

An aerial photograph of a city grid is the background. Overlaid on this are several large, diagonal geometric shapes: a dark blue triangle on the left, a yellow triangle on the right, and a white triangle at the bottom. Diagonal lines in white, yellow, and blue run across the image, creating a dynamic, modern aesthetic.

GOING BEYOND

HOPE OF THE CITY / ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

ABOUT US

HOPE OF THE CITY IS ABOUT GOING BEYOND

BOARD MEMBERS

- Agnes Tai: Director, Great Glory Investment Corporation
- Brett Hilliard: Senior Pastor, Island ECC
- Brian Kusunoki: Former Head of Marketing, World Vision HK
- Carl Gouw: Managing Director, Goldig Investment Group
- Charles Chu: Solicitor, Charles Chu and Kenneth Sit Solicitors
- Sherman Chau: Pastor, Island ECC

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What an exciting 12 months it's been. After several years of wishing, planning and praying, we've finally established a Hope of the City community centre in Sham Shui Po!

The doors opened on July 23, and we're thrilled to see that the Hope Centre has already begun to fulfill the purposes we envisioned for it. We've hosted a briefing for teen campers, a two-day workshop for English teachers, and a get-to-know-you mixer for our community partners in our shared mission of 'Going Beyond' for our community.

Another achievement this year was the launch of a 'Loving the City' series of poverty awareness talks. Throughout 2019, we're inviting stakeholders from NGOs, corporations and churches, along with government policy advisors, to share what they've been doing – and what we all can be doing – to tackle the pressing issues of poverty in Hong Kong.

It's been a high-speed and fruitful year, yet there are many new challenges ahead. Thankfully, having the Hope Centre as a visible, active presence in Sham Shui Po will empower us to do so much more, for so many more.

Let me take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to Island ECC for your enthusiastic financial support for the Hope Centre project, and to all the others who contributed in so many valuable ways. God bless you!



Nelson Yau
Executive Director

2018/ 2019

OVERVIEW

In order for us to achieve the deepest impact in supporting those most in need, Hope of the City has selected specific focus areas in which to engage our volunteers, fund initiatives and dedicate resources. As we work to provide access to opportunities for the underprivileged, we always aim to reflect the needs expressed by those we serve, with an underlying belief in each person's value and potential to succeed.

城市的盼望

156-158

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Hope of the City provides children from low-income households with various forms of academic support. This year, our volunteers contributed 991 hours of English tutoring and homework help to 79 students from Primary 1 to Form 6.



LIFE EDUCATION

We strive to help young people thrive in all areas of life by equipping them with life skills and character values. In 2018-19, we provided a range of character-building programs, leadership camps, sports camps and special interest classes to 721 children and youth.



SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN)

Hope of the City supports low-income families who have children with learning disabilities by sponsoring diagnostic assessments, organizing child-parent workshops and therapy sessions, and providing medication subsidies. This year, 56 SEN children and their parents received support.



HOME VISITS

Regular home visits enable our volunteers to help social workers monitor the health and well-being of families and the elderly. In 2018-19, 275 volunteers made monthly visits to 243 elderly and 51 low-income families, providing emotional, physical and spiritual support.



FAMILY OUTINGS

Hope of the City sponsors regular accompanied outings to local places of interest as a means of breaking down social barriers and promoting family bonding. During the past year, 122 volunteers joined 71 elderly and 266 family members on 7 outings.



FOOD & LIVING AID

In 2018-19, Hope of the City provided 155 families with monthly food vouchers. We also provided St. James Settlement with funding to help keep their Shek Kip Mei foodbank operating, and recruited 361 volunteers to deliver groceries to the elderly.





“IT’S EYE OPENING (AND A LITTLE HEART-BREAKING) TO SEE THE HARDSHIPS THEY FACE.”

JOHN / ACADEMIC SUPPORT VOLUNTEER

With a desire to serve others, John chose to become an English tutor because, after living in Australia for two decades, he wanted to put his English abilities to good use. However, John has come to realize that his role as a tutor is about much more than helping students improve their English.

