

1

CONNECTING AS ONE

ABOUT HOPE OF THE CITY

HOPE OF THE CITY IS CONNECTIONS

ABOUT MAKING

LETTER FROM OUR CO-FOUNDER

Many of us live our lives in Hong Kong only vaguely aware of poverty. Our friends aren't poor, our jobs don't involve the poor, and we become unwittingly detached from some very dire and urgent realities that exist right here in our own city.

Hope of the City is about making connections.

Connecting sanitised, detached perspectives to sometimes harsh realities of poverty.

Connecting people with resources to people with needs.

Connecting organisations with a heart to make changes, to tested programmes that are actually making a huge difference.

I'm personally so thrilled to see what Hope of the City has been able to accomplish in such a short time. I hope that you too will be encouraged, and perhaps join us in an effort to serve our city well.



Brett Hillard
Co-Founder

BOARD MEMBERS • Brett Hillard: Senior Pastor, Island ECC • Brian Kusunoki: Commercial Director (ASEAN), SWIFT;
Former Head of Marketing, World Vision HK • Charles Chu: Solicitor, Charles Chu and Kenneth Sit. Solicitors
• Daniel Tseung: Founder & Managing Director, LionRock Capital • Sherman Chau: Associate Pastor, Island ECC

2012/ 2013

LOOKING BACK

In order to have a deeper impact on the people we support, Hope of the City has selected focus areas where we dedicate funding, volunteers and quality resources to provide access to opportunities for the underprivileged. We believe each person has the potential to succeed, and our focus areas reflect the needs expressed by those we serve.



LIFE EDUCATION

Hope of the City believes children need to be equipped with decision-making skills and character values to thrive in all aspects of their lives. In 2013, Hope volunteers ran a character building programme to teach 20 children from our English tuition courses about trust, respect, self-confidence and love.



HOME VISITS

Through regular home visits, volunteers help social workers monitor the health and overall living conditions of households. Over 167 volunteers visited 42 elderly and 28 low-income families at least once a month - providing emotional, spiritual and physical support.



FAMILY OUTINGS

Hope of the City organises outings to break down social barriers and give families and volunteers opportunities to spend time together in environments outside of their neighbourhoods. Volunteers joined 36 elderly and 47 families for 9 outings in 2013.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Hope of the City provides academic support to children from low-income households through English tuition and homework help. During the 2012-13 school year, Hope offered 217 combined hours of English tutoring to 116 students, ranging from Primary 1 to Form 1 students.



DOOR-TO-DOOR OUTREACH

Door-to-door outreach is one way that Hope of the City helps our partner organisations find hidden households and make community contact. 45 volunteers knocked on the doors of partitioned homes to inform those in need about social welfare services available in their area. 4 schools also sent a total of 62 students to join service projects organised by Hope of the City.



HOME RENOVATIONS

Hope of the City hired a contractor to renovate a home and provided proper beds for a single mother and her two children who had previously been living in a partitioned cubicle. Volunteers also joined forces to thoroughly clean, paint, and refurnish an elderly woman's flat.



"I GREW UP IN CHINA WHERE I ONLY LEARNT MY ABC'S IN SECOND GRADE. I WAS SO FAR BEHIND"

KIT AND CY / ENGLISH CLASS BENEFICIARIES

Growing up in single parent homes, CY and Kit spent their early high school years playing computer games and working part-time jobs. They did not realise their English ability would be so important in determining future opportunities. By the time this reality set in, their English foundations were weak and their school teachers didn't have the time to reteach them the basic concepts. Kit shared, "I grew up in China where I only learnt my ABC's in second grade. I was so far behind."

The look of appreciation on their faces after the first English tutoring class said it all. "At school, there are 40 students. Here, we only have 10 and I can actually ask questions. This tutor will explain to me word by word what I don't understand. At least now I understand what the teacher is saying. I was able to feel the difference even after one lesson!" Kit dreams to be a fireman but will need to pass in all his core subjects, including English. He hopes it is not too late for him to catch up and pursue his dream.

Many children from low-income families do not have the resources needed to excel in Hong Kong's public schools. As a result, they often fall behind their peers. Hope of the City provides English tuition courses and homework help to over 100 children with the intention of building their self confidence and providing academic support.

