

Future Skills Case Study – Garden of Hope Foundation

Garden of Hope (GOH) Foundation – Taiwan (Chinese Taipei)

Primary programs

Vocational training and employment support for disadvantaged young people. GOH also provides services such as legal advice, counseling and housing support.

Beneficiaries

Disadvantaged young people, especially girls caught in the sex industry, survivors of sexual abuse, domestic violence and human trafficking.



Quote from Qiaoyun, GOH trainee

“Because of my family’s financial situation, there was no way for me to continue my studies, so I had to start working after high school. Thanks to GOH, I took a bakery course and I had the opportunity to do my internship at a bakery, which were all surprisingly rewarding. Before this experience, I rarely worked with others, but with the help of a GOH social worker, I learned how to make gift boxes with a partner and we are now very familiar with each other’s working styles.”



Picture of Qiaoyun and other GOH trainees

Story of Qiaoyun, GOH trainee

Qiaoyun¹ is one of the young women who participated in the GOH Youth Empowerment Program co-funded by the Credit Suisse APAC Foundation. After graduating from high school, Qiaoyun chose to work in the restaurant industry after being referred by a friend; she worked for less than the minimal wage despite having exceeded the statutory working hours. Qiaoyun had no goals or expectations for her future until she learned about and participated in the Youth Empowerment Program delivered by GOH. Through the three-stage training program and internship, Qiaoyun learned how to start taking charge of her own life. She also took the national exam and obtained a Level C certificate for bakery food technicians.

Later, Qiaoyun started working in the Tainan bakery (social enterprise set up with the funding of the Credit Suisse APAC Foundation) where she acquired more knowledge and practical skills that are essential for baking, as well as the safe use of utensils. For example, she learned how to whip egg whites to perfect peaks, how to roll pineapple cakes, how to maintain the shape of cake rolls and so on. The bakery is a space where Qiaoyun has the opportunity to practice her baking skills and get ready for a formal employment.

Her daily work is akin to preparing a small exhibition of baking products: from the purchase of raw materials to the production, packaging and marketing of products. As the bakery continues to grow, Qiaoyun has been taking orders for gift boxes and selling the bakery’s goods at the market. Qiaoyun is constantly learning and growing. She finally has a chance to continue her education without financial pressure as her ambition is to learn how to combine marketing and baking. This illustrates well her journey: from not daring to dream to courageously taking the next step toward fulfilling her goal.

¹ Name changed to protect privacy.