

LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY

Annual Report

1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016



...to live and leave a legacy

LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY

Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2016

Life Community Services Society (LCSS) was registered as a Society on 23rd March 1996. LCSS became a member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) on 20th June 2001 and a member of the NCSS General Fund in August 2003. LCSS was registered under the Charities Act on 22nd January 2002. We were conferred with the Institute of Public Character status in 2003.

Charity Registration Number : 01545

Unique Entity Number : S96SS0100H

Registered Address : 5 Stadium Walk, #04-04
Kallang Leisure Park
Singapore 397693

Board Members : 1. Mr Goh Kng Yan, Chairman
2. Mr Nicholas Goh Cher Shuie, Vice-Chairman
3. Dr Gilbert Tan Yip Wei, Treasurer
4. Mr Seow Kiat Wang, Secretary
5. Mr Shaun Tan Zhonghao, Asst Treasurer
6. Dr Tan Kok Beng, Member
7. Mr Ban Kok Poh Denus Joel, Member

Bankers : 1. Maybank
2. Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation
3. Standard Chartered Bank
4. The Development Bank of Singapore
5. United Overseas Bank

Auditor : Baker Tilly TFW LLP

1996 – 2016

20 years of dedicated community service by the Grace of God.

VISION

Outreach to the Community.

MISSION

To empower children and families through care and mentoring.

5 CORE SERVICES



Reach out to primary school children in heartland areas by providing quality student care services and focusing on the total development of the child in a safe and caring environment.



Provide care and support for children (7-13yrs) with parent/s presently/formerly incarcerated through Social, Physical, Emotional, Educational and Dollars S.P.E.E.D. intervention.



Befriend & mentor youths (12-19yrs) of parent/s presently/formerly incarcerated by harnessing their energy and talent into positive outcomes through Social, Physical, Relational, Emotional, Academic and Dollars S.P.R.E.A.D intervention.



Serve and mentor the community children and youth; affirming and nurturing them within a loving and learning environment. Our focus is on building their Character, Competency and Connection through creative and enriching activities.



Strengthen social mobility of children from low-income families by adopting a relational approach where community mentors are matched to the child, supporting their aspirational, character, educational, financial and relational growth. This is a joint project with WeCare@MarineParade.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



2016 is an important milestone for Life Community. We celebrated our 20th anniversary with joy and thankfulness together with past and present staff, donors and volunteers and also many government agencies and partnering VWOs. They have contributed to LCSS's growth and capability to reach out to even more children and families. We are especially grateful to our President's wife, Mrs Mary Tan, for gracing our 20th anniversary dinner as our Guest of Honour. Through the years, we see

growth in all our core programs, namely :-

Life Student Care (LSC)

Friends of Children (FOC),

Friends of Youth (FOY),

MightyKids, Families and Community (MightyKFC),

and our newest addition, EduGrow For Brighter Tomorrows, which is established in partnership with WeCare@MarineParade. Despite many challenges that come with the growth, our staff and volunteers are able to serve with renewed zeal and commitment.

The government's extended matching of 1 for 1 grant has indeed increased our capacity to improve and innovate on our infrastructure and skills to support the work. It does stretch the donor dollar even more. We are deeply appreciative to all our donors and the government in strengthening our capacity to do more.

FROM RECIPIENTS TO VOLUNTEERS

We are seeing fruits. We see several who benefitted from the programs return to serve as volunteers, mentoring those who are struggling like themselves before.

APPRECIATION

We thank our Board member, Denus Joel Ban for his precious contributions to LCSS. He will be stepping down as a board member in April 2016 but will continue to serve in chairing the annual Christmas party for the FOC/FOY children. We are actively seeking new board members to steer Life Community into the next lap.

Finally, this work would not be possible without our generous donors, faithful volunteers and dedicated staff. Grateful thanks to each of you who stood with us. We thank God for each of you. Life Community looks forward to many more fruitful years ahead with your partnership in serving the community.

GOH KNG YAN

CEO'S MESSAGE

Looking back, we are grateful for another significant year for Life Community.

Our People

We started the year with a staff retreat to a slightly further part of Johor Bahru – Kukup where we brought 60 staff for a time of bonding and relaxation. We are happy to be able to progress in this aspect of taking care of our people. The staff have worked hard all year round to help the needy and they deserve a break away from the demands of work and have a bit of relaxation. Nothing extravagant but meaningful in many ways such as taking a road trip together, seeing a bit of the fishing village in kelong setting, and writing our collective dreams on a lantern and sending it flying up the sky.



Meeting Societal Needs

Societal needs are ever changing, putting pace of change aside, the stories behind the lives we support, are heart-wrenching and sometimes the pains and struggles the children go through are beyond logical comprehension. As a voluntary welfare organisation, Life Community is thankful to be able to lend a helping hand to these little ones, to continue to provide the support they need while growing up.

Our Donors

Donors continue to be generous in their financial support, and we have been able to raise around \$1.2 million for our 15/16 financial year. This is matched \$1 to \$1 under the Care & Share Movement in celebration of Singapore's 50th birthday. We are grateful to report that Life Community was named one of the four beneficiary charities of Deutsche Bank's Donate a Day programme 2015. It was significant not just for the amount of over \$260,000 raised but it also marked the growing and continuing partnership between Deutsche Bank and Life Community for the past five years. Another faithful donor is Noel Gifts International who celebrated its 40th birthday in a meaningful way by donating \$100,000 to each of its five charity partners. We do not take things for granted, we know and is fully conscious that every dollar and cent is a representation of their love to reach out to those who are in need. These CSR investments alongside many other donations have helped to position Life Community for greater works in supporting the less advantaged in our community.

