

HOPE
OF THE
CITY

1:1

CHANGING ONE LIFE AT A TIME

HOPE OF THE CITY / ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016



ABOUT US

HOPE OF THE CITY IS ABOUT CHANGING LIVES

BOARD MEMBERS • Brett Hilliard: Senior Pastor, Island ECC • Carl Gouw: Managing Director, Goldig Investment Group
• Charles Chu: Solicitor, Charles Chu and Kenneth Sit Solicitors • Daniel Tseung: Founder & Managing Director, LionRock Capital • Sherman Chau: Pastor, Island ECC

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hope of the City's core mission is to transform the lives of the underprivileged in Hong Kong, one life at a time.

Those five words – 'one life at a time' – sound so powerful, don't they? Yet in reality, impacting one life in some small way often seems so little. Perhaps too little, in light of how many lives there are in need of hope and renewal in a place like Sham Shui Po.

The words of Henri Nouwen have helped me gain a better perspective on the work we do, and on the many small acts of kindness our volunteers extend to those in need day by day. He reminds me that we are 'called to littleness', because that is the place 'where misery and mercy meet'.

The littleness we are called to involves helping one child with his homework. It means sharing the concerns of a single mother over her ability to bring up her children alone. It means accompanying an elderly man to a doctor's appointment, and wiping the joyful tears from a young girl's cheeks when she finds out she'll get to have music lessons.

It sometimes seems that the more we do, the more we realize how little we can do. That is when vision and commitment are so vital. And so, we keep moving forward. We know full well that 'one life at a time' is a slow path towards city transformation, but it is the only path.

Our dreams of doing great things for the poor won't do them any good, only our concrete presence will. With our volunteers and community partners leading from the heart, we have begun to see that real transformation depends on personal attention, genuine love and a long-term commitment to embracing littleness.



Nelson Yau
Executive Director

2015/ 2016

OVERVIEW

From the beginning, Hope of the City has employed a partnership model in serving the underprivileged in Hong Kong. Walking hand in hand with our 29 local partners, we regularly review and refine the specific focus areas where we dedicate funding, volunteers and resources. This enables us to provide access to opportunities where they are needed most as we work towards the shared goal of individual and community transformation.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Hope of the City provides academic support to children from low-income households through English tuition and homework help. In 2015-2016, we offered 472 hours of English tutoring to 215 students from Primary 1 to Form 6.



LIFE EDUCATION

Hope of the City seeks to equip children with life skills and character values to help them thrive in all areas of life. In 2015-16, we organised character building programs, leadership and sports camps, and special interest classes for 667 children, aimed at developing self-confidence, trust, respect, love and self-esteem.



SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN)

Hope of the City supports low-income families who have children with learning disabilities through sponsoring diagnostic assessment, providing medication subsidies and organising workshops and therapy sessions. This year, 153 children and parents received various forms of support.



HOME VISITS

Through regular home visits, volunteers help social workers monitor the health and well-being of families and the elderly. This year, some 259 volunteers visited 114 elderly and 82 low-income families each month, providing emotional, physical and spiritual support.



FAMILY OUTINGS

To help break down social barriers and promote family bonding, Hope of the City sponsors regular outings around Hong Kong. Our volunteers joined 117 elderly and 29 families for 5 outings in 2015-16.



FOOD & LIVING AID

Hope of the City sponsored a HK\$200 monthly food subsidy in the form of meat vouchers to 120 families this year. We also provided St. James' Settlement with significant funding to help keep the doors of their Shek Kip Mei foodbank open, and recruited 227 volunteers to deliver heavy items to the elderly.



'THESE TEACHERS TEACH WITH THEIR HEARTS.'

BO / A LOCAL PARTNER

Bo is a registered social worker with the YWCA in Sham Shui Po. After 15 years in this role, she knows that a major concern for low-income parents is their children's education. In particular, they see their children struggling with English and feel powerless to help them.

Hope of the City began hiring English teachers to run after-school English classes for needy children in 2013. There are currently four classes a week at the Y, serving 40 primary students. Bo tells us that these teachers teach with their hearts and make an effort to form relationships with the kids. Our students love their teachers, she says. In fact, English class day is called 'Happy Friday'.

According to Bo, the English classes have also helped open doors for the Y to conduct family visits, and have helped to build trust. Home visits allow the Y's social workers to learn about any family problems and offer appropriate support, especially for the rising number of children with emotional issues.

Besides sponsoring classes, Hope of the City partners with the Y to organize family events that focus on using English, such as English Fun Day or outings to places like the Peak. English-speaking volunteers join the families during these events and Bo is always excited to see the proud smiles on the parents' faces as they watch their children communicating in English.



Hope of the City sponsors 18 after-school English tuition classes for 215 children every week in Sham Shui Po. Our volunteers provide an additional 492 hours of homework help and English support to 40 students in 2015-16.



