

Officials relieve the pressure



Staff Reporters

OVER 3,000 district officials in Jiading District are in communities, villages and enterprises keeping things running to help relieve the pressure on workers fighting the coronavirus outbreak.

Jiading Town communities had its first batch of more than 50 officials in place over the past weekend.

They were involved in virus prevention and control including recording personal information of people coming in and out of communities, taking temperatures, giving passes and serving residents staying home for observation.

Most residential communities in the region have outdated layouts, making it more difficult to manage in a crisis like this.

"Our community workers and volunteers have stuck to the job without rest since the Spring Festival eve and that's

about a month ago," said Shen Qian, Party secretary of the Tacheng Road Neighborhood Committee.

"We were really stressed as we were short of hands," she said, "but now with the help we can catch some breath and that's really a great relief."

Jiang Minqiang from the district's labor union joined the team at Shengxin Community in Jiading Industrial Zone.

He offered to act as a delivery-man for people in quarantine at home. He joined the community workers' WeChat group to gather information.

"I could do better once I'm familiar with everything, but the first thing for me is to get on to it," Jiang said.

Head of the district's gardening department Chen Wei also played her part. She stayed at a neighborhood committee in Malu Town and made calls to see whether there were more

residents who had returned to Shanghai recently. Then she helped issue certificates so residents could buy face masks.

"The communities are a new key in prevention and control and the tasks came in with a large amount and different requirements," Chen said. "And it is a time like this that we need to stick together and win the battle."

At M11, another residential complex in Malu Town with more than 900 households, the work is not easy. Apart from the 30-plus households that need special attention for stay at home observation, two property management staff were still out of Shanghai at the time, leaving only one property manager, Yu Shuiying, on duty.

Every day she shops for isolated households, takes care of their garbage and delivers their packages. "I wish I had more arms to tend to these

tasks," she says.

Zhang Hui from the district's house management department came to her rescue. She helped sort out information recording and other tasks, relieving the burden on community workers.

"Working in the communities can really go into the details and unexpected things happen all the time," said Zhu Shun, who also came to support the community. "We would not have a clear idea of any of these if we hadn't come."

In this special time, residents may have complaints about all the inconveniences going on in their life and the community workers are obliged to step in and help things go smoothly.

"Our job here are temporary, but we will try to make the effort and the outcome last," Zhu said when he ended his day of community work.

(Translated by Yang Wenjie)

Helping others is priority for this family

Staff Reporters

A FAMILY of three in Jiading Industrial Zone were so busy with community epidemic prevention measures that in 20 or more days they rarely saw each other and communicated mainly through WeChat.

Zhou Li is Party secretary of Loutang Community and her husband Wu Xueliang is property manager of the Pufa Xiangshe Neighborhood. Their son Wu Jiacheng is an assistant police officer at Yecheng Police Station after graduating from college last year.

The sudden epidemic disrupted the family's Spring Festival. Since Chinese New Year's Eve, the couple have thrown themselves into community epidemic prevention work from before dawn till after dark. For more than 20 days, their only family gathering was a New Year's Eve's dinner.

A large number of people returned to Loutang Community after the holiday, with 127 from key epidemic areas required to be quarantined. Zhou was in charge of

ensuring they had their daily necessities.

When people asked for fresh vegetables, Zhou picked some from the community's vegetable garden and distributed them to quarantined households.

When some residents questioned her about the health of returnees, Zhou patiently dispelled their concerns by saying: "Every returnee had passed the check at road junctions. We have a list of their names and have screened one household after another. Please feel assured."

When a noodle restaurant in the area resumed operation, Zhou visited to caution the owner to do take-away business only.

"When you are preparing the food, you should ask the customer to wait outside. Dining-in is not allowed as it may trigger disease spreading," she said.

Wu, as a property manager, supervises disinfection at the neighborhood, goods distribution and entry or exit procedures. He also takes night shift to keep watch.

Their son received an order to do traffic checks at a Huaqiao junction on January 27.

"Having chosen the job, I have chosen to walk in harm's way. I will grow through this experience," the 22-year-old told his parents.

Wu's traffic control work consisted of alternating day and night shifts.

"During the night shifts, we have some time to rest. But daybreak is the most trying time, I feel really exhausted at that time," said Wu.

For more than 20 days, the family's concern for each other is expressed through WeChat messages.

Zhou's family is among the many ordinary Chinese families that have joined the national battle against the epidemic. They believe a family is a model of a country and a country is an assemblage of tens of thousands of such families.

(Translated by Yang Yang)

Barbers in Huating a cut above the rest

Lu Beibei and Yang Yang

BARBERS in Huating Town are offering free haircuts for medical staff, police officers, grassroots cadres and other "heroes in harm's way" working on the frontline of novel coronavirus pneumonia prevention.

As barber shops in Jiading District remain closed to reduce human contact, having a haircut is difficult for most people, including those fighting the virus.

A group of professional barbers in Huating Town are volunteering their services at community health service centers, police stations and checkpoints to provide free haircuts for frontline personnel.

They start by meticulously cleaning and disinfecting their work tools.

One of their first "customers" was Guo Wankui, a medical worker at Huating Health Service Center. Busy combatting against the epidemic, his crew cut had grown sideburns and a fringe.

As the barber adeptly moved his scissors and comb, Guo's face that used to look weary gradually brightened.

"I feel happy and grateful for my barber who volunteers to offer free haircuts for us medical workers. The barbers are all closed now and I don't have time to worry about my hair in particular. I haven't had a haircut for a month. My barber's skill is impressive. After the haircut, I feel refreshed and relaxed," said Guo, who has been helping people confined at home.

After their work at the health service center, the volunteers headed to Huating Police Station and Huating Checkpoint to offer policemen free haircuts.

"The frontline personnel work really hard. They stick to their posts after the country declares war against the epidemic. We hope we can do something for them such as offering a free haircut as far as our capacity allows," said Sun Zhigao, a member of the group.

To obey epidemic prevention requirements, all volunteers have to undergo a series of checks, ensure their individual protection is good and have their work tools cleaned and disinfected. To prevent gatherings, they offer their services in batches.



A barber offers free haircuts in Huating Town. — Lu Beibei