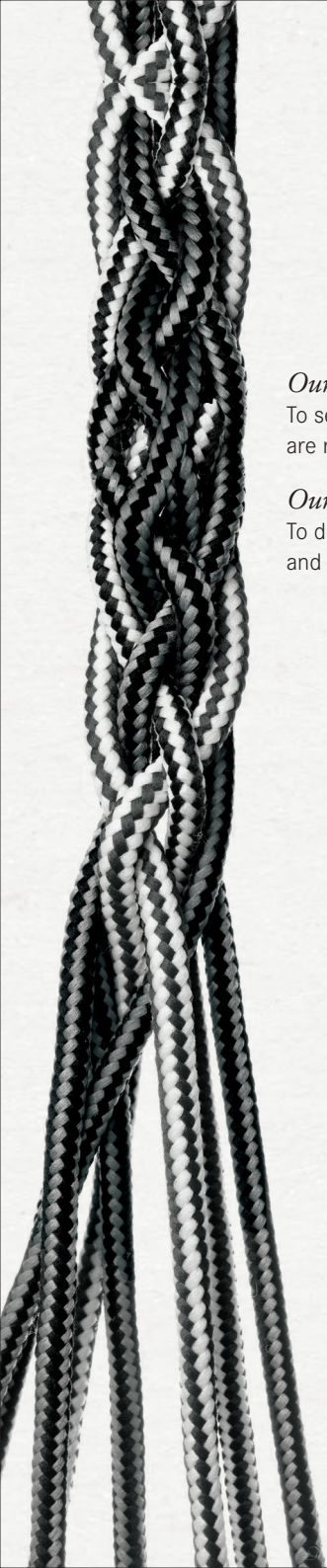




empowering hope



Our Vision

To see a unified community where relationships are restored and lives are transformed

Our Mission

To deepen the impact of existing organisations and unite efforts to empower the disenfranchised

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Empowering Hope

In the earliest days of COVID-19, Hope of the City initiated a special task force called *Borrowing Soy Sauce*, a term stemming from an old Hong Kong expression referencing how neighbours freely lend a helping hand to each other. The task force members included both experienced social workers and business people, all dedicated to serving one another and the community. We shared resources and strategies freely and tirelessly to support our joint mission through a very tough period. By September of 2021, the task force had been dismantled as the COVID threat appeared to subside. Then, lo and behold, in February 2022 the pandemic returned with a vengeance, with the fifth wave catching the public off-guard. As a general sense of panic set in, our task force quickly regrouped and roared back into action, sharing the urgent work of surveying needs, sourcing

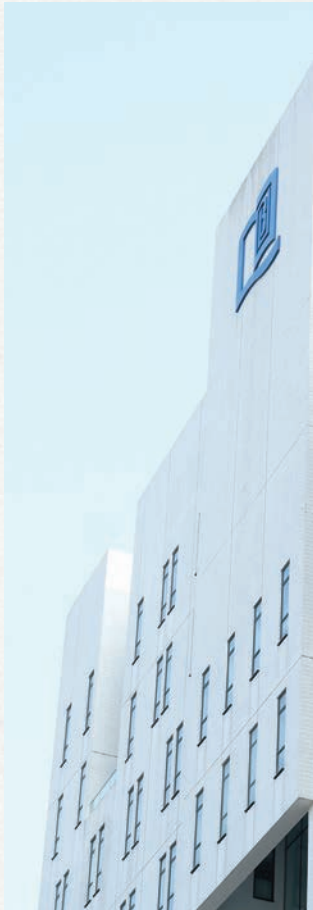
supplies, and making timely door-to-door deliveries of medical supplies and food to COVID-positive households.

As jobs disappeared and work hours evaporated during extended periods of lock down, hundreds of families received various forms of financial assistance to pay rent and utility bills, and to put food on the table.

This complex task was accomplished with surprising efficiency thanks to a true team effort and, in no small measure, to the dedicated and energetic commitment of our Hope Centre's newest staff member, Mei Fun, who joined us in January of 2022 and hit the ground running. Through partnering with several churches, we were also able to distribute more than 600 blessing bags to overburdened healthcare workers who were putting their lives on the line daily to serve the most at-risk populations in elderly homes and hospitals.

Our experience throughout this out-sized COVID-19 crisis clearly demonstrated that hardship can indeed bring out the best in the people of our community. We saw this first-hand on a regular basis. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to those of you who selflessly gave your time and money to support us in restoring hope to those who, after such challenging years, had so little of it left. May your cup continue to overflow with eternal love and blessing!

