



# Education

Wilson Yeung took part in the intern program last year and later went on with friends to establish a fashion brand - including designing a teddy bear-printed T-shirt, below, with a message.



## Intern program that makes a difference

Trista Yeung

**A** GOOD INTERNSHIP IS a great resume builder. But Citi-Hong Kong Council of Social Services Community Intern Program offers more. It encourages tertiary students to contribute to society by working with local nongovernmental organizations.

Initiated in 2009, the program is the first of its kind that involves cross-sector collaboration among academia, business and NGOs.

Since its establishment, about 400 elite students have gone through the scheme, which aims to inculcate into future leaders the merits of being more caring and responsible individuals. Chua Hoi-wai, chief executive of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, said the partnership with Citigroup has far-reaching benefits for different sectors.

"The project successfully cultivates a caring atti-

tude among local university students who get opportunities to serve the community and understand the underprivileged," he said.

"NGOs also benefit not only by having an additional pair of hands, but also by getting fresh and innovative business ideas from students. I believe it is the key to nurturing business leaders with social minds and stimulating more social innovation."

This year, 70 selected business students from nine local universities will spend 160 hours this month and next with 40 nonprofit organizations. Many service targets can be identified, including low-income groups, the elderly and the disabled.

A 20-hour induction program will be held to equip the students with better understanding of social services and issues.

Wilson Yeung Kam-ho, who took part last year, shared his insights gained from working at the Rehabilitation Alliance Hong Kong, which promotes

equal opportunities and participation of those with disabilities.

"I worked as a project planner and tried to develop new services to enhance public understanding of the rights of the disabled," said Yeung, a year three integrated BBA student from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"It is surprising to find that a lot can be done to improve current barrier-free facilities."

During the two-month internship, Yeung conducted in-depth research on the accessibility standard for barrier-free facilities at Chan Fuk Sing Resources Centre in Lok Fu. He made several proposals on how to improve its facilities.

"Streets in Hong Kong are very narrow," he said. "It is very dangerous for visually impaired people to walk. Therefore, established planning of tactile paving is important for their safety."

"My job was to identify loopholes in the facilities and provide advice to make satisfactory amendments."

The internship program opened Yeung's eyes to

his ability to offer a helping hand to people with disabilities.

He later joined a group of youngsters and established an online fashion brand, unspoken, which highlights the story about the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of youths at risk.

A simple teddy bear-printed T-shirt tells the story of a young drug addict who has been sent to prison numerous times. But love for his family directed him to the right path.

The teddy bear brought back sweet memories of playing in a theme park with family members and also kept him away from drugs.

"We tried to connect with people from different backgrounds to epitomize the notion of social harmony," Yeung said.

"We collaborated with different rehabilitated people to co-create the fashion design. A quick-response code leads you to the web page which tells stories about their rehabilitation."

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