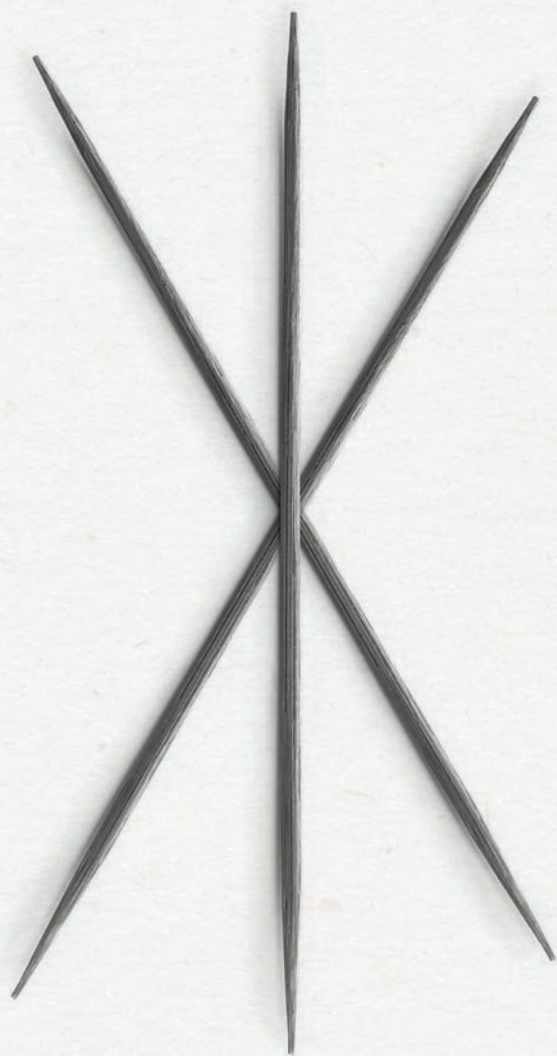




side by side



Board Members

*Agnes Tai: Director, Great Glory Investment Corporation / Brett Hilliard: Senior Pastor, Island ECC
Brian Kusunoki: Co-Founder, Hope of the City / Charles Chu: Solicitor, Charles Chu and Kenneth Sit Solicitors
Sherman Chau: Pastor, Island ECC*

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Two is better than one.

What a challenging year 2020-2021 continued to be for everyone, both globally and locally. In Hong Kong, as elsewhere, COVID-19 led to the widespread loss of jobs, bringing many of our city's already impoverished households to their knees. As a consequence, Hong Kong's poverty rate hit a 12-year high. The dire situation, however, generated a stirring of compassion among those less impacted, compelling them to reach out helping hands to the needy, making use of individual gifts. With just-in-time donations from the '\$10K for HK' fund initiated by Island ECC's congregants, and a generous grant from Hope of the City's long-time sponsor, the Bank of America, we were able to quickly mobilise an army of volunteers to purchase and distribute badly needed food and health supplies to low-income families.

As school closures continued, limiting many of our in-person activities and events, Hope maintained our support for students struggling with

the challenges of online learning by providing data cards and electronic devices as needed. The women in our Mommies Learn English classes also continued to learn English and receive much needed encouragement via Zoom, thanks to our dedicated volunteer teachers and teaching assistants. In addition, over 300 households that had either lost jobs or had their work hours cut received financial assistance to temporarily help them pay their rent or utilities.

As bad as it has been, the pandemic brought with it the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with local organizations, church partners and, most importantly, many, many individuals, as we reached out to lift them up and care for them with the love of God. The Bible reminds us in Ecclesiastes 4:12, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." These wise words apply to every stream of our work among the needy, from children, to youth, to adults, to the elderly. We can never

withstand any storm for long if we are doing it alone, but when others come alongside us, we can find the strength to overcome.

As we have trusted God completely for every provision, whether for face masks, test kits, food items, blessing bags or financial aid, He has been faithful and enabled us to do so much more than we ever could have imagined.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the schools, churches and organizations who partner with us in serving our community together, as well as for all the individual volunteers who faithfully invest their time to build the personal relationships so vital to our mission among the poor in our city.