Friends of Children & Friend of Youth Program

The Friends of Children and Friends of Youth programmes continue to reach out to the children whose parent/s who are presently or formerly incarcerated. This group of children faces the emotional stigma of being a child of an offender. They have inferiority complexes, and often think and believe that they are the cause of their parent/s incarceration even though they have never committed a crime in their lives. Studies have shown that children join gangs for a sense of belonging. If these children are not helped in time and get into bad company, this may mark the start of a possibly irreversible spiral down journey. Statistics have also shown that children of incarcerated parents are five times more likely to get into trouble with the law. Thus the social investment in Life Community will help to provide an upstream intervention, to stop the proliferation of the offending cycle.

MightyKids. Families & Community Program

After giving a face-lift to our drop-in centre at Telok Blangah for latch-key/ community children, our MightyKFC reopened its doors by organising a Community Day. We were glad to be able to bring together a total of 14 corporations, schools and vendors to bless the community in Radin Mas. A total of 104 volunteers participated in providing the very interesting carnival stalls, food, decorations and prizes. Everyone was excited to do their part for the community, bringing a new lease of life and vibrancy to this matured estate.

We were honoured to have the MP for Radin Mas SMC, Mr Sam Tan and 8 grassroot leaders to grace this community carnival. There were 194 registered visitors and 24 LCSS staff and board members. Most of the visitors are first time visiting our Activity Centre. The door has been opened for new enrolments into our program.

EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows

We are pleased to report the launch of our new program – EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows, in August 2015. This family-centric joint project with WeCare@ Marine Parade adopts a relational approach where community mentors are matched to the child, supporting their aspirational, character, education, financial and relational growth with the aim of improving the social mobility of these children. As at 31 March 2016, 24 children have been matched with 23 community mentors, and the pilot programme is moving at a good pace. Our projection is to be able to have another 40 new mentors matched to 40 children by March 2017.

Life Student Care Centres

As at 31st March 2016, there is a total enrolment of 381 students from our 4 Centres, an increase of 2% from last financial year. Supporting the community needs of the children and families remain our priority as we ensure that the children have a safe, and homely environment to return to after school hours. Teachers and supporting staff members are trained to provide a loving and caring environment while supervising their homework as well as the children's overall well-being including character development.

Our Volunteers

While we believe parents hold the primary responsibility in raising their children and will continue to advocate and work towards building strong families, there are many children in our program who lack a positive adult figure in their lives. As such, we have introduced befrienders and volunteer mentors program for the children. These befrienders and volunteer mentors act as role-models for the children, and support them in their learning journey. In order to ensure a good fit, we conduct interviews and reference checks, and run a systematic process in the recruitment, training and development and retention of our befrienders and volunteer mentors. This is an area where Life Community will continue to put more emphasis as we see this as a sustainable way forward to reach out to more needy children and families.

20 Years' Commemoration

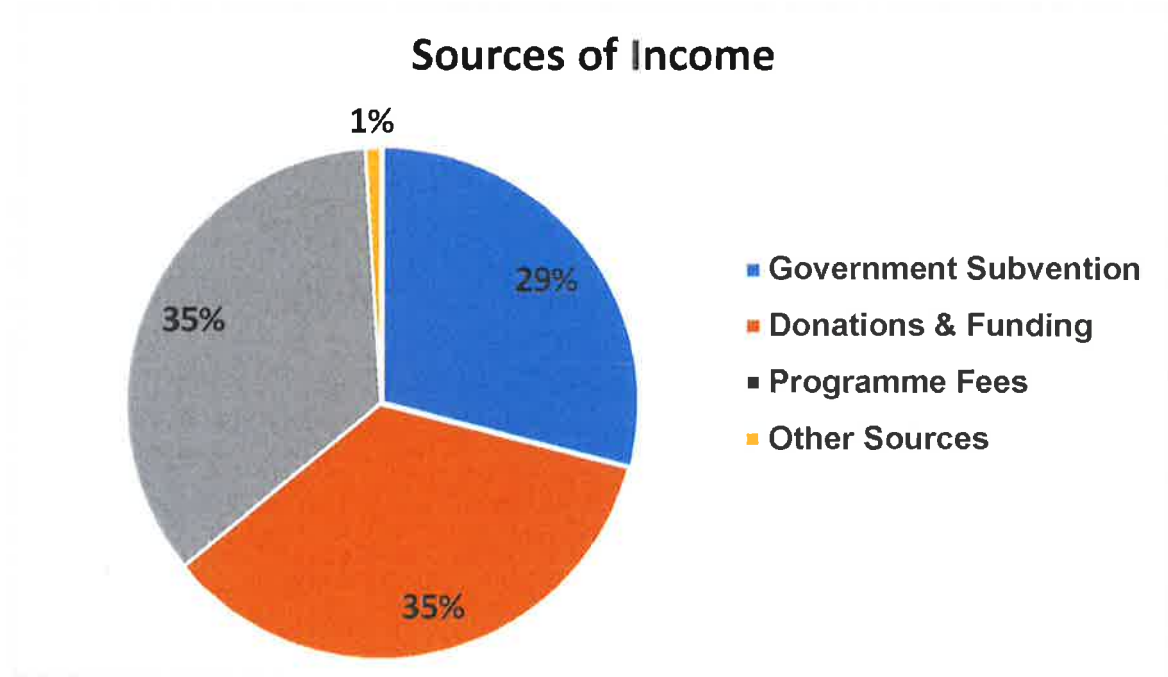
Life Community celebrates 20 this year, and we appreciate all our past and present board members, donors, volunteers and staff for their dedicated contributions. God has made us all special with different talents and giftings. An anniversary book entitled "You Raised Me Up" was published and launched by Mrs Mary Tan on 23 March 2016 as a thanksgiving commemorative on the milestone. In it, we chronicled the 20 years' journey of Life Community in its humble contribution to society. May you be blessed as you read of the life transformation of the children!

