



...to live and leave a legacy



LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY
2016/2017
Annual Report

LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY

Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March 2017

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
ROS Registration Number	:	ROS 106/1996WEL
Unique Entity Number	:	S96SS0100H
Registered Address	:	5 Stadium Walk #04-04/07 Kallang Leisure Park Singapore 397693
Board Members	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mr Nicholas Goh Cher Shuie, Chairman2. Mr. Shaun Tan Zhonghao, Vice Chairman3. Mr Seow Kiat Wang, Secretary4. Dr Gilbert Tan Yip Wei, Treasurer5. Mr Goh Kng Yan, Asst Treasurer, Emeritus Chairman6. Dr Tan Kok Beng, Member
Bankers	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Maybank2. Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation3. Standard Chartered Bank4. The Development Bank of Singapore5. United Overseas Bank
Auditor	:	Baker Tilly TFW LLP

1996 – 2017

21 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

❖ **Friends of Children**

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

❖ **Friends of Youth**

To befriend and mentor youths (12-19 years old) with parent/s presently/formerly incarcerated through Social, Physical, Relational, Emotional, Academic and Dollars (S.P.R.E.A.D) intervention

❖ **Life Student Care**

Reaching out to primary school children in the community heartlands by providing quality student care services.

❖ **MightyKids, Families & Community**

To affirm and nurture community kids to live an empowered life.

❖ **EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows**

To strengthen social mobility of children low income families by adopting a relational, approach where community mentors are match to the children, supporting their aspirational, character, educational, financial and relational growth. This is a joint project with WeCare@Marine Parade.



Chairman's Message

Another year passed us by so swiftly, and I am pleased to say that many lives have been blessed by God through Life Community as we obey the call of God to reach out and touch the lives of the children and families under our care.

Recent Economic outlook for Singapore has signalled some headwinds and the economic drag could spill over from 2016-17 to the coming year. Looking ahead, we will have new challenges, but I believe that God will be faithful to us, just as how He has been faithful to our work for the past 21 years. God is indeed the Captain of our Board and of all of us here at Life Community, as long as we stay in His ship and take direction from the Lord, I envision that He will use Life Community to do great and exciting things in the coming year!

During our Board Retreat Strategy Development Workshop on 25 April 2017 we have identified the top goals for 2017 to 2020: (i) Growth of Life Student Care, (ii) Enhancement for Friends of Children and Youth, (iii) Launch KidSTART, (iv) Review MightyKids, Families & Community and EduGrow Programmes, and (v) Board Rejuvenation. We will work towards these goals, continue to give thanks and enjoy the wonderful blessings, where these blessings will flow outwards to the community. We will connect, collaborate and communicate better with other like-minded people, volunteers and partner agencies to better our outreach and enhance the services to those in need.

God has been revealing himself time and time again to us, through the work at LCSS, the lives we have been touching and by bringing good people together for the Glory of his kingdom!

I am very thankful for dedicated CEO, Lam Moi Kwai and COO, Joshua Chegne who work hard and well together to steer the organisation forward as well as for all the passionate Management Team, and Staff in helping to accomplish all the stated plans and detailed work.

Our esteemed staff are just like our own family members as they serve their duties with passion and genuine ownership as though Life Community is their own, and we thank God for their contribution and faithfulness!

I am forever grateful to my fellow Board members for their spiritual guidance and leadership. My deep gratitude goes to all donors, sponsors, corporate partners, volunteers and certainly, Management and Staff for all their unwavering support and the tremendous amount of time serving our clients in the community. We appreciate this partnership!

Let us therefore, continue to join hands, hearts and minds; let us march forward together in this community work, as we fix our eyes on God, the author and perfecter of our faith. God bless us all!

Nicholas Goh

CEO's Message

As we take stock of the year that went by (between 1 April 2016 to 31 Mar 2017), we are grateful that LCSS continue to be able to play its part in helping children and families from the disadvantaged background through our 5 core programmes, namely, Friends of Children, Friends of Youth, Mightykids, Families & Community, Life Student Care and EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows. In each of the programmes, we continue to hear of heart-warming stories of how young lives are being touched and nurtured. As you flip the pages of this report, you will find some of these stories which have given us the motivation to keep serving.

With a team of 70 staff serving 1,114 clients comprising 816 children and 298 caregivers, the year also saw a total of 1,008 volunteers who have taken their time and resources to lend a helping hand to those who are in need. Many have been inspired knowing that they are making a difference to build a caring society. A few younger volunteers have shared how they almost gave up their volunteering, because the children just did not seem to appreciate the help given, and were even verbally abused. However they persevered through and saw for themselves how a deprived environment can adversely affect a child's outlook of life. We know there are still many children with "silent cries for help" (see page 31 of report) out there, and our vision is to outreach to them by remaining focused in fulfilling our corporate mission, **To Empower Children and Families through Care and Mentoring.**

We have an increase in the number of activities/events organised in 2016/17 emphasising on good learning outcomes for the children. These are important as they channel the energy of the children in the right direction and equipped them with skills that will last a lifetime. In particular, I like to mention the ukulele lessons and performances of the children both at the Deutsche Bank Christmas Party 2016 and the Association of Consulting Engineers (ACES) 46TH anniversary dinner in March 2017. It is a musical curriculum added to the breadth of our value proposition in our Life Student Care programme. Our children have enjoyed it, and it gave us the impetus to constantly review and make improvements to our programmes.