“The highlight of serving as a tutor is definitely spending time with the students,” John says, “seeing them gradually but surely improving; not merely teaching academics but, more importantly, sharing life experience with them, to motivate them to grow and achieve.”

Each semester, Hope of the City arranges home visits so that tutors can understand their students’ lives better. John has found these visits to be exceptionally worthwhile.

“It’s eye opening (and a little heart-breaking) to see the hardships they face,” John says. “One of my students lives on the top floor of a 6-storey walk-up. Another student lives in a small apartment basically filled with bunk beds – the only way a family of five can all fit. And yet these students attend tutoring with almost perfect attendance.”

“This experience has changed my entire view of English tutoring,” John concludes. Rather than merely helping children achieve better test results, he now sees himself as someone contributing to a valuable skillset that has the potential to open up new opportunities or even enable social mobility.



Hope of the City sponsors 20 after-school English classes with paid tutors in Sham Shui Po every week. In addition, 35 dedicated volunteers provide weekly one-on-one or small group tutoring in the evenings and on Saturdays.



“I REALLY HOPE OUR PERSEVERANCE INSPIRES THE YOUNGER STUDENTS...”

DANNY / LIFE EDUCATION BENEFICIARY

How better to learn teamwork, discipline and commitment than by joining a Dragon Boat team? That was the thinking of Him Sir, a social worker at China Holiness College in Sham Shui Po. He applied for funding from Hope of the City to start the school's first ever Dragon Boat team in 2017, to help students become more positive and engaged.

One of Him Sir's first recruits for the team was Danny, a Form 3 student at the time. Danny impressed him as someone showing team spirit and leadership potential. As it turned out, Danny was the one who recruited most of the other team members from among his former elementary school buddies.

“I never thought I could be part of such a sport,” Danny says, recalling how difficult it was at first. “I really hope our perseverance inspires the younger students in school.”

Apart from the thrill of racing, what Danny loves most about being on the team is the communication and bonding between teammates, who have become fast friends.

“I really appreciate Him Sir spending so much time caring for our lives,” Danny says, “not just academically but also emotionally. He has guided us to open up and be vulnerable sometimes. I can understand others much better now and try to look for ways to support them in the issues they're facing.”



Life Education programs are vital in providing children and youth with opportunities for holistic development. Through our sponsorship of special interest classes, camps, leadership training and music lessons, we aim to help them expand their horizons and develop their potential.



“THE COURAGE AND ENERGY THE PARENTS DISPLAY ... EXEMPLIFIES A LIFE OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.”

TERESA / SEN SUPPORT PARTNER

For over 20 years, Teresa has been committed to supporting children with special education needs (SEN) and their families. In her role as a centre-in-charge with the Heep Hong Society, she is an enthusiastic partner to Hope of the City in providing early assessment and training for SEN children from low-income families.

Growing up with a brother who had severe mental challenges, Teresa remembers being touched by the warmth of their family’s social worker, which inspired her to study social work herself. During her training, she recalls, one of her professors emphasized the importance of early intervention for pre-school special needs children. She has made this her mission ever since.

Teresa works closely with many talented professionals, from psychologists to therapists to dedicated teachers, but she maintains that none of them impress her as much as the clients she serves. The courage and energy the parents display in bringing up their children, regardless of their challenges, exemplifies a life of Faith, Hope and Love.

Twenty years ago, SEN children were often seen as a burden on society, and they and their families faced discrimination. Thankfully, today there is a much stronger focus on maximizing each child’s potential and facilitating inclusion. Teresa dares to entertain big dreams for her young clients; dreams of empowering their families to take them far beyond their current limitations.



There is a severe lack of support for Special Education Needs in Hong Kong. SEN children from low-income families wait up to 3 years for government-financed assessments and therapy. Our goal is to ensure they begin receiving the diagnostic testing and interventions they need right away.



