



TEN YEARS

HOPE OF THE CITY / ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

ABOUT US RETRACING THE FOOTPRINTS OF HOPE

BOARD MEMBERS

- Agnes Tai: Director, Great Glory Investment Corporation
- Brett Hilliard: Senior Pastor, Island ECC
- Brian Kusumoki: 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

An old Chinese proverb says, “Traveling thousands of miles is better than reading thousands of books.” Nothing compares to the experience gained from stepping out on a journey on our own two feet, and as we go, we inevitably leave footprints behind, testifying to our presence. Hope of the City’s journey began 10 years ago, with tentative steps at first. We had little idea of where the path would take us, but we did have a clear vision of the ultimate destination: a God-given vision of a community where Hong Kong’s infamous wealth gap could be bridged by friendship, and where caring relationships with those in need would lead to life transformation, both materially and spiritually.

Over the course of these 10 years, Hope’s dedicated team and a small but powerful army of volunteers have walked every street and lane of Sham Shui Po, seeking out those places where misery and mercy can meet. It is in such places that we truly experience God and see Him at work. We pray that the footprints we’ve left behind as we’ve journeyed with our neighbours – whether new arrivals, low-income families, disenfranchised youth, the homeless, or children with special needs – have been footprints of encouragement and hope. Praise God that He is here with us, lighting our path every step of the way.



Nelson Yau
Executive Director



FROM THE BEGINNING

2010

EVENT OF THE YEAR

THE FOUNDING OF HOPE OF THE CITY

Brett Hilliard, Co-Founder

In the early 2000s, in conversations with Tim Keller of Redeemer Church in New York City, I learned about the ministry of Hope for New York. This effort was designed to rally around NGOs that were already doing great work and make them even better by providing funding and manpower. We decided we could adapt some of NYC's applications to the specific needs of Hong Kong.

Two great streams of opportunity in Hong Kong had been largely overlooked. There were smaller churches lacking the people or resources for formalized outreach programs of their own who could join in our efforts, providing more volunteer hands. Then there were corporations with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs seeking to have employees and funds go to tested efforts, but with little on-the-ground knowledge of where to get started.

By establishing an NGO separate from the church, we could rally both of these streams of opportunity. Most corporations would be restricted in their ability to give to a church, whereas supporting a more neutral entity would be acceptable and effective. Similarly, working with smaller churches under the umbrella of a neutral organization would allow us to build bridges of unity and more easily cross boundaries of language and denomination.

Brian Kusunoki and I found great kinship in our common desire to see the church mobilized for greater, ongoing local impact. So, with a heart for the marginalized in our city, and believing God for a creative approach, Hope of the City was born.

2011

EVENT OF THE YEAR

A YEAR OF EXPLORATION

Brian Kusunoki, Co-Founder

As Hope of the City got up and running, our initial focus was on defining our niche, and what it meant to serve the poorest of the poor in Hong Kong. We were quickly drawn to two key areas: 1) educational support for children from low-income families, as a means of breaking the poverty chain, and 2) employment-related training for local workers lacking both job and life skills.

Hope had no full-time staff to begin with, but what we did have were some truly dedicated volunteers and Board directors. They helped Hope connect with inspiring organizations like St James Settlement, the YWCA, Yan Kei Church, New Being Fellowship, Roadside Ministries and Po Leung Kuk. To this day, the first three of these remain close collaborators in Hope's elderly home visit and after-school tutoring programs.

This was also the year we established what we call the "L corridor" in Sham Shui Po, as a way of narrowing the focus of our outreach to a handful of city blocks identified as embodying the greatest depth of need. Then came the real game-changer for Hope – the hiring of Amy Tsai, and Flo Chiu, two amazingly gifted and compassionate women who took Hope to a whole new level of community and volunteer engagement, and impact for Christ.



Behind the Scenes: Joyce Chau

Among Hope's earliest volunteers, Joyce Chau (*photo on the right: second from the left*) stands out as one who helped us considerably. Joyce did much of Hope's initial exploratory work, knocking on countless doors to find out who was doing what in the community and how we might help. Her legwork provided much of the early traction Hope needed to establish a presence in Sham Shui Po. The tutoring and elderly visit programs that have become signature ministries of Hope are largely the result of Joyce's efforts. We are very grateful to her and all those who served alongside her.