Nelson Yau
Executive Director

side by side

Debbie Chin



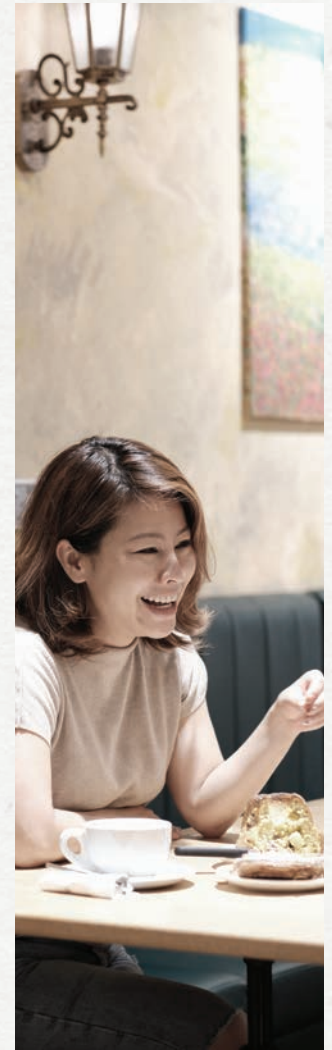
Debbie joined our three-part Homeless Seminar in October 2020, and since then she has been regularly visiting the homeless buddies in Tung Chau Park with her friends from Youth With A Mission (YWAM). It was on this outreach that she witnessed firsthand the plight of the street sleepers. She shares, “When you’re faced with so much hopelessness, there’s no beating around the bush now. We can only go to Jesus. Jesus is needed here. That’s how I ended up staying, and going back every week.”

Her limited Chinese didn’t stop Debbie from reaching out and befriending Grandpa Chan at the Park. Grandpa Chan tried to express the excruciating pain caused by his skin ulcers, but since Debbie didn’t understand Cantonese, Grandpa Chan decided to show her the wounds on his body.

“I didn’t know what to do. I don’t speak the language, I’m a foreigner, I’m a woman, I’m not equipped at all, but I know how God moves mightily, and it

is Him who shifts hearts. So, I asked if I could take a photo of the wounds, and it inspired me to reach out to a doctor friend who taught me how to nurse his wounds. I don’t think washing wounds will necessarily heal drug addiction, but it offered comfort in that very moment. It’s a way of showing love in that moment, with no shame, giving him dignity.”

Since her first visit to the park, Debbie has returned every week, even inviting her colleagues, friends and acquaintances to get involved in caring for the homeless community. An important lesson she has learned, and witnessed herself, she says, is, “One day when you’re able to sit next to a homeless person and you don’t have an egg or tea to give them and they want to talk to you; that’s relationship. It’s not about dishing out food, but knowing them by name and having conversations.”



by her side: Jessica Leung

side by side

Tony Tsang x Brian Lee



Tony Tsang has been involved in a weekly Buddies Gathering at Hope Centre since 2019. It's hosted by the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association as a way of reaching out to men in Sham Shui Po by providing a safe place for them to explore faith and mutual support on a regular basis.

"My volunteer experience has taught me that if those who have and those who are in need will walk a little step toward each other, our community will be very different," Tony says. "When a volunteer serves, it carries a message of caring. This caring overcomes negative thoughts and can bring positive effects to all stakeholders, including the volunteer himself."

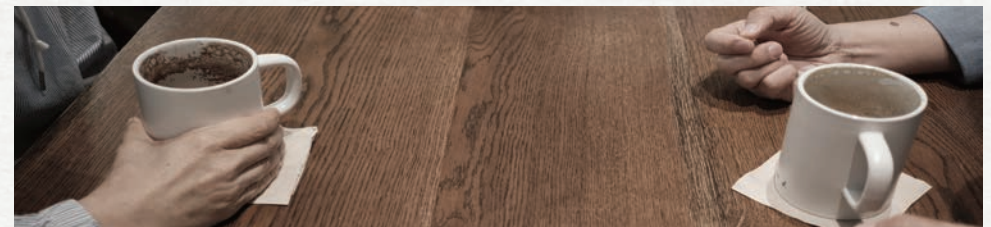
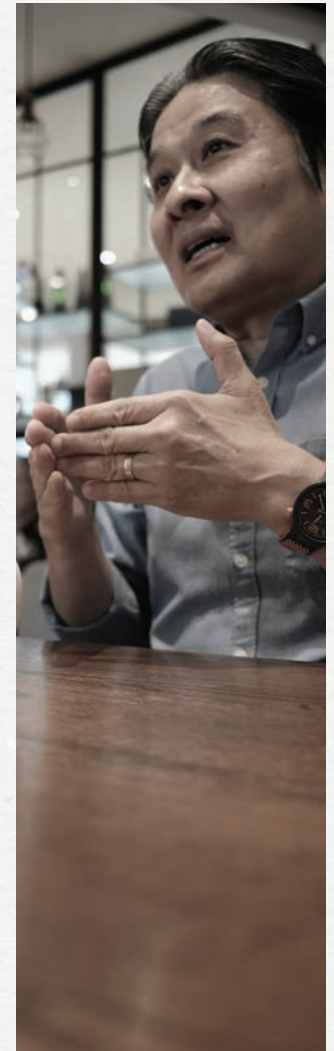
Tony soon began to share his serving experiences with other men from his church fellowship. Brian Lee was one of those who was moved by Tony's life and how he had turned God's teaching into action. This led to Brian deciding to join Tony for the weekly gatherings.