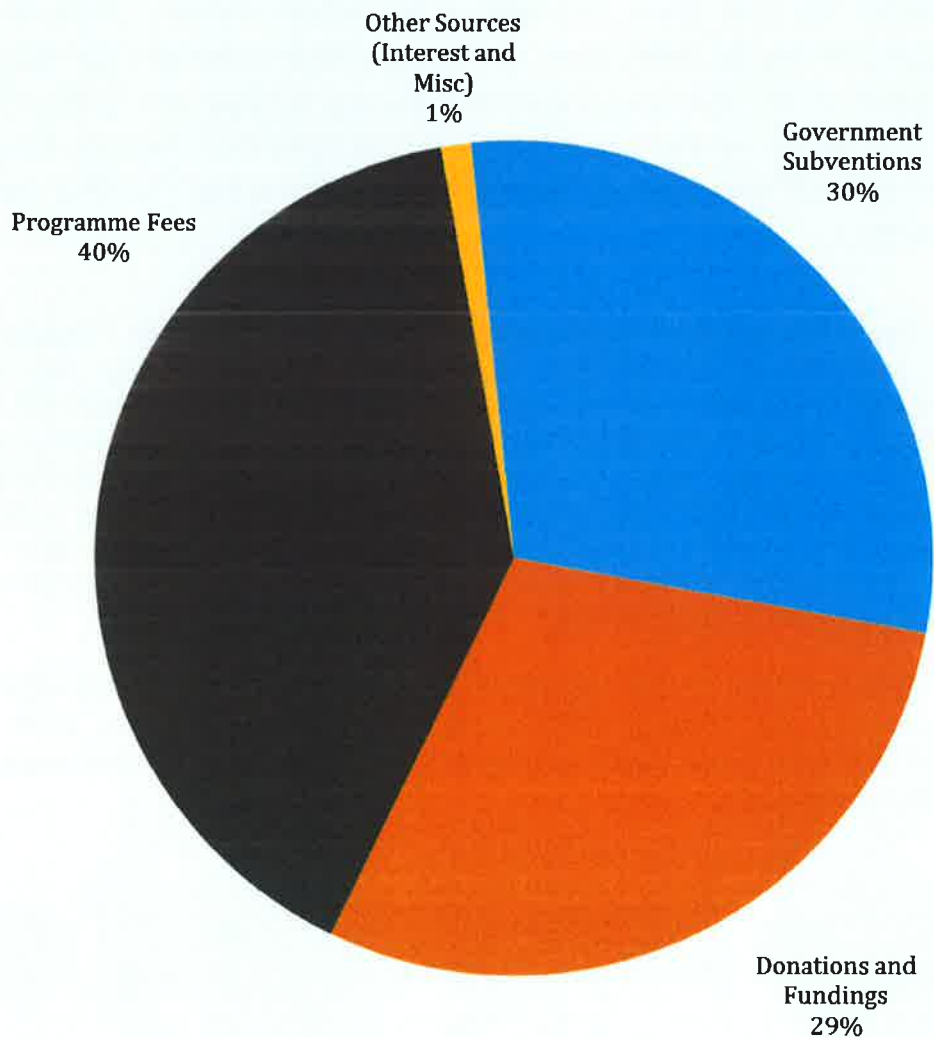
We thank all our donors for their generous support especially those who have signed up as a regular donor under our "Twenty 2000" project launched in November 2016. We continue to believe that little things matter in charity; each one doing their part regardless how big or small the contribution.

Thank you.

Lam Moí Kwai

Sources of Income for FY 16/17

Classification	Amount	Percentage
Government Subventions	\$ 1,012,263.00	30%
Donations and Fundings	\$ 1,005,280.00	29%
Programme Fees	\$ 1,372,000.00	40%
Other Sources (Interest and Misc)	\$ 39,433.00	1%
Total Income	\$ 3,428,976.00	100%



STAFFING AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

Staffing as at 31st March 2017	Headcount
Corporate	8
Life Student Care	48
Friends of Children/Youth	9
MightyKids, Families & Community	4
EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrow	1
	<hr/>
	70
	<hr/>

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

During the year, our level of competence and services to the community was enhanced by sending our staff for the relevant training programmes, which included but not limited to the following:

- Engaging Youths-at risk through Effective Strategies and Techniques
- Certified User for Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength
- WSQ Course on Student Care Centre
- Improving Services Through Programme Evaluation: The Outcome Management Way
- Helping Family Members Cope with Issues Arising from Incarceration of A Loved One
- International Conference Children & Youth Work Practice
- Certificate in Supervision for the Social Services
- Solution Focused Brief Therapy: Introduction
- Solution-Focused Brief Therapy - Working with Children
- Course on Using Art and Creativity to Build Social and Emotional Skills
- Course on International Consortium for Social Development
- Management of Family Violence: Talking to Children & Managing Abuse related Disclosure

Staff Retreat & Teacher's Day Celebrations

After a year of hard work, it's time to take a break. We had a fun day at Civil Service Club @ Changi. We also celebrated Life Community's 20th anniversary together with the staff during lunch as well as a birthday cake in the evening's BBQ. The



human capital of the any organisation is of utmost importance. The pictures tell it all. Staff used their thumb print to create an olive tree, signifying unity under one family. A special workshop was conducted to teach the staff a few tricks to engage the children. All the staff from the LSCs were gamed enough to perform skits and songs in the evening. It was a beautiful day with lots of laughter and team bonding!



*“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
- Helen Keller*

All fun things we do together @ staff retreat



We kicked off the day with praise and worship



And now some hands-on to learn some magic tricks

The Happy Meridians Team posing for the camera! Say Cheese (rt)



A seafood lunch and vouchers treat for all your hardwork (below)