2012

EVENT OF THE YEAR

OPENING OF J-LIFE



Hope of the City's vision from the beginning has been to form partnerships, to share resources and knowledge, and to come together with those who have a similar vision and heart to serve the city. So much of Hope's initial work involved connecting with people. One of those connections – that still continues today, 10 years on – was with Elli Fu from J-Life Foundation.

From the moment we met Elli, a friendship quickly blossomed around our shared vision to serve the community through meeting practical needs, developing long-term relationships with families, empowerment and training, spiritual transformation, and the presence of love. It has been such an encouragement to dream with Elli and walk alongside the J-Life community centre from its beginnings.

On reflection, what stands out about our partnership with Elli is that it goes far beyond one organization partnering with another, to a deeper personal level of trust and honour for each other. It is this same trust we see every day at J-Life, as tutors go over homework with young learners, when a single mom who has lost her job receives not just food but also a listening ear, when families invite volunteers into their homes and open up about their lives.

It's a privilege and a gift to walk with Elli and J-Life, drawing on our bond of trust to bring life and transformation wherever there is an opportunity.

2013

EVENT OF THE YEAR

PARTNERSHIP WITH BANK OF AMERICA

As Hope of the City became more closely connected with local nonprofits and social workers, our understanding of the need in Hong Kong deepened. As we were considering how to scale up our outreach efforts to a more sustainable model, the Bank of America philanthropy team confirmed Hope of the City as a grantee, beginning a long and meaningful corporate partnership.

A portion of BoA's funding was quickly allocated to addressing a very specific gap that social workers had identified: support for families who had children with learning disabilities. The grant allowed us to hire psychologists and medical experts to host a variety of workshops for the community and support seven children with special needs during this first year of partnership with BoA.

Following one workshop on "Addressing Developmental Delays in Toddlers," a mother approached our team with tears streaming down her cheeks because she didn't know how to engage with her three-year-old son or find resources to support him. In partnership with a Child Development Centre, Hope was able to arrange a comprehensive assessment for the boy and connect his mother with a doctor who could monitor his progress. This is all it took to restore hope to one of the many lives that make up the heartbeat of our city.



Behind the Scenes: Beneficiary Family

Although our support for special needs children and their families was just beginning in 2015, parents were already expressing great relief that their little ones could finally receive the professional help they needed. One mother of a child with ADD shared that she had often regretted giving birth to her son, and felt hopeless about raising him. After learning that he would receive help, she became much more optimistic about the future and felt renewed hope for her son and herself.



2014

EVENT OF THE YEAR

PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. JAMES' SETTLEMENT BEGINS

“All the things in my life are a gift from God,” declares Connie Ng, Senior Manager of Community Development Services from St. James' Settlement. “While doing my first assignment in college, I learned about SJS for the first time. I became a social worker and my first placement was with SJS. After graduation, my first full-time job was with SJS. God has been very kind to me and planned my path.

“My working relationship with Hope of the City began in 2007, when I was the Centre Supervisor at the People's Food Bank in Shek Kip Mei. For over a decade, I've worked closely with the Hope team, who always want to do more to serve the community. Whenever I've shared about community needs, Hope has responded and supported SJS, displaying sincerity, treating those in need with integrity, and demonstrating His grace.

“Today, my working relationship with Hope continues, as do God's blessings to me through SJS. I met my husband in SJS and we now have 2 sons, aged 5 and 8. When my older son was studying in an SJS kindergarten in 2016, I started accompanying him to Sunday school and became a Christian that year! God has truly guided my steps throughout my life.”



Behind the Scenes: Collaboration

St. James' Settlement came to Hope's attention in our earliest years, when we received a funding proposal from Connie seeking support to keep the doors of their food banks in Kowloon East and Kowloon West open. SJS's values aligned well with our own: believing in every person's potential and value, and providing opportunities for them to succeed. Hope of the City's collaboration with SJS has since moved far beyond financial support for their food banks. We now partner to provide after-school English tutoring, home delivery of daily necessities to needy households, and monthly home visits to lonely elderly in Shek Kip Mei and Ngau Tau Kok.