"Volunteering has allowed me to experience God's miracle work in some of the buddies," Brian says, "which has been helpful to them and also strengthened my faith. The opportunity to serve has also reminded me of my limitations and areas needing growth. Volunteering also helps me focus more on the needs of other people, and less on my own desires."

"One evening, we found out that a buddy, Wah Gor, had been admitted to the hospital with a heart condition, so we gathered at the Centre to pray for him," Tony shares. "To our surprise, Wah Gor suddenly showed up at the door! He had been discharged and wanted to come to the gathering

instead of going home. I felt prompted to ask Wah Gor, a Buddhist, questions regarding reincarnation. This opened the door for honest, even tearful, conversation and, by the end of the night, four of the buddies humbly turned to God and accepted Jesus Christ."

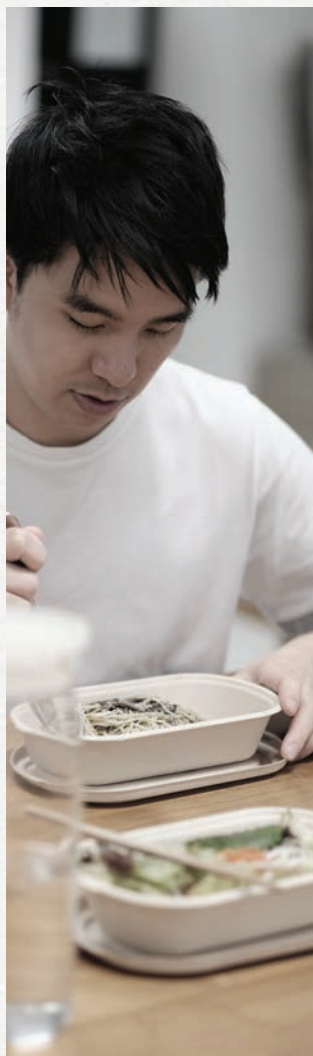
Brian shares, "It's so meaningful to introduce the Gospel to the buddies, and encourage and support them when they face challenges," Brian adds, "especially during the pandemic. Praise the Lord that many buddies decided to follow Jesus, as until that moment it had seemed unlikely. We're grateful that Father God lets us witness His grace for these buddies."



by their side: Nelson Yau

side by side

Elaine Wong x Dicky Cheung



Dicky and his wife Elaine have been volunteering as monthly home visitors to the elderly in Ngau Tau Kok since 2015. Throughout the years, they've experienced the blessing of journeying together not just with the elderly, but with others in their small volunteer teams.

"At first, I thought we'd just go and give out gift bags to the elderly and then leave," Elaine shares, "but we (her and the other volunteers) began to meet on the ground floor of the building where the elderly lived, and we'd share our own struggles and pray for one another. I've benefited from my small group – they've blessed me with an enjoyable experience.

They made the visits so lively because we shared a common purpose, and I'd look forward to each month's visit as we discuss different approaches to caring for, pray for and share with our matched elderly. I see the good that comes out if we empower other volunteers and bring them together. We all have unique gifts, and it's a joy to be able to use our gifts harmoniously, to take risks by stepping out of our comfort zone and then just doing it."