FRIENDS OF CHILDREN & YOUTH



A project by Life Community Services Society

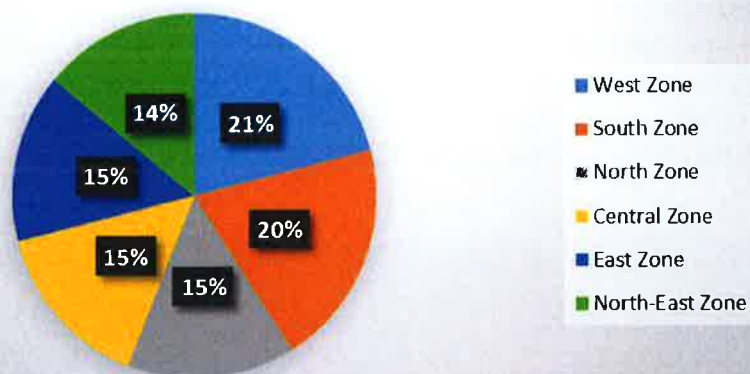


A project by Life Community Services Society

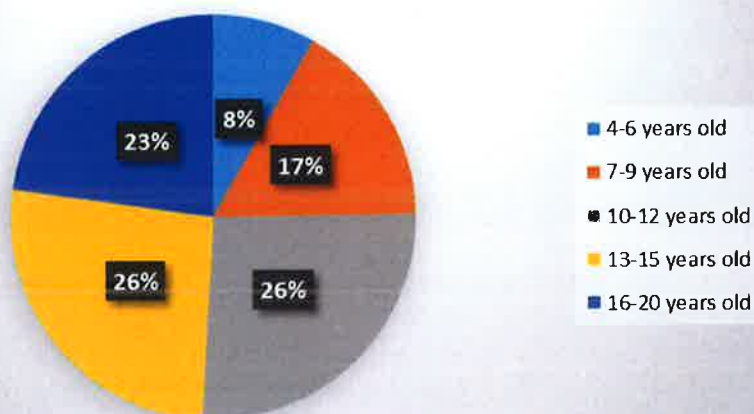
Our Clients' Profile

Direct Clients									
<p style="text-align: center;">Children & Youth</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Chinese: 19% Malays: 77% Indians: 11% </p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Chinese</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malay</td> <td>188</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indians</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>267</td> </tr> </table>	Chinese	50	Malay	188	Indians	29	Total	267
	Chinese	50							
	Malay	188							
	Indians	29							
	Total	267							
Indirect Clients – caregivers & families	267								
TOTAL CLIENTS	534								
Age range	5-19 years old								
Gender	Male - 55%, Female - 45%								
Districts	Island-wide								
Type of Housing	Mainly from rented / owned 1 room – 4 rooms								
Special	Children & Boy Home and Foster Parent								

Distribution of FOCY Clients by Geographical locations



Distributions of FOCY Clients by Age



Incarcerated Parent's Profile

The majority of our clients' parents as at the end of March 2017 had been convicted of either drug related offences, secret society/gang activities, illegal money lending, sex related offences and/or petty crimes like theft and robbery. They were referred to us by various parties including Family Resource Centre – Changi Prison, NUH, FSCs, SACA, Schools and other Social Service Organisations. Whilst most of clients' parents are still serving their time in prison, some of them might have been released from prison but would have been subjected to various conditions i.e. Home Tagging Scheme and others.

Volunteers Profile

As of 31 March 2017, there were 125 volunteers, comprised of tertiary students and working professionals, either single or married, who had signed up to be Children's Befriender, Ad-hoc Volunteers, Tutors, and/or Event Committee Volunteers.

Training and Appreciation

All new volunteers must attend a 2-hour 'Learn & Share' (L&S) session prior to any volunteering work. In this session, we share with our potential volunteers on some possible challenges in handling children and the impact of Parental Incarceration. Besides the L&S session, we also organised 3 Befriender Sessions (BS) for all our volunteers during the year with the objective to equip and empower our volunteers. We engage trainers to equip befrienders and support them in their befriending journey with our children. Appreciation lunches/dinners had also been organised for our volunteers.



One of the Befrienders' Sessions held was planned and fully executed by our own FOCY staff members, "Value thru play v2.0". This particular session was to equip the FOCY Befrienders with the objective to impart "values through fun activities, and meaningfully engages our children during their session with the children", which was very well received by those who attended the session.

Monthly Food Ration

Monthly basic food ration packs were distributed to a group of FOCY clients during our monthly home visitation to each family. The food pack comprised items such as Milo, Noodles, Milk, Biscuits, Oil, Rice and other staples. Occasionally, we would also pack some goodies such as chocolates or candies for these children. As of March 2017, a total of 93 families were benefitting from our food ration support.

Events & Outings (FOCY)

Month	Activities
May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-monthly recruitment drive – Learn & Share session • Group tuition for Primary 6 • Dance Interest Group • Art session (Art Therapy Box) at KLP • FOCY Growth Programme
Jun 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Tuition for Primary 6 • Dance Interest Group • Budgeting and Money Management workshop • FOCY Chalet and Barbeque • Fundraising Book fair
Jul 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Tuition for Primary 6 • Dance Interest Group • Bi-monthly recruitment drive – Learn & Share session • Befrienders' training session – "The impact of parental incarceration on Children" conducted by Ms Ang Poh Wah, Trainer at Social Service Institute (SSI)
Aug 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Tuition for Primary 6 • Cookies Making • Dance performance for LCSS' Charity Golf Event • CARE Network through-care lab / children Dance performance • FOCY Growth Programme
Sept 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-monthly recruitment drive – Learn & Share session • Art Therapy session • Group tuition for FOCY children • Pottery Making • FOCY Growth Programme
Oct 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Befrienders' training session – "Values thru play v 2.0" conducted by staff • Group tuition for FOCY children • NTU Educational outing • Children day outing to Tourmaline • Singapore Chinese Orchestra Performance • FOCY Growth Programme
Nov 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-monthly recruitment drive – Learn & Share session • FOCY Growth Programme • FOCY (Youth) year-end party
Dec 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOCY (Children) year-end Party • DB Christmas Bazaar • Christmas activities in KLP
Jan 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance Interest Group • FOCY Growth Programme Kick-off (new enrolment) • Bi-monthly recruitment drive – Learn & Share session
Feb 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance Interest Group • FOCY Growth Programme
Mar 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOCY Growth Programme • FOCY Growth Graduation event • Bi-monthly recruitment drive – Learn & Share session • Thanksgiving & Appreciation Dinner for Event Committee – A cactus with a handwritten note prepared by our children were presented to all committee members.

❖ FOCY's Youth Programme

FOCY Growth & Leadership Programme

The Youth Graduation event on Friday, 17 March 2017 was a success with a total number of 40 guests, which consisted of 21 youth graduands, 11 potential youth for the next batch of growth programme and 8 caregivers. We selected a handful of youths to be involved in different roles such as Event Emcee, PA and certificate presentation. During the ceremony, the youths put up a dance performance for their caregivers. The caregivers were touched by their performance and expressed their sincere gratitude towards our management and staff.