2015

EVENT OF THE YEAR

ELDERLY HOME VISITS BEGIN



Yu Lik Cheung, Volunteer

Yu Lik looks back on 2015 as the year he made a long-term commitment to visiting the elderly.

“I had tried out different activities in pursuit of a fulfilling and purposeful lifestyle,” he remembers. Then, as a new believer, he heard a missionary share about encountering Jesus through touching the untouchable, motivating her into sacrificial service. Deeply moved, Yu Lik signed up for Hope of the City’s regular elderly visits.

The initial short monthly chats with strangers gradually developed into precious friendships - relationships built over time and filled with memorable moments. Meetups extended beyond scheduled visit times, and included shared trips to doctors’ appointments, and even joining family gatherings.

“The elderly see us as their children, and treasure every moment with us, sharing their stories and listening to ours,” Yu Lik says. “Throughout these years of walking with these elderly friends, I’m reminded of Jesus’ words in Matthew 25: ‘I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Yu Lik believes he too has been blessed with opportunities to meet Jesus through friendship with the elderly.

Behind the Scenes: Home Visits Program

When SJS called, requesting visitors for lonely elderly in Ngau Tau Kok, we knew it meant recruiting dozens of new volunteers willing to commit for the long term. It seemed a formidable task, but we needn’t have worried as God soon provided 66 monthly visitors to care for more than 70 elderly in NTK. Since then, many smiles and tears have been shared. Whether helping a granny get new dentures, or witnessing a long-awaited family reunion, or attending the funeral of a dear old friend, our volunteers have learned that, often, the most important part of these relationships is taking the time to hear another story or share one more cup of tea.

2016

EVENT OF THE YEAR

FIRST OVERNIGHT SSP XPERIENCE

In an effort to raise awareness of the impact of poverty in Sham Shui Po, Hope of the City created an annual community-engagement opportunity we call SSP Xperience. Launched in 2015 as an evening encounter, this year we included an overnight stay at Mei Ho House. We were thrilled to have 30 people join us for this curated 'service tour' of Hope's favorite community.

Offering an overview of the neighbourhood's needs and Hope's response, this hands-on event was designed collaboratively with five local partners to provide a glimpse of life as it is for SSP's poorer residents. Participants visited a family living in a subdivided flat, engaged with street sleepers in Tung Chau Park, heard personal stories by a former triad member and a single mom, and tried their hand at sourcing a family's daily meals on a \$50 budget. Our 'locals-for-a-day' also got a taste of local fare by sharing a meal with the 'buddies' at a soup kitchen and trying out a 'dai pai tong'.

Ever mindful that it is God's work we are seeking to accomplish, we invited participants to walk in prayer with us through the bustling streets of SSP, before climbing Garden Hill for a time of midnight praise and prayer overlooking the lights of the community we love.



Participant's Reflection: Kathy Hon

"Eye-opening. Inspirational. Humbling. Reflecting on this SSP Xperience, words like these come instantly to mind. It was my compassion-stretching chance to meet members of the local Sham Shui Po community: a former street kid impacted by Elli from J-Life, and street sleepers served by Christian Concern for the Homeless. I still remember vividly how the boy explained that he wouldn't be here today if not for the genuine love and nurturing of Elli. Faith in action was so evident, and so inspiring. God is here; yet, greater things are still to be done in our city. With love, greater things will be done."

2017

EVENT OF THE YEAR

FIRST HOPE OCTOBER



Hope of the City's 'Big Event' of 2017 was the launching of our first Hope October, an initiative intended to mobilize volunteers to serve the community. By providing a flood of volunteer engagement opportunities for people to choose from, our hope is that they might find their niche and continue to serve according to their talents and passions.

For this inaugural month-long volunteer marathon, we set a target of achieving 1,000 volunteer hours. We were thrilled when, by month's end, 506 volunteers had contributed 1,254 hours to serving the underprivileged across 63 events! They tutored students, delivered food to needy homes, took kids bowling and skating, visited street sleepers, joined family outings, led prayer walks, and more - all with incredible enthusiasm.

As a key part of Hope October, three Sundays were devoted to our yearly Food Drive for Feeding Hong Kong. Thanks to many cheerful givers, our big red collection bins overflowed with an incredible 10 tons of essential food items for needy families. That included 1,641 bags of rice which, if stacked up in a single column, would reach a height of 41 storeys!