Dicky and Elaine hoped to pass on this blessing to others, so they joined the Ngau Tau Kok Core Team, formed in 2020. The team's aim is to mobilise, train-up

and encourage volunteers to develop companionship, not just with the elderly, but with each other.

Dicky explains, "It's coming together and sharing a common goal, which is that we all love God and hope our elderly will experience God's love."

"An example of this," Elaine elaborates, "is praying for the elderly. It might feel a little uncomfortable at the beginning, but if one person initiates praying a genuine, short prayer, it encourages the other volunteers. It's like walking alongside and building each other up as we practice praying."

side by side

Alex Siu



Alex Siu started volunteering with Hope of the City in 2012. Then, in 2016, he began mobilising volunteers from his church to serve the children at Po Leung Kuk (PLK). It started off as a once-a-year activity which later became quarterly so they could have more contact points to build relationships with the kids.

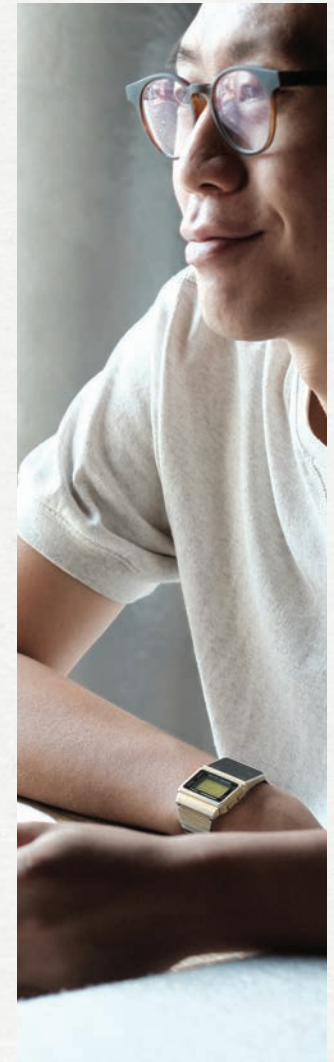
“During our quarterly gatherings, we’d round up 30 kids and bring them to the South China Athletic Association for dim sum followed by an organised activity such as an arts and crafts jamming session or creating Bible story skits. What keeps us going is that we’ve actually witnessed changes in the kids over the

years we’ve been visiting them. They’re young – between six and twelve – and when we teach one of the Bible stories, they are able to recall them the next time we meet. It’s not the strength of our acting, but they actually know the story. We’ve also witnessed changes in the staff, where they’ve become more open to us praying before meals.”

Recently, when the world has been encouraging social distancing due to COVID-19, Alex and his core team of volunteers offered to meet monthly in smaller groups and quarterly in a larger group, to continue to foster connections. All this was possible because of the established relationships

and trust built with PLK. Alex and the team of volunteers regularly assembled and dropped off care packages to PLK to express their love and affirmation to the children.

“As much as God calls us into relationship with Him and with each other, we are called to be in relationship with the people we are serving. When everyone else is pulling out, we’re finding a balance to be safe and to care for them. We want them to know we’re still here. When you’re down, you want to know that there is someone in your corner praying, thinking, and caring for you. Knowing God comes through engaging with others. We’re all created in God’s image, and when we’re interacting with one another, we’re interacting with God’s image.”



by his side: Kevin Iu

side by side

Eva Lo x Irene Ho



Eva and Irene first started volunteering as teachers when we launched our Mommies Learn English class in October 2019. The programme began when Hope of the City observed that many mothers had a growing desire to learn English in order to help their children with their schoolwork. At the same time, the ladies also wanted to equip themselves for future employment.

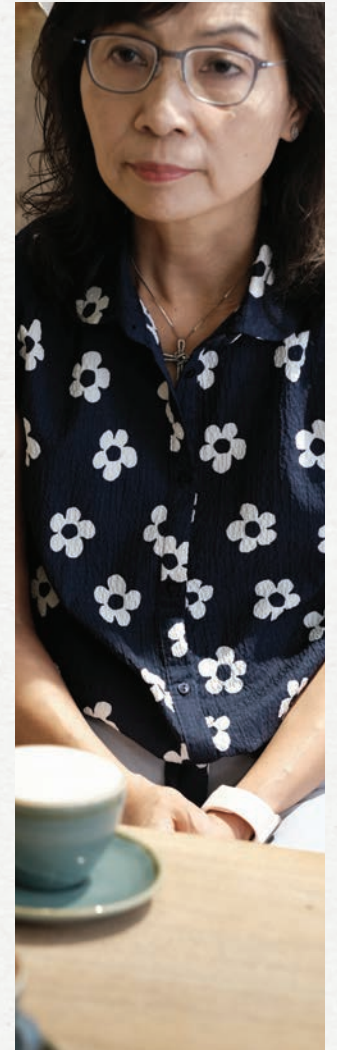
Over the years, Eva has become a key player in not just teaching English but encouraging our volunteer teaching assistants to take the initiative in getting to know the learners and building relationships with them.

