

## Elder Abuse Awareness Day

16 June 2015, Dexian Gao

MOSAIC arranged a wide array of activities for seniors to broaden our horizon and empower us to learn something new. One of the impressive experiences was the "Elder Abuse Awareness Day". It heightens my awareness of elder abuse happening around us every day, no matter how trivial they are.

Since most of my friends are seniors, I can easily spot incidents of elder abuse. One of the incidents involved a grandfather who was so caring to help his grandson that, it became a routine for the old man to prepare toothpaste and mouth wash for his grandson. One day, when grandfather slept in, he did not prepare toothpaste and water as usual, and the grand son was so furious that he yelled at grandfather "What the heck you forget your responsibilities? Where is the tooth brush and mouth wash that you are supposed to prepare?" That grandfather was shocked for his grandson's rudeness. Feeling downhearted, he was speechless.

It goes without saying that a Chinese senior liked to see his grandkids eating healthily and with good appetite. But when a senior showed his good intention by putting more food into the bowl of his grandkid received cruel comment that left a bad aftertaste. His grandkid said to his grandpa, "how come you use your shaky hands to put food in my bowl, save it, you looked so awkward." Grandpa had a rash of feelings, should he to be blamed or should he be flying a rage towards his ungrateful grandson, it is hard to say.

A senior was making the meal in an afternoon when her granddaughter came home after school. Grandma answered the door, but once the granddaughter entered, the first thing she did was to cuddle her pet cat greeting it "hello kitty". Without further ado, she rushed for her room upstairs. Grandma was upset about the impoliteness of her granddaughter, so she told that to the kid's parents, and they lectured the girl accordingly. There was no more acts of disregard of grandma ever since.

These three incidents is trivial yet pivotal as they demonstrate a hinge of disrespect of seniors, if that goes unchecked, it can lead to the path of elder abuse. Education and awareness teaching is a must for kids and seniors should not keep silent. They should speak up for themselves, it is most important to defend one's right to be treated with respect.