



深水埗



ONE BODY

ABOUT US

HOPE OF THE CITY IS ABOUT PARTNERSHIP

BOARD MEMBERS • Agnes Tai: Director, Great Glory Investment Corporation • Brett Hilliard: Senior Pastor, Island ECC
• Carl Gouw: Managing Director, Goldig Investment Group • Charles Chu: Solicitor, Charles Chu and Kenneth Sit Solicitors •
Sherman Chau: Pastor, Island ECC

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Chinese character for “one” on the cover of this year’s annual report is a fitting symbol of the partnership model at the heart of Hope of the City’s mission. We seek to realize lasting transformation in individuals and communities in Hong Kong, a daunting task that will never be achieved by any one organization alone. It will only ever be realized when “the many” become “one,” when all who care willingly commit themselves to moving forward together as one body, sharing one heart and one vision, unconcerned about who gets the credit.

In these pages, we want to honor a few of our frontline partners – backstage heroes who have made this commitment. They are people who are giving their all for those less fortunate. They are people who never give up, who hold fast to the conviction that every person has the potential to succeed. They are people who, like us, believe that working together with one heart is the only way to truly make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

To these, and to all of our 28 frontline partners – we salute you!



Nelson Yau
Executive Director

2016/ 2017

OVERVIEW

Hope of the City's partnership model is at the heart of our mission to see real and lasting transformation in individuals and communities in Hong Kong. As we walk alongside our 28 local partners, we regularly review and refine the specific focus areas where we dedicate funding, volunteers and resources to ensure that we are allocating these where they are needed most.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Hope of the City provides academic support to children from low-income households through English tuition and homework help. In 2016-2017, we offered 1,590 hours of English tutoring to 62 students from Primary 1 to Form 6.



LIFE EDUCATION

Hope of the City seeks to equip children with life skills and character values to help them thrive in all areas of life. In 2016-17, we provided 761 children with character building programs, leadership and sports camps, and special interest classes aimed at developing self-confidence, trust, respect, love and self-esteem.



SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN)

Hope of the City supports low-income families who have children with learning disabilities through sponsoring diagnostic assessment, providing medication subsidies, and organizing workshops and therapy sessions. This year, 190 SEN children received various forms of support.



HOME VISITS

Through regular home visits, our volunteers help social workers monitor the health and well being of families and the elderly. This year, some 141 volunteers visited 125 elderly and 5 low-income families each month providing emotional, physical and spiritual support.



FAMILY OUTINGS

To help break down social barriers and promote family bonding, Hope of the City sponsors regular outings to places of interest around Hong Kong. Our volunteers joined 132 elderly and 43 families for 6 outings in 2016-17.



FOOD & LIVING AID

This year, Hope of the City provided 125 families with a \$200 monthly food subsidy in the form of meat vouchers. We also provided St. James Settlement with funding to help keep the doors of their Shek Kip Mei foodbank open, and recruited 280 volunteers to deliver heavy grocery items to the elderly.



“...ONGOING RELATIONSHIP- FOCUSED PROGRAMS TAKE TIME, PATIENCE AND DEDICATION...”

JOSEPHINE / SOCIAL SERVICE PARTNER

After more than nine years working with the elderly, Josephine has learned a few things about how best to support them in living fulfilled and joyful lives in their golden years. She has also witnessed the many struggles they face and, as a social worker with St James' Settlement, works hard every day to help provide meaningful solutions.

Health issues are among their most common struggles and Josephine has seen how educating seniors in better selfcare can make a huge difference. When it comes to mental health, however, solutions are more elusive. Josephine has observed that living in isolation often directly affects the mental health of the elderly. Those living in public housing located far from facilities such as supermarkets and elderly centers are more likely to become stay-at-home elderly, more withdrawn and isolated. They are the ones who would benefit most from long-term interventions such as hot-meal deliveries and home visitations.

Josephine believes that monthly home visits from volunteers have made a significant difference for many lonely seniors. Such ongoing relationship-focused programs take time, patience and dedication to run, but they are worth it in terms of improved quality of life. When the elderly see that these visitors genuinely care about them and are interested in the details of their lives, they feel valued and smiles increase.



Hope of the City strives to build caring, mutually beneficial, long-term relationships through our home visits programs. In 2016-17, 141 volunteers made 130 visits each month to underprivileged families and the elderly in Sham Shui Po, Shek Kip Mei, Ngau Tau Kok and North Point.

