

The Economic Empowerment Programs of Single Mothers

財團法人天主教善牧社會福利基金會

Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation (GSSWF)

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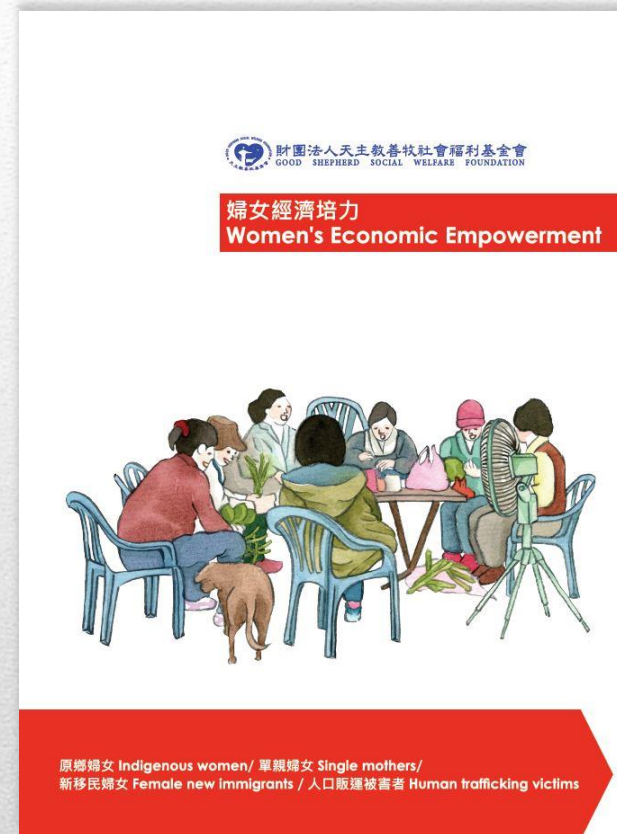
Catelogue



Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation



- Indigenous women
- Single mothers
- Female new immigrants
- Survivors of human trafficking



Women's Economic Empowerment of GSSWF

The Economic Empowerment of Single Mothers: The Preparation Program of Employment and Start-up

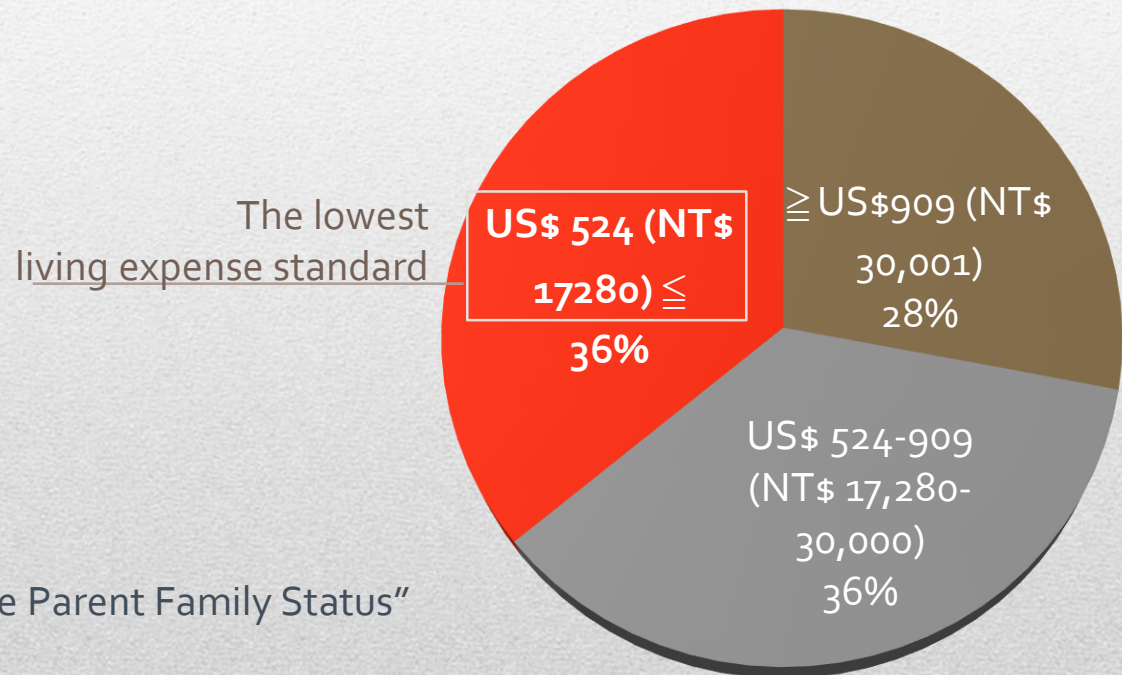
Number and Income of Single Mother Family in Taiwan

Financial source:
job income (71.27%)