"Life is not worth living unless it is lived for others." Mother Teresa

LAM MOI KWAI

REVIEW PERIOD 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016

1.1 Sources of Income



1.2 Staffing as at 31 March 2016

	Headcount	
Corporate	5	7%
Life Student Care	48	73%
Friends of Children/Youth	9	13%
MightyKids, Families & Community	3	5%
EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows	1	2%
	66	100%

1.3 PROGRAMME REPORTS

1.3.1 FRIENDS OF CHILDREN & YOUTH



A project by Life Community Services Society



A project by Life Community Services Society

➤ Clients' Profile

Direct Clients			
<p> ■ Chinese ■ Malay ■ Indian </p>	Chinese	47	
	Malay	164	
	Indians	29	
	Total	240	
Indirect Clients – caregivers & families			240
TOTAL CLIENTS			480
Age range		6-19 years old	
Gender		Male - 55%, Female - 45%	
Districts		Island-wide	
Type of Housing		Mainly rented / owned, 1 room – 4 rooms	
Special		Children & Boy Home and Foster Parent	

➤ **Incarcerated Parent's Profile**

Majority of our clients are being referred to us from Family Resource Centre (Changi Prison). Other referral sources include NUH, FSCs and other VWOs. Some of the incarcerated parents have either been released or released on Home Tagging scheme. The latter scheme permits inmates to serve their sentence outside of Prison but are subjected to wearing a tag (ankle) and to abide strictly to the curfew and reporting back to officers.

Our incarcerated parents comprise mainly of drug related offence (84%) and (16%) are convicted for other crimes such as being members of secret society, and some being involved in illegal money lending, sex related offences or petty crimes (theft & robbery).

a. Volunteers' Profiles

As of 31 March 2016, there are 124 volunteers, comprising working professionals and tertiary students, both single and married who have signed up to be Children's Befriender, Ad-hoc volunteers, tutors, event committee & fund raising volunteers. There are also a number of volunteers who have withdrawn from the programme in view of personal issues, work or study commitments.

b. Volunteers' Training

All volunteers must attend a 2-hour Learn & Share (L&S) session. In this session, we share with potential volunteers on challenges in handling children and the impact of parental incarceration.

Besides L&S session, we organize at least three Befriender Sessions per year to equip and empower our volunteers as well as an appreciation lunch/dinner for them. We also bring in trainers to equip befrienders and support them in their befriending journey with our children.



We had a lively and engaging training session, addressing the welfare needs of befrienders.

c. Assignment & Update of Child's Status

An introduction between client and befriender would be arranged by staff at client's home. Befriender would have to submit a monthly update. This update tracks the progress between the befriender and child. In this reporting year, we have matched 46 clients (up to age 15 years old) to 55 volunteers, either as an individual or as a couple.

d. Monthly Food Ration

Basic food ration packs were distributed to our beneficiaries during our monthly home visitation to each family. As of March 2016, a total of 66 families have benefitted from our food ration support.

e. Events & Outings (FOC & Y)

Month	Activities
Apr 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appreciation Luncheon for volunteers and donors involving LCSS' beneficiaires
May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jurong Bird Park outing• Terrarium-making
Jun 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specially conducted 2 Learn & Share session, requested by Corporation to recruit volunteers• Budgeting and Money Management workshop• FOC & Y chalet• Fundraising Book fair
Jul 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bi-monthly recruitment drive –Learn & Share session• Befrienders' training session-"A Befriender's Welfare" conducted by Ms Alice Tok (Counsellor, Consultant and Trainer)
Aug 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dance performance for LCSS' charity Golf Event
Sept 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art Therapy session• Group tuition for FOC children• Ice-skating session
Oct 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Befrienders' training session – "Values through play" conducted by staff• Group tuition for FOC children• SG50 Short Films Project together with Revelation Productions with LCSS' beneficiaries –writing, directing and acting out the story
Nov 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Screening of SG50 Short Films Gala Dinner at Film Garde theater• Bi-monthly recruitment drive –Learn & Share session• USS children/youth and caregivers outing with

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Children and Youth Year end Party
Dec 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowling with Microsoft • Dance and youth performed at external Gala Dinner
Jan 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOY Growth Program Kick-off
Feb 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOY Growth Program • Decorated and hand-drawn photo frame made by our children given to the year-end event committees
Mar 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOY Growth Program • FOC & Y Dance Performance and Youth Performance at our 20th Anniversary Thanksgiving dinner • Bi-monthly recruitment drive –Learn & Share session

f. Friends of Youth (FOY) Programme

We kicked off FOY's Growth program beginning of the first quarter of 2016. This program is a Character Development Program focused on the understanding, application and commitment to a set of values. We started off with values such as Faith, Faithfulness and Respect. We hope to emphasize these values through activities, games and experiential learning. Our objectives for the youth were:-

- a) Discover their purpose in life.
- b) Learn what it means and how to be faithful.
- c) Acknowledge and obey authority.



❖ **Year-End Christmas Party – “Return of the Superheroes”**



220 children and youth, volunteers, staff and LCSS’ board members attended our annual Friends of Children and Youth Christmas party on a Saturday, 21 November 2015.

With the theme “Return of the Superheroes”, our children/youth learned positive traits of the Superhero characters through activities and game stations during the event. One of the main highlights of the event for our children/youth was meeting their “Superheroes” in person.

In line with the SG50 celebrations, we have included a “Palm Print Station” at our pre-event activity. Children and youth who arrive early to the event will have their palm printed onto three white canvas with the words “Love, Joy and Hope”. This piece of artwork with children and youth’s palm prints on the canvas is displayed prominently at our Activity Centre in KLP.





We played a short video run by Comchest titled “Ripple” for the children and youth. The video featured on “paying forward”, encouraging our children/youth to show kindness to the people around them.