“THE HELP I CAN OFFER IS SO SMALL, IT’S BARELY SCRATCHING THE SURFACE...”

POON SIR / SECONDARY SCHOOL PARTNER

Being a secondary school teacher in Hong Kong isn't easy. Just ask Poon Sir of United Christian College (UCC) in Shek Kip Mei. In addition to a demanding teaching schedule, he has to deal with a mountain of administrative duties every day. Still, the heavy workload hasn't deterred him from doing his best to support his students as they prepare for life beyond their school years.

Poon Sir knows that many of his students are from low-income families. He also recognizes that the resources available to him within the education system are limited. “I try my best to use what's available to help my students,” he says, “but the help I can offer is so small, it's barely scratching the surface of the problems in their everyday lives. Thank God for the external support we've received over the years.”

Since 2013, Hope of the City has been partnering with UCC to provide opportunities for students from underprivileged families to join life-education experiences like Life Frontline Sailing and Outward Bound leadership programs. The results have been encouraging. As Poon Sir explains, “Our students have developed better self-control as well as resilience. These programs have also greatly enhanced their problem-solving skills and team spirit, better equipping them to face the challenges of the 21st century.”



Life-Education programs aim to provide children and youth with opportunities for holistic development. By sponsoring special interest classes, camps, leadership training and music lessons, we seek to help them develop self-confidence and recognize that they are capable and valuable to society.

“THESE PARENTS REALLY NEED SOMEONE TO WALK WITH THEM...”

MAUREEN / SEN SUPPORT PARTNER

Since 2013, Maureen, a clinical psychologist, has been partnering with Hope of the City to help provide diagnostic assessments and early treatment for SEN children from low-income families. Over the years, she has also conducted parenting courses for our various local partners in Sham Shui Po.

Maureen admits that it has been challenging but it has helped her understand the daily struggles that parents of SEN children go through. There are also small rewards, such as one appreciative parent sharing that through Maureen's weekly parenting sessions, she was reminded of God's love for her and decided to start going to church again.

According to Maureen, the positive results of her doctoral research into the effectiveness of early treatment has helped reconfirm her calling to serve children from underprivileged backgrounds.

“God reminds me that these parents really need someone to walk with them,” she says, “to remind them how to enjoy parenting and, most importantly, how to love their child even though they may not be perfect in their eyes. Having walked with them in part of their parenting journey, I better understand why it's more blessed to give than to receive.”



With the severe lack of support for Special Education Needs in Hong Kong, SEN children from low-income families can wait up to 3 years to access government-financed assessments and therapy. In 2016-2017, Hope of the City funded diagnostic assessments and therapy courses for 190 children and their parents.

“ONE OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGES... IS SUCCEEDING IN SCHOOL...”

MAX / EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PARTNER

When Max first arrived in Hong Kong from Taiwan on a student visa eight years ago, he never imagined he would one day become intimately involved in the lives of underprivileged families in his adopted home. Yet that is exactly what happened. As a minister working with Hong Kong Evangelical Yan Kei Church in Cheung Sha Wan, he probably knows more about Hong Kong's social welfare system and the struggles of the local poor than many native Hong Kongers.

Max soon learned that one of the greatest challenges for children from low-income families is succeeding in school, especially in English. That's where Yan Kei's partnership with Hope of the City comes in. Every Saturday throughout the school year, fourteen Hope volunteers spend their morning at the church's education center tutoring children in English. It's a small but valuable step towards helping them achieve their potential.

Since bringing their kids to Yan Kei for English help, many parents have turned to the center for personal support as well. Max relates how three mothers who were experiencing domestic violence started participating in the Women's English classes at the center. Over time, they developed relationships of trust with the center staff, who offered counselling and friendship. Although they are now divorced, all three have come to trust God for their future and are serving as positive role models for their children.



In addition to the 18 after-school English classes with paid tutors sponsored by Hope of the City each week in Sham Shui Po, our volunteers provide an additional 1,606 hours of homework help and English tutoring to 67 students this year.

“THERE IS PAIN TO SHARE AS WELL AS LAUGHTER...”