Number of single mother families:
ca. 416,000

Resource: Ministry of the Interior
"2010 Research Report of the Single Parent Family Status"

Average Income of Single Mother Families



Background

Employment Difficulty and Financial Crisis

Environmental causes

- The unfriendly labor market to single parents

Unpaid housework

- Child and family care

Individual causes

- The psychological adjustment of being single parents
- The growth of age
- The lack of professional skills

Overtime work yet low wage, insufficient income

High frequency of transferring jobs or career fields

Increasing frustration and individual loss

Financial crisis

Unable to accumulate assets



Background

Story of the Single Mother We Met: Yu-Zhu

- Profile:
 - 46 years old;
 - divorced;
 - a 10-year-old daughter.
- Living expenses:
 - Credit card debt: NT\$100,000
 - Rent: NT\$12,000/month
 - Utilities: ca. NT\$1,500/month
 - Meals (2 persons): NT\$6,000/month

Origin

Story of the Single Mother We Met: Yu-Zhu

- Work experiences:
 - A part-time in a convenience store
 - 15:00 to 22:30, Feb. 2010 to Nov. 2011, 2 years
 - NT\$800/ day
 - neither labor insurance nor health insurance
 - A part-time of the governmental short-term employment plan for low-income families
 - Dec. 2011 to Apr. 2012, 5 months
 - NT\$18,000/month
 - became unemployed again when the plan was terminated.

Origin

Story of the Single Mother We Met: Yu-Zhu

- Situation:
 - Was pressed for debt payment by banks
 - Was anxious after unemployment
 - Got women's diseases
 - Conflict between her and her daughter
- **Goals:**
 - To stop part-time job
 - To stay with her daughter at night
 - To deposit in banks