IFGF took the lead in planning and executing the youth segment at our annual Christmas party. The youths participated in games that brought out the superheroes’ characteristics in them. A volunteer from IFGF shared his testimony about how he overcome his difficult childhood. The segment ended with the volunteers singing the song “We’re The World” to the youths. The song was about making right choices to make the world a better place.

Each child was presented with a Smiggle school bag to bring home for this festive season. IFGF sponsored each youth a Herschel school bag.

A family of four siblings put up a special Indian dance performance at our event. They received overwhelming applause from the audience.



g. Activity Centre in Kallang Leisure Park (KLP)

On-going regular dance practices have been carried out in our KLP Activity Centre for our dance interest group. We have also started a group tuition program in September 2015 for our beneficiaries who are sitting for their PSLE. 8 children benefitted from this program in 2015.

Besides the interest group activities, the centre is also used for regular Saturday Growth program as well as holiday events in collaboration with our corporate partners. The KLP Activity centre is also frequently used as a training ground for recruitment, training and equipping of staff and volunteers.

h. FOC & Y Success Story

Taking a long walk with the children



Shawn joined FOC in 2007. He was 8 years old then. Initially, Shawn likes material gifts. Whenever the caseworker visited him, he would ask them for candies and other gifts such as a bag and a bicycle. The candies that he asked for are expensive. Shawn does not display civic-mindedness as well. He threw rubbish on the floor without thinking twice.

Through regular visitation and mentoring, the caseworker, imparted the value of budgeting to Shawn. The caseworker also talked to Shawn about values and teaching him right

from wrong. A befriender was also attached to him as an additional role model.

Shawn is 17 years old this year. He has become more responsible and sensible. Despite preparing for his N levels, he assisted his family financially by juggling work and studies. He worked every evening in order to provide for the family. When he receives his pay, he gave most of it to his brother and mother. He is thrifty and only spends on things which are necessary. His mother depends on him, not just financially, but also to care for his younger brother. He has been very resilient despite the stress and responsibility he has to bear. Furthermore, he is caring and thoughtful to the people around him.

i. Case Study



Shah

Background:

Shah is 16 years old boy. When he was referred to Life Community, both his parents were incarcerated due to drug possession, consumption and trafficking.

Shah was placed in the care of his extended family. However, due to family conflict, Shah left home and was placed in the state's custody under MSF's child protection.

Shah has identity issues and professes to be a transgender. This has led to Shah living a life where he is bullied and stigmatised and thus, has to fight for himself in life. Living in institutional care was extremely stressful for him. He has absconded on several occasions as well as attempt suicide.

In addition, Shah has dropped out of school and is currently unemployed.

His sexuality choice is a disappointment to his mum.

Our Care and Intervention:

Shah has shared his thoughts on suicide on many occasions. He is open to discussing these struggles with the caseworker. His thoughts are often related to his gender choice and the struggles that come with it. As such, Shah was informed of services for help for transgender issues.

To meaningfully engage Shah, he was also registered with Youth Employment and Advancement Hub (YEAH!) programme to gain vocational skills and employment. This was necessary to support himself and mum as he matures and assists to support his mum financially upon her release in February 2016.

Upon Mother's release, their home was furnished with donated items through Life Community's contacts. Life Community also recommended his mother to employment opportunities. To further assist both Shah and his mum, they were put in contact with other community resources such as the SSO and FSC for financial support and to cope with parenting skills respectively. Reintegration work with mother, son and the family is ongoing as mother adapts to her life, freedom and responsibilities of being a single parent.

1.3.2 MIGHTYKIDS, FAMILIES & COMMUNITY



MightyKids, Families & Community is a community programme that believes in the potential and value of every child and the importance of the family unit as foundational to the growth and progress of the community.

a. OBJECTIVES

MightyKFC seeks to provide a loving and learning environment in which children and youths can be affirmed and nurtured to live an empowered life.

b. CLIENTS' PROFILE

Direct Clients		
<p>■ Chinese ■ Malay ■ Indian</p>	Chinese	126
	Malay	177
	Indians	14
	Total	317
Indirect Clients (Care Givers)	48	
TOTAL CLIENTS	365	
Community Carnival	194	
No of volunteers- events & activities	300	
Age range	6 – 19 years old	
Race (Families)	ALL races	
Gender	Male & Female	
Districts	Telok Blangah Estate	

c. CALENDER OF EVENTS

Month	Activities
Apr 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show & Tell My Art Piece
May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jurong Bird Park
June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port of Lost Wonder • Risk & Danger of Cyber Addiction • Ice- skating • Forest Adventure
Aug 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Day Parade preview • Building Resilience In Your kids • Ukulele class
Sept 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overnight Camp • Dream Beyond-SSO • Pre-exam Prep Talk
Oct 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Day Celebration • I- Experience • Percussion @ NUS
Nov 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG50 Short Films • Universal Studio • Mural Painting • STOMP
Dec 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye Screening • STOMP • Baking Lessons • Cyber Wellness • River Safari • Soccer Match • Reflections
Jan 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grocery Distribution
Mar 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Carnival • Family Bonding • Learning Through Animation • Environmental Friendly Education • Amazing Race

d. NURTURING MIGHTYKIDS

❖ Looking Beyond the Surface

In the Animation class, the children produced a video entitled, "Don't judge a book by its cover". The story portrays Gabriel, a boy who is overweight and often seen snoozing away, thus earning the jeers of his friends as being "fat and lazy"; until one day they saw him rescuing a kitten in distress. The perception of his friends took a hundred and eighty degrees turn. Their eyes were opened to see the compassionate side of Gabriel and Gabriel was applauded and hailed as a "hero".