“I WOULD DESCRIBE OUR ELDERLY AS ‘LOVABLE FRIENDS WITH SOME WRINKLES’ ...”

ELAINE / ELDERLY HOME VISIT VOLUNTEER

Elaine has been visiting the same three elderly households in Ngau Tau Kok every month since 2015. Her husband, Dicky, has done so as well, though he visits different households, giving them unique experiences to share with each other afterwards.

When Elaine’s team visits Grandma Wong, they often find her waiting for them in the corridor, eagerly expecting them. “She’ll have a plate of cut fruit prepared for us,” Elaine says. “It’s these simple but sweet moments of companionship that I cherish the most.”

Grandma Ko is equally endearing. As the end of each visit approaches, she always finds something new to do, such as cutting up an orange for them so they’ll stay a little longer. Small gestures like this show how much they enjoy each other’s company and how Grandma Ko longs to spend more time with them.

Six months into the visitations, Elaine and her teammates began to make a habit of praying with the elderly at the end of each visit and, more recently, reading simple Bible stories as well, whenever they are comfortable talking about faith.

“We value these friendships that have blossomed over the years,” Elaine says. “I would describe our elderly as ‘lovable friends with some wrinkles’ because we have now grown so comfortable with sharing our personal struggles in life and encouraging one another.”



Hope of the City is thrilled to see the caring, long-term relationships that have developed through our home visits programs. In 2018-19, our volunteers made 46 monthly visits to low-income families and elderly in Sham Shui Po, Shek Kip Mei, Ngau Tau Kok and North Point.



“...THEY TOO HAVE THE ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE.”

SUYI / FAMILY OUTINGS PARTNER

After more than 12 years as a social worker with the YWCA, Suyi knows how much local day trips can mean to low-income families who seldom leave their neighborhoods. That's why she was so eager to work with Hope of the City in coordinating a truly memorable July Picnic Outing for the families who participate in our Family Home Visits program in Sham Shui Po.

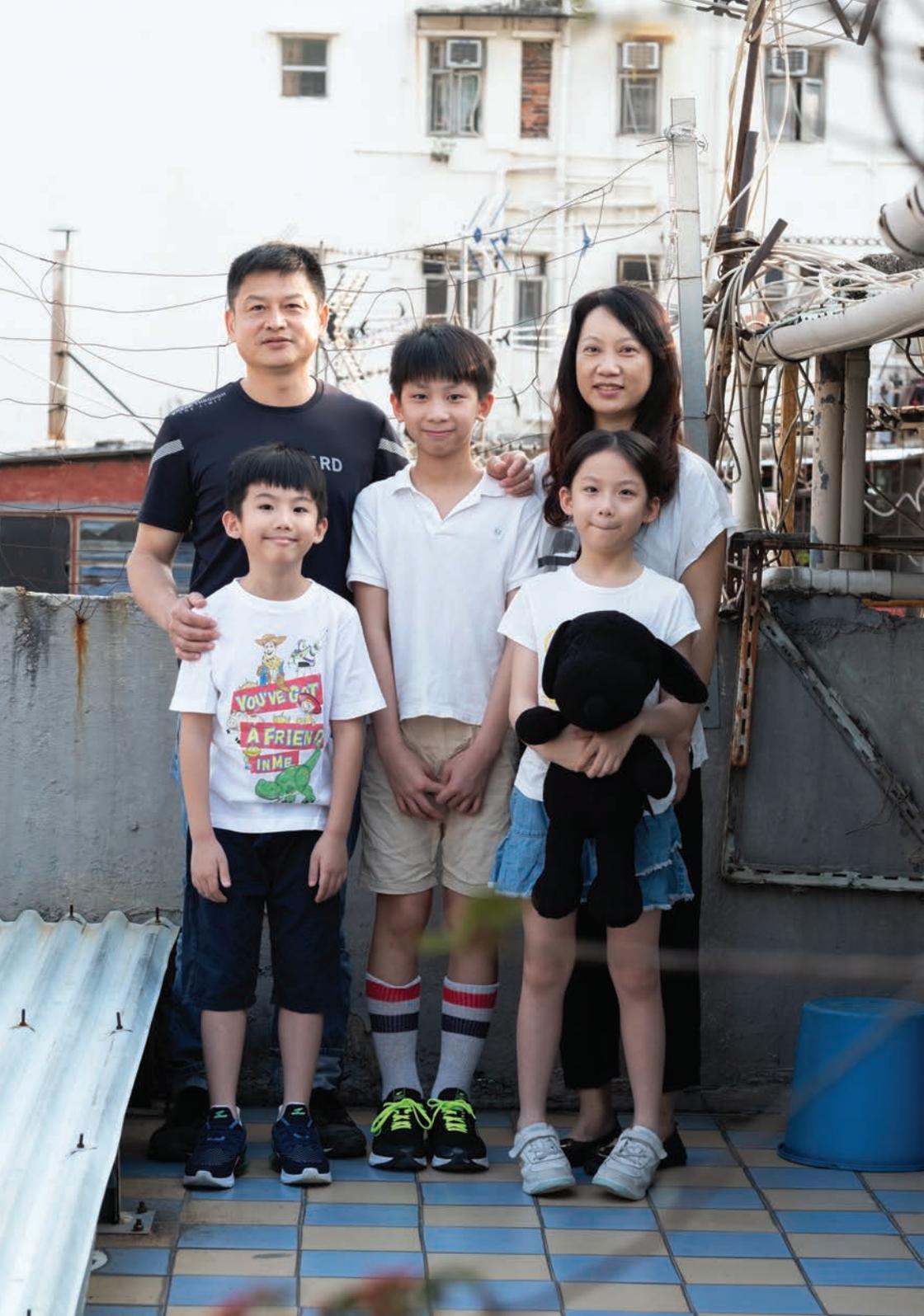
Volunteers and families put their heads together to plan and lead games, prepare potluck dishes, and even decide the best way to get from Sham Shui Po to the picnic venue, Disney's Inspiration Lake.