NAOMI / COMMUNITY CENTER PARTNER

A unique chain of events led to Naomi's decision to join J-Life, a community center in Sham Shui Po, three years ago. After a volunteer day at a local charity sorting through donated greens for needy families, she met her own family for a meal at a hotel. Seeing the crisp, fresh salads served there, she couldn't help thinking about the wilted stalks in muddied water she had been sorting earlier. At that moment, she says, “I felt the huge gap between what underprivileged families are receiving versus what is on offer for middle class families and I wondered, ‘What can I do for these families?’” It was a realization that changed her life path.

At J-Life, Naomi helps to organize regular family outings for the parents and children who frequent the center. It's one small way of bridging that huge gap between those with abundant resources and those with few, by offering families rare opportunities to get out and try new experiences together. The outings are joyful times.

Of course, there is pain to share as well as laughter in a role like hers. At times, Naomi says, the devastating stories she hears from families are difficult to digest or understand. But then, when kids from the center recognize her on the streets and run up to hang on to her, she knows she is exactly where she needs to be.



In 2016-17, Hope of the City's family relationship outings included a trip to a Yuen Long farm, a boat outing to Double Haven and Crooked Island, and a Parents' Day celebration at a floating seafood restaurant in Aberdeen. It's a welcome relief for many families to get out of their crowded neighborhood and spend time together in wide open spaces.

“THEY FEEL SAFE HERE. THEY FEEL SUPPORTED HERE.”

SAI SAI / COMMUNITY SUPPORT PARTNER

Sai Sai still remembers the first time she stepped into the IDEAL center in Sham Shui Po. She recalls noticing how cramped and crowded it was, but also that there was a really good energy. Now, as the center’s manager, she has developed a deep respect for IDEAL’s tireless efforts on behalf of families raising children on a special path.

As an independently funded parents’ support group, IDEAL (Intellectually Disabled Education and Advocacy League) has a passionate commitment to supporting families through the challenges, stresses, joys and victories of parenting children with intellectual disabilities. For the past 30 years, they have been bringing families together to share classes, activities, advice and encouragement.

Every IDEAL family has its own story, but one thing they all have in common is a desire for acceptance and understanding. Reflecting on this, Sai Sai said, “Sometimes I imagine IDEAL is like an old banyan tree and all the villagers – elderly and kids, all of them – are gathered under the big tree, chatting, playing, taking a nap, yelling a bit, doing whatever they like. They feel safe here. They feel supported here.”



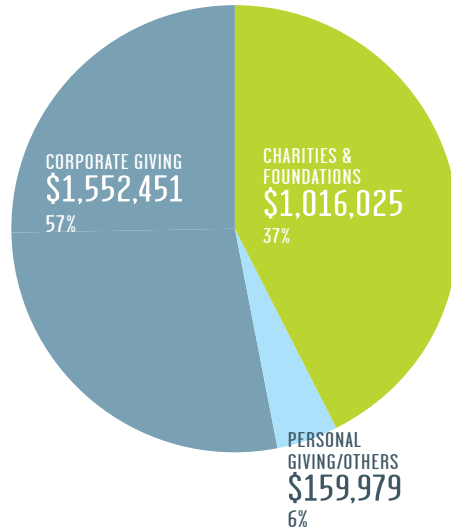
Hope of the City has been partnering with IDEAL for over seven years. Our volunteers organize quarterly birthday parties for IDEAL members and provide logistical support for their annual Mother's Day fund-raising walkathon at the Peak.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2016/2017