With such encouraging results on our first try, it's little wonder that Hope October has become a much-anticipated annual event.

Volunteer's Reflection: Karen Chau

When Karen Chau signed up as a Hope October volunteer, she saw it as an opportunity to show others the love and goodness she herself had experienced from a gracious Heavenly Father. She certainly did show a great deal of love to many, participating in six different events over the course of the month. From assisting during a mother-child bake-off, to visiting a lonely elderly woman, to delivering necessities to low-income families, to bowling with a young boy, Karen truly threw herself into her role as helper, encourager and caring companion.

'The seeds we sow may seem insignificant,' Karen says, 'but with God's blessing they ultimately grow into something beautiful.'



2018

EVENT OF THE YEAR

ADOPT A SCHOOL

Hope of the City's 'Adopt-a-School' program is about creating meaningful, long-term partnerships with under-resourced schools, providing funding and expertise to empower them to deliver the best educational experience possible for their students.

The first school Hope 'adopted' was China Holiness College in Sham Shui Po, under the leadership of Principal Lydia Tso. We began by offering music scholarships and fitness programs. As our dedicated volunteers built relationships of trust with teachers and students, our partnership extended to setting up a school cycling program, a dragon boat team, an English drama club and an in-school TV station. Since 2016, more than 500 CHC students have also participated in character-building and leadership programs, including overnight sailing trips, life camps and Outward Bound adventures.

Principal Tso grew up in a grassroots family herself, and was deeply impressed by caring teachers. This led her to become an educator devoted to serving grassroots families, intent on giving every child opportunities to unearth the potential they possess and to know God's love. After heading an under-resourced school for 13 years, she has learned to rely on God and the abundance that only He can provide.



Behind the Scenes: Beneficiary Student

Ruby's story exemplifies the difference that access to opportunities can make in a student's life. Thirteen-year-old Ruby was very bright and studying at a good school on an academic scholarship. She loved playing the piano and showed great promise. However, with her single father serving as full-time caregiver for her disabled brother, there was no money for luxuries like piano lessons. On her principal's recommendation, Ruby was awarded a Hope music scholarship, which enabled her to study with a private piano teacher. She excelled, entering and winning numerous music competitions. Subsequently, she was granted a scholarship to study music at Wells Cathedral School in the U.K., where she continues to shine.



2019

EVENT OF THE YEAR

HOPE CENTRE OPENING

The call to love our neighbours is at the heart of everything Hope of the City does and is. In this watershed year, our ongoing commitment to transforming lives led to the achievement of a long-held goal: the opening of a community centre in Sham Shui Po. By establishing a visible and permanent presence in this need-filled district, we have literally become a neighbour to those we serve.

The search for a suitable site took almost four years, so we were thrilled when the Hope Centre finally opened in July. The Hope Centre allows us to support our frontline partners better, by providing them with an 'on loan' venue when they need more space for special programs or events. The centre also makes it possible for Hope to plan tailored programs and activities not currently offered by our partners. This means expanded opportunities for volunteers to build relationships with and make a real difference in the lives of the underserved in our city.

Being present in the neighbourhood lets our neighbours know that we are there for them, that we see their struggles and that we stand ready to serve them with open hearts.



Behind the Scenes: Beneficiary Family

Maggie and her family live on the rooftop of a walk-up tenement building in Sham Shui Po. With three children to raise, her husband's income from construction work doesn't go far, so the family was chosen to receive Hope's Food and Living Aid subsidy of \$300 per month. Maggie wanted to find a part-time job to help ease the family's finances, but childcare posed a problem. Then, the Hope Centre opened and we needed a reliable part-time cleaner, so we hired Maggie and welcomed her to bring her children to work. Maggie now helps to support her family, and her children have since joined our weekly tutoring sessions, receiving one-on-one homework help from Hope volunteers.

2020

EVENT OF THE YEAR

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Collaboration is at the heart of Hope's mission to serve the underprivileged through partnerships and pooling resources. So, when COVID-19 hit Hong Kong, we quickly joined forces with our local partners to assist the community by providing urgently-needed supplies and support. During the first six months of the pandemic, we were able to distribute 98,000 donated face masks and some \$159,000 in donated supermarket vouchers to struggling neighbours. Then, as schools transitioned to e-learning, our partnerships enabled us to source 259 digital devices and 110 Wi-Fi eggs for needy students, filling requests from local schools and NGOs.

