

## Mr Chan Cheuk-ming

Mr Chan Cheuk-ming, or “Sham Shui Po Ming Gor,” became a household name when his initiative to distribute meals to the poor and homeless in Sham Shui Po first received coverage in *Apple Daily* in 2011. But since 2008, as restaurateur and chef, he has been collaborating with the Society for Community Organization selling meal vouchers at an affordable price to locals. Today, with the help of many volunteers, he gives out free meals to the homeless, the elderly, and refugees, at a rate of around 400 meal boxes a day, 4 days a week. His beneficiaries include homeless people in Tai Kok Tsui and Cheung Sha Wan and the elderly in Nam Cheong, Yuen Chau Street, Fu Cheong and Lai Kok Estate, who will either receive meal boxes directly from Ming Gor’s team, or queue up at his café. As news of his benevolence spread, sponsors flocked in, allowing him to set up a social enterprise called “Bei Ho Together” to organise the food giveaways. With the sponsorship, he collaborated with the charity group “Equal Share Action,” giving out meal boxes at his Sham Shui Po eatery.

Dubbed the “Good Samaritan of Sham Shui Po,” Mr Chan attributes his selfless benevolence to his humble beginnings. Born in the mainland in the 1950s, he had to start working in a restaurant after his parents died, when he had just finished primary school. He came to Hong Kong as a stowaway in 1979, and soon after landed in a kitchen in Sham Shui Po, where he has lived ever since. He became owner of the Bei Ho Barbecue Restaurant in ‘97, when his then-boss retired and emigrated. Business slumped but his heart went out to the poor and homeless who went days without a proper meal, which inspired him to sell meals at a much more affordable price, even at a net loss. “I remember what it felt like to be poor,” he said, smiling a little.

Besides having a big heart, Mr Chan’s strength lies in his drive to attend to his clients’ needs and his will to solve problems. Whenever single elderly residents complain about the leaks, or homeless people about a lack of shelter, he quickly comes up with remedial plans and mobilises his volunteers to carry them out. His hands-on approach has since earned for him the name of “Mr Fix it of Sham Shui Po.” Besides efficiency, Mr Chan strives for perfection by regularly evaluating effectiveness and finding ways to improve on different projects. For example he carries out yearly bi-annual review of the system of meal box distribution as the numbers of elderly residents, homeless people keeps soaring in different housing estates across Sham Shui Po. He also devises new meal plans with his young volunteers to cater to homeless people of south Asian descent. He insists on direct contact with the elderly and homeless he is serving so as to understand possible problems they face, filling the gap left by government bureaucracy. The social enterprise that he founded receives no government funding, just to avoid unnecessary red tape and administrative wrangling so that all

the money could go to the people who need it most. He is not afraid to go head to head with District Board members and government departments about the gaps in government measures and social services through which people fall, as he believes in the motto “if you are selfless you are fearless.”

His compassion was repaid when he was nearly forced out of business because of soaring rent. When the news raged through Facebook, Mr Chan’s fans expressed concern that his charity work would have to end. Fortunately, some property owners learnt of his plight and quickly lent their support by offering him a larger shop space at a much cheaper rent. In 2016, he re-opened his restaurant under a new name, “Bei Ho Together,” in Tai Nam Street to continue offering affordable meals in the neighbourhood.

But meal distribution is only part of his multifaceted work. He spends half of his time educating young people by sharing his own experience in seminars to try to encourage youngsters in Hong Kong who might be depressed by the general malaise. He feels for the young people who feel hopeless due to skyrocketing property prices and “linkreitization”. His message for them is clear: there is always a silver lining. Although he did not finish high school, he firmly believes in the importance of education to helping young people today solve their problems themselves. He has received funding from overseas Chinese communities to invest in the tutoring of children from poor families. He is working with seven NGOS to provide classes to children from poverty stricken areas in the Mainland, so as to elevate their chances for higher education and a better life. He would constantly remind himself of the words his teachers taught him in primary school, i.e.: “We should put other people first in all the things we do.” He lives by the motto that “one for all” should come before “all for one.”

Mr Chan, the unsung hero of Sham Shui Po, has received numerous awards for humanitarianism, for example, in 2013, he beat famous celebrity and philanthropist Andy Lau to be elected as “ambassador of positive energy.” In the same year his news was also voted by *Apple Daily* “the most heart-warming newsworthy individual of the year”. His boundless compassion and utmost giving despite his humble means provides unfailing inspiration to us all that it is better to give than to receive.