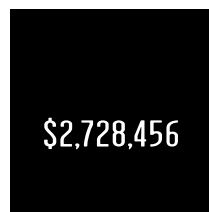
SOURCE OF INCOME

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



TOTAL \$2,728,456

INCOME

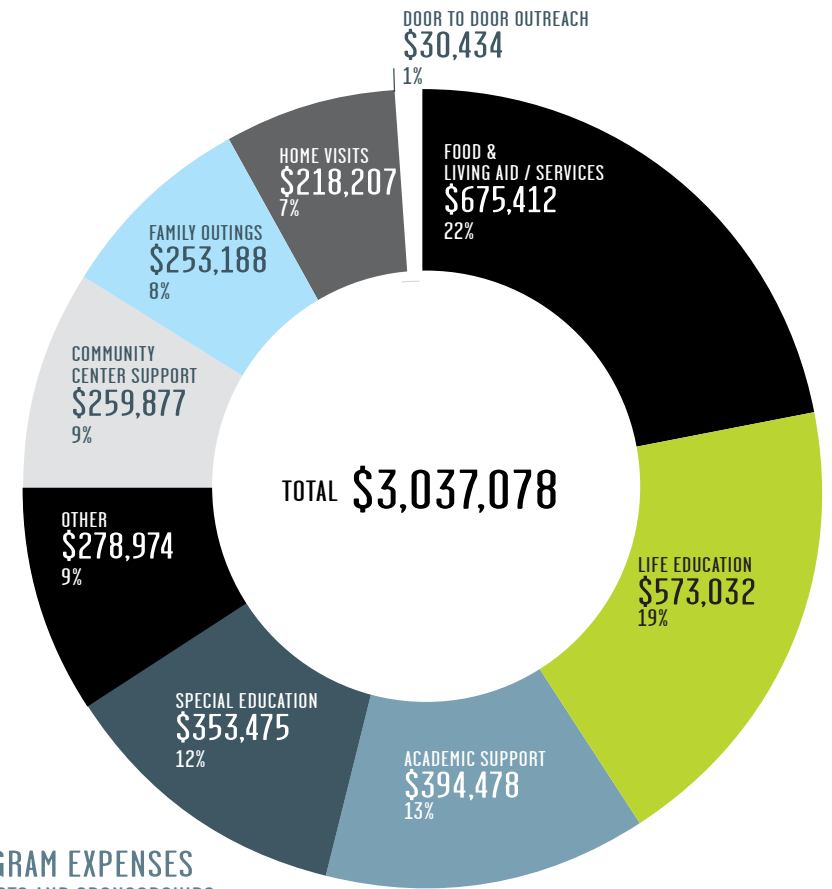


2016 / 2017



2015 / 2016

PROGRAM EXPENSES PROJECTS AND SPONSORSHIPS



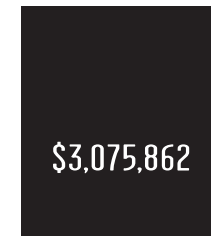
TOTAL \$3,037,078

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION VS PROGRAMS

2016 / 2017
Administration / \$38,784
Programs / \$3,037,078

2015 / 2016
Administration / \$35,950
Programs / \$3,544,494



2016 / 2017



2015 / 2016

LOOKING AHEAD

IN THE COMING YEAR, HOPE OF THE CITY WILL BE REDOUBLING OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT YOUTH.

Since its inception almost 8 years ago, Hope of the City has been funding programs, mobilizing volunteers and sourcing quality resources to address a broad spectrum of poverty issues in Sham Shui Po. For much of this time, one of our main focus areas has been supporting primary-aged students.

As the years have passed, we've watched these children grow up before our eyes. Many who once attended our after-school English tutoring classes are now teenagers, taking up the responsibility of bringing their younger siblings to the classes. It's always thrilling when one of them comes forward to greet us with fond memories of their own "Happy Friday" English sessions.

Throughout the past year, we've been extending our efforts to support these and other secondary students through closer partnerships with an increasing number of secondary schools in Sham Shui Po. The results have been encouraging. Still, we know how easy it can be for young people from low-income families to run into trouble when they lack access to opportunities or receive inadequate guidance in their lives due to absent or overworked parents.

As such, in the coming year we'll be redoubling our efforts to facilitate the physical and character development of youth through extra curricular sports activities, leadership training and life skill experiences such as Life Frontline Sailing and Outward Bound camps. At the same time, we are continuing to investigate how best to engage and empower fathers as their role in families is so vital to the overall wellbeing and success of their children.



DONATE

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

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*



PARTNER

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

2016-17

Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service -
Child Development Fund (CDF)

China Holiness College

Christian Concern for the
Homeless Association

Cornerstone International Church
of God

Evangelical Yan Kei Church

Feeding Hong Kong

Fuk Lam Church

HKMLC Living Stone Lutheran
Church

Hong Kong Church Network for
the Poor

Hong Kong Family Welfare Society

Industrial Evangelical Fellowship

J-Life Community Centre

Loving Kids Community Service
Centre

Pak Tin Baptist Church

Po Leung Kuk (Headquarters Children's
Section)

Shepherd Community Church

Saint Barnabas' Society and Home

St. James' Settlement (Kowloon Kindness
Centre)

St. James' Settlement (Ngau Tau Kok
Centre)

St. James' Settlement (Shek Kip Mei
People's Food Bank)

St. James' Settlement (Uncle James Child
Development Centre)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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

Wai Kiu College

YWCA (Shum Shui Po Integrated Social
Service Centre)





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