Nelson Yau
Executive Director



Sing's story

Hope of the City is committed to providing children and youth from low-income families with various forms of academic support. We also believe relationship building makes a huge difference in the lives of young people and young adults. An example of this is the story of Ah Sing.

Sing was introduced to us by Ricky, a social worker from Christian Concern for the Homeless Association (CCHA), our local partner. At that time, Sing was in dire need of life and educational support. He was born in Hong Kong to a mainland mother, but grew up across the border. He completed his secondary school there, but couldn't receive a graduation certificate because he wasn't born on the mainland. Faced with no prospects for furthering his education and few opportunities to work, he had returned to Hong Kong alone with no family, money or place to stay. Thankfully, CCHA provided a bed space for Sing in their dormitory for homeless men.

Sing immediately enrolled in the Yi Jin Diploma program to gain his Hong Kong secondary school equivalency accreditation, studying at night while working full time in a restaurant kitchen. He desperately needed help with his English classes, so Hope of the City arranged to provide an English tutor and staff mentor for him. A long-term Hope volunteer, Jo Ann, offered to tutor Sing, and she continues to support him in his studies to this day.

"From our first meeting, I could see that Ah Sing was a very determined young man," says Jo Ann. "Although he was quite hesitant to use English at first, he proved to be an extremely diligent learner and eagerly soaked up everything he was taught. His English improved by leaps and bounds, and we quickly formed a close relationship that extended beyond tutoring sessions as we shared about personal aspects of our lives."

Sing's hard work and enthusiasm led to the successful completion of his Yi Jin Diploma. Two years later, he was accepted into Baptist University's Health Science Associate Degree program with a well-defined goal for his future.

"My dream is to become a nurse," Sing tells us. "Over the years, I've observed a growing number of elderly living in Sham Shui Po who are encountering health issues. I have received so much, and I hope to give back to the city by pursuing a career in healthcare so that I can use my skill set to help care for the aging population."

- *Provided 261 weekly one-on-one or small group tutoring sessions to 43 students by 24 dedicated volunteers; sent 23 committed volunteers to three of our partners, providing 54 weekly tutoring sessions.*
- *Sponsored 18 weekly after-school English classes with paid tutors in Sham Shui Po.*



Carly's story



Since September 2019, Hope of the City has been running English classes at Hope Centre, to equip low-income women with language skills so as to help prepare them for re-entering the workforce once their children are older. Carly is one of the ladies who has participated in our classes since day one, and is soon to be graduating from her intermediate English class.

Six years ago, after going through a divorce, Carly and her six-year-old son, Jack, were struggling to find affordable housing. That's when she got connected with the Home of Blessings, a midway home for women in crisis run by the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association (CCHA). As a single mom needing to

take care of her young son, Carly couldn't work so she was forced to rely on government assistance and, as she moved beyond transitional housing, most of this was consumed by living costs. Still, Carly always maintained a desire to become self-sufficient.

"As long as I have enough resources to take care of our basic needs and to provide the best education for Jack, I really don't want to depend on a government pay check," she says.

Carly is particularly grateful to a CCHA social worker, Jenny, who believed it was important for Carly to expand her social network. Not only did she introduce Carly to a wider community at church, where she developed close friendships, but CCHA also invited Carly to join our English class shortly after she had moved out of the midway home.

Then, the pandemic hit hard and classes had to be moved online. If anything, this only increased Carly's motivation to better equip herself for the future. Although the multiple, overlapping Zoom lessons for herself and her son were difficult for her, Carly's reliance on God gave her the faith to believe that there was a better life awaiting them. Carly continues to be fervently committed to improving herself and, over the years, we have celebrated a number of milestones with her, including her recent move into public housing and most recently, finding a stable job in a kindergarten near her home. The principal allows her to have flexible hours in order to continue studying English at Hope Centre two mornings a week. Coming September, Jack will be going to secondary school and is in the process of interviewing.

- *Trained 27 volunteers to teach 64 ladies in our weekly Mommies Learn English classes, providing 158 in-person lessons and 109 online English practice sessions during the 5th wave*
- *Provided 30 parenting classes and emotional support groups to 35 women*



Kenny's story

A core focus of our efforts is to help young people thrive in all areas of life by equipping them with life skills and character values. Over the years, we have worked closely with our adopted school, China Holiness College, to carry out different programs aimed at providing holistic support to help their students flourish. Kenny is one teenaged boy we've had the privilege of journeying with during his pivotal years in secondary school.