100+

STUDENTS
EVERY WEEK

“THERE IS SIMPLY TOO MUCH TO DO... YOU ARE MY COMMITTEE AND SUPPORT”

ELLI / A LOCAL PARTNER

To Elli, the people who come in and out of her centre are not just beneficiaries; they are her team and part of her larger family. When we first met Elli, she asked if we could pray for another centre that could be used for children and families.

We sat with her inside the second centre a year later and marvelled at how much had changed. When asked why our partnership was important, she said, “There is simply too much to do. I cannot do it by myself. I cannot visit one family a day, 30 days a month. You are my committee and support.” The centre has become more than a place to gather; it now feels like “home” to beneficiaries and volunteers alike. Beyond receiving help, Elli’s “family” is able to give back to the community, serve and learn together. Elli said, “When I heard your volunteer’s feedback, I was so encouraged. As he saw the family he was visiting change, he himself was changed.”

Hope of the City employs a partnership model to multiply resources in serving the poor and to offer more sustainable help. Our 16 local partners include family welfare centres, privately funded NGOs, service-providers, community centres, and local churches – all of them have a unique role in the community.





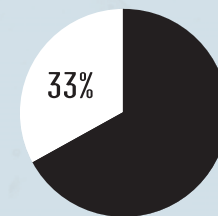
“I LEARNT HOW TO SERVE THOSE IN NEED WITHOUT JUDGING WHETHER THEY DESERVE IT OR NOT”

MING / A VOLUNTEER

When Ming told her friends that she started doing home visits to new immigrants and low-income families in Sham Shui Po, their response was, “Why do you want to serve this group of people? You can do so many other things with your time – why would you even want to do that?!” Ming’s friends wondered whether the families were actually poor or whether they might be taking advantage of government welfare services.

Ming explained that in the past, she might have been someone who thought the same. However, after 6 months of participating in home visits, her perspective completely changed as she began to understand who these families were and listened as they shared about their struggles. “I learnt how to serve those in need without judging whether they deserve it or not. When I got to know them, I began to feel like I was visiting friends. I genuinely want to talk to them on a personal level and see how they are doing each month.”

Hope of the City recruits volunteers who are committed to building genuine relationships with the people they serve. Between 2012-2013, 510 volunteers dedicated a combined total of 5755 hours to support those in need. These volunteers represented 24 churches and 3 international schools, as well as numerous local and multinational companies.



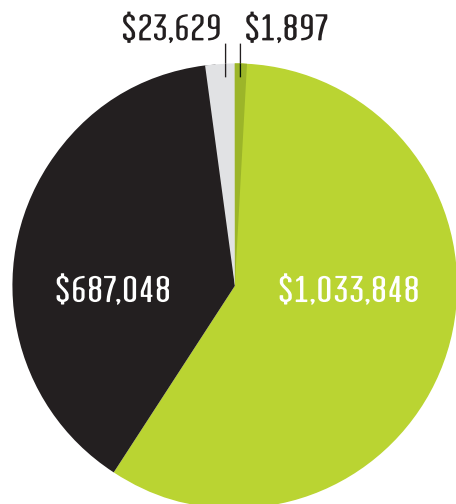
OUT OF 510 VOLUNTEERS, 171 ARE COMMITTED
TO SERVING AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH

