

Filling lonely souls with love, care

A group of young volunteers help aged people in Beijing

By YU NAN
China Daily staff

"I am coming! How is your day, grandma?" Liu Xuefeng, with a little bag of milk, appeared at Sun Shufen's gate in Shenlu Street, Beijing.

Liu, with smiles on his face, is not a grandson who was visiting his grandma, but a deliveryman who was doing his job — delivering milk.

However, the milk is free. And his present job is even more than free milk delivery.

Sun is one of the 441 elderly residents in Beijing — having no pension and children's support — who have received daily delivery of free milk by volunteers in the city since April.

More than that, volunteers also help those aged residents cleaning houses, fixing stoves, washing clothes, and most importantly — chatting with them to relieve their loneliness.

This special community service called "Care Project" was launched on April 1 by the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Youth League of China, the Beijing Civil Administration and the XinDanNi Technique Development Company.

"This activity aims to help people who have no ability to take care of themselves," said Zhang Xiaolian, chairman of the Youth League's Beijing committee. "They are the weakest group in Beijing, so we have the responsibility to give them as best care as we can."

All these young volunteers come from the XinDanNi Technique Development Company. Milk delivery is one of the company's main business.

They began to pilot the Care Project in eight urban districts.

After getting the list of these old people from the residential communities, young delivery workers began to visit these elderly

home by home, asked them whether they wanted milk or not.

About 100 elderly said they are not used to drinking milk, so they declined the offer. There were 441 elderly who were willing to put their names on the list.

A blue milk box was then nailed beside their doors, which also bear the sign Care Project.

Sun Shufen, 81 years old, whose husband died 15 years ago, lives alone in a small one-bedroom apartment at the Shenlu Street in Beijing's Chaoyang District. She has only 280 yuan (US\$34) as monthly living allowances from the government.

Her milk deliveryman is Liu Xuefeng, 20, an age that just could be Sun's grandson.

Liu's everyday job is to deliver milk to more than 200 homes in Shenlu Street, including six free ones to the elderly residents.

Sun said Liu came to her home at four o'clock in the afternoon. Instead of putting the milk in the box, he would rather deliver the milk into her hand.

"Seeing that Sun is healthy and happy every day makes me feel at ease," said Liu Xuefeng, who came from Central China's Hebei Province.

"If I go out for a walk, he would wait for me until I come back," Sun said. "He is a taciturn boy, but he can listen to me, that's enough! My sister has three sons, but she is not as happy as I am. I don't feel lonely at all."

Liu is one of the more than 600 volunteers who have joined the Care Project.

For the elderly, the young people can bring them a new life, stir their life vigour and alleviate their loneliness.

Not every senior resident was willing to accept the help from the volunteers at first.

Wang Fengrong, 79, drove volunteers out of her home when they wanted to help her clean the apartment or talked to her. She



Mission full of love: Volunteers deliver not only free milk but also care and love to elderly Beijingers under the Care Project.

said she had already got accustomed to living alone and didn't want other people to invade into her life.

She changed her mind one day, when volunteers came to deliver the milk. She had been suffering from diarrhoea and didn't feel well.

The volunteers immediately sent Wang to a hospital nearby, helped her to register, pay the bill and get the medicine, and took her home.

In the following week, volunteers insisted on taking care of her until she totally recovered.

Finally, Wang opened her heart to these young people.

"They made me feel I was truly loved by someone else in the world," Wang said. "A feeling that I haven't tasted for a long time since my husband died 30 years ago."

Since then, the elderly woman wanted to talk to others as best as she could.

When she saw in the newspaper there was a lack of cadavers for medical study, she volunteered to contribute her body to the hospital after death.

The influence of Care Project is out of the initiators' expectations. More and more people, especially college students, have applied to join the project. Some of the lonely old people around them, and in their hands

Wu Yanhong, a junior in Renmin University of China in Beijing, is a member of the volunteer group of the school. Her duty is to visit people's homes three times a month. She visits these aged people

with smiles — to listen to them, tell them what is happening outside, sing new songs to them, read them newspapers and books and walk with them.

They all called her "happy angel."

"Talking with these old people benefits me a lot," she said. "Their positive attitude towards hard life encourages me to study harder, and to face my life more bravely and optimistically."

Liu Zhenshan, an official with the Beijing Civil Administration Bureau, said: "When an old aged was cared by others, the people around him or her will unavoidably be influenced."