Origin

Psychological Factors of the Single Mothers We Met

「我已經照顧孩子十年，不知道還有沒有人想要用我？」

「我去找工作都是等候通知，不想找了反正也找不到！」

「因為孩子最近一直發燒，老闆暗示我這樣其他人會很忙，我不好意思就先辭職了。」



Origin

Psychological Factors of the Single Mothers We Met

「居家打掃太累了，我要創業比較輕鬆。」

「社工我要來創業！因為我想要可以賺錢又可以照顧孩子，請幫我申請貸款。」



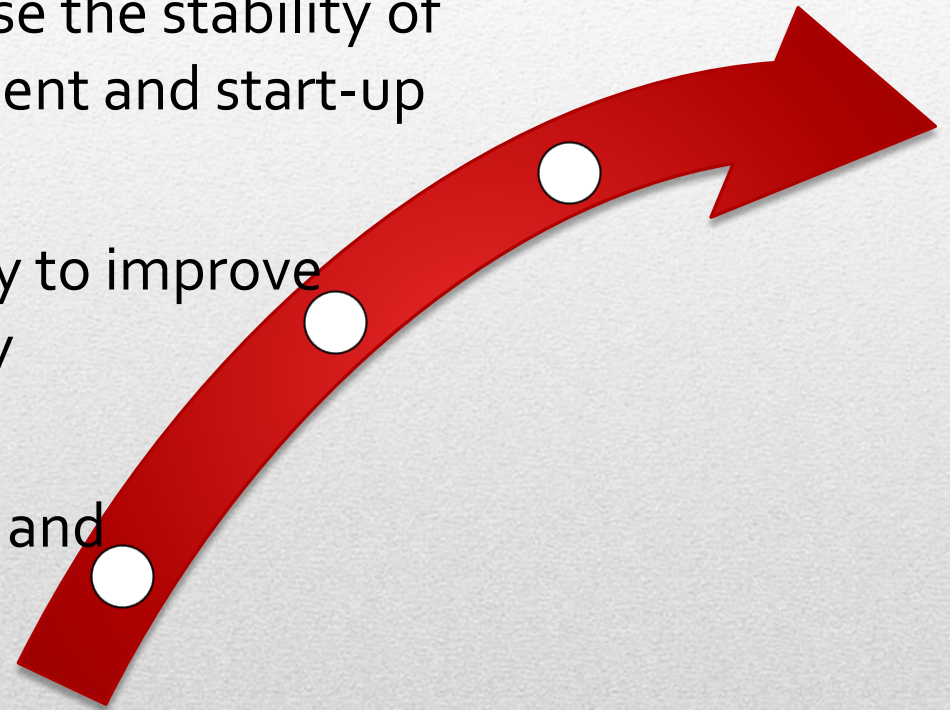
Origin

Resilience and Capacity Building

To increase the stability of
employment and start-up

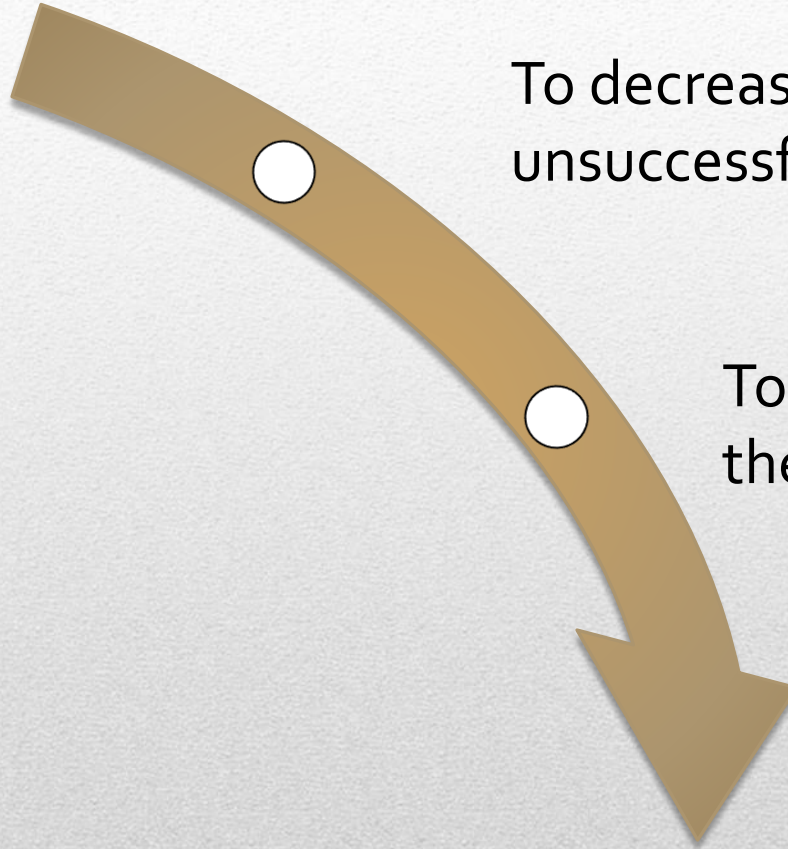
To build the capacity to improve
their financial ability

To increase the inner energy and
resource



Core Concept

Loss Reduction



To decrease the loss of capital of
unsuccessful entrepreneurship

To decrease the loss of time and
the frustration of failure

Core Concept

Steps of the Program



Manipulation and Content



To evaluate the inner resources, advantages, the knowledge and experiences of the single mothers by...

Interviewing the mothers to understand

- Current situations
- Needs and expectations
- Histories of employment and entrepreneurship
- The impact of single mother on her employment

Manipulation and Content



To evaluate the inner resources, advantages, the knowledge and the experiences of the single mothers **and then choose the mothers who**

Had similar life experiences and history

- Was single parents
- Raised the children on her own
- Was faced with similar difficulties of employment and finance

Had more capital and better abilities

- Stable job
- Owned the experience of start-up
- Succeeded in conquering the difficulties of escaping from poverty

to be the teachers of the empowerment group

Manipulation and Content

Evaluation



Empowerment
group



Tracking and outer
resource provision

To build the communication platform and the supportive group where mothers shared their stories

1. Experience events and single mother talks
2. Drawings of goals and dreams: the Tree of Dream

Manipulation and Content



- 1. Experience events and single mother talks**
 - Experiences of choosing and entering the career, and the difficulties and breakthrough
 - Experiences of start-up and keeping the family expenses at the same time



Manipulation and Content



2. Drawings of goals and dreams: the Tree of Dream

- To discuss, examine and utilize the surrounding resources.
- To set a concrete and reachable one-year goal
- To draw the “Tree of Dream”



Manipulation and Content



2. Drawings of goals and dreams: the Tree of Dream



To sell sweet potatoes, to save traveling funds, ...

- **Leaves:** What I need yet still have to prepare for
- **Trunk:** The obstacles which cannot be changed in short time
- **Root:** The current abilities, conditions and available resources.



2. Drawings of goals and dreams: the Tree of Dream



To sell scallion pancake

- **Leaves:** What I need yet still have to prepare for
- **Trunk:** The obstacles which cannot be changed in short time
- **Root:** The current abilities, conditions and available resources.



To track the status of the mothers and provide services respectively

1. Decided to maintain the current job, not to start up
2. Kept curing depression and kept finding jobs at the same time
3. Found a part-time job, ran an online-store, handicraft teacher

Manipulation and Content



Effects

1. Breakthrough
2. Informal supportive group
3. Knowledge circulation
4. Resilience

Findings and Future Challenges



Challenges and Development

1. To develop delicate services which reflect the variable needs
2. To keep the inner motivation of the mothers
3. To harmonize the cooperation and competition between the mothers
4. To make the mother's capacity building status keep up with the real environment and career fields

Findings and Future Challenges

Thank you for your listening!

- 財團法人天主教善牧社會福利基金會
Good Shepherd Social Welfare Foundation (GSSWF)
- Contact
886-23815402
web@goodshepherd.org.tw