The 18 youths who had completed the Growth programme graduated to the next phase – “Leadership Compass Programme” where we hope to help the youth look at 3 progressive phases including

- (i) Leading self;
- (ii) Leading with others;
- (iii) Leading others.

Each level has the objective to develop leadership qualities progressively from the previous phase, in the following areas of focus:

- (1) Moral literacy: this includes both having the Moral knowledge and the ability to have Moral reasoning;
- (2) Character Strength: where one will be able to stand firm in his/her moral standards; and
- (3) Practical Wisdom: the ability to discern and apply the moral practice in the right manner at the right situation.

We also appointed a new partner for the 2nd run of Growth programme.

Year-End FOC Christmas Party – “With you, I found Light”

95 children, 60 volunteers, attended our annual Friends of Children Christmas party on Saturday, 3 December 2016 at Kembangan Community Centre.

Our theme for the year end party was “With you, I found light”. “You” represented ‘your’ family members, friends, teachers, uncles and aunties from LCSS who would care about ‘you’ and help ‘you’ to find “Light”. “Light” also represents hope, purpose and success. We believe that through our guidance and mentoring, our children would find light in their life and bring light to someone else too.

Year-End FOY Christmas Party – at 5 Little Monkeys Cafe



Traditionally the FOY had their Christmas celebration together with FOC. We decided to venture into something more chic for the youth after hearing their feedback. We received help from the IFGF Fellowship to tailor an event towards the interest of our youth. We even had a celebrity emcee, Ethan Ang who brought the Christmas celebration to a new high together with a live Band, lucky draw and table games. It was also an inspiring session with the youth

sharing their journeys. The youth also had a chance to hear about the reason for the Christmas season.

Activity Centre in Kallang Leisure Park (KLP)



The Activity Centre was regularly used for our on-going Dance Interest Group. Additionally, the centre was also utilised for the Growth and Leadership programmes on Saturdays. Holiday events in collaboration with our Corporate Partners and Training Workshops for recruitment and equipping staff and volunteers were also held the Activity Centre at Kallang Leisure Park.

Friends of Children & Youth Stories

Life, Lifted Up!

Born into a family of 6 siblings with an abusive, drug-laden father, Kenny* was put in a more than unfavorable position to do well in his studies. His failing grades in the report card were telling.

The family situation took a turn for the worse. His father started consuming drugs and even had drugs in the house. He was also physically abusive towards Kenny's mother. Kenny bore witness to this and would have intervened if his mother had not stopped him. He also found out that his father was having an affair. Considering the situation, the emotion stress that a person had to deal with would be huge, what more for 12-year-old Kenny who at the same time had to face the pressure of taking his PSLE like all other Primary 6 children. All things looked bleak.

Thanks to the Friends of Youth programme, Kenny received timely help to overcome the situation. He attended the weekly tuition classes at Life Community's activity centre at Kallang Leisure Park together with other Primary 6 children.



In addition, he also took part in the Character Development workshops under the Friends of Youth Growth programme. His caseworker met him regularly and motivated him to give his best for his studies. All these helped to strengthen his confidence and built character in him.

This intervention helped paved the way for him to improve and do well. His unwavering commitment and hard work paid off! He managed to pass all his subjects with an aggregate score of 152. It was good enough for Kenny who did much better than what he had expected. He was overjoyed when he got his results. He expressed his gratitude to Life Community. At the annual FOC Christmas Party, he also won an award to affirm his transformation.

* Not their real names

Friends of Children & Youth Stories



Alvin* was barely 8 when he personally witnessed his dad's arrest for drug-related activities and this unfortunate episode has since etched in his memory. The 13-year-old boy was devastated each time his dad was incarcerated. Alvin misses his dad so much that the teen often wakes up in the middle of the night weeping uncontrollably.

Imagine the teen being optimistic when his dad was released in 2014 as he was envisaging a changed person in his dad, only to be disillusioned again as his dad was back on drugs.

Alvin joined Life Community Services Society's Friends of Children and Youth (FOCY) programme since 2010. Through **the care and support** he received from his assigned caseworker and befriender, Alvin has shown improvement in **managing his emotions**. Over the period of rapport building with his caseworker and befriender, Alvin confided in them the challenges he faced each day. Through his active participation in FOCY's character building programmes, Alvin has become **more confident and sociable**.

Dad was re-arrested for the third time in 2017! It nearly broke Alvin again, however, through our caseworker's **support and counseling** to be **more resilient**, Alvin developed a different approach towards his dad's re-incarceration. He no longer displays acrimonious behaviour towards his dad and choose to believe that his father is a good man who just happens to make poor decisions.

Alvin looks forward to be reunited with his dad one day. Life Community continues to provide the emotional and academic support, helping Alvin and his family during his father's present time in jail.

* Not their real names

LIFE STUDENT CARE



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.

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 endeavor 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.

As at 31st March 2017, there is a total enrolment of 391 students from the 4 centres (Hougang, Sengkang, Yishun, Pasir Ris), an increase of 2% from last year.

Benevolent Support / “I Coach U” Programme / Musical Development Programme

A total of \$7,028.63 has been disbursed to 16 needy students on top of ComCare’s subsidies given to lower income families at our 4 Student Care Centres. In addition, 3 children were in 1-1 ICU programme as well as 30 others were given a chance to develop their musical talents through the “More Than Words” programme sponsored by Tan Chin Tuan Foundation.



‘I have learnt to work as a team and not to laugh at others when someone did something wrongly. The performance and the practices have helped me to gain my confidence

The performance and the practices have helped me to gain confidence

‘I have learnt to read the musical notes and play the instruments. I have also learnt how to play the drums without hurting my hands.’