"The 'care' group in Beijing will grow larger and larger. We want to build a harmonious society that is full of love and sympathy. This is the true value of the project."

TODAY'S RADIO

- AM 640 kHz**
 - 06:30 Morning News
 - 09:00 Popular CD
 - 09:30 Sound of Health
 - 19:00 Happy 30 Minutes
 - 23:30 Into Music
- FM 90.0 MHz (all stereo)**
 - 06:00 Peking Opera arias
 - 08:00 Auto CD
 - 09:30 Chinese songs by popular singers
 - 11:50 Music
 - 12:00 Happy 30 Minutes
 - 16:30 Chinese songs by popular singers
 - 17:00 Radio songs
- FM 87.6 MHz (all stereo)**
 - 09:00 New Albums
 - 09:30 Famous songs and music
 - 10:30 Screen World
 - 11:00 Western Music Online
 - 13:30 Chinese new folk music
- FM 97.4 MHz (all stereo)**
 - 07:00 News
 - 08:30 Music Oasis
 - 09:00 Hello, Taxi
 - 10:00 Modern Music
 - 11:00 Pop 2001
 - 13:00 Classic Concert
 - 15:00 Music Saloon
 - 18:00 Urban Beat
 - 23:00 Classic opera
- AM 603 kHz**
 - 06:57 Weather report
 - 07:00 News
 - 08:30 Reading Time
 - 10:00 Community & Life
 - 18:00 Travelling Guide

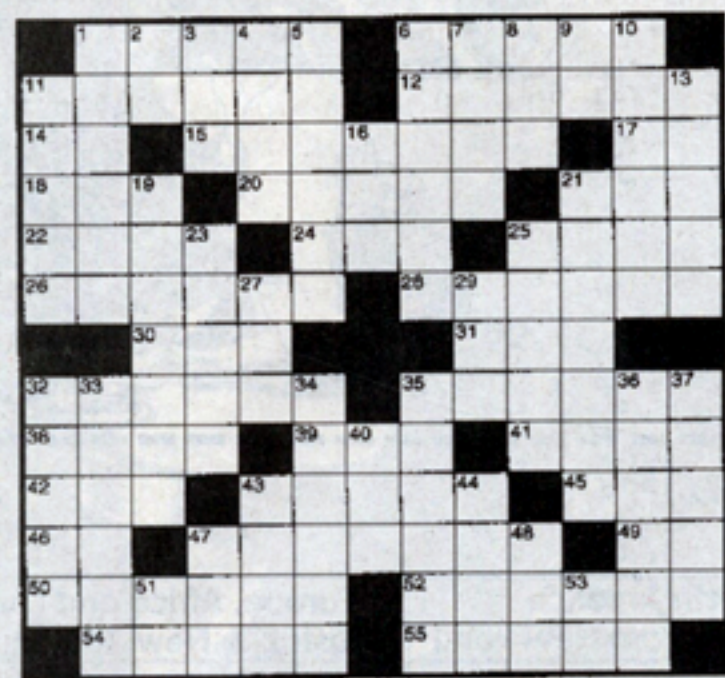
TODAY'S TELEVISION

- CCTV-1 Channel 2**
 - 12:40 Law Today
 - 17:00 International Express
 - 19:00 News; Weather
 - 19:56 Science Express
 - 20:06 Serial: Loyalty (18)
 - 21:00 News Roundup
 - 22:57 Cultural Aspect
- CCTV-2 Channel 8**
 - 11:20 Life
 - 13:10 Economy 30 Minutes
 - 14:30 News 30 Minutes
 - 17:10 China Market Update
 - 21:00 Earth Stories
- CCTV-3 Channel 15**
 - 15:10 Local Arts
 - 16:33 Symphony World
 - 18:30 Elementary Art
 - 21:03 Dream Theatre
 - 22:40 News
- CCTV-4 Channel 32**
 - 11:20 China Wind
 - 12:30 China Report
 - 13:30 Across the Land
 - 17:20 Sports World
 - 19:30 Chinese Art
 - 20:30 Across the Straits
 - 21:00 China News
- CCTV-6 Channel 18**
 - 14:32 US movie
 - 18:26 Documentary: Sound of Music
 - 19:40 Chinese movie
 - 21:29 British movie
- CCTV-8 Channel 29**
 - 19:05 Animal World
 - 19:30 Jiayi Aspect
- 20:25 Serial: 023 File (11, 12)
- 23:46 Midnight Theatre
- BTV-1 Channel 6**
 - 13:48 Toshiba Animal Paradise
 - 17:45 Beijing Express
 - 18:30 News; Weather
 - 19:53 Serial: Ah Fa and His Sons (18)
 - 21:45 Focus Today
- BTV-2 Channel 21**
 - 10:35 Movie and TV Circle
 - 11:05 Business Weekly
 - 18:00 Concert Hall
 - 19:07 Entertainment Live
 - 23:55 Weekend Cinema
- BTV-3 Channel 27**
 - 11:25 Golden Times
 - 19:30 Science Unlimited
 - 20:05 Who's Talking
 - 20:40 Science Education Express
 - 21:00 News
- BTV-4 Channel 17**
 - 12:00 Serial: Sister Ma (21)
 - 13:05 Behind the Scene
 - 18:03 630 Theatre
 - 18:33 Movie Saloon
 - 19:32 365-part series: The History of the Communist Party of China
- BTV-7 Channel 24**
 - 12:30 Specialist Clinic
 - 18:00 National Geographic Channel
 - 19:00 Auto Club
 - 19:30 Luxury & Elegance
 - 20:00 Health & Life
 - 20:30 Finance Today
 - 22:05 Allure Focus