“The aim of the planning process was to promote equality, dignity and mutual respect between the volunteers and the families,” Suyi says. “We didn't want to create a recipient-donor relationship, where the families rely heavily on the volunteers. Rather, we wanted to seize this opportunity to alter their mindset... they too have the ability to participate and contribute. We hoped they would feel encouraged and affirmed as they shared their personal resources, valuable insight and family recipes.”

Too often, Suyi believes, people get stuck within their comfort zone “because they can only see the limitations and restrictions, so they tend to stay where they are.” As she sees it, her role is to help them see their potential and the possibilities, and champion them to move forward.



Hope of the City's family relationship outings this year also included a day-trip to Lamma Island and a visit to a pineapple farm. These outings are a welcome relief for many low-income families and elderly who may never have traveled to many parts of the SAR.



“I HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR MY CHILDREN...”

MAGGIE /FOOD AND LIVING AID BENEFICIARY

Maggie’s family of five live on the rooftop of a walk-up tenement building in Sham Shui Po. Her husband’s income from construction work doesn’t go far with three children to raise, and grocery money is always in short supply. As such, theirs was one of 55 families chosen to receive Hope’s Food and Living Aid subsidy this year.

“The \$300 a month is a huge help to my family,” Maggie says. It enables her to add more meat and nutritious food to their diet.

Also concerned about her children’s education, Maggie enrolled her oldest son in our Happy Friday English classes at the YWCA. Not long after, she signed on with our family home visits program. Her children soon warmed to the enthusiastic volunteers, which has led to the family’s participation in organized family outings.

“I have high expectations for my children, so I’m very hard on them,” Maggie admits, adding tearfully, “I don’t want them to end up like their parents.”

Yet things are looking brighter. When the new Hope Centre opened in Sham Shui Po, we needed someone reliable to help us keep it in tip-top shape and Maggie was just the person we were looking for. The job is a good fit for her as well, with flexible hours and a little extra income to ease the family’s financial stress.



