

Media: Lianhe Zaobao
Date: Saturday, 23 December 2017
Page: 8
Headline: 不向逆境低头，释囚子女双双获颁助学金
Link: <http://www.zaobao.com.sg/news/singapore/story20171223-821132>



浦试惠（中）和弟弟浦靖杰年幼时因母亲张美英（左）入狱，忍受了家庭离散之苦。姐弟俩如今学业表现优秀，还获工业与服务合作社协会（ISCOS）颁发助学金。（严宜融摄）

不向逆境低头 释囚子女双双获颁助学金

许翔宇 报道
hsiangyu@sph.com.sg

浦试惠（16岁）年仅七岁时，单亲的母亲被判入狱近五年。她被安排住入儿童院，三个弟妹暂住寄养家庭，直到母亲四年多前出狱，一家才团圆。

经历同亲人分离，锻炼了她独立坚强的个性。这名圣安东尼女校（中学）中四女生，没有因生活逆境而沮丧，她教补习赚取零用钱，也兼顾学业，日前N水准成绩放榜，她五个科目考获6分总积分的佳绩，成为全校状元。

浦试惠和弟弟浦靖杰（14岁）昨天各获工业与服务合作社协会（ISCOS）颁发350元助学金，从内政部兼卫生部政务次长安宁·阿敏手中接过奖项。

她说：“母亲最初入狱时，我虽伤心哭泣，但很快就迫使自已变坚强，接受母亲不在身边，并适应收容所生活。当时，外婆每逢周末接我回家，而我每个月能同弟妹见面一两次，但通常只

在社会及家庭发展部大厦相聚一小时，没有像一般孩子一起外出玩耍。”

浦试惠说，母亲在她小学六年级那年出狱，之前聚少离多，造成母女之间产生隔阂。

“中二那年，我从快捷源流转入普通源流，一度厌恶读书，躲在家不去上学近一年。母亲那时没对我施压，不断鼓励我，让我有信心重返学校。我从此和她更亲近，也明白她养家的艰辛。她想赚钱让我们过较好的生活，只是一时用错方法，她也已为此付出代价。”

浦试惠的母亲张美英（48岁）说，当年她因安排多间租赁组屋非法出租，被判欺骗罪入狱，那时幼女仅8个月大。

“我在狱里接受天主教信仰，改过自新，出狱后不再行差踏错，决心为孩子树立好榜样……我向来强调品格教育，倒不很注重孩子成绩，他们学业表现优秀，让我很欣慰。”

张美英目前从事清洁和侍应生工作，努力抚养四个子女。浦试惠和弟弟打算将部分奖金用来帮补家用，剩余的购买上学用品。

昨天有133名学生获ISCOS颁发200元至500元助学金。ISCOS自2011年起，每年颁发助学金奖励释囚子女在学业的优秀表现。

新助学金资助释囚子女完成工学院理课程

今年也首次颁发“陈延谦—黄丝带基金—ISCOS助学金”，资助释囚子女完成工艺教育学院或理工学院课程。

淡马锡理工学院服装设计课程一年级生郭慧婷（17岁）是新助学金首届得奖人之一。

她的父亲几年前因酗酒闹事入狱，如今已成酒。从事叉车（forklift）驾驶员工作。“这份助学金资助我三年的工学院课程学费，还赞助我购买膝上型电脑。这给我很大的鼓舞，我要争取好成绩，通过回馈社会，作为回报。”

Text:

不向逆境低头，释囚子女双双获领助学金

文/许翔宇

浦试惠（16岁）年仅七岁时，单亲的母亲被判入狱近五年，她被安排住入儿童院，三个弟妹暂住寄养家庭，直到母亲四年多前出狱，一家才团圆。

经历同亲人分离，锻炼了她独立坚强的个性。这名圣安东尼女校（中学）中四女生，没有因生活逆境而沮丧，她教补习赚取零用钱，也兼顾学业，日前N水准成绩放榜，她五个科目考获6分总积分的佳绩，成为全校状元。

浦试惠和弟弟浦靖杰（14岁）昨天各获工业与服务合作社协会（ISCOS）颁发350元助学金，从内政部兼卫生部政务次长安宁·阿敏手中接过奖项。

她说：“母亲最初入狱时，我虽伤心哭泣，但很快就迫使自己变坚强，接受母亲不在身边，并适应收容所生活。当时，外婆每逢周末接我回家，而我每个月能同弟妹见面一两次，但通常只在社会及家庭发展部大厦相聚一小时，没有像一般孩子一起外出玩耍。”