CROSSWORD (No 6368)

ACROSS

- 1 Rare gas
- 6 Mrs. Elsenhower
- 11 Acidly
- 12 Woodwind player
- 14 Roman four
- 15 More mountainous
- 17 Mixture
- 18 Actress Long
- 20 Not a soul (2wds.)
- 21 — and tuck
- 22 — Lee Nolin
- 24 Compass pt.
- 25 Vice pres.
- 26 Wears away
- 28 Rapid
- 30 Obstruct
- 31 College deg.
- 32 Gland
- 35 Non-metallic element
- 38 Electrified particles
- 39 Nickname for Nancy
- 41 Abound
- 42 Born (Fr.)
- 43 Walls



Solution to No 6367

DYE URBIA LOW
 AUG ROUND ANA
 BLOSSOM UPPER
 TEAS OLEO
 INIA TASTEFUL
 TESLA GAEL SO
 HUM SHIRR CIO
 OR OPAL YARNS
 TOPLEVEL DOGE
 SIRE IBIS
 ROADS ICEMILK
 AFL EOSIN EEE
 GAM SHOTS REG

DOWN

- 1 Sp. Jesuit missionary
- 2 Teutonic deity
- 3 — degree
- 4 Ken or Lena
- 5 Stockings
- 6 Des —, Iowa
- 7 Busy as —
- 8 A layer of humus
- 9 Roman two
- 10 Caught sight of
- 11 Trace of colour
- 13 Unsteady
- 16 Filmdom's Chaney
- 19 Morphine, for one
- 21 More destitute
- 23 West and Ant
- 25 South

African grassland

- 27 Large bird
- 29 Middle East org.
- 32 Shades
- 33 Weeding
- 34 Nightly noises, for some
- 35 Inherent
- 36 Closer
- 37 Wheat type
- 40 Swiss river
- 43 Intricate network of winding pathways
- 44 British machine gun
- 47 Negative prefix
- 48 superlative ending
- 51 Violent whirlwind
- 53 Symbol for telluriumk

WHAT'S ON

Acrobatic Show

Sichuan Deyang Acrobatic Troupe is now demonstrating its skills in Beijing. With many international awards, the troupe enjoys an excellent reputation worldwide. It features a large scale acrobatic performance, with state-of-the-art lighting. Venue: Chaoyang Theatre, 36 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District, Beijing. Time: 7:15 pm, nightly. Tel: 6507-2421, 6507-1818

STAGE

Free show: A large modern dance show will be staged free of charge at the Yuanyang Art Centre. The show, called "Dancing with Rural Labourers," will be performed by over 10 professional dancers and 30 rural workers invited from some construction sites in Beijing. The venue for the dance will be the unrenovated third floor of the Yuanyang Art Centre which retains the original outlook of the building's former existence — a textile workshop. The choreographers hope to recreate the scene of a large textile mill in the 1970s through the language of modern dance. Time: 8 pm, August 23. Place: 20 metres south of the Ciyunsi Overfly, Chaoyang District

English-dubbed show: The Beijing Onetone Cultural Exchange Co Ltd launches an English-dubbed Peking Opera show at the theatre of the Beijing Traditional Opera School. The company has invited experts to translate the play "White Snake" and dub the lines. Using earphones, audiences will be able to hear every line in English simultaneously with the action on stage. Time: 7:15 pm, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Place: 8 Majiabao, Yangqiao, Fengtai District