Kenny joined the Hope-sponsored Dragon Boat team at his school in 2018 and, through his teammates, learned about Hope of the

City. Prior to joining, Kenny had been struggling with a gaming addiction and was unmotivated in regards to both school and life. His experience on the Dragon Boat team helped him gain confidence, increase his tenacity and develop a determined heart to face the HKDSE, an essential exam for entry to Hong Kong universities.

In preparation for the 2021 HKDSE, Kenny started coming to Hope Centre regularly to study. "My home was usually noisy and, when the libraries weren't open, the Hope Centre was a great place to study," Kenny recalls. The Centre also provided a safe space to receive emotional support through chatting and hanging out with Hope staff and other students during one of the most significant phases in his life.

While waiting for his DSE results, Kenny fell back into gaming to cope with his anxiety, but then, over the summer, he was offered the opportunity to participate in Hope of the City's sports leadership program, so he signed up. Through the program, he learned leadership skills, time management and creative problem solving, all of

which he is now able to apply in his current studies at the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE).

After his secondary school graduation, Kenny also joined a youth program called *The Next Station is...?* at the Hope Centre, which invites young people to explore various career paths through hearing from professionals in different fields. Subsequently, in November 2021, Kenny applied for a part-time position at HelloJack.com as a mini-project manager. Through on-the-job training and mentoring by his seniors (YS and Phil), he was able to pick up required skills and begin to work independently. Since then, Kenny continues to balance working part-time with his studies at IVE.

"My goal is to further develop my management skills," Kenny says. "In future, I hope to have a slash career that will enable me to have greater career freedom with flexible working hours."



- Kick-started a mentorship program called altR which organised 54 gatherings between 18 volunteer mentors and 22 youth from our neighbourhood via different activities, including coffee making, coding, music productions, and more.
- Offered 25 time slots at Hope Centre used as a study room for 10 students who were preparing for the HKDSE.



Our Other Programmes

Elderly Care

Due to the pandemic, our normally vibrant programme of visiting the elderly was reduced to only five scheduled elderly visits to 58 seniors, carried out by 76 volunteers, and four deliveries of blessing bags during the peak of the 5th wave. Additionally, we partnered with the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society to hold eight IT training sessions for 14 seniors, supported by 21 volunteers.

Children's Programmes

Apart from tutoring, Hope of the City believes in the importance of play for children from low-income families. With the help of 16 volunteers, we provided 25 events for 32 children, including STEM-related activities, local outings, Christmas celebrations and character-building play sessions.

Men's Group

September saw the launch of a weekly gathering between eight volunteers and 25 men from our local partner, the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association (CCHA). Over the course of 18 meet ups and event celebrations, men living in CCHA's hostel received emotional and practical support in the context of a caring and committed community.

Homeless Outreach

In support of CCHA's long-term outreach to the homeless community in Tung Chau Park, 25 volunteers joined our weekly Tuesday night visits for 20 weeks this year. Additionally, 41 volunteers participated in one-off festival celebrations with the homeless, and three seminars were held to raise awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness.

Street Cleaners' Gathering

Since 2020, Hope of the City has regularly been visiting the workers at two refuse collection centres in Sham Shui Po, as a way to affirm their faithfulness in keeping the community clean and tidy. In 2021/22, a total of 38 volunteers made 19 visits to 210 workers from the Un Chau Street and Tai Nan Street centres.

Honouring Health Workers

During the 5th wave, Hope of the City recruited 35 volunteers to help express gratitude to the staff and caregivers at nursing homes around Sham Shui Po. In delivering four rounds of goodie bags, we were able to honour over 600 workers from 10 nursing homes and a hospital who tirelessly cared for the elderly throughout the pandemic.



About the Team

Board of Directors

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



Nelson Yau
Executive Director

For nine years, Nelson has been committed to leading Hope of the City in bringing real, life-changing hope to those living in poverty and challenging life circumstances in Hong Kong, through working hand-in-hand with cross-disciplinary volunteers, donors and beneficiaries.



Kevin Lu
Community Engagement

Kevin believes the most effective way of transforming the city is to work alongside like-minded organisations and empower volunteers to find opportunities for engaging with the underprivileged in a consistent, relationship-based manner.



