取諸社會、用諸社會”理念，回饋社會，不計較名利得失，心無旁騖，始終如一。

今年8月，迎來了第26屆Greenfield高爾夫球周年慈善賽。談到這個賽事，施永輝坦言，開始舉辦時未曾想到會堅持那多年。他回憶自己成立公司已過而立之年，覺得該對社會有所回饋，想到舉辦慈善賽事。之所以選擇傳播腎病知識、為腎臟基金籌款作為慈善賽主題，則源於他自身的經歷。他剛從多倫多大學畢業不久，醫生在例行檢查中告誡他要注意腎臟問題。他當時年富力強，並未將醫生的話當一回事，幾年後由於視力出現問題，經進一步檢查，發現根源在於腎臟。這一經歷讓他了解到，華人屬於腎臟疾病高發人群，卻少有人了解相關的預防知識，更因重視不夠致小病拖成大病。所以他決心要傳播腎臟病的相關知識，提醒同胞在留意預防的同時也為病患者提供幫助。

1991年的首屆Greenfield慈善高爾夫球賽僅有24人參加，多為至親好友。他的想法簡單：有多大力量就辦多大事，對得起良心就好了。一年年下來，不僅施永輝自己，連他的許多好友都變成習慣地支持這項賽事。每年夏季，一些朋友甚至等不及他發邀請就主動打電話詢問。習慣的力量是巨大的，現今參賽者裏有百分之70以上都是參加了15屆以上的“老”友。隨著賽事的影響力擴大，如今每年參賽球員都達到滿額。通過這些年的慈善賽事，共計籌款50餘萬，悉數捐給了多倫多全科醫院及



施永輝先生  
Mr. Benson Sy

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加拿大腎臟基金會，更重要的是通過舉辦活動宣傳了腎臟疾病預防和醫治的相關知識。

1997年，施永輝被正式邀請加入安省腎臟基金董事局，他更加積極投入各類幫助腎病患者的義務工作。2001年協助其他志同道合者成立了“安省華人腎臟互助協會”。除經常舉辦各類活動，宣傳腎臟健康知識和器官捐贈的重要性，還為華人腎臟病患者、特別是英文不通的患者及家屬提供醫療信息，給予精神上支持，以及在必要時幫他們聯繫醫療專業人士。

隨著舉辦公益活動的經驗增加，施永輝進一步拓寬了社區服務的領域，他先後成為多倫多香港獅子會、台商會的會長，並在培正同學會擔任要職，通過舉辦各種活動為腎臟基金之外的其他非牟利組織籌款，例如新寧醫院基金會、肝臟基金、耆暉會和康福心理健康協會等。

10年前，施永輝讀11年級的兒子參加了學校舉辦的一場關於職業選擇的講座。受此啟發，施永輝想到，很多華人家庭對加拿大的各類職業缺乏了解，在孩子面臨職業道路的選擇時難以幫助他們做出適合自己的決定。培正校友會在安省有近千名校友，他們服務不同職業領域，其中不乏行業表率，何不利用這個資源幫移民家庭開闊視野、在下一代的職業發展方面更好地融入當地社會？

於是他找到專注培養青少年領導力的非牟利組織Vision Youth（展望青年）和列治文山市議員陳志輝，把舉辦免費職業選擇講座的想法和他們溝通，三方一拍即合。2008年舉辦了第一次活動並受到社區極大歡迎，自此每年9月都舉辦“行行出

狀元”講座，邀請10名不同行業的嘉賓向青少年及其父母介紹各行業前景和入行訣竅。

這系列講座非常受歡迎，每年都吸引到三、四百人參加，作為主辦人的施永輝深感壓力巨大：一方面要想辦法邀請各行各業的代表人士，另一方面擔心華裔家庭會因成見和偏見冷落某些行業講者，這不但浪費機會和資源，也是對嘉賓的不尊重。華裔家庭的擇業觀普遍保守，在望子成龍、望女成鳳的心態下，家長們往往把孩子未來限定在律師、醫生、工程師等幾種傳統觀念中的“好職業”範圍內。然而並非每個孩子興趣和專長都適合這幾種職業，加國還有許多富有潛力的行業不為大多數華人所知；此外在加拿大這個強調平等和多元的社會，不同職業間並非如東南亞地區那樣有著明顯的貴賤之分，更不是入行即定終生，正可謂“行行皆可出狀元”。因此在作嘉賓邀請計劃時，施永輝既要照顧到華裔家庭特別感興趣的“熱門”行業，也要想辦法讓華裔家長們突破傳統觀念束縛，嘗試去了解和接受一些“冷門”。他希望這系列的講座能幫助華裔家庭開闊視野，摒除成見和偏見，在子女職業道路上避免走不必要的彎路，更好地融入加國社會。