Macbeth: The English Shakespeare Company, from England, will be in Beijing for three performances of "Macbeth," Shakespeare's shortest and easiest-to-follow play. Shakespeare offers us, in Macbeth, a panorama of humanity in all its turmoil, unpredictability and lust for life and glory. Time: 7:30 pm, August 24-26. Place: the China Children's Theatre, 64 Dong'anmen Dajie. Tel: 6603-7255, 640-1613

Weaving goddess and cowherd: The seventh day of the seventh lunar month on the Chinese traditional calendar has long been linked with a legend about love in China. In the household story, Zhinu, a weaving goddess and Niulang, a cowherd, got married against the will of Xiwangmu, the most powerful goddess in heaven. The couple were turned into stars and could meet only once a year on the seventeenth day of the seventh lunar month. Based on the legend, a grand variety show will be staged. Time: 7:30 pm, August 24-26. Place: 14 Donghimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6726-7809, 6751-2287

Wealth quote: "Rich Father, Poor Father," a worldwide best seller about administering financial transactions, will be put on stage at the small playhouse of the China Youth Art Theatre. The play tries to directly expound the book's new concept of "Wealth Quotient (WQ)" through theatrical performance. It tries to lead the audiences to think about their attitude toward wealth, life and the society. Time: 7:30 pm, daily till August 25. Place: Beibingmaji Hutong, Jiadaokou Nandajie. Tel: 6407-5959

Time channel: A new play for children will be staged at the Qiseguang Theatre. The play is about three children. When they go on an excursion with their classmates in the summer vacation, they leave their companions. They are caught in a time channel which takes them back to China in the 1930s where they make friends with children of that time, and experience the war and the hard life back then. Finally they manage to get back to modern times. Time: 7:30 pm, August 25, 26. Place: 14A, Ju'er Hutong. Tel: 6404-3061

Opera excerpts: The Liyuan Theatre presents traditional Peking Opera excerpts specially packaged in short programmes for foreign audiences and in the original style. The theatre revises the ambience of Old Beijing by setting up Ming-style tables so guests can sample snacks during performances. With explanations in English, the performances are from the Beijing Peking Opera Theatre. Time: 7:30 pm, nightly. Place: Qianmen Hotel, 175 Yong'anlu, Xuanwu District. Tel: 6301-6688 ext 8667

CONCERTS
Guzheng sisters: Two sisters, Yuan Li and Yuan Sha, both of whom are majoring in the traditional Chinese string instrument the (guzheng), will give a performance at the Beijing Concert Hall. They will play classical pieces for the instrument, and commentator Tian Qing will explain the instrument and the music to the audience. At the end of the concert, members of the audience will be asked to write down whatever tunes or notes they like, and the two sisters will try to improvise upon them. Time: 7:30 pm, August 22. Place: 1 Beixinhuajie, Xicheng District. Tel: 6559-8285

Chamber music: The Starling Chamber Orchestra from Cincinnati, United States, will present a concert at the Beizhan Theatre. Under the baton of Kurt Sassmannshauska, the orchestra will bring the audiences such music as Bartok's "Romanian Folk Dance," and Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons." Time: 7:30 pm, August 23. Place: 135 Xiwal Dajie, Xicheng District. Tel: 6835-1383

Tel: 6500-1188 ext 5176

Tragic fate: A grand new play on stage at the Capital Theatre reveals the tragic fate of intellectuals in ancient China.

The play "Kong Yiji" is about the life story of Kong Yiji, the hero in one of the short stories of the late literary colossus Lu Xun. The play tries to show the cruelty and degeneration of the imperial examination system and the entire feudal system. Wang Luoyong, who is said to be the first Chinese to break his way into Broadway, plays the role of Kong Yiji. Wang stepped on the Broadway stage for the first time in 1995 as the "engineer" in "Miss Saigon." Time: 7:30 pm until September 9. Place: 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. Tel: 6524-9847, 6525-0996

EXHIBITIONS
Young painters' thoughts: A painting exhibition revealing the young artists' thinking about society is being held at Wanfung Art Gallery. All the participating painters are young or middle-aged who have grown up through many changes. They express these thoughts with their paintings interpreting the society, life and culture from unique perspectives. Time: 9 am-5 pm until August 24. Place: 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. Tel: 6523-3320