This video so aptly reflects the kind of mindset we are to have in social work. Often times we have to enter into the child's world to empathise with the emotional turmoil and adverse effects of a dysfunctional family environment. Indeed, don't judge a child by his or her external appearance or behaviour. The root cause of rebellious behaviour could be due to some past emotional hurts not dealt with. The child could be a victim of circumstances that are beyond his control.

We are here to lend a helping hand to pull the child up and walk the journey of recovery with him.

❖ Affirmation with Positive Reinforcement

Jack, 12 years old, grew up in a single-parent home together with his 2 other siblings and frail grandparents, staying in a one room, one hall rental flat. Being the sole provider for the household of six, his divorced mother worked long hours in a restaurant.



Diagnosed as a ADHD child by his school counsellor, Jack has short attention span, is easily distracted and is difficult to engage. Emotionally he bears the scars of hurt and anger at being abandoned by his father. He is easily provoked and flares up at the slightest sense of injustice.

During mentoring sessions, our staff helped Jack to process his emotions. He responded well to our therapeutic approach and became more open to share his coping methods in managing his anger and disappointments. The StarKid award gave Jack the motivation to rekindle an interest in reading, concentrate on his studies, and be able to complete an assigned task and carry out his responsibilities dutifully.

At MightyKFC we celebrate every small step of improvement that a child makes. Jack's self-esteem was greatly boosted when he was selected as StarKid of the month. His school teacher happened to drop by our centre and saw the photo of Jack receiving his Starkid award. She turned to him and affirmed, "Jack, you have it in you; You can do it if you try."

Similarly, there are so many children like Jack whose potential and intrinsic values are waiting to be discovered and realised through proper guidance and mentoring.

❖ Journeying from Despair to Hope



Andy, first came to MightyKFC when he was 10. He was a quiet and shy boy having just lost his mother to cancer during the period of his attendance at our centre. In the midst of his grief, he often felt sad and lonely, crying whenever he thought of his mother.

His father works as a lorry driver for a construction company and would leave for work before Andy wakes up. Due to his hectic work schedule, he was unable to be around whenever Andy returns home from school.

Each day for Andy, was often filled with loneliness and despair due to the lack of friends. Here at MightyKFC, he found a place of refuge and comfort, a conducive home environment where he was fed and had lots of fun with new-found friends.

Andy previously could not get along well with the other children in the centre and often reacted in rage uncontrollably when provoked, getting into fights with them. He would also turn to self-harm as well as hitting himself on the head whenever he was in a rage. He hated reading, homework and anything that was academic related. Due to his struggles, he believed that he was an underachiever, not having the ability to excel in his studies.

Under the nurturing and holistic care of the staff at MightyKFC, Andy learnt to take control of his emotions and be responsible for his actions and behaviour. He has also grown to be academically more inclined and has undertaken the role of being a big brother to the younger kids, assisting the staff in the process.

The Andy of today reflects a very different disposition to that of the former. He is cheerful and respectful. Even his school counsellor noticed the improvement in Andy's socio-emotional well-being.

Andy shared his appreciation of our help saying, "Coming to MightyKFC has made a positive difference in my life! With the patient coaching and loving encouragement from the staff and friends at MightyKFC, I have improved in my studies and am no longer the lonely and angry person I used to be."

❖ **Motivating Mighty Minds**

One of the concerns of parents is the poor academic performance of their children which they are unable to help due to their own limited literacy level. Student volunteers from NYGH provided weekly academic coaching and motivate them to study hard for a brighter future and to break out of the poverty cycle.



The youths are guided on personal effectiveness and taught to set SMART goals. They are encouraged to build resilience, stay focus and excel.

Character building and values impartation are learnt through mentoring and social activities.



❖ **Using Mighty Hands**



Creative arts including balloon sculpting are used as a way of therapeutic expression to meet the physical, social and emotional needs of the children.



More than just fun with rhythm and beats, music enables them to express their feelings and enhances their audio and movement coordination skills. Getting the children to do the mural painting on the Café wall instills a sense of belonging at the centre.



❖ Imparting Lifeskills



Visual and digital art is another lifeskill imparted to 8 MightyKFC children who signed up to make three SG50 short films, beginning with script writing, directing and acting out the story. They also learn about lighting in production, and how to handle the camera for shooting the video, editing and putting in background music. It was an empowering experience of learning from professionals as well as relating socially and teamworking with 9 other children from across LCSS's programs.

Such invaluable experience builds up the children in their self-confidence, discipline, teamwork, creativity and determination as well as learning from peers. Parents were invited to 2 public screening of the short films produced by their children. The children were glowing with pride and a sense of achievement as they went forward to receive their awards amidst enthusiastic clapping from the audience.

e. STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



TO MUM WITH LOVE

MightyKFC organized a family bonding event for 16 families covering 32 children in collaboration with 10 volunteers from NUS. Mother and child switch roles as the mothers get to eat pizzas prepared and baked by their children.



Then mother and child paired off to a treasure hunt looking for heart-shaped tokens which they painted & decorated together. All had fun and enjoyed themselves. Prizes were awarded to 3 unique designs. Each family also brought home a bag of groceries, sponsored by SLNG.



f. CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY



Besides reaching out to empower the disadvantaged children, our MightyKFC program also serves as a platform for volunteerism. In our Community Day, we are glad to create opportunities for 14 organisations comprising 104 volunteers from different walks of life to come together to bring joy to another community.

It was really heart-warming to see so many families coming down for this community carnival to have fun, play and laugh together. Everyone from child to grandparents had a great time together. What a fantastic sense of community spirit as more than 300 people gather together at our MightyKFC centre to interact with one another.

g. VALUED SUPPORTING PARTNERS

MightyKFC has strong partnership and collaboration with schools and corporations. 40 students from NYGH did their service learning project at our centre for 7 months. Their eyes were opened to see the struggles and real needs of the less privileged. They were very much enriched from befriending and interacting with our latchkey children from diverse background.