Eva shares, “My faith motivates me to serve, and I love to encourage more people to get involved in serving and loving the community together. Helping people who may not be able to help themselves is meaningful and it gives us an opportunity to give back to the community. As I serve, I end up being blessed as it helps me develop social skills, make new friends and broaden my perspective as I learn to focus on others rather than on myself. It makes me feel that I am living life to the fullest.”

Apart from supporting the mothers in learning English, Eva has been involved in leading Alpha and parenting courses with Irene. “My ongoing service has been motivated by seeing the recipients being blessed by various works,” Eva says, “helping to meet their practical needs but also encouraging them to grow spiritually and psychologically.”

One particular highlight for Irene was meeting Mama Choi.

“I met Mama Choi in the Mommies Learn English class. She is a timid single mother struggling with health problems and unstable employment. Her hope lies in her son finding a secure job when he finishes his studies. Although Mama Choi dropped out of the English class early on, we’ve continued to stay connected and I maintain a relationship with her. She joins other activities held at Hope Centre whenever she’s available. Her spontaneous expressions of gratitude to God on a few occasions shows the subtle changes in her perspective on life as she experiences love and care.”





CK is the senior programme coordinator at Hope of the City, mainly overseeing our English tutoring and youth development programmes. He started off as a home visit volunteer to low-income families before joining the Hope team in November, 2019.

With a strong belief in transforming lives one life at a time, CK knows from experience that this starts with relationship building. He highlights the patience and persistence of Gabe, one of his close friends from church, in walking alongside a youth in need.

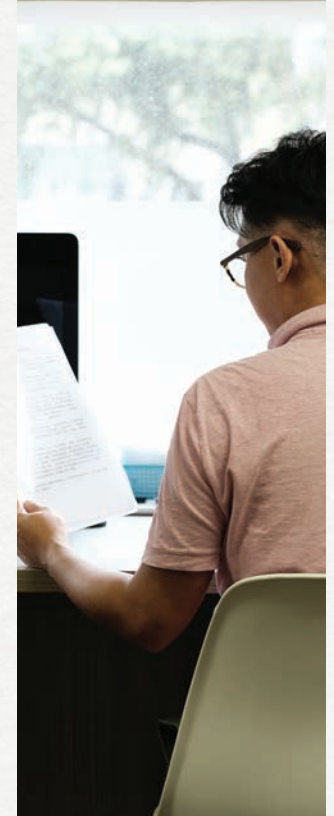
“A social worker from our partnering school, China Holiness College, reached out to see if we could help a student called Zero, who was disengaged and on the verge of dropping out of school,” CK explains. “After some

intentional chats, Zero shared that he would like to prep well for his HKDSE and also learn Thai boxing.”

CK immediately thought of Gabe, who Thai boxes regularly and has a heart for youth. Through this common interest in Thai boxing, Gabe began to mentor Zero.