Hope of the City’s involvement with Maggie and her family exemplifies the holistic approach we’ve adopted in supporting struggling households. Our aim is to go beyond a focus on physical needs alone, to caring for the whole person through practical assistance, encouragement and friendship.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2018/2019

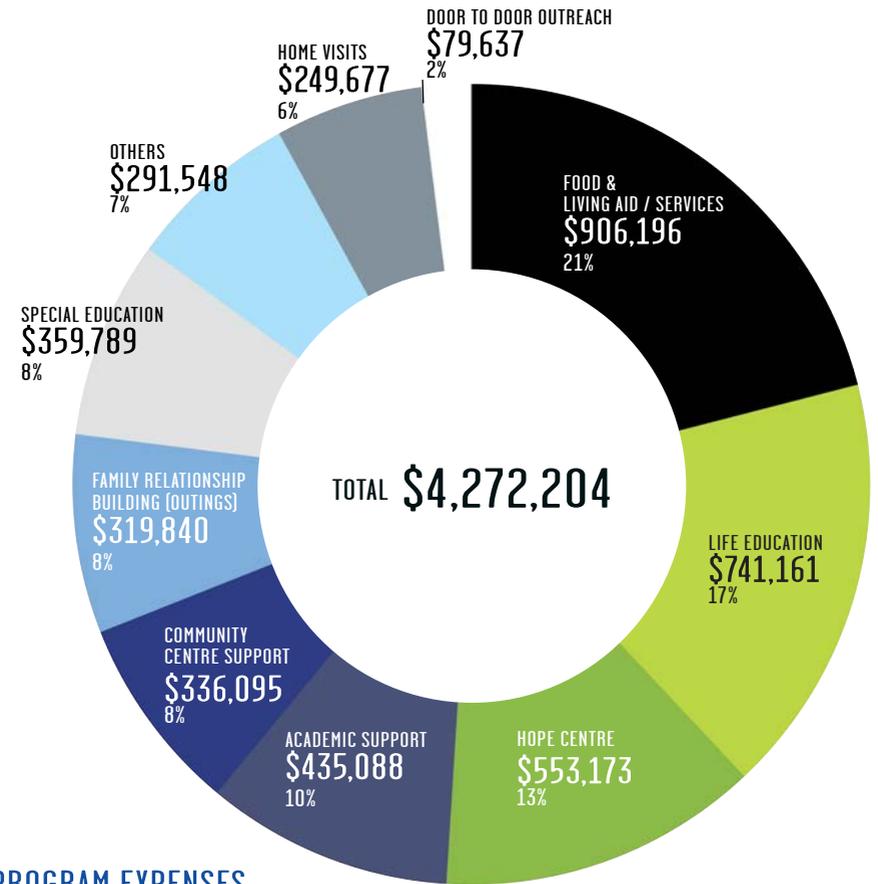
SOURCE OF INCOME

- Charities & Foundations
- Corporate Giving
- Personal Giving
- Others

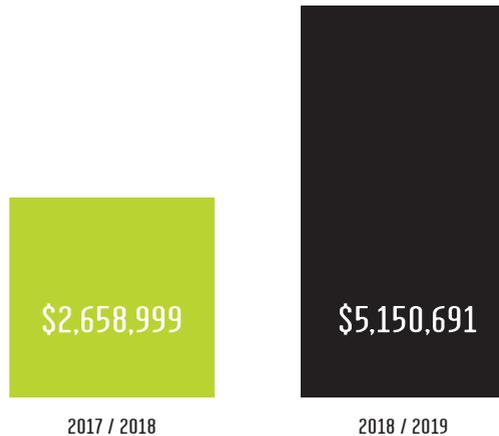


TOTAL \$5,150,691

PROGRAM EXPENSES PROJECTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

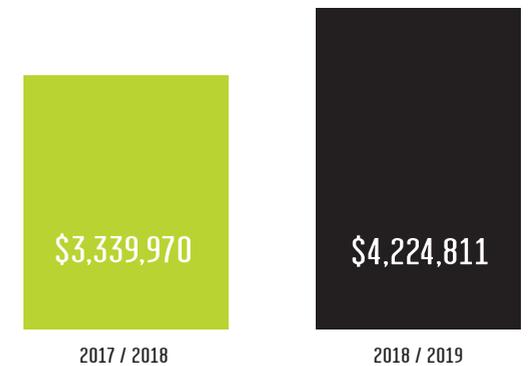


INCOME



EXPENSES ADMINISTRATION VS PROGRAMS

- 2018 / 2019
Administration / \$47,393
Programs / \$4,224,811
- 2017 / 2018
Administration / \$37,140
Programs / \$3,339,970



LOOKING AHEAD

OUR GOAL AS ALWAYS IS TO BUILD LONG-TERM, CARING RELATIONSHIPS.

As we begin another year of serving the underprivileged, Hope of the City's overriding aim is to make full use of our new Hope Centre in Sham Shui Po.

The opening of this Centre empowers us to take on a more immediate and responsive role in meeting the needs around us. Because of its centralized, street-level location, it's the perfect place for our frontline partners to gather, share ideas, combine our efforts and pool our resources as we seek to address the confronting poverty in our neighborhood.

In practical terms, we see the Hope Centre becoming a shared space for our partners to use freely to expand their programs; a caring place where children can come after school for homework help; a safe place for youth to hang out on weekends; and a much-needed base for skills development and life-enrichment programs for parents and youth.

In the immediate future, we'll be starting an English literacy program for moms and a support group for under-employed men. Soon, we'll be adding academic support and character development initiatives for secondary students. The Centre's easy access also makes it ideal for hosting events like health fairs and festival meals for low-income elderly.

The Hope Centre opens up so many new opportunities for our growing base of volunteers to serve those in need at a deeper, more consistent level. This is truly good news, since our goal as always is to build long-term, caring relationships with every person we serve, transforming the city one life at a time.



