

HOPE
OF THE
CITY

1+1

WALKING TOGETHER

HOPE OF THE CITY [ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014]

ABOUT HOPE OF THE CITY

HOPE OF THE CITY IS PEOPLE IN NEED

ABOUT WALKING WITH

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I was first approached about joining Hope of the City, the questions I asked myself were, “Why do we need another charity organisation working in Sham Shui Po? Aren't there enough of them already, all doing more or less the same thing? Won't it just be like putting another drop of water in the ocean?”

As I learned about Hope of the City's unique relationship model, I realised that, no, this is not just one more NGO stepping into a sea of needs.

Rather, our focus is on joining hands with those who are already doing great work in our city, supporting them as they strive to better the lives of those living in poverty, and walking together with them so that they can do what they do even better.

Hope of the City recognises that real and lasting city transformation can only be achieved when people with the same heart to see it happen come together to combine their vision and their strength.

Together, we are forging committed relationships to tackle the complex issues of poverty. Together, we are impacting the communities we serve in ways that would never be possible if any one of us was attempting it alone.

This is exciting. This is invigorating. This is real hope for real transformation.

Since joining Hope of the City in May, 2014, I have been privileged to see just how much this combined strength can achieve. I encourage you to come and walk together with us and our partners in our efforts to serve our city and change lives.



Nelson Yau
Executive Director

2013/ 2014

OVERVIEW

In order to deepen the impact on the lives of the people we serve, Hope of the City has selected specific focus areas where we dedicate funding, volunteers and resources to provide access to opportunities where they are needed most. Our focus areas reflect the needs expressed by those we serve. By walking together with local partners and the underprivileged, we strive to see real and lasting transformation in individuals and their communities.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Hope of the City provides academic support to children from low-income households through English tuition and homework help. During the 2013-14 academic year, 189 students from Primary 1 to Form 3 received 519 hours of English tutoring.



HOME VISITS

By recruiting volunteers to conduct regular home visits, Hope of the City helps social workers monitor the health and overall living conditions of households. This year, more than 170 volunteers visited 36 elderly and 58 low-income families each month, offering them emotional, physical and spiritual support.



LIFE EDUCATION

Hope of the City seeks to equip children with the life skills and character values they need to succeed in life. In 2013-14, we organised character building programmes, leadership camps and physical challenges for 319 students from low-income families, to help them develop self-confidence, trust, respect, love and self-esteem.



FAMILY OUTINGS

To help break down social barriers and strengthen family bonds, Hope of the City organises regular group outings to local places of interest. Our volunteers joined 28 elderly and 76 families for 11 outings this year.



SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN)

During 2014, Hope of the City began offering support for low-income families who have children with learning disabilities. Since February, we organised two early identification workshops, with seven students receiving full assessment and ongoing support.



DOOR TO DOOR OUTREACH

Hope of the City's volunteers support our partners in periodic door-to-door outreach events to find hidden households and make community contacts. This year, 32 volunteers knocked on the doors of partitioned homes in various low-income districts to inform the residents about social services available to them.



“I WISH, IN THE FUTURE,
TO BECOME THE WIND BENEATH
SOMEONE ELSE’S SAILS.”

SIU HONG / LIFE EDUCATION COURSE BENEFICIARY

Through our Life Education focus, Hope of the City seeks to provide opportunities for young people to become better equipped to overcome challenges and thrive in all areas of their lives.

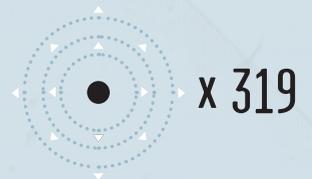
One young man who participated in a Life Front-line Sailing Ministry camp, offered by one of our partners, describes the huge impact the experience has had on him. Siu Hong writes:

“There are so many things that are beyond my limits and control, and so many things that I just can’t manage on my own. The experience of sailing has allowed me to put things into perspective: life, like a sailboat, is constantly running on fuel – fuel that will eventually run out. And in times of great personal difficulties, this fuel will be used up even more quickly and, sooner or later, we will be running on empty.

“Much like a boat lost at sea, I also found myself depleted and adrift in the past. I was fortunate enough to have teachers, family and friends by my side, who have given me so much along the way. They became my ‘wind,’ and I took the opportunity to turn towards the wind, set sail and ride along – away from past challenges and bad memories.