作為一名企業家，身為人夫亦為人父，為社區公益活動投入大量精力和時間是有挑戰性的，施永輝坦誠承認，自己也曾感覺過有心無力、想要退縮的時候，但懷著一顆感恩的心，秉持“取諸社會、用諸社會”的理念，最終在投身公益這條道路上，依靠著“慣性”越走越遠，越走越精彩。

自97年至今，因其對社區的卓越貢獻，施永輝獲得眾多榮譽和獎勵，包括腎臟基金會的多個獎項、2012年伊麗莎白女

王鑽禧獎和2016年多倫多全科及西區醫院基金會上加拿大獎章等。

他將自己能夠堅持這麼多年為社區服務的主要原因，歸結為奉行“量力而為”的原則：不給自己設下太有野心的目標，亦不強求每年活動籌款數額必須超過前一年。始終保持著平和從容的心態，專心做事，以誠待人，不勉強他人支持他的慈善活動，也不會介意他人如何評價。

施永輝總是懷著一顆感恩的心。他覺得，我們今日所能享受到的各種便利和社會資源，無一不是來自前人的耕耘和鋪墊。他以自己在98年經歷的腎臟移植手術為例，由於前人對醫學研究的無私資助和投入，這個手術得以發明和普及，令他從中受惠。

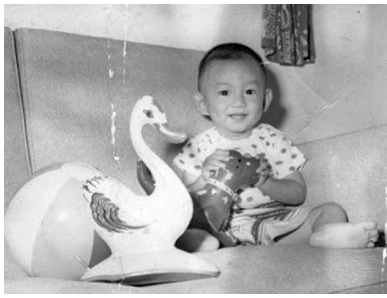
他亦感恩自己在創業前曾就職的兩個行業：會計和廣告。他說，在會計師樓工作教會他嚴守規則、以嚴謹的態度審視過往；廣告業經歷則教會他客戶至上、凡事自省並著眼未來。所以他主辦的慈善活動，賬目嚴謹、信息透明，經得起任何人的檢驗，這也是多年來社區各界對他充分信任、願意支持他的活動的原因。

此外，家人的鼎力支持和攜手共進也是他前行動力。一般人想像中投身公益勢必犧牲與家人相聚時間，然而對施永輝而言“家庭第一”的原則並未因做慈善而改變，家人也並未因他舉辦和參加慈善活動而感到被冷落和委屈。原來多年前施夫人莊昭華便立下“家規”，每周固定有一天全家人要聚在一起晚餐。兒子在學校有重要活動，施永輝也一定會參加。他參加培

正校友聚會時，總會帶夫人一同前往，讓她也融入自己的社區服務朋友圈。在他的感染下，妻子和兩個孩子也都喜歡上了高爾夫球運動，每次慈善賽事都積極參與。

有人說，慈善應該是一種生活方式，應該提倡普通人日常行善，不必刻意抓人眼球。也有人認為，想要把慈善項目做大做好，就要有一個成功的創意和營銷方案，包括利用明星效應，例如三年前風靡全球的冰桶挑戰。在施永輝看來，其實慈善和義工是有所不同的，慈善更重捐款，大慈善家和名人有充足的財力資源或者影響力，他們為一個慈善項目做高調宣傳，可以在短期內籌集到急需的善款，不過從長遠角度考慮，還需要更多的有心人把慈善項目一直開展下去，義工雖然不能像富豪名人那樣捐贈巨款，但卻通過付出體力、精力和時間，使慈善事業得以持續。我們的社會既需要慈善家，也需要義工。

對施永輝而言，慈善不僅是一種生活方式，而早已成為他生活的一部分。無論是舉辦高爾夫慈善賽，還是“行行出狀元”講座，抑或其他公益活動，於他似乎都是自然而然的事，在他的平和從容的外表下，以及那些看似平凡的公益活動背後，蘊藏著巨大的力量，那力量如同穿石的水滴一般，於細微處、於無聲中影響著我們的社群，讓我們的家園變得越來越美好。也許不是每個人都能成為傳奇人物，但我們所做的每一件微小善事都將彙聚成讓我們的社區和國家更美好的力量，在歷史上留下傳奇篇章。