This close collaboration with our community partners came about through weekly meet-ups we came to call our "Borrowing Soy Sauce" group, where we compared notes and brainstormed how to put available resources to the best use. It's been a joy to witness first-hand the realization of our vision of NGOs, churches, schools and volunteers united in serving the community together. As pandemic-related concerns evolve, Borrowing Soy Sauce continues to meet monthly to share insights and encouragement as we strive together to address the ongoing needs of those experiencing joblessness and financial distress.

Partner's Reflection: Ah Kei (Borrowing Soy Sauce)

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, the workload for my colleagues and I at Christian Concern for the Homeless Association doubled, and we were constantly hustling around. Yet once a week this full-speed pace was put on pause when the Hope of the City team prepared breakfast and invited us to sit and eat with them. Not only did these shared meals bring physical refreshment, they also refreshed our souls."

"In my 15 years servicing with CCHA, I have never experienced this kind of unique companionship. Hope fully supports our frontline workers, while promoting sincere cooperation between organizations throughout the community. I'm grateful to have this team of co-laborers, who have allowed us to expand our capacity in responding to community needs."

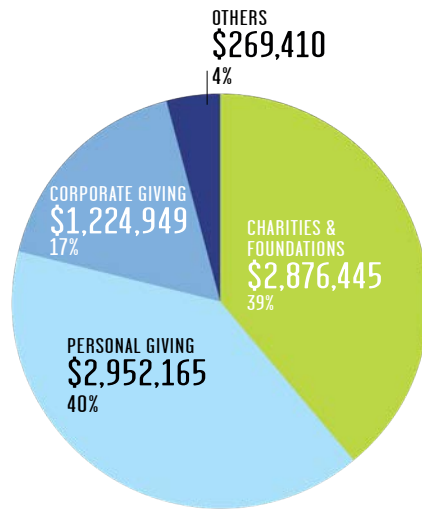


FINANCIAL REPORT

2019/2020

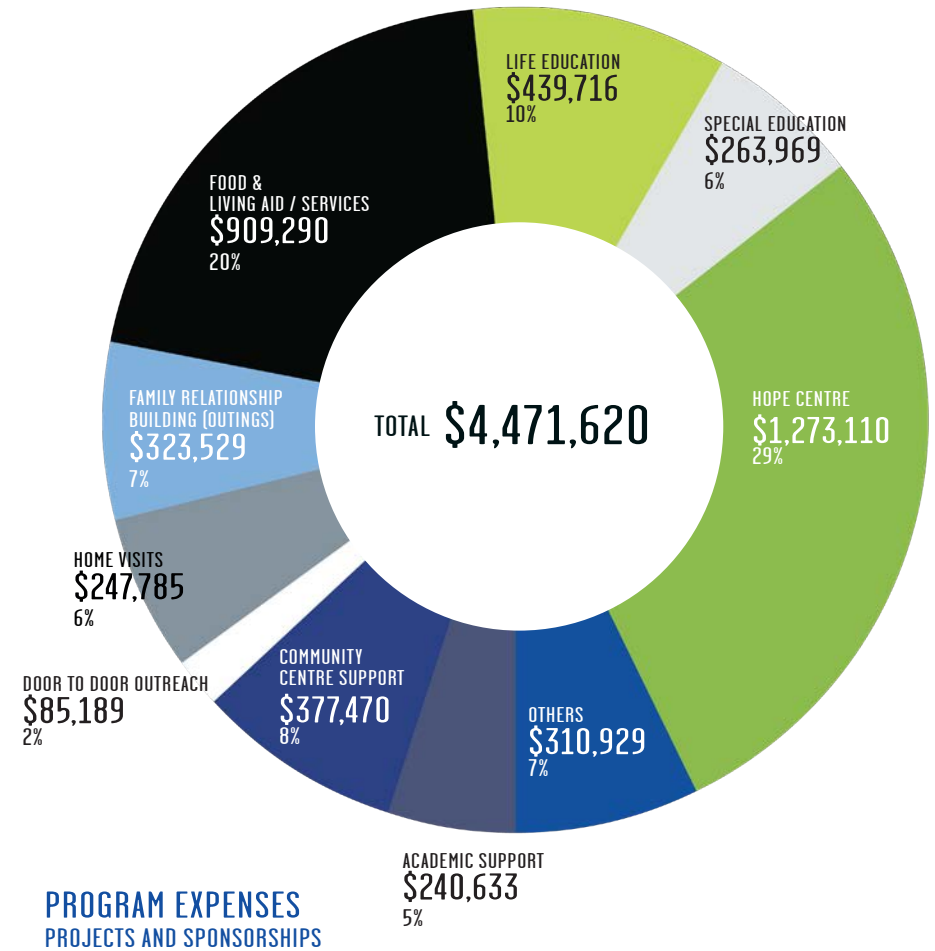
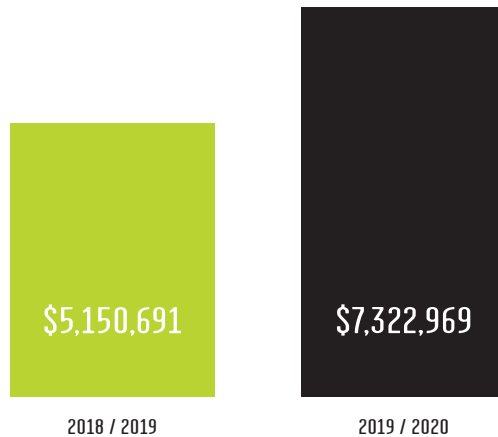
SOURCE OF INCOME