“I’m very grateful for those who have lent me a helping hand and I wish, in the future, to become the wind beneath someone else’s sails.”

Children from low-income families often face very difficult life circumstances, making them more likely to develop feelings of hopelessness, humiliation, instability and poor self-esteem. Hope of the City provided life education courses to some 319 children and young people in 2014, with the intention of raising their self-confidence and helping them to recognise that they are capable and valuable to society.



x 319



“MAY WE CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TOGETHER TO BRING CONFIDENCE, HOPE AND LOVE INTO SHAM SHUI PO.”

VANCY / A LOCAL PARTNER

I'm very happy to be working in Sham Shui Po serving grassroots children and youth. Our centre, The HUB Hong Kong, has been running for a little more than a year, providing a safe haven where children can come to learn and play. Yet the needs in Sham Shui Po are increasing day by day, and we desperately need partners who can come alongside and work with us.

I was so glad when I met Hope of the City and learnt of their willingness to partner with us. I want to thank Hope of the City for helping us to open up a variety of English and special interest classes, such as drawing, piano, hip-hop dancing, public speaking and character building. These classes give children from low-income families equal opportunities to learn and grow, so they no longer feel low self-esteem just because they are poor.

Seeing the children after participating in the various activities – the smiles on their faces, their increased self-confidence and their contentment – this is what renews our energy and becomes our motivation to keep working.

May we continue to work hard together to bring confidence, hope and love into Sham Shui Po.

Hope of the City's partnership model aims to multiply resources in serving the poor and to ensure that the help provided is sustainable. This year, we walked together with 29 local partners, each one having a unique role and impact in their communities. They include family welfare centres, privately funded NGOs, service providers, community centres and local churches.





“... GIVING CAN BRING EVEN MORE JOY TO US THAN RECEIVING.”

ANDREA and IAN / VOLUNTEERS

I grew up in Hong Kong and even though I spent some of my school years abroad, I consider myself to be a true Hongkonger at heart. But it was only after coming back from college that I realised I didn't actually know much about the problem of poverty in Hong Kong. I had never even been to many of the less privileged areas of the city.

God led me to Hope of the City through church friends, and I admired their commitment to serving the elderly and families in a very personal way. It was about building long-term relationships with people in the lower-income communities and spending time with them to show them we care.

My husband Ian and I started visiting the elderly, as well as a family with a young boy in Sham Shui Po, on a regular basis. This allowed us to understand their needs and struggles in their daily life on a deeper level. We know that, while we will not be able to solve all their problems, a listening ear and small gestures of generosity can go a long way.

We feel blessed to be able to bless others, and have realised in the process that giving can bring even more joy to us than receiving.

Walking together with our local partners and people in need would not be possible without our committed volunteers. Hope of the City recruits volunteers who have a heart for building genuine relationships with the people they serve. Our 2013-2014 service year saw 510 volunteers devote a combined 4973 hours to supporting those in need. These volunteers came from churches, schools and numerous local and international companies.