'... SHE'S BECOMING AN OUTSTANDING PIANIST.'

YAN YU / PIANO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

When Yan Yu told her father how much she wanted to become a pianist, he longed to make her wish come true, but it wasn't an easy task. As a single parent, he was the full-time caregiver for Yan Yu's disabled younger brother so he couldn't work. The family live in public housing on government subsidies.

One thing Yan Yu's father didn't have to worry about was his daughter's grades. Being a very bright girl, Yan Yu got an academic scholarship to attend a good school where she was excelling. She also had piano lessons at school, and was proving to be very gifted. However, after saving up to buy a second-hand piano for Yan Yu, he couldn't afford to pay for private lessons.

Then, the principal of Yan Yu's school told the family about Hope of the City's music scholarships, offered as part of our Life Education focus. Since receiving the scholarship, Yan Yu has been studying with a well-known private teacher and she's becoming an outstanding pianist. She won top place in the Hong Kong Schools' Music Festival Competition for 5th Grade Piano Solo Performance. She has also been invited to international music competitions, including the Zhong Xin International Music Competition in Chengdu.

Yan Yu is so happy to be able to pursue her passion for piano. Her father, meanwhile, is thankful and proud to see that his daughter has this opportunity to fulfill her musical potential.



Life Education programs aim to provide children and youth with opportunities for holistic development. By sponsoring special interest classes, camps, leadership training and music lessons, we seek to help them develop self-confidence and recognize that they are capable and valuable to society.



‘KIKI ... IS A BRIGHT AND BUBBLY SEVEN-YEAR-OLD.’

KIKI / A SEN BENEFICIARY

Kiki and her older sister live with their mother, Annie, in Sham Shui Po. After arriving from the mainland nine years ago, Annie went through an abusive marriage and distressing divorce that left her depressed and feeling hopeless. Then, while living in a family shelter, Kiki began acting out, creating even more tension. It was a turbulent time for the whole family.

Thankfully, Annie found much-needed support at J-Life, one of Hope of the City’s partner organizations. There, she received counselling to help her rebuild a sense of self-worth. Just as importantly, Kiki finally got a long-awaited psychological assessment through our SEN support focus. She was diagnosed with ADHD and began to receive the treatment she needed. She’s also receiving one-on-one after-school tutoring from a Hope of the City volunteer.

Today, the family’s life is much improved. They’ve moved into public housing, go to church, and Annie is now an active volunteer at J-Life, helping others as her family was helped when they needed it most. As for Kiki, she’s enjoying school and her results are much better. All smiles, she is a bright and bubbly seven-year-old.



Support for SEN children is severely lacking in Hong Kong. Families wait anywhere from 1.5 to 3 years to access government-financed assessments and therapy. In 2015-2016, Hope of the City funded diagnostic assessments and therapy courses for 153 children and/or their parents.



'...THERE ARE MANY LONELY ELDERLY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.'

CAROL/ HOME VISIT VOLUNTEER

As one of our long-term home visit volunteers, Carol began visiting Kong Bak Bak in his Ngau Tau Kok public housing flat in the fall of 2015. She knew he was ill, but it was only when she was helping him book a doctor's appointment that Carol discovered he suffered from cancer. She was saddened to see that, without any relatives, he still had to take care of himself.

One day, when Carol dropped by Kong Bak Bak's home, he wasn't there. She tried to contact him but couldn't find him anywhere. After calling around, she finally discovered he had been admitted to the hospital. She visited him regularly there and noted that he wasn't eating the hospital food. For a subsequent visit, she cooked tomatoes with eggs for him, which he finished off.

Over the course of a year and repeated hospital stays, Kong Bak Bak continued to enjoy Carol's visits. On one occasion, Carol had the privilege of praying with Kong Bak Bak as he accepted Christ as his Savior. Later, during Kong Bak Bak's final hospitalization, Carol was there in his last days. She attended his small funeral in the hospital chapel, and witnessed his ashes sprinkled over a field of grass.

Today, Carol continues to volunteer for home visits. She knows there are many lonely elderly people in Hong Kong, and she is thankful that she has the opportunity to show care for even a few of them.



Carol's caring and committed relationship with Kong Bak Bak exemplifies what Hope of the City strives to achieve through our home visits program. In 2015-16, our volunteers made monthly visits to underprivileged families and the elderly in Sham Shui Po, Shek Kip Mei, Ngau Tau Kok and North Point.

'...THE LIMITED SPACE SOMETIMES DRIVES EVERYONE CRAZY.'

THE TANGS / FAMILY RELATIONSHIP OUTING BENEFICIARIES

The Tang family have been part of Hope of the City's home visits program since 2013, and they've joined a number of our family outings.