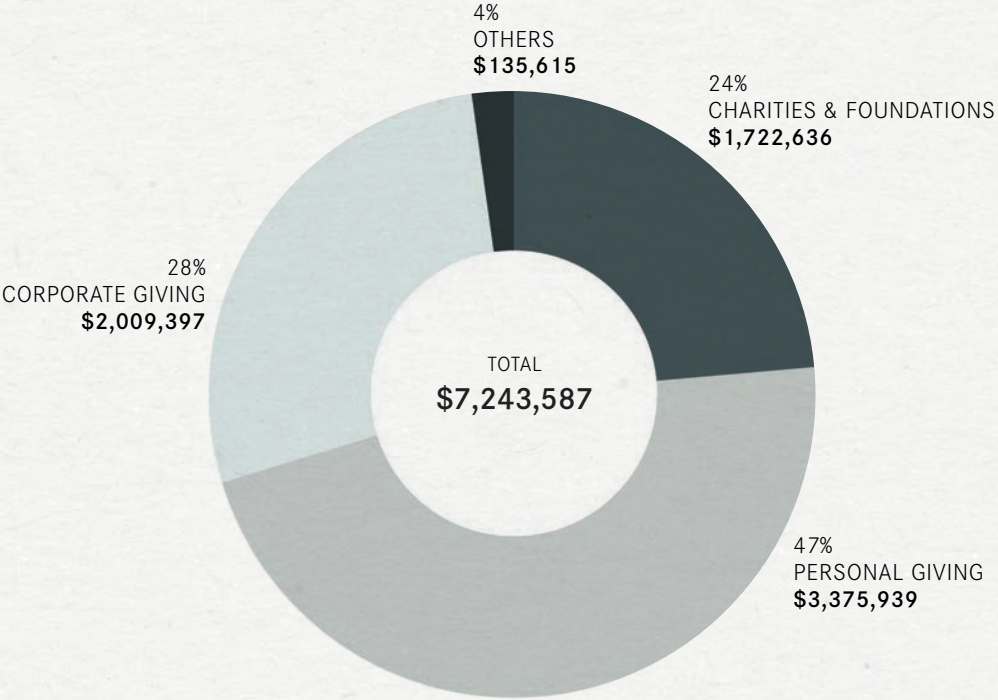
“Gabe helped Zero train to participate in a Thai boxing competition. Zero was beaten in the competition but Gabe encouraged him to get back up again, stressing the importance of perseverance and having a right attitude towards failure.”

From this pairing, CK witnessed Zero maturing, exemplified when Zero told him, “I’ve learnt what it takes to be successful and I’m not afraid of failure anymore.” Even though Zero had lost in Thai boxing, he had gained hope and confidence through the affirming support of his teachers, social worker



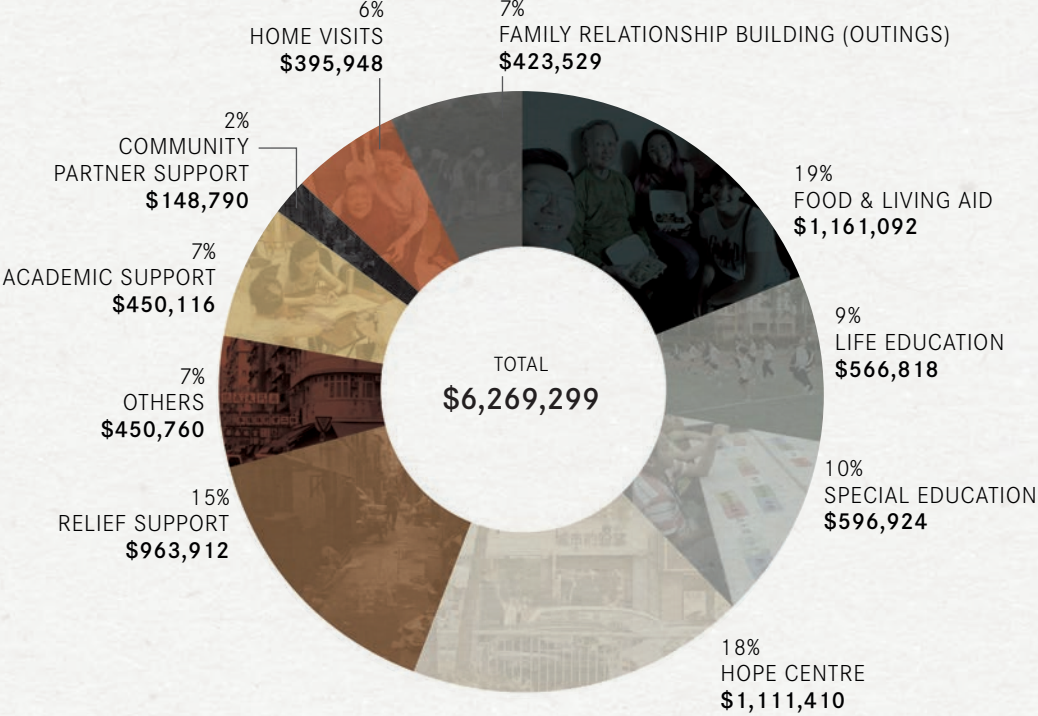
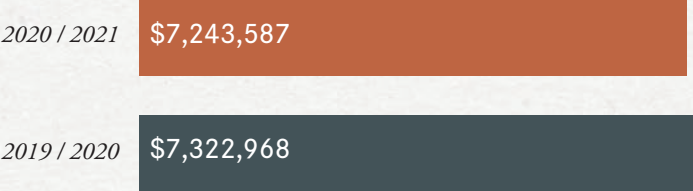
and Gabe, and he is now considering pursuing higher education.