510
VOLUNTEERS
GAVE
A COMBINED
4973
HOURS

HOPE

FINANCIAL REPORT

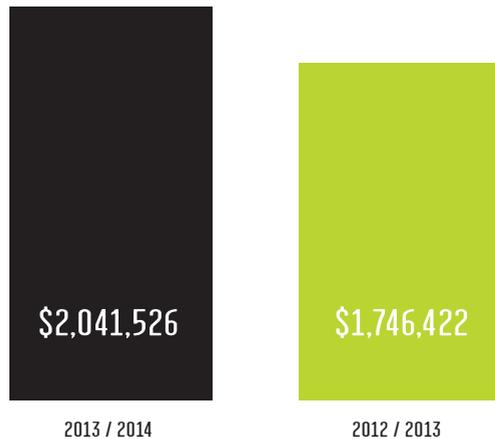
2013/2014

SOURCE OF INCOME

- Charities & Foundations
- Corporate Giving
- Personal Giving

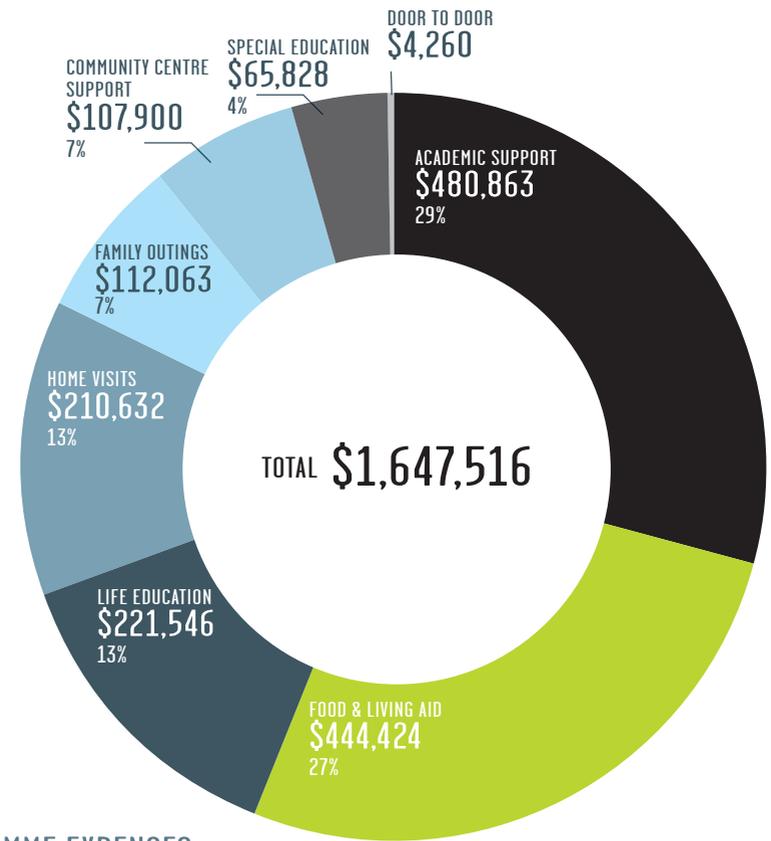


INCOME



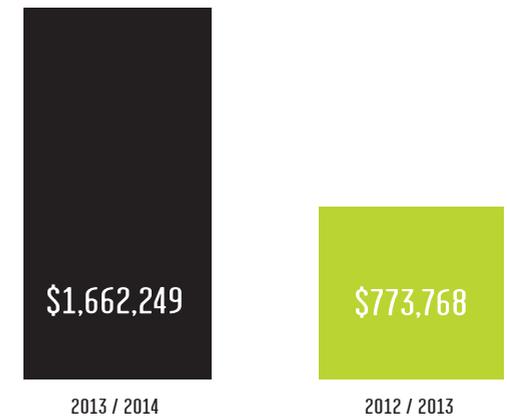
PROGRAMME EXPENSES PROJECTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

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



EXPENSES ADMINISTRATION VS PROGRAMMES

- 2013 / 2014
Administration / \$14,733
Programmes / \$1,647,516
- 2012 / 2013
Administration / \$16,024
Programmes / \$757,744



LOOKING AHEAD

WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT THE COMING YEAR, ANTICIPATING GREAT THINGS AS WE TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF MEETING IDENTIFIED NEEDS IN THESE KEY AREAS:



Hope of the City firmly believes in every person's potential to succeed. For children, future success often depends on early intervention and so, in 2015, we are committed to strengthening our academic support to children at the early primary level in the form of after-school English tuition and homework help.



Poverty manifests itself in different ways, but one common challenge for low-income families is food security. Children in poverty often suffer from malnutrition, with meat largely absent from their diet. In the coming year, Hope of the City is undertaking to provide a weekly meat subsidy to 80 families, enabling them to add meat to their meals at least once a week.



A year ago, Hope of the City began a new mission to support low-income families who have children with special education needs (SEN). We initially walked with seven SEN children through the process of assessment and placement in various forms of therapy. In the next twelve months, we would like to increase this number to 30, with a focus on children under 6 years old.



Volunteers are Hope of the City's most precious resource. In the coming year, we will continue to mobilise servant-hearted volunteers committed to building deeper relationships with partners and people in need. To this end we are hiring a new, full-time volunteer coordinator to extend and strengthen volunteer involvement across all our community partnerships.

Walking together with our volunteers, partner organisations and donors, we are renewing our commitment to faithfully serving our community, fully believing that Hong Kong can be transformed - one life at a time.



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 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*



CORPORATE AND NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIPS

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 inquiries or referrals.

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