Family Bonding with Singapore Polytechnic



Scaling the heights with Eastspring Investments



Ice-skating with SLNG



Environmental friendly with SP LEO Club

1.3.3 EDUGROW FOR BRIGHTER TOMORROWS



Providing holistic support to children from low-income families in Marine Parade

“Underprivileged children can be weighed down by adversities in life, despite their innate qualities and strengths. I hope, through EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows, to foster a caring community in Marine Parade who will mentor and enable these children to maximise their potential and excel.”

Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong
Patron and Adviser to WeCare@MarineParade

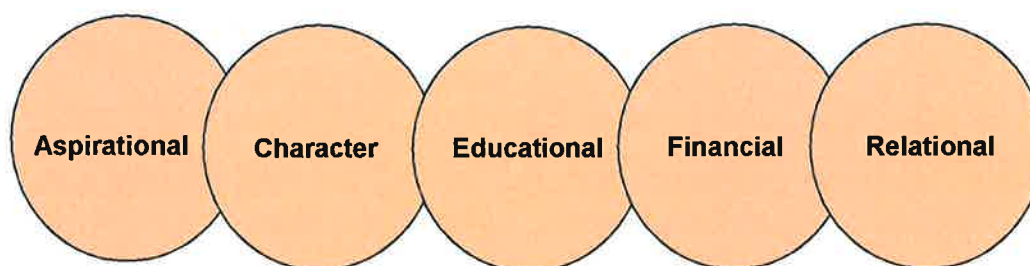
a. Summary

Intergenerational transmission of poverty can result in pronounced deficits of various developmental resources, in turn perpetuating their very cause – poverty itself. To break this mutually reinforcing cycle and reverse the decline of social mobility in Singapore, there exists a need to grow the aspirational, character, educational, financial, and relational capital of the vulnerable children in our midst.

Since 2015, Life Community Services Society (LCSS) embarked on its fifth programme, EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows (EduGrow). The programme focuses on developing children from lower income families in Marine Parade, supporting them holistically and giving them a leg up in life.

b. Programme Pillars

EduGrow adopts a holistic, wide-ranging approach to tackling the challenge of social mobility. In addition to activities and workshops, it is at its core relational – i.e. community mentors working in close partnership with the children and their families to improve five key capital domains:



Pillars	Activities
Strengthening Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspirational Visits to Industries and Sharing • Community Mentorship • Group Academic Coaching • Interests and Lifeskills Workshop
Strengthening Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting and Financial Values Workshops • Family Bonding Activities
Financial and In-Kind Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discretionary Cash Transfers • Nutrition-Related Food Products

c. Partnering with WeCare@MarineParade

EduGrow is a collaborative effort between LCSS and WeCare@MarineParade (WeCare), a community enabling network that aims to help vulnerable residents in Marine Parade through community action and partnerships.

As part of the collaboration, WeCare contributed its extensive familiarity with the Marine Parade district, as well as its existing relationships with various community agencies, to identify vulnerable children for the programme, connect them with complementary support services, and provide suitable venues for regular activities. It also took on the role of programme developer for the children.

LCSS contributed its expertise in volunteer management to recruit, train, and support the community mentors, more details in section (d) below. In addition to supporting the programme participants in the various activities, it also served as the coordinating node for mentoring sessions and for the channelling of ongoing feedback.

d. Partnering with the Community

Community Mentors

Community Mentors are key to the children's success in the programme. 40 mentors were recruited and trained to journey with the children and their families through a supportive relationship, reinforce learnings from the various programme activities, and contribute to the ongoing development of the programme.

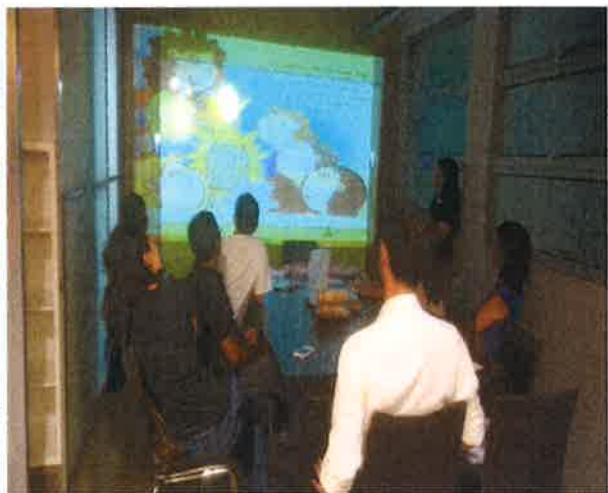
Recruitment & Selection: Community Mentors come from all walks of life and were recruited through a Mentors' Conversation and roadshows in Marine Parade. They were selected based on suitability after meeting with the staff. An Orientation and Foundation Programme (OFP) was designed to better prepare and equip mentors with practical skills and knowledge for the start of their mentoring journey.

Matching: LCSS and WeCare work closely with the families and Community Mentors to ensure, as far as is possible, goodness of fit between mentors and mentees.

Support & Development: Quarterly Mentor Coaching Sessions are conducted to support and develop mentors in their mentoring role. Topics covered include child development. To ensure delivery of targeted and effective coaching programmes, as well as identify further development needs, mentors and staff practise a culture of open and ongoing feedback.