When the chance to visit Disneyland came along recently, the Tangs were among the dozens of families that signed up. It's the type of day out they would never be able to afford on their own. Ordinarily, an outing for low-income families might be a meal at a local fast food restaurant.

Mr Tang works on a construction site, while Mrs Tang, as a two-way permit holder, is not yet allowed to work in Hong Kong. The family lives in a 100 sq. ft. subdivided home in Sham Shui Po. With two growing children – Rick, aged 9, and Winnie, aged 5 – Mrs Tang admits that the limited space sometimes drives everyone crazy. Family outings are important, she says, as they offer an opportunity for all of them to release the built-up pressures of living in such close quarters.

Mr and Mrs Tang both realize the importance of spending time to bond with their children, and they feel that the sponsored outings have helped them grow closer through laughing and playing together.



In 2015-16, Hope of the City's family relationship outings also included a trip to a holiday farm in Sheung Shui, a day of pool soccer, a Chung Yeung outing to an outlying island, and a beach cleaning day. It's a welcome relief for many families to get out of their crowded neighborhood and spend time together in wide open spaces.





'...FINDING A BUTCHER WILLING TO ACCEPT OUR MEAT VOUCHERS WAS A CHALLENGE.'

MR LUN / A FOOD & LIVING AID PARTNER

Hope of the City began offering monthly meat vouchers to low income families last year. Our aim is to help provide well-balanced meals for the families while also supporting local small business operators. However, finding a butcher willing to accept our meat vouchers was a challenge: many didn't want the bother of tallying up the vouchers and submitting them for reimbursement each month.

Mr Lun, who runs a meat stall in a Sham Shui Po market, was willing to give the program a try. Unfortunately, some of his staff were condescending and impolite towards the women presenting the vouchers at first. When Mr. Lun realised this, he apologised and retrained his staff to treat all customers alike. Since then, the program has been running smoothly and our beneficiaries have come to appreciate Mr Lun's service to them.

One meat voucher recipient, Ah Tian, arrived in Hong Kong in 2014 with her family. She lives in a 100 sq. ft. subdivided flat with her husband and two children. Currently pregnant with her third child, she is very appreciative of the meat vouchers as her husband's income is unstable. An old injury makes it difficult for him to do labor-intensive work full time, so he makes due with various short-term jobs.

"The meat vouchers have helped us a lot," she says. "Meat in Hong Kong is expensive, and the vouchers allow me to get some fresh meat every day."



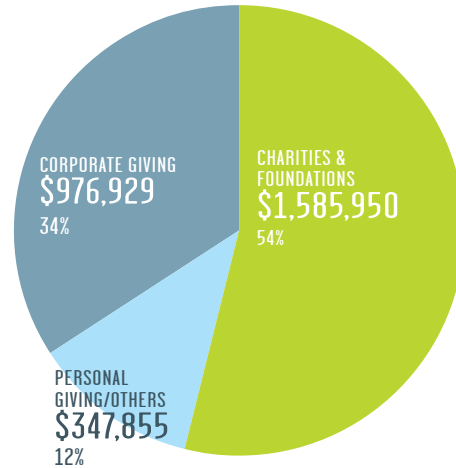
Many low-income families must get by on a daily food budget of less than \$100. As a result, children often suffer from malnutrition, eating meals of rice and vegetables with little protein. The monthly meat vouchers allow families to prepare more balanced and varied meals.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2015/2016