浦试惠说，母亲在她小学六年级那年出狱，之前聚少离多，造成母女之间产生隔阂。

“中二那年，我从快捷源流入普通源流，一度厌恶读书，躲在家不去上学近一年。母亲那时没对我施压，不断鼓励我，让我有信心重返学校。我从此和她更亲近，也明白她养家的艰辛。她想赚钱让我们过较好的生活，只是一时用错方法，她也已为此付出代价。”

浦试惠的母亲张美英（48岁）说，当年她因安排多间租赁组屋非法出租，被判欺骗罪入狱，那时幼女仅8个月大。

“我在狱里接受天主教信仰，改过自新，出狱后不再行差踏错，决心为孩子树立好榜样……我向来强调品格教育，倒不很注重孩子成绩，他们学业表现优秀，让我很欣慰。”

张美英目前从事清洁和侍应生工作，努力抚养四个子女。浦试惠和弟弟打算将部分奖金用来帮补家用，剩余的购买上学用品。

昨天有133名学生获ISCOS颁发200元至500元助学金。ISCOS自2011年起，每年颁发助学金奖励释囚子女在学业的优秀表现。

新助学金资助释囚子女 完成工教院理工学院课程

今年也首次颁发“陈延谦—黄丝带基金—ISCOS助学金”，资助释囚子女完成工艺教育学院或理工学院课程。

淡马锡理工学院服装设计课程一年级生郭慧婷（17岁）是新助学金首届得奖人之一。

她的父亲几年前因酗酒闹事入狱，如今已戒酒，从事叉车（forklift）驾驶员工作。“这份助学金资助我三年的工院课程学费，还赞助我购买膝上型电脑。这给我很大的鼓舞，我要争取好表现，通过回馈社会，作为回报。”

Translation:

Despite times of adversity, children of ex-offenders receive bursary awards

By Xu Xiangyu

When sixteen-year-old Christel Phouthavong was just seven, her mother, the single parent in the family was sentenced to five years in jail. Arrangements were made for her to live in a children's home, while her three other siblings were temporarily put under foster care. The family was only reunited when her mother was released from jail four years ago.

The experience of being separated from her family served to shape her independent and strong personality. The Secondary Four student at St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School did not despair despite the challenging circumstances she faced. While she teaches tuition to earn extra pocket money, she also excel in her studies. In the recent release of 'N' level results, she was the top student of her cohort with a L1R5 of six points.

Christel and her brother Bentley, 14, each received a \$350 bursary from the Industrial and Services Co-operative Society (ISCOS) yesterday from Mr Amrin Amin, Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs and Health, who was the guest of honour of the award ceremony.

She said: "When my mother first entered prison, I was devastated. However, I soon decided to stay strong, accepted that my mother would not be with me and adjusted to life at the children's home. At that time, my grandmother would fetch me home every weekend and I would see my siblings once or twice a month. However, it would only be hourly meet-ups at the hallway of the Ministry of Social and Family Development building, unlike a typical family outing."

Her mother was released when Christel was in Primary Six. Due to the lack of interactions and times together, there was a rift between mother and daughter.

"When I was in Secondary Two, I was transferred from the Express Stream to the Normal (Academic) Stream. I hated studying, skipped lessons and stayed home for close to a year. My mother did not put pressure on me, but instead constantly encouraged and gave me the confidence to try again. That experience brought us closer and I began to understand the difficulties she faced in providing for the family. Although she wanted to earn more money to give us better quality of life, she used the wrong methods and had also paid her price."

Christel's mother, Ms Calisa Cheong, 48, said that she was imprisoned due to a fraud case arising from illegal renting of flats. Her youngest daughter was only 8 months old then.

"While in prison, I became a Catholic and turned over a new leaf. After I was released, I did not look back but instead set my heart on being a good example for my children...I have always emphasised on character building rather than grades. It is indeed comforting to see them perform well in studies."



Ms Cheong is currently a part-time waitress and cleaner, and works hard to provide for her four children. Christel and Bentley plan to contribute part of the bursary money to household expenses and the rest on supplies for school.

A total of 133 students were awarded the ISCOS Bursary Award yesterday, each receiving amounts ranging from \$200 to \$500. Since 2011, ISCOS annually disburses these bursaries to reward children of current or former offenders who did well in their studies.

New bursary award launched to help students complete their tertiary education

This year, ISCOS also gave out the Tan Ean Kiam-Yellow-Ribbon-Fund-ISCOS bursary award for the first time. The award was established to help children of current or former offenders complete their education in a local polytechnic or ITE.

One of the award recipients is 17-year old Quek Hui Ting, a first-year Fashion Design student at ITE Tampines College.

Her father was incarcerated for disorderly behaviour under the influence of alcohol a few years ago. As of now, he has stayed sober and works as a forklift driver. "This bursary pays for my tuition fees in full for the next three years, and also covered the expenses for a laptop which I need to use in school. This gives me great encouragement and motivates me to do better and give back to society."