幼兒時照片  
Childhood photo



獲頒多倫多全科醫院上加拿大獎章  
Receiving Upper Canada Medal  
from Toronto General Hospital



與太太及兒子打高爾夫球  
Playing golf with family



家人一起合照  
A family photo



慈善高爾夫球賽把籌得款項送給  
加拿大省腎臟基金會  
Donation to Kidney Foundation of Canada



獲頒加拿大鑽禧獎  
Receiving Diamond Jubilee Award from  
Former MP Paul Calandra



在城市廣場參與華人腎病講座  
At Kidney Foundation's Talk at Market Village



慈善高爾夫球賽與員工及義工合照  
With staff and volunteers at Golf Tournament



組織培正校友會活動  
At Pui Ching Alumni Association's function



24屆Greenfield慈善高球賽合照  
24th Greenfield Golf Charity Tournament



華人腎臟互助基金農曆新年晚宴  
Kidney Foundation's Chinese New Year Banquet



與多倫多副警察總長源植勉合照  
With Deputy Police Chief Peter Yuen

## Mr. Benson Sy

*Since Benson Sy established his own company and dedicated himself to serving the community, he has not taken a break in over twenty years. A firm believer in the concept of 'paying it forward', he does not care about fame nor profit. With a single-minded focus, he contributes to the community as much as he can. Public service is a part of his life.*

The 26th Annual Greenfield Golf Charity tournament was held in August this year. Benson says he never dreamed when he launched the event back in 1991 that the tournament would go on for over twenty-five years. He recalls by the time he set up his own company, he was already over thirty. At that time Benson felt that it was time for him to pay back to society. The reason why he was interested in raising awareness of kidney disease in the Chinese community and funds for the Kidney Foundation of Canada was based on his own experience.

When Benson graduated from the University of Toronto many years ago, a doctor had warned him in a routine examination to pay attention to potential kidney problems. At that time being young and feeling invincible he did not take the doctor's words seriously. Only a few years later when he experienced visual problems due to a deteriorating kidney did he remember the doctor's words. He also knows that there is a high incidence of kidney disease in Chinese people but few have any relevant knowledge in kidney disease prevention. As a result a minor illness could turn into something very serious when it is not looked after early in the process. Benson is determined to raise awareness of kidney disease, especially reminding fellow Chinese Canadians to pay attention to their kidney health, and also to provide help to kidney disease patients.

There were only twenty-four participants in the first Greenfield Golf charity tournament back in 1991, all of them Benson's close friends

and relatives. His idea was simple and straight forward: he would do as much as he could within his ability, and he would be happy as long as his conscience was clear. He held the first event, and then it was natural to hold the second, and then the third. Year after year, not only Benson himself, even his many friends and colleagues have formed the habit of attending this event. Every summer, some friends don't even wait for Benson's invitation. They would take the initiative to ask him for the date of the tournament. The force of habit is strong. Benson says more than seventy percent of attendees are "old" friends who have participated in the last fifteen years or more. As more and more people know about the event, the annual tournament now runs at full capacity. Over half a million dollars have been raised and donated to the Toronto General Hospital and Kidney Foundation of Canada through these charity tournaments and other events. More importantly, Benson has been able to promote knowledge on the prevention and treatment of kidney disease through these activities.

In 1997, Benson was invited to join the Kidney Foundation of Canada (Central Ontario Branch) Board of Directors, and following that he has been actively involved with different kinds of volunteer work helping kidney disease patients. In 2001, he assisted other like-minded friends to establish the "Chinese Renal Association", which became later a local chapter under the Kidney Foundation of Canada. In addition to regular activities promoting knowledge on kidney health and organ donation, Chinese Renal Association provides medical information for kidney patients, especially non English-speaking patients and their families, to provide support and facilitate communication with medical professionals.

Once Benson has accumulated more experience in fund raising, he broadens his community service to other non-profit organizations. He was Chair of the Toronto Hong Kong Lions Club and President of the Taiwan Entrepreneurs Society of Taipei/Taiwan, and he is currently President of Pui Ching School Alumni Association of Ontario. He has worked with all these groups to

raise funds for charities such as Sunnybrook Foundation, Liver Foundation of Canada, Carefirst, and Hong Fook.

Ten years ago, Benson and his eleventh grade son attended a career day in his school. Inspired by this, he realized that many Chinese parents lacked knowledge in the different kinds of occupations available in Canada, and it was difficult to help their children make decisions when facing the choice of career path. His own high school Pui Ching Middle School has an alumni association with nearly a thousand alumni in Ontario alone. These alumni work in different industries, many of them among the top in their field. Why not use this resource to help immigrant families broaden their horizons and better integrate into Canadian society with career development for the next generation?

Benson met up with Vision Youth, a nonprofit organization that develops youth leadership and Richmond Hill City Councillor, Mr. Godwin Chan, to talk about the idea of holding a free seminar on career choice. It was a perfect match, and the first event held in 2008 was very popular with the community. Now the annual 'Kickstart to a New Career' seminar is held on a day in September with ten speakers representing ten different sectors. They introduce their industries, discuss future prospects and disclose any knack for getting a foot in the door.