Jessica Leung
Volunteers

Convicted to serve the impoverished in this culturally diverse city and believing that every person has the potential to flourish, Jessica's focus is on mobilising volunteers to care for the poor by building relationships through 1-on-1 discipleship.



Tsz Yan Fung
Administration

Through providing all of Hope of the City's behind-the-scenes administrative and financial support, Tsz Yan helps to ensure that more resources can be poured out to empower a larger number of people in the community through effective management.



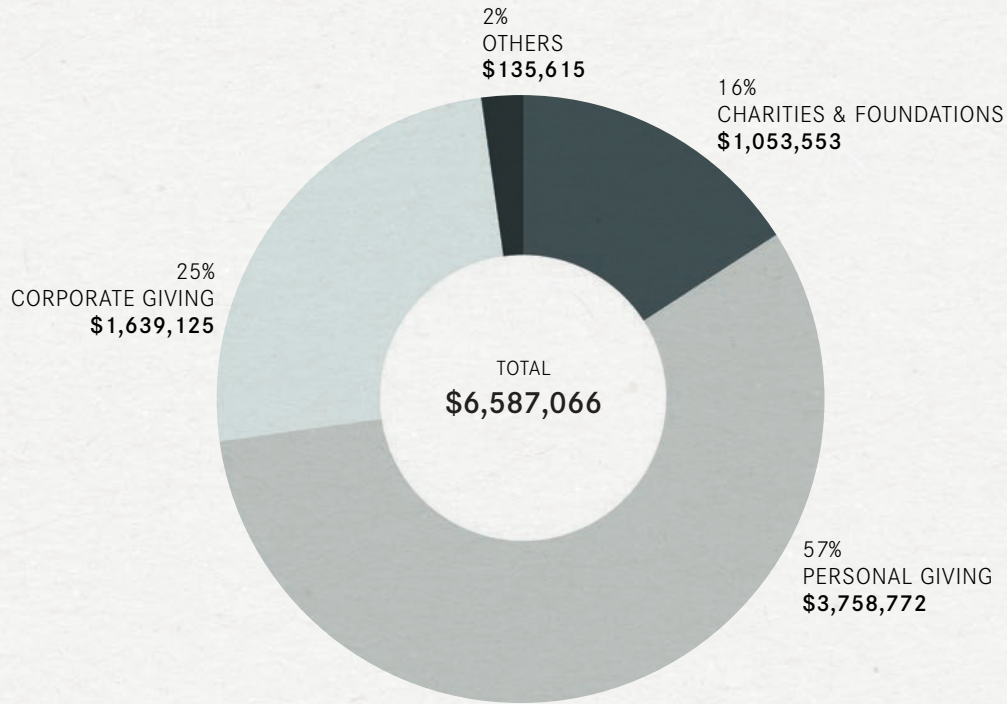
CK Wong
Programmes

Since 2015, CK has been devoting time to mentoring students. After joining Hope in 2019, he began directing his passion for serving youth into optimising life-centred projects that connect the pressing needs of the community with accessible resources.