“My hope is to see communities collectively join hands to care for the young people in Hong Kong and spur them on towards a flourishing future,” CK says.



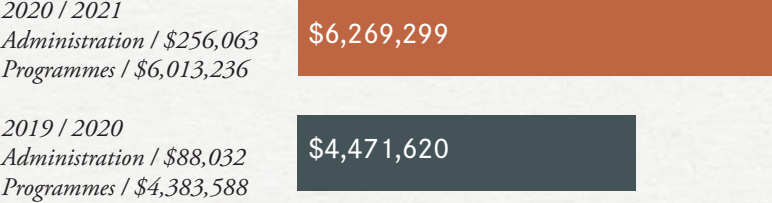
SOURCE OF INCOME

INCOME



PROGRAMME EXPENSES
Projects and Sponsorships

EXPENSES
Administration vs Programmes



LOOKING AHEAD

In the months and years ahead, Hope of the City will continue to walk alongside those in our community who are so in need of hope and a future. As God enables us, we plan to:

- expand our English programmes to reach more mothers.
- empower youth in our community through upskilling and leadership training.
- extend our services within Sham Shui Po and beyond.
- explore the potential for establishing a social enterprise in Sham Shui Po.

There is unspeakable joy in witnessing life transformation. Our desire is for all those we encounter to experience the truth of Psalm 34:8, which says, “Taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the one who takes shelter in Him.”

As we step forward in faith, we invite you to join us in leaving footprints of hope across our community. Come taste and see God’s goodness in allowing you to be part of his mission to transform lives in our city. Are you ready?

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/donate

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/events

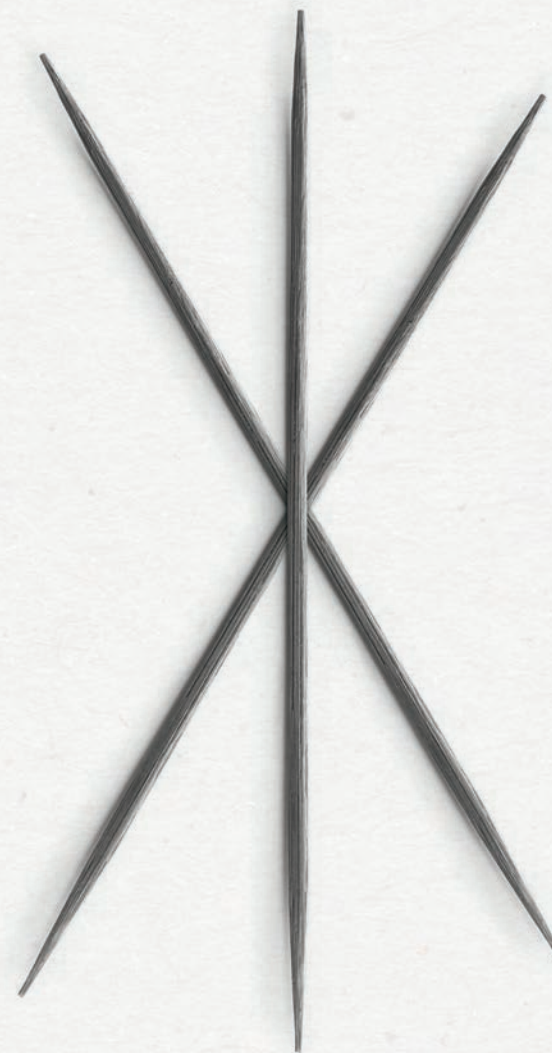
PARTNER with us

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.



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)
Social Development Practice and
Research Centre
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)



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