Coaching Session on Child Development



Volunteers' Training for Financial Values Workshop

e. Programme Partners

EduGrow has also worked with the following individuals and organisations for the provision of supporting activities:

Name	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Alice-Lee Tok, Author / Family Consultant / Training Specialist / Counsellor Children and Family Education 	Community Mentor Coaching Sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Education Advocates 	Group Academic Coaching
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PastaMania • Playeum Ltd 	Aspirational Visits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Achievement Singapore • Mr James Chia, Co-founder & CEO, Innervative (also a Community Mentor) 	Financial Values Workshops
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Coders 	Interests and Lifeskills Workshop



Little Coders Workshop

f. Client Profile

The pilot run saw EduGrow reaching out to 28 pre-school and primary school children from across 24 lower income families in Marine Parade. They were identified based on a range of criteria, including household income and willingness to actively participate.



g. Outcomes

As the pilot run of EduGrow is currently ongoing, no major outcomes have yet been ascertained. Qualitative, ongoing feedback from mentors indicates high levels of engagement and positivity in the mentoring relationships. Feedback from families also indicates high levels of receptiveness and appreciation toward the programme.

Some problematic areas include irregular attendance for Group Academic Coaching, as well as the perennial challenge of effective mentor-mentee matching and scheduling of mentoring sessions.

At the end of the pilot run, a careful and thorough study will be conducted to evaluate the success of the programme in meeting its objectives, as well as identify areas and solutions for further improvement.

h. The Way Forward

EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows will begin as a three-year pilot project (between 2015 and 2018) for lower income families in Marine Parade. If successful, it will evolve into an eight-year programme replicable in other districts in Singapore.

The EduGrow team has already begun thinking about the next phase of the programme's development. The current partnership arrangement between LCSS and WeCare looks set to continue as a means of tapping on both organisations' respective strengths and expertise in service of the Marine Parade district.

For EduGrow to be truly impactful requires a combination of reach and quality. The ability of the programme to appeal to greater numbers of lower income families, along with its ability to attract high quality volunteer mentors, are two critical factors for its longer-term future.

Should the EduGrow pilot prove successful, the team will also need to think carefully about expanding and adapting the programme to other vulnerable districts across Singapore. This will require a strong network of community partners, each based in and possessing a good knowledge of particular regions and demographics, able to mobilise ground support and capable of implementing the various programme pillars in timely and effective ways.

1.3.4 LIFE STUDENT CARE



a. Centre Enrolment as at 31st March 2016

Life Student Care (LSC) reaches out to primary school children in the community regardless of race, language or religion by rendering affordable quality before and after school student care services.

As at 31st March 2016, there is a total enrolment of 381 students from the 4 Centres, an increase of 2% from last year.

b. Report of Activities Conducted

Month	Activities
April – July 2015 (4-month program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentorship and guidance in developing speaking skills
April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosted MP Heng Chee How visit to centre• Music and games session• Good Friday celebrations
May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ice-breaker, violin performance and song• Active, Beautiful and Clean Waters Learning Trail• Games, sing-along, balloon sculpturing and interaction with children• Maths Tuition for 15 (fifteen) P3 children and 2 (two) P2 children
June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English Enrichment classes with Grammar focus• Public speaking session• Dental Talk• Educational trip to National Orchid Garden• River Safari outing• Fun and games by alumni children• Make cards for fathers, games and dancing• Bus Molly by NLB• Fun outing at Human Experience

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Immersion programme • Movie screening with positive character traits • SEA Aquarium outing
July 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts and Crafts, conservation of water and games • Energy conversion workshop • Build a Dragon Lego Playground • Tuition for 4 (four) P4 children
August 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Challenge Carnival • Interactive games such as musical chair and freeze. • National Day Preview at Floating Platform • More Than Words programme speech and drama lessons • Open House • Staff Training
September 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use recycled paper, be environmental friendly and games • Learn through play with Lego • Tuition by ex-student • Bollywood veggies educational trip and lantern festival competition • Teacher's Day Celebrations • More Than Words programme performance
October 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Day Celebrations – chocolate party with goodie bags and team challenge prizes • Learn through play with Lego • Creative learning through digital art using tablets
November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House • Orientation for parents • Indoor and outdoor games with goodie bags and cookies • SG50 Film education and production Gala premiere • Stop motion animation workshops • Digital photography workshops
December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended ASEAN Paralympic games at Sports Hub • Christmas celebrations and gifts • Cyclical Maintenance • Badminton games with games and lunch • Visit to supermarket cum making sandwich and fruit salad

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Charity Carnival at Tabernacle of Christ • Amazing race and fun games at Singapore Polytechnic • English Immersion Programme
January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrichment Day Camp: Candy making and origami, and learning dance steps
February 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Voice” oratory confidence workshop • 20th anniversary staff gathering
March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons on how to use computer and Powerpoint • Workshops on working together, decision-making and preparing for work • Song performance of “He Raise Me Up” • Awareness talk on elderly issues, eg dementia • Drama workshop for Teachers

c. Benevolent Expense Recipients

A total of \$4,755 has been disbursed to 31 needy students on top of ComCare’s subsidies given to lower income families at our 4 Student Care Centres.

d. ICU Programme

We supported 3 children from Life Student Care under this programme for the period March to December. Out of the 3 children, 1 Primary 6 child has made progress in their academic studies under the 1 on 1 tutorship of a tutor coach. The other 2 children started later around Aug, hence results were not visible. From February to March, we supported 3 at-risk children to keep them engaged at the Centre.

e. Intern Counsellors

Two intern counsellors were recruited to support the children. Our counsellor has counselled an average of 14 children per month from January to April 2015. Another counsellor has counselled an average of 5 children per month from September 2015 to March 2016.

f. Programme

Our mission in LSC is to provide quality student care services to primary school children by focusing on the total development of the child in a safe and caring environment. At LSC, we endeavour to give the children a holistic "SPICES" programme with activities focusing on the **S**ocial, **P**hysical, **I**ntellectual, **C**reative, **E**motional and **S**piritual (moral) aspects of well-being.

g. LSC Highlights for Reporting Year

- **Appreciation feedback from parents of our LSC children**

Obtained good Coaching from teacher

I am happy that I chose Life Student Care, and the service provided is good. I would like to express my gratitude to Teacher Sarah, who coaches my daughter. Teacher Sarah does a good job...is a friendly and responsible teacher. ...she gives me advice and ideas on how to guide and discipline my child at home. I am very grateful for what she has done and want to let her know that I really appreciate her.