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



TOTAL \$7,322,969

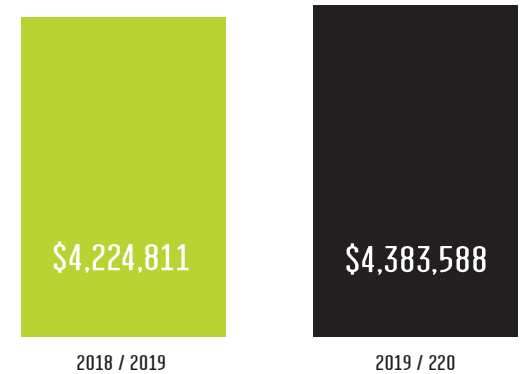
INCOME



PROGRAM EXPENSES PROJECTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

EXPENSES ADMINISTRATION VS PROGRAMS

- 2019 / 2020
Administration / \$88,032
Programs / \$4,383,588
- 2018 / 2019
Administration / \$47,394
Programs / \$4,224,811



LOOKING AHEAD

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

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 programs 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/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/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.

HOPE OF THE CITY PARTNERS

2019-20

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)

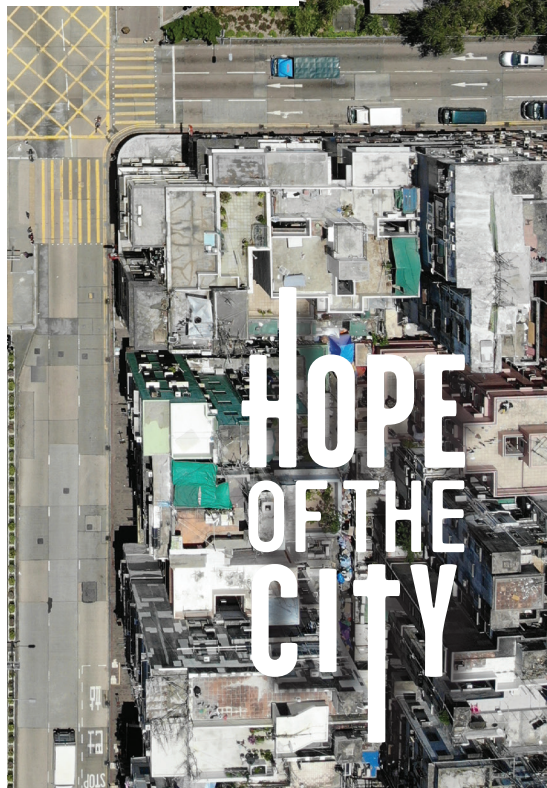
United Christian College

YWCA (Sham Shui Po Integrated Social
Service Centre)





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