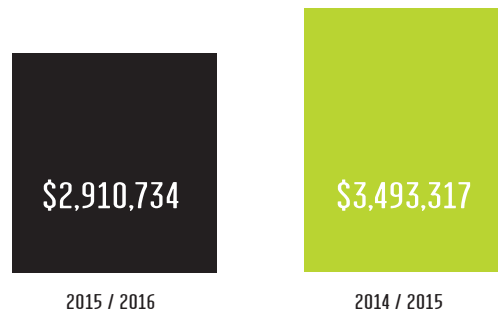
SOURCE OF INCOME

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



TOTAL \$2,910,734

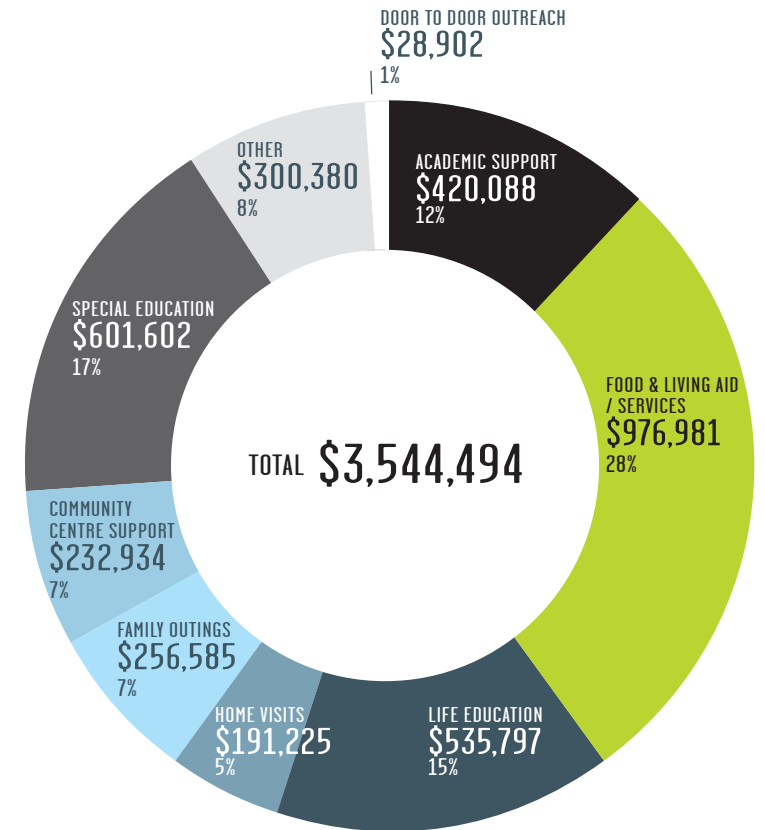
INCOME



PROGRAMME EXPENSES

PROJECTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

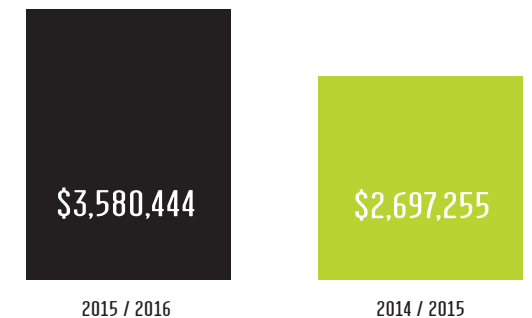
- Academic Support
- Food & Living Aid / Services
- Life Education
- Home Visits
- Family Outings
- Community Centre Support
- Special Education
- Others
- Door to Door Outreach



EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION VS PROGRAMMES

- 2015 / 2016
Administration / \$35,950
Programmes / \$3,544,494
- 2014 / 2015
Administration / \$37,398
Programmes / \$2,659,857



LOOKING AHEAD

IN THE YEAR AHEAD, HOPE OF THE CITY WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF BRINGING HOPE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO LOW-INCOME MEN AND YOUTH.

Over the past 12 months, we've been thrilled to see our volunteers offer their time and talents in contributing 5,077 volunteer hours to those in need. Our volunteers are our most valuable resource, as they are vital to building deep, lasting relationships with our partners and beneficiaries. In the coming year, we are intent on growing our volunteer base further to enable us to expand our tutoring and elderly home visits programs.

One of Hope of the City's key aims is to see underprivileged students succeed in school. For secondary school students, receiving adequate support in English and other core subjects can be the difference between them staying in school or dropping out. Therefore, we will be extending our efforts to encourage and assist these students through closer partnerships with secondary schools in Sham Shui Po.

In addition to academic support, Hope of the City will begin working closely with secondary school principals and P.E. teachers to facilitate students' physical and character development by organizing and funding extra-curricular sports activities; sponsoring more students to join Life Frontline Sailing and Outward Bound camps, to build leadership and life skills; and coordinating volunteering programs to encourage students to give back to society.

Finally, in the coming months we will continue to investigate effective strategies for engaging and empowering family men. We believe their role in families is so important to overcoming transgenerational poverty and we look forward to seeing how we can incorporate intentional support for men into our holistic approach to community transformation.



DONATE

DONATE TO HOPE

Your financial giving enables Hope of the City to empower 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

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

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.

**WE ARE PLEASED TO SERVE
ALONGSIDE THESE COMMUNITY
PARTNERS.**

Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service -
Child Development Fund (CDF)

China Holiness College

Christian Concern for the Homeless Association

Cornerstone International Church
of God

Evangelical Yan Kei Church

Feeding Hong Kong

Fuk Lam Church

HKMLC Living Stone Lutheran
Church

Hong Kong Church Network for
the Poor

Hong Kong Family Welfare Society

Industrial Evangelical Fellowship

J Café Youth Centre

J Life Community Centre

Loving Kids Community Service
Centre

Pak Tin Baptist Church

Po Leung Kuk (Headquarters Children's Session)

Shepherd Community Church

Saint Barnabas' Society and Home

St. James' Settlement (Kowloon Kindness Centre)

St. James' Settlement (Ngau Tau Kok Centre)

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

St. James' Settlement (Uncle James Child Development Centre)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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

Wai Kiu College

YWCA (Shum Shui Po Integrated Social Service Centre)



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