Love, Care and Guidance by teacher

I would like to express my happiness that my son goes to a safe place after his school time, especially under the guidance of Teacher Sarah. Teacher Sarah had been putting her best effort to guide my son in terms of academic, attitude, etc. It is hard being working parents and I know when we cannot be home with our son, Life Student Care is the next best thing.

Improvement in Studies and Happy at the centre

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the staff, especially Ms Alison Ang for her unwavering dedication taking care and teaching my son. Have seen improvements in my son's studies recently. And he is very happy being in the Centre. I too am very pleased... I appreciate all the Centre and staff have done.

Care and Patience by teacher makes a Cheerful child

For the last twelve months, we notice improvement in our son's behaviour and academic. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and teachers for their full support and care, especially teacher Alison and Ms Zhang's care and patience towards him. He has become more cheerful and happier at the centre... Thank you for all you do.

- **Teacher's Day Celebrations**

Life Community celebrated Teacher's Day across all 6 centres for the first time. Staff were treated to a sumptuous dinner. It was an enjoyable evening with beautiful music from instrumental performances by some staff and edifying testimonies of how staff overcome challenging moments at work.



- **Teachers' Reflections**

- **April Ng** shared how she was able to overcome the initial challenge of the work at LSC. She was glad she has touched the lives of the children, and the touching messages from the children made her want to stay on, and she really loves her job very much.



- **Joeann Yeo** shared how she was led to LSC. She was glad to be a teacher and the children actually taught her to be patient and to love. She exhorted the teachers in the awesome role of nurturing the next generation.



- **Sarah Vadivelu Kaliaamma** shared how she was led to LSC when she had no experience at all. With God's help, she learnt how to handle the children, and to realise that when she showed love more than education, the children came to her with their problems and she has become more than a teacher to them. She exhorted the teachers that whatever difficulties we face at the Centres, we will overcome because we are bringing in the future generation of "Isaacs and Joshuas".



- **Our Partnerships with the Community**



We are grateful to the tremendous effort by Tabernacle of Christ to support the cause of Life Community. A community Christmas charity carnival cum fund raising was held on 19 December 2015. An amount of \$63,800 was raised.

- **Showcase performance in September**

Under the More Than Words programme by the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, trainers from ACTs of Life taught 46 children for 4 weeks in speech and drama. The children were given a confidence boosting opportunity to perform on stage at ACS (International) on 10 September.



- **SG50 Film-making workshop in November**



Two children from low income families completed the SG50 Film Education and Production program under the SG50: “Hopes & Dreams: Our Singapore Youths” Project. They learnt to work in teams and put their talents to create their own movies. A gala premiere was hosted for

them to showcase these films at Kallang Leisure Park Filmgarde Cineplex on 26 November, and was graced by the Guest-of-Honour from Noel Gifts International.

- **Christmas programme for parents at Hougang Centre**



A Christmas program was put up with caroling and drama by the children, and parents were invited to the celebrations. 22 parents turned up to watch and support their children who were performing.

- **You Raise Me Up Performance**

8 children were selected to perform a song item “You Raise Me Up” during our Life Community 20th Anniversary Thanksgiving. They practised hard under the guidance of our staff and had the opportunity to discover their talents, even as they demonstrated the heart of giving back to the community.



1.4 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1.4.1 Key Management Remuneration

Number of staff in the following remuneration band:

	2016	2015
\$100,001 to \$150,000	1	1

1.4.2 Related Party Transactions

A related party includes the members of the Executive Council and key management of the Society. It also includes an entity or person that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common or joint control with these persons. During the year the following related party transactions were made:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
	S\$	S\$
With a related party		
Storage	9,600	9,600
Other Fees	1,200	1,200
Tax deductible donations received	69,289	79,760
With members of the Executive Council		
Tax deductible donations received	25,912	30,781

1.4.3 Reserves Policy

The Society's Reserves Policy is to retain not more than 5 years of its net annual operating expenditure.

	2016	Restated 2015	Increase / (Decrease)
	S\$	S\$	
Unrestricted Income Funds	4,308,754	3,475,177	24%
Restricted Funds:			
Friends of Children Fund	-	(46,851)	
Friends of Youth Fund	163,409	-	
Life Student Care Benevolent Fund	11,608	9,263	
MightyKids, Families & Community Fund	-	-	
EduGrow Fund	-	-	
Fair Value Reserve	16,064	-	
TOTAL RESERVES	4,499,835	3,437,589	31%

1.4.3 Reserves Policy

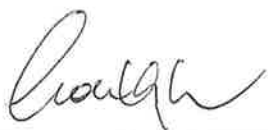
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Net Annual Operating Expenditure	\$1,432,381	\$1,302,956
Ratio of Reserves to		
Net Annual Operating Expenditure	3.14	2.64

1.4.4 Management of Conflict of Interest

There is no paid staff on the Board of the Society. Board members are required to disclose to the Board the following:-

- i) Any interest that he may have, whether directly or indirectly, in any contracts or business transactions of whatever nature that the Society may enter into or in any organizations that the Society has dealings with or is considering dealing with (whether as a joint venture partner or otherwise); and
- ii) Any personal interest accruing to him as one of the Company's supplier, user of services or beneficiary.

The affected board member may not vote on the issue that was the subject matter of the disclosure nor participate in discussions relating to the same save that he may provide explanation or clarification of his interest in the said issue if this should be required by the Board. The minutes of this particular meeting will clearly document the disclosure made as well as the basis for arriving at the final decision in relation to the issue at stake.



Goh Kng Yan
Chairman



Gilbert Tan Yip Wei
Honorary Treasurer

Date: 24th June 2016