FINANCIAL REPORT

2012/2013

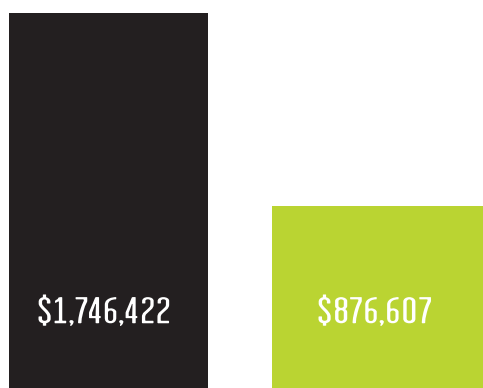
SOURCE OF INCOME

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



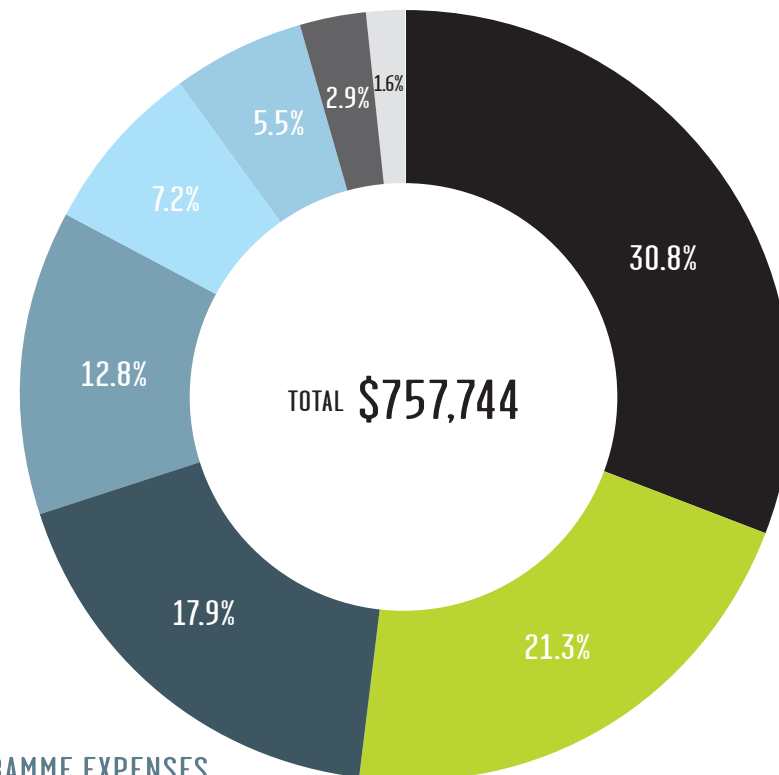
TOTAL \$1,746,422

INCOME



2012 / 2013

2011 / 2012



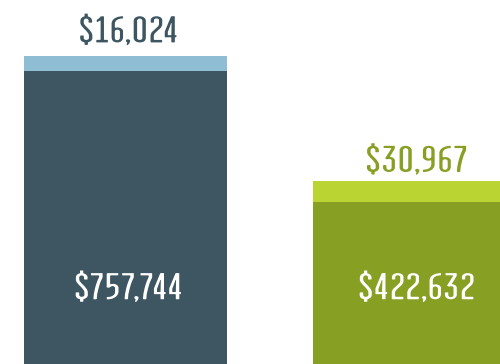
PROGRAMME EXPENSES PROJECTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Academic Support
- Community Centre Support
- Youth Projects
- Life Education
- Other
- Home Visits
- Family Outings
- Door to Door

EXPENSES ADMINISTRATION VS PROGRAMMES

- 2012 / 2013
- Administration
- Programmes

- 2011 / 2012
- Administration
- Programmes



2012 / 2013

2011 / 2012

IN 2014, HOPE OF THE CITY IS EMBARKING ON A NEW MISSION TO SUPPORT LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHO HAVE CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

LOOKING FORWARD

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers and the generosity of our donors, Hope of the City has taken a step deeper into the lives of the community. We have gained a more comprehensive understanding of “need” in Hong Kong through feedback from our local partner organisations and conversations with the people we have been supporting. Poverty can manifest itself in different ways, but we believe that access to opportunities can bring people dignity and improve their livelihoods.

During 2014, Hope of the City is embarking on a new mission to support low-income families who have children with learning disabilities. In our weekly English courses and home visits, we have discovered multiple children who demonstrate signs of learning disabilities but have never been adequately assessed. Furthermore, we desire to multiply the impact of our efforts by increasing the number of children receiving academic support and refining the quality of teaching in our courses. Hope of the City will also offer life education, career exposures and values-based teaching to encourage youth to fulfil their potential.

Hope of the City is mobilising people to creatively give back to society and bring about positive change. As volunteers, partner organisations, donors and beneficiaries commit to serving one another, we believe that Hong Kong can be transformed - one life at a time.

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:
hopeofthecity.com/volunteer*

PARTNER

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 nonprofits who are currently providing social services and may be interested in partnership.

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

WWW.HOPEOFTHECITY.COM

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