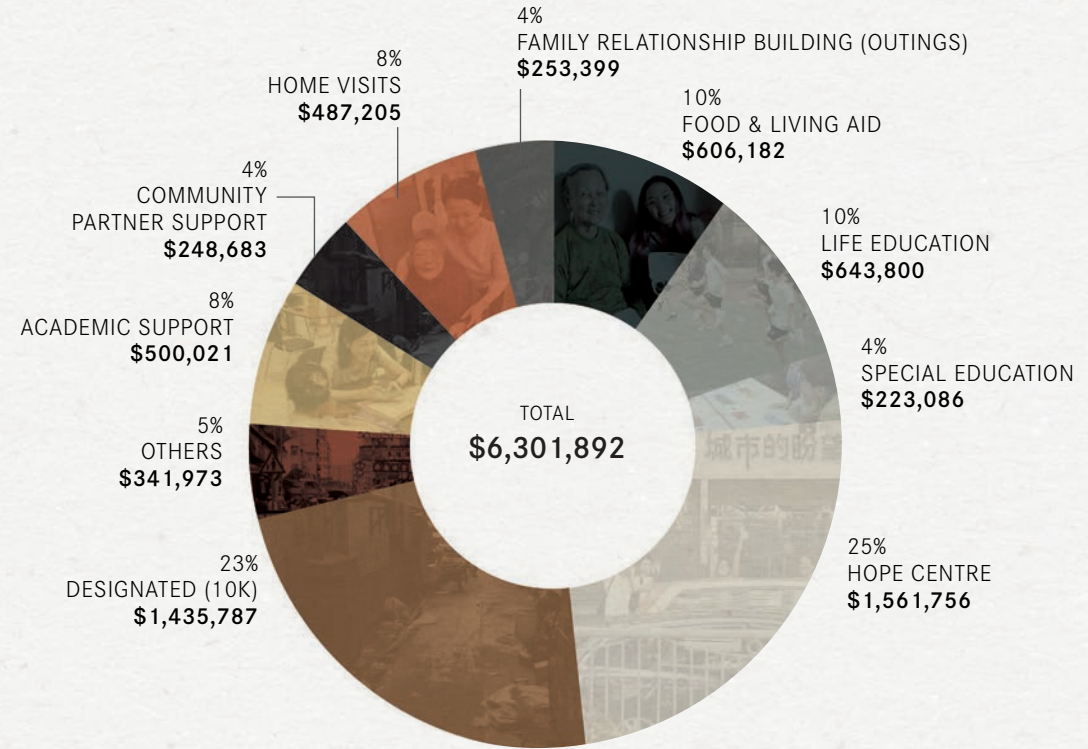
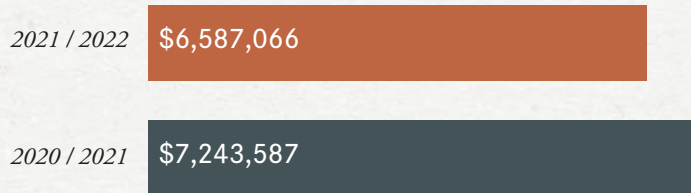
Mei Fun Yum
Centre-in-charge

Starting off as a volunteer teaching assistant in our Mommies Learn English programme, Mei Fun committed to serving Hope full time in 2021, transferring her years of experience in operations management to the daily running of Hope Centre.



SOURCE OF INCOME

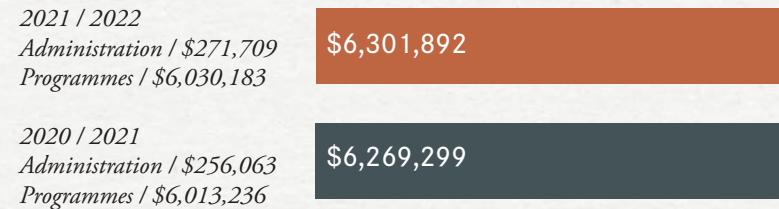
INCOME



PROGRAMME EXPENSES
Projects and Sponsorships

EXPENSES

Administration vs Programmes



LOOKING AHEAD

Many secondary school students whose schooling was interrupted over the past three years have begun to see themselves as victims in society. Not only were they unable to adequately equip themselves for further education due to unsatisfactory school results, they then found themselves equally ill equipped to step into Hong Kong's ever competitive job market. Seeing this, Hope of the City is committed to increasing our efforts to help disengaged youth develop career skills and self-confidence to meet the challenges awaiting them.

We have learned through experience that simply providing career development programs for young people is of minimal value. Faced with the daunting prospect of initiating career decisions, many would rather stay home and remain as 'hidden youth', playing computer games day and night. Such young people, having lost their direction in life, need constant guidance on a personal level. They need a good role model, something that is sadly missing in many inner-city homes. Success takes time, and in the coming year, Hope of the City will continue to focus on recruiting dedicated and passionate volunteers to serve as long-term mentors to local youth. Through walking side by side with them, earning their trust and building caring relationships, young lives can be transformed - one at a time.

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.

*Hope of the City is under section 88 of the Hong Kong Inland Revenue Ordinance (2010).
Registered charity IR No: 91110885

HOPE OF THE CITY PARTNERS 2021-22

China Holiness College
Christian Action Mong Kok Service Centre
Christian Concern for the Homeless Association
Christian Evangelical Zion Church
Evangelical Yan Kei Church
Feeding Hong Kong
Grace Free Methodist Church
Happy News Church
HKMLC Living Stone Lutheran Church
Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor
Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Hong Kong Mandarin Bible Church
J-Life Community Centre
Pak Tin Baptist Church
Po Leung Kuk (Headquarters Children's Section)
S.K.H. Kei Oi Primary School
Social Development Practice and Research Centre
St. James' Settlement (Kowloon Kindness Centre)
The Hub Hong Kong
United Christian College
YWCA (Sham Shui Po Integrated Social Service Centre)



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