DONATE TO HOPE

Your financial giving enables Hope of the City to support low-income households through additional educational resources and support services. We are a registered charity in Hong Kong and all donations are fully tax-deductible. DIY fundraising ideas and corporate gift matching are other ways to support our work.

*For more information, please visit:
hopeofthecity.com/ways-to-give*



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Hope of the City seeks volunteers who would like to support those in need. Our model is primarily relationship focused, so the growth of our outreach is dependent on the efforts of volunteers.

*Updated serving opportunities can be found online at:
hopeofthecity.com/volunteer*



PARTNER WITH US

Hope of the City is always on the lookout for corporations who are willing to donate skills and expertise to serve the disadvantaged in Hong Kong. We also welcome referrals of local non-profits who are currently providing social services and may be interested in partnership.

Please email info@hopeofthecity.com with enquiries or referrals.

HOPE OF THE CITY PARTNERS

2018-19

China Holiness College

Christian Concern for the Homeless
Association

Cornerstone International Church of God

Evangelical Yan Kei Church

Feeding Hong Kong

HKMLC Living Stone Lutheran Church

Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor

Hong Kong Family Welfare Society

J-Life Community Centre

Pak Tin Baptist Church

Po Leung Kuk
(Headquarters Children's Section)

St. James' Settlement
(Kowloon Kindness Centre)

St. James' Settlement
(Ngau Tau Kok Centre)

St. James' Settlement
(Shek Kip Mei People's Food Bank)

The Hub Hong Kong

The Intellectually Disabled Education and
Advocacy League (IDEAL)

The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation
of Drug Abusers (SARDA)

United Christian College

YWCA (Sham Shui Po Integrated Social
Service Centre)



An aerial photograph of a city grid is overlaid with several graphic elements: a large, dark blue diagonal band, a bright yellow diagonal band, and several white diagonal stripes. The text 'HOPE OF THE CITY' is positioned in the bottom right corner.

HOPE
OF THE
CITY

HOPEOFTHECITY.COM