Report of Activities

April 2016

- Meet the Parents Session
- Interactive Games
- Centre Cleaning
- Oratory Confidence Workshop



May 2016

- Parent-child bonding workshop through pizza making
- Drama and Games

June 2016

- Interactive games
- Excursion to Zoo
- Visit to Jurong Bird Park
- Excursion to Underwater World Singapore and Port of Lost Wonders
- More Than Words programme (Percussion)
- Outing to Botanica Gardens
- Interactive games
- English Enrichment lessons
- Outing to River Safari
- Handicrafts for Father's Day
- Interactive games
- Learning through Animation
- Animation workshop – iClone
- Fun with Ukulele



July 2016

- More Than Words programme (Percussion)
- Amazing Race
- English Enrichment lessons
- National Day Preview

August 2016

- More Than Words programme (Percussion)
- Centre Cleanup
- English Enrichment lessons
- Open House



September 2016

- More Than Words programme performance
- Telematch and crafts sessions at NTU
- Sentosa Gives
- English Enrichment lessons
- Kite Flying at Marina Barrage
- Friendship and character building session



October 2016

- Outing to Zoo
- Children's Day Celebrations – chocolate party with goodie bags and team challenge prizes

November 2016 – Mar 2017

- Birthday Cakes
- Dance enrichment

November 2016

- Orientation for parents
- Chocolate Party
- Telematch games



December 2016

- Christmas Luncheon party
- Outreach to Senior Care Centre at Ci Yuan Community Club
- Christmas celebrations and gifts
- Outreach to Bright Hill Evergreen Home
- Ukulele Performance at charity bazaar
- Life skills including Communication skills, appreciate loved ones and hygiene
- Family bonding through rocket making



January 2017

- Chinese New Year Goodies

February 2017

- Tuition
- Character Building on gratefulness
- NLB books donation



March 2017

- Aspiring children to their dreams
- Mural painting
- Entrepreneurship skills
- Ukulele performance at gala dinner
- Tuition
- Painting of Centre
- Meet the Parents Session
- Volunteer Appreciation Bowling and Lunch



LCSS Children Giving Back! Senior Care Centre @ Ci Yuan CC & Bright Hill Evergreen Home

The children brought cheers to the seniors as part of our inter-generational outreach programme. The seniors were treated to performances by the children which include a mime on 'Community and Me', Christmas carols and dance.



Dough With Love

In May 2016, partnership with People's Association to deliver a parent-child bonding session at Mountbatten Community Club. 18 children with 16 parents spent a fun and meaningful time bonding children over pizza-making.

Special Children in Life Student Care

Edwin*, 10 (2017)

He is diagnosed with non-verbal autism. The school and Family Service Centre approached us to enroll him in our Centre, as part of the initiative to integrate the child with normal school children through a structured student care programme. The family is unable to give him the learning environment at home after school. He was enrolled to the Centre in October 2016, and put up for observation for 3 months, with initial guidance provided by the school's social worker and form teacher.

When he first came, there were many things he could not do, such as:

- Fear of entering the toilet to pass urine, so he had to go home at 4.30 pm
- Unable to sit down to have his meals
- Frequent meltdowns, when he would step on the teacher's feet
- Unable to join the children activities (outdoor, dance movements, etc.)

After 3 months, the teachers have learnt to communicate and build up a relationship with Edwin and to handle him when he has a meltdown.

During his time at the Centre, he has made progressive improvements:

- Able to use the toilet to pass urine and motion
- Able to set down to have meals, and not fussy with food
- Able to wash his hair and minimum supervision during bathing time
- Able to fix 12 puzzle cards (in school he could only can fix 5 puzzles)
- Sit for an hour with the children to watch a movie
- Join our music and dance together with the other children
- Play with the children in the playground



Children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder are at high risk of being bullied and left out by their peers. Having the special needs child at the Centre has also benefitted our children at the Centre. It created opportunities with teaching moments to encourage our children to accept others who are different from them, as they have a different learning journey. Thus, it has built up compassion in the Centre's children to accommodate the special needs child.

* Not their real names

Making a difference in the life of a child

John*, 9 (2017)

John was enrolled in the student care in July 2016. He was just transferred from another school and was also adjusting to his third foster home. Hence, he was very unsettled. As each weekend drew near, if the appointment to be with his maternal mother was cancelled, the next few days he would have meltdowns. We worked closely with the school counsellor and foster parents concerning his behaviour.

It was difficult to handle during his meltdowns. His teacher tried both soft and hard approach, but of no avail. He was rude to his peers, and almost everyone.

Early December, the teacher tried using a firm tone, and agreed with him on a reward system. This agreement was also made together with the class. She worked out a chart, and each time he did the right thing he was rewarded with points, with more outdoor play or chose someone to play with him. The teacher encouraged him through correction and affirmation. Whenever he was upset, he would be directed to a designated table or corner to 'cool down' or do 'reflection'.



John's behaviour started to change for the better by February 2017. He started to obey teacher and respect her. There were no more shouting of abusive words, and he started to talk with everyone with eye contact. The measures taken by teacher worked so well that the school teacher and HOD enquired to understand what was the approach she had used.

In her heart to care for the child under her case, the teacher has successfully worked through a reward system, and persevered in trying ways that could bring about a change in the 'troubled' children under her care.