75-year retrospect: Xiao Shufang's artistic life is displayed clearly in her personal retrospect exhibition going on at the China National Art Museum. Xiao is known for her passion for painting flowers. She started to teach in Central Academy of Fine Arts when it was set up in 1950, becoming a specialist in traditional Chinese flower-and-bird painting. The exhibition showcases more than 250 works going back as far as the 1920s. Time: 9 am-5 pm until August 22. Place: 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District. Tel: 6401-6234

Anniversary of master: To celebrate the 85th anniversary of the birth of Yan Han, a retrospective exhibition is on at the Yanhuang Art Museum. Yan was born in 1916 and has been through all the important events in China over the following decades. His works are always closely connected to the predominant trends in different times, with a focus on the ordinary people. Some of his works are still very popular today. The exhibition showcases altogether 50 oils, prints and traditional Chinese paintings done over the past 40 years. Time: 9 am-5 pm until August 28. Place: 9 Huizhonglu, Chaoyang District. Tel: 6491-2902

Creation Gallery: The Creation Gallery is holding a special exhibition to display the recent works of more than 20 talented artists including Lu Chen, Li Xiaoke, Yang Gang, Dong Ze, Wei Ligang and Xiao Feng. Whether in Western oil painting or Chinese ink painting, they demonstrate their bold imagination, skillful painting techniques and pursuit of the real, the good and the beautiful. Time: 10 am-7 pm until August 24. Place: north end of Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang District. Tel: 6506-7570 or 6586-2740

Huang Zhou's works: A commemorative exhibition for the famous Chinese painter Huang Zhou (1925-97) is on at Yanhuang Art Museum. Formerly called Liang Shunian, Huang was one of the most important painters in 20th century in China as he developed his own style of painting donkeys which helped him make his mark on the art world. The exhibition shows about 50 paintings by Huang collected by the museum. Time: 9 am-5 pm until August 30. Place: 9 Huizhong Lu, Chaoyang District. Tel: 6491-2902

Robots and dinosaurs: People can see intelligent robots and ferocious dinosaurs at a scientific exhibition starting this weekend at the Working People's Cultural Palace. Targeting mainly children, the exhibition provides them with vivid experience as well as the basic knowledge and theory of intelligent robot in an approachable and straightforward way. The exhibition features an experimental vehicle for space exploration that can respond to the surface condition it lands on by adjusting its wheels and axle. Meanwhile, there is also a robot that can play piano. Apart from viewing the moving dinosaurs and robots, there are also other entertainments and souvenir toys available. Time: 8:30 am-6 pm until August 30. Place: east of the Tian'anmen Rostrum. Tel: 6525-3113

Mayan civilization: The mysterious Mayan civilization that vanished in the 10th century could become a little bit closer and clearer at a Mayan-themed antique exhibition running at the China Millennium Altar. Altogether, 186 Mayan antiques revealing aspects of the great civilization from Mexico are on show. The only civilization originating in the tropical rain forest, the Mayans leave people with lots of questions about the wonder of their primitive civilization. Time: 9 am-5 pm until August 31. Place: 9 A Fuxing Lu. Tel: 6851-3322

BRIDGE (By Phillip Alder)

Pro-am competitions are well known in many fields: golf and tennis immediately come to mind. These events are usually organized to raise money for charity. In bridge, however, more often it is to give the amateurs a chance to partner a pro and encourage them to become more involved in the tournament world. (Some are charity events, though.) The attitude of most pros is that they get a lot of enjoyment from bridge, they remember when they were beginners, and they wish to put something back into the game to inspire others. Yet it is an evening of unpredictability. This week, let's look at six deals from a tournament in New York City in 1989. At my table, against four spades, the opening lead was a diamond, and East switched correctly to a heart. We were therefore plus 620. How do you

think we scored in machpoints, when that result was compared with the other North-South pairs?

Note that East-West is laydown for 11 tricks in either red suit. Yet this result was worth only one-third of the machpoints. At most tables, South played in four spades. One declarer won all 13 tricks, two collected 12 tricks, and three took 10. The top North-South score was for three notrump by South making all 13 tricks, presumably after an auction of 3 clubs - 3 NT and a spade lead! There were three embarrassing results. At two tables, the declarer — the pro! — went one down in four spades. And one went two down in five spades. How?

My guess is that West led the club jack and declarer carelessly cashed the spade ace at trick two.