Mr Chairman, for his compassion and selfless benevolence to the poor and needy, and his extensive contribution to making society better and fairer for all, may I now present Mr Chan Cheuk-ming to you for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

*Citation written and delivered by Professor Lisa Leung*

### 陳灼明先生

陳灼明先生又名「深水埗明哥」，《蘋果日報》於2011年首次報導他為深水埗貧困露宿者義贈飯盒，此善舉一經廣傳後，明哥遂成為家傳戶曉的名字。作為餐廳東主兼廚師，明哥於2008年已開始與香港社區組織協會合作，向該區的草根階層售賣平價飯票。時至今日已有義工隊的協助，每週四天、每次給露宿者及長者派發近400個飯盒，最近更惠及難民。他的愛心遍佈多個社區，不論是大角咀及長沙灣的露宿者，還是南昌、元洲街、富昌及麗閣邨的長者，都歡迎在明哥餐廳門外排隊或從義工隊手上收到飯盒。他的善舉逐漸街知巷聞，而來自各方的贊助亦蜂擁而至，讓他得以成立社企「北河同行」，組織義贈食物的活動。在眾多的贊助下，他與慈善組織「平等分享行動」合作，在他位於深水埗的餐廳派發飯盒。

陳先生因無私和仁慈而被譽為「深水埗善心撒瑪利亞人」，他認為自己的卑微出身，造就了他開展這項慈善工作。他五十年代於中國內地出生，父母在他小學畢業後相繼離世，他開始在餐廳工作。在1979年，他偷渡來港，在深水埗一間酒樓廚房打工，從此就在這區落地生根。食店老闆在1997年退休兼移民，他便接手北河燒臘飯店當店東。雖然當時市道欠佳，但陳先生仍心繫那些連日沒有溫飽、貧困且無家可歸的人士，即使生意虧本，他仍以低廉及相宜的價格出售飯盒。他笑說：「窮的滋味，我仍然記得。」

除了擁有一夥善心，陳先生的優點在於堅持滿足客人的要求，他更有決心解決問題。無論是長者抱怨的漏水問題，還是露宿者缺乏遮風擋雨之所，陳先生都會迅速為他們籌謀，並且動員義工加以協助。他身體力行、付諸行動，被稱為「深水埗補鑊佬」。除了講求效率，陳先生也力求完美，不斷評估各個項目的成效，尋求改善方法。例如，深水埗幾個屋苑的長者，以及露宿者數字不斷飆升，他便每半年檢討派飯盒的方法。他還與年輕義工制定了新的膳食計劃，以照顧南亞裔露宿者。他亦堅持親自接觸長者及露宿者，了解他們可能會面對的問題，填補政府官僚機構的不足。他成立的社企，沒有申請政府資助，以避免不必要的繁瑣行政程

序，讓所有資金都能回流到社企的慈善系統。他無懼與區議員和政府部門直言反映政府措施和社會服務之間的差距，因為他相信「無私才能無畏」。

當飯店因租金暴漲幾乎要停業時，消息於臉書廣傳，陳先生的粉絲擔心慈善工作不能持續下去。可幸的是，他的善心迎來善果。區內業主得悉陳先生遇到困難後，便迅速提供支援，以更便宜的租金提供更大的店鋪。2016年，他在大南街重新開設餐廳，並取名「北河同行」，繼續為附近的街坊提供價格實惠的膳食。

派飯盒只是陳先生眾多範疇工作的一部分。他用近半時間教育年輕人，透過研討會分享自己的經驗，勉勵遭社會壓迫的香港年輕人。房地產價格暴漲和「領匯化」，陳先生亦替他們感到無奈。他的寄語明確：「在烏黑的雲層中總會找到一縷曙光」。雖然沒唸完中學，但他堅信教育的重要。他亦曾接受海外華人社區資助，開展為貧困家庭兒童補習的義舉。現時他正與七個非政府機構合作，為內地貧困地區的兒童提供教育，提高他們接受高等教育的機會，從而改善生活。他以小學老師對他的訓勉不斷提醒自己：「決定任何行動前，先考慮別人的利益」，而他的座右銘是「我為人人，先於人人為我」。

陳先生是深水埗的無名英雄，因善心而獲獎無數。在2013年，他壓倒著名藝人兼慈善家劉德華，以最多票數獲選為「十大正能量代表」。同年，有關他的報導被《蘋果日報》選為年度最感人的新聞。儘管財力有限，仍然無私奉獻，為我們帶來無限的啟發——施比受更有福。

主席先生，為表揚陳灼明先生對貧苦大眾及有需要人士的善心與無私仁愛，以及他對建設更美好、更公平社會的莫大貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予陳灼明先生。

贊辭由梁旭明教授撰寫及宣讀