* Not their real names

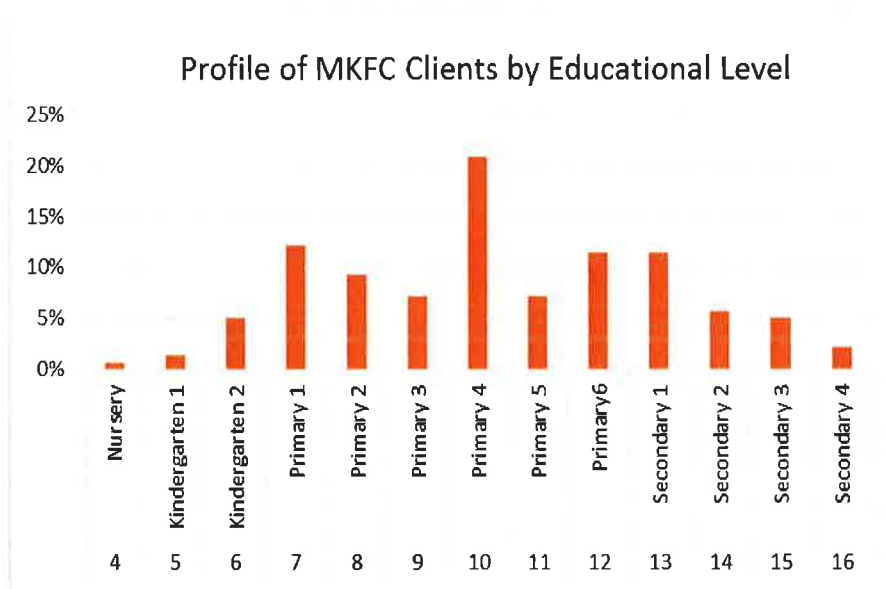
MIGHTYKIDS, FAMILIES & COMMUNITY



A project by Life Community Services Society

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

CLIENTS' PROFILE		
<p style="text-align: center;">Children & Youth</p>	Chinese	71
	Malays	59
	Indians	9
	Total	139
	Indirect Clients (Care Givers)	31
TOTAL CLIENTS	170	
No of volunteers - events & activities	217	
Age range	6 – 19 years old	
Race (Families)	ALL races	
Gender	Male & Female	
Districts	Telok Blangah Estate	



PROVIDING A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

We seek to provide a safe environment for these vulnerable children to share their feelings and struggles. Our approach is to build a therapeutic relationship with the child through play, drawing and using clay moulding as a medium of expression etc. These activities enable us to observe and assess their behaviour for possible areas of presenting concern such as low-self-esteem, anger management, unmet needs or disappointments. We then use a combination of frameworks to determine intervention methods in the child's circumstances. Ongoing mentoring sessions help the children and youths in developing their self-esteem, self-motivation, communication skills, teamwork and problem solving skills.

Improving Literacy Competency



Academic development continues to be one of the needed help and required motivation. We are grateful for the patience and perseverance of the student volunteers who come faithfully week after week, rushing over after their class ended and overcoming their own fatigue to teach our children. Nanyang Girls High School has adopted MightyKFC as part of their Service Learning Project for three consecutive years, patiently guiding and tutoring our children and being there to motivate them through peer mentoring.

Chilling out at MKFC Cafe



After a long day in school, the children are tired and feeling stressed. What better way to relax than to take a refreshing sniff and sip or have a tete-a-tete between buddies.

The aroma of baking chocolate cookies at our MKFC cafe awakens their senses and relaxes their minds. Thanks to student volunteers from the ISS International School, our children get to learn bakery and enjoy delicious tea-breaks.



Lifeskills Development

A variety of activities are organised to meet the differing interests of the children and youths so that their potential can be realised.



Volunteers from Treebox Solutions conducted 4 sessions of the Coder dojo in which the children learned how to create computer games using the Scratch programme. Ten children had fun creating their own Ghostbusters Game.

The children were also taught the basics of financial literacy, learning what it means to earn, save, spend and donate. Each child went home with a savings box, to start putting into practice what they had learnt.



Once a week, we have outdoor sports such as soccer, frisbee, volleyball and badminton games as a healthy diversion from computer addiction and a way of cultivating teamwork skills. Other avenues to channel the boundless energy of the children were kayaking and bowling sponsored by PUB and Singapore Power.

Leadership Development

The youths had a three-day character development training, entitled “WannaBe” This training is geared towards motivating the youths to be more intentional in laying a strong foundation now so as to have more and better options in life. The topics covered are based on the 3Cs of life, namely, CHOICES, CHANGES and CHANCES.



Intergeneration Bonding



MightyKFC kids are given opportunities to consider the needs of others around them, especially to appreciate and respect the elderly. In June 2016, Eastspring brought our kids to the newly opened Edible Garden at Hort Park where they touched, smelt and tasted the different fragrance of spices and plants. They were paired with the elderly from SASCO. They wheeled the elderly on wheelchairs around the garden, learning about organic farming and microgreens seed sowing. Through the terrarium activity, the children had hands-on experience in planting while the elderly utilised their motor skills in potting. They had fun playing bingo games after lunch.

The second intergeneration bonding event was led by SLNG in December 2016. We celebrated the festive joy with singing and playing games; and decorating log cakes which they could bring home to share with their family.



Collaboration

Our Family Bonding Night held on 17 March 2017 was a platform for different stakeholders to combine their skills and resources for the community benefit. It was an event that demonstrates the power of collaboration among staff, beneficiaries, caregivers, donors and government agency.

On the eve of the event, four youth beneficiaries were busy marinating the chicken to be grilled. On the Family Bonding Night, they took their positions at the table, ready to serve the guests. They ensured that everybody had their share before they themselves sat down to eat.

Instead of catering, we empowered 3 mothers by getting them involved; inviting them to cook their speciality for the dinner. They were given a budget and armed with the Giant vouchers from Johnson & Johnson, they excitedly went to the supermarket to buy the necessary ingredients. Our staff provided the transport and delivery services. Nothing can be compared to mum's homecooked food. Their labour of love was acknowledged before the audience. Our staff enthusiastically engaged the children and parents with exciting quizzes and fun games.

The finale was a hip hop dance performed by seven of our beneficiaries. The dance training was sponsored by WECare Arts Fund through Central Singapore CDC. Their proud parents were busy capturing every moment with their handphones. There were smiles all around. The dancers were rewarded with a \$10-Giant voucher each for their four months of practising and perseverance.



bonding and connection for the 16 adults and 29 children gathered at MightyKFC Centre that night.

Every family went home with a bag of groceries sponsored by Johnson & Johnson. There was such a sense of the "Kampong spirit" with everyone digging into the delicious food, chatting happily and 2 toddlers crawling on the floor. It was a blessed time of

EVENTS AND OUTINGS (MKFC)

Month	Activities
Apr 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show & Tell My Art Piece
May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance off – Groove Session
June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Future World Museum • Ukulele training • Terrarium with SASCO elderly
July 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Game Coding
August 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Day • Fun Fair • Family Bonding @ Carnival
September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Literacy • Science Experiments
October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun @ Fidgets • Family Day @ Discovery Centre • Sports Activities • Bowling
November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wannabe Programme • Overnight Camp • Bowling • Project Sunshine
December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip Hop Dance • Bonding with Elderly • Visit to Zoo • Christmas lunch @ SPH • Sports Day • Amazing Race • Visit to Science Centre • Year-end party
January 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip Hop Dance • Art and craft
February 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip Hop Dance • Baking sessions • Amazing Race • Community Tea
March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip Hop Dance • Baking sessions • Kayaking • Family Bonding Night

What is it like to struggle with poverty?