These career seminars are very popular, attracting three to four hundred people each year but as the host, Benson often feels great pressure: on the one hand he wants to invite guests from all walks of life; on the other hand he worries that Chinese families harbour much prejudice against certain kinds of work and could neglect speakers from those fields. Not only would it be a waste of their time and resources, but it would also show disrespect for the guests.

Chinese families' views on career are generally conservative, with hopes that their sons and daughters will be rich and successful. These parents generally like to limit their child's career choices to

lawyers, doctors, or engineers, the traditional concepts of "good jobs". However, not every child's interests and skills are suitable for these occupations, while there are many other potential career choices in Canada not known to most Chinese. In Canada, emphasis is on equality and pluralism in the community. There is no clear distinction of 'valued' vs 'worthless' for different occupations such as the case may be in Asia and Southeast Asia. In addition, here one is not slotted into a line of work for life, and in fact, one can become a champion in any field. As a result, in planning the speaker list, it is necessary to balance the interests of Chinese families, who are primarily keen on "hot" professions, with ways to break through their barriers so that they can understand and accept some "unpopular" sectors. Benson hopes that these seminars will help Chinese families broaden their horizons, eradicate their prejudices, avoid unnecessary pitfalls and allow their children to better integrate into Canadian society as they prepare for a career.

As an entrepreneur with his own business, a husband and also a father, Benson finds it challenging to devote so much time and energy to these community service activities. He frankly admits that sometimes he feels like he has no more to give and wants to retreat, but at the same time he is grateful for what he has received, and he feels he must uphold the "pay it forward" concept. In the end he always continues to do good, out of habit and the longer he does it, the better it becomes.

Since 1997, Benson's outstanding contributions to the community have been recognized with numerous awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 and the Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation Upper Canada Medal in 2016. Most notable, he has been recognized with many awards by the Kidney Foundation of Canada (Ontario Chapter), most recently the Leadership Award this year.

Benson attributes his ability to do it year after year to following the principle of doing only what he can. He does not give himself a

too ambitious target. Nor does he insist on surpassing the previous year's fund raising target. He keeps an easygoing and calm attitude while focusing on his work and treating everyone with integrity. He never presses anyone to support his charitable work, nor does he take any external judgment too seriously.

Benson is always grateful for what he has received. He thinks that whatever conveniences and social resources that we enjoy today are the result of the good groundwork laid by our predecessors. He cited as an example his own kidney transplant surgery in 1998, which was only possible because of previous funding and investment into the relevant medical research, making the operation available to everyone and as a result he was able to benefit from it.

Benson is also grateful that he had the opportunity to get experiences in the fields of accounting and advertising before starting out on his own. He says accounting has taught him to adhere to strict rules, examining history with a rigorous attitude, and advertising has taught him that the customer is always first, be introspective and to focus on the future. This is how he manages his charitable projects, with rigorous accounting rules and transparency to withstand any external review. That is why the community has full confidence in him and is willing to support his activities.

In addition, close support from his family is a motivating force for Benson. Most people imagine that so much community work must require a lot of sacrifice in family time, but for Benson, his "family first" principle did not change because of it. They do not feel neglected nor harbor any grievances against his involvement in charitable activities. This was because many years ago, Benson's wife, Joyce, had already established a "family rule": the whole family must be together for dinner at least one night each week. Benson always attended his sons' important events in school. He brings along his wife to Pui Ching's alumni parties, so that she is part of his circle of friends in community service. Under his influence, the whole family, including his wife and two children, enjoy playing

golf, and they are actively involved in every charity event.

Some people say that charity should be a way of life, and we should advocate ordinary people to do good deeds. Charities should not have to deliberately grab public attention. On the other hand, some people think that if you want to do a good job in fund raising, it is necessary to have a successful and creative marketing program, including the use of star power, such as the global ice bucket challenge that swept the world three years ago. When the writer asked Benson his views on these two points of argument, he said, "In fact, charity and volunteering are different. Donations are very important to a charity. Philanthropists and celebrities have sufficient financial resources and influence, and they can do a high-profile publicity event for a charity project. Within a short time-frame, they can raise much-needed funds, but from a long-term perspective, charities also need to have more people work for their cause. Volunteers cannot donate money like the celebrities, but they can contribute their physical strength, energy and time, making it possible for the charity to provide a community service. Our society needs both philanthropists and volunteers."

For Benson, charitable giving is not just a lifestyle, but it has long become a part of his life. Whether it is a golf charity tournament or a "Kickstart to a New Career" seminar, or other community activities, they all seem to be a natural part of his life. Underneath his calm exterior, there is great strength in these seemingly ordinary community service activities. This strength is like a drop of water dripping on a stone, boring a hole in it eventually. This silent force quietly changes our community for the better and makes our world more beautiful. Perhaps not everyone can be a legend, but every little thing we do together makes our community and our nation better and stronger, writing a legendary chapter in our history.