Our volunteer had an encounter with our beneficiary and captured it below:-

“During one of our volunteering sessions, a girl fell and injured her knee. She was in great pain. Fearing that there might be internal injury, we had wanted to call for an ambulance. However, she objected to it strongly and did not want to go to see a doctor. She was very disturbed and agitated when she saw us talking on the handphone. We managed to calm her down and applied some ice on her swollen knee. Through the conversation, I then realised that her family is struggling financially and they had outstanding hospital bills yet to be paid. She was worried that if she goes to the hospital, the authority will chase them for the payment.

That evening, I left with a heavy heart. It really opened my eyes that poverty does exist even in Singapore despite the fact that we are rated as among the world's wealthy nation. These “invisible poor” families in Singapore are finding it tough to survive.

This 10-year-old girl, Jane*, comes from a blended family where both her parents had been divorced and remarried. She stays in a one-room rental flat. Her mother suffers from asthma and migraine, staying at home due to ill health. Her father works as a cleaner and sometimes do odd jobs to earn extra income.

Jane is a regular participant in our drop-in centre for the past 3 years, enjoying free meals, sponsored educational outings, academic coaching and nurturing mentoring sessions. She was one of those who had benefitted from our Coding program, learning how to



create computer games from our volunteers who are experts in this field. Jane was also enrolled into our Hip Hop dance program, training under a professional instructor. As she discovers her dancing talent, her self-esteem and confidence were greatly boosted. She enjoyed it so much that she even taught her mentor the dance steps.

In the earlier years, Jane had problems relating to other children in the centre, often acting out and crying if she did not get her ways. Though small in physical size, she would not back down from a challenge. Other children tend to stay away from her whining and constant complaining. Through our holistic mentoring, Jane has learnt to improve on her social skills, making new friends and sharing things with one another.

* Not their real names

Silent Cry for Help

James'* mother suffered a stroke when he was just a 4-month-old baby. Her speech was slurred and incomprehensible making it very difficult for her to communicate with her son. Her condition worsened through the years and she is now wheel-chair bound. His 63 years old father had to stop work to take care of an ailing wife and a young child; doing the cooking, washing and household chores besides bringing his wife for monthly medical visits.

This sad situation has affected the child's connection with his parents, coping with the occasional temper outburst from his stressed-out father and at the same time distraught at his mother's condition. The tender and compassionate heart of James longs to relieve his parents of their hardship but he could only look on helplessly.

James, now 12 years old, was uncomfortable when we first suggested to visit his home. He did not want us to see his family situation. We were so glad that we gained the trust of the family gradually, and recently we were able to bless them with a new washing machine, an induction cooker and a fan through the generous support of a corporate partner. Recently we replaced their hall lighting to an energy-efficient LED tube to create a brighter conducive atmosphere for James to do his homework. In addition, our staff rendered support to help James get school financial aid and also assisted in the documentation for their application for COMCare renewal.

James represents the many faces of children and youth in the Telok Blangah neighbourhood that we have brought a smile on through our MightyKFC programme. Every child participating in our activity or just chilling out at our centre, **is one less kid off the street**, and a potential to be unfolded. Because our doors are kept open, latchkey kids or children and youth from low income families who may be suffering and crying for help can have the opportunity to receive strength and support from the community.

* Not their real names

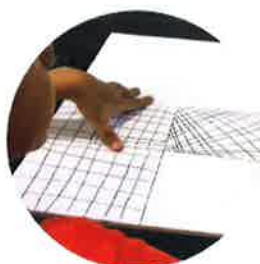
EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows



EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows is a family-centric, early intervention pilot targeted at children from lower-income families residing in Marine Parade. It aims to place the children on more socially mobile paths, by building on their aspirations, character, education, financial values, and relational skills.



EduGrow for Brighter Tomorrows: Activities



Aspirational Visits | Community Mentoring | Group Academic Coaching | Interests & Lifeskills Workshops | Parenting & Financial Values Workshops | Family Bonding Activities

EduGrow Stories



Simon*, 10 (2017)

At the beginning of the year, Simon would always come into the office grumpy, exclaiming he was very hot-tempered “just like my [his] father”. He would also start slamming his stationery whenever he got frustrated. Over the past few months, we have encouraged Simon to use anger management techniques to keep calm whenever he feels disturbed by his friends. With constant reinforcement and support, Simon has successfully learnt to ignore negative comments, and take things in his stride.

Elsa*, 6 (2017)

Like many preschoolers, Elsa was very attached to her parents and siblings, often seen crying before any activities. With the support of her family, Elsa has been involved in many of EduGrow’s activities, continuously enriching her exposure to new experiences. From the timid girl who needed 30 minutes to be coaxed to join activities, Elsa is now better able to regulate her emotions when things do not go her way!



Cherry*, 7 (2016)

As one of the pioneers from EduGrow, Cherry has been with us for over a year. Throughout this time, Cherry has been actively involved in all of EduGrow’s activities. Together with the support from her dedicated mentor, Cherry has grown to care more for her younger brother with special needs, and developed an interest in learning and reading. She has even requested to carve out time to read during her mentoring sessions.

Anna*, 7 (2016)

Since Anna could only communicate with her mother in their Mother Tongue, she could barely make out any English words when we first met last year. She would keep to herself and remain very quiet during activities. In the past year, Anna has grown considerably more confident in public speaking and often asks questions. She has even taught her mother how to speak English!



* Not their real names

EduGrow Stories



Sisters F (2017)

Sisters F (9 and 10) joined EduGrow earlier this year, and would often spend time completing their homework from school at WeCare@MarineParade. Over time, however, it became clear that the children did not like going home. In discussion with their parents, we decided to ensure that the children went home immediately after school unless they had sought explicit permission from their parents.

In response, the children started hanging around the playgrounds till late, claiming that they were afraid to go home. They even resorted to stealing and running away from home. Eventually, we realised that their parents' strained relationship was creating a negative impact on the sisters' perspective of home. As such, their parents also became less motivated to work together with us. Currently, we are involving the children in as many activities as possible, and working through their mentors to build resilience and conscientiousness through meaningful engagements.

Family D (2017)

With a family of 7, Family D struggles financially with parents only taking part-time or ad-hoc jobs. The children often missed school, and tuition classes, while the parents were unresponsive or often called in sick. Their poor attendance in school and tuition has made it difficult to keep an eye out for the family, nor match the children with mentors.

On good days, the parents and children are actively involved in EduGrow's planned activities. On bad days, the parents and children are uncontactable for days. To increase our opportunities in engaging the children, we have been inviting them for all our activities, and paying surprise home visits to the family. We are also working with the family's social worker to see how we can better support the family. Our next step would be to find the right time to match the children with suitable mentors to act as appropriate role models and find more opportunities to engage the children directly.



EduGrow Volunteers



Community mentors are key in providing better outcomes for our children. Since 2016, we have grown a steady pool of over 40 committed mentors who conduct weekly one-to-one mentoring sessions with the children, as well as help out in programme activities. These volunteers were recruited and trained to journey with the children and their families as a trusted friend and role model, reinforce learnings from the various programme activities, and support the children's ongoing development.

I've been a mentor with EduGrow since April 2016 and it has been, and still is, a learning journey. It is heartening to see my mentee grow and develop patience, grit, and determination. When I first met her, she would often lose her temper and give up when she could not achieve the quality of work she wanted (and she's quite a perfectionist with very high standards!). So it was a nice surprise when, a year on, I heard her say quietly to herself, "Beautiful things take time," whilst patiently colouring in a beautiful flower that she drew – each petal a different, carefully chosen colour. I've also helped out at one of the Sports Days organised by EduGrow and found that positive values such as determination, sportsmanship, encouragement of their peers, etc. are inculcated in a fun and engaging way. Overall, I truly believe that engaging children-at-risk at this young age and giving them the extra leg-up to catch-up/keep-up with their peers gives an immeasurable boost to their confidence and helps to develop values and attitudes which will help them later in life.

Ms Nicole Wong, Mentor, Pioneer Batch (2016)



Being a mentor to my mentee has been as simple as spending time with a friend you care for. This journey has been an experience of personal growth, and in being open-minded and sincere. To me, there are so few programmes that offer such opportunity: caring for someone else in society who may not otherwise enter my life, humbly offering guidance, and hoping I play a part with little bits of inspiration to support his eventual lifelong ambitions. Sharing this dream with the EduGrow Team has been amazing. This fulfilment I have received is one that I hope more individuals in Singapore can come to learn of, and love.

Mr Victor Loh, Mentor, Pioneer Batch (2016)



“The more you give, the more you receive”. This saying has never been more true in my mentoring journey with EduGrow. I signed up for EduGrow with the aim of enriching the life of a child in my very own neighborhood. Sometimes, however, life enriches you in pleasantly unexpected ways. I started my mentoring journey in April 2016. An energetic and gregarious boy greeted me at his home, and we had an instant connection. Weeks soon became months, and here I am, into the 2nd year of my mentoring experience. Each 60-minute session is filled with fun, laughter, and vigorous exchange of ideas as we read, play games, draw, and discuss his future dreams.

As I give, I also receive. My mentee’s imagination from his position as a child is unshackled from the realms of reality. When we draw together, he teaches me to see things I don’t see as an adult. He shows me his pet hamsters and patiently explains their family dynamics, and that they are not mere critters. To my dear mentee: It’s been a honour being your mentor. Let’s continue to walk the journey and be enriched by it!

Mr Lee Chong Yin, Mentor, Pioneer Batch (2016)



Working with EduGrow to share my passion and joy in sports with children in my neighbourhood is a privilege. Seeing the smile on their faces after each Play Day, just lightens up my heart. EduGrow Play Day was created with the intention to bring about more positive experiences, build more confidence through the play, and to bring these positive experiences and confidence across every stage of their lives. At each monthly Play Day, the children also prove to be capable of being engaged and focused through the games which can be translated to their everyday life, especially in their studies. It’s such a reward bumping into them in the neighbourhood with their smiles, asking when the next session will be. I believe in this holistic upbringing, where we provide a nurturing environment for children to have fun and pick up values that can be translated to their academics and life.

Ms Eileen Ong, Volunteer and Founder of Play Onz

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Key Management Remuneration	2017	2016
Number of staff in the following remuneration band: \$100,001 to \$160,000	1	1

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>2017</u> S\$		<u>2016</u> S\$
With a related party			
Storage	9,600		9,600
Other Fees	1,200		1,200
Tax deductible donations received	24,383		69,289
With members of the Executive Council			
Tax deductible donations received	15,840		25,912

Reserve Policy

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

	<u>2017</u> S\$	<u>2016</u> S\$	<u>% Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
Unrestricted Funds (Reserves)	4,728,583	4,308,754	10%
Restricted Funds:			
-Friends of Children Fund			
-Friends of Youth Fund	295,396	163,409	
-Life Student Care Benevolent Fund	4,579	11,608	
-MightyKids, Families & Community Fund			
-Fair Value Reserve	25,918	16,064	
TOTAL RESERVES	<u>5,054,476</u>	<u>4,499,835</u>	12%
Net Annual Operating Expenditure	1,512,189	1,432,381	
Ratio of Reserves to Net Annual Operating Expenditure	3.34	3.14	

Management of Conflict of Interest

There is no paid staff on the Board of the Society.

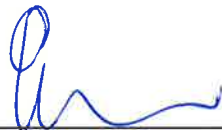
Board members are required to disclose to the Board:

- 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.



Nicholas Goh Cher Shuie
Chairman



Gilbert Tan Yip Wei
Honorary Treasurer

Dated 31 July 2017