


*Hope of the City / Annual Report 2022/2023*

*Convergence of Lives*



## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### *Our Vision*

To see a Hong Kong city in which all people experience social and educational flourishing

### *Our Mission*

To mobilise volunteer and financial resources, and collaborate with NGOs to serve the poor in Hong Kong

### *Convergence of Lives*

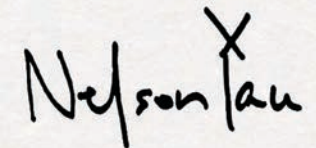
In recent years it often seems that we're surrounded by negative noise from a world mired in complex problems. Here in Hong Kong, we aren't immune to news of soul-crushing challenges all around us. Struggles with relationships, physical well-being and even just trying to put food on the table, have brought many to the point of hopelessness.

And yet, we have great reason to hope and to thank God for many points of light in the dark corners of our city – our growing army of dedicated volunteers. These angels of light who freely offer their time and their hearts to care for the less fortunate among us, are truly serving as the hands and feet of Jesus in communities like Sham Shui Po.

As our name proclaims, planting seeds of hope in hurting hearts is our main objective. Where there is love there is hope! Time and again, we're witnessing how God is

pouring out His love to those in need through His obedient children. You'll read some of their stories in this report: how the lives of Alex and Pinky have been transformed; how the Church of Mustard Seed has partnered with us in meeting the needs of children; how Christian brothers have banded together to help bridge society's economic gaps, and more.

You too can participate in restoring hope. Come witness the power of sharing God's love by joining hands with us.



Nelson Yau  
*Executive Director*

### 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  
Rick Bates: Executive Pastor, Island ECC*





### *Alex's story*

"I felt like there was mist in front of me." This is how Alex described his state of mind while struggling through a VTC Diploma in Beauty Care. Even after graduating, he couldn't find a related job. He ended up working nights in a warehouse where he was seldom paid on time, followed by a series of part-time jobs. It was a frustrating and confusing time.

Growing up in a dysfunctional family, Alex had gotten into plenty of trouble as an adolescent. It wasn't until secondary school at China Holiness College in Sham Shui Po that he finally started to find his feet. He joined the school's dragon boat team and the Life Front-line Sailing Ministry, both sponsored by Hope of the City. These experiences helped him form friendships and gain self confidence. In Form 6, he began attending Hope's DSE Exam Study Room, where he felt supported and cared for.

Fast forward to the summer of 2022 when, while fumbling to identify a career path, Alex was invited to join Hope's internship programme. There, he acquired work experience and gained exposure to different career tracks through assisting CK in running Hope's youth programmes. He also developed life skills and received mentoring. By the end of the summer, Alex had decided to pursue a career in hair styling. In what surely was a divine connection, that September CK was approached by a hair salon in Central seeking a hair technician trainee. Soon, Alex began training with the salon's senior hairstylist, who took Alex on as his protege.

Finally on a stable path, Alex has started saving up for future dreams. He's become a confident young adult, no longer held back by the mist that once disoriented him. This was evident when, in May 2023, he boldly took the stage at a Bank of America volunteer service luncheon to share his story.

Alex still faces big life challenges, including his father's diagnosis of Stage 4 colon cancer. This news threw Alex off guard, but he's made a conscious decision to remain positive and take on the responsibility of caring for his father. CK continues to walk alongside Alex who, after being empowered, has chosen to empower others in turn.

- *Provided near 4,400 hours of youth empowerment activities including coffee making, 3D modeling, music production, dancing etc. to 109 youth with 33 mentors.*
- *Kickstarted a summer mock-cafe project at Hope Centre and trained 12 youth on hospitality skills, food and beverages, serving 246 guests in total between July and August.*



*Pinky's story*



Two years ago, Pinky was in a place of utter hopelessness. Following a huge quarrel with her mum, she was compelled to move out of the family home. With no place to live, the sky seemed to be falling on her until the Evangelical Free Church of China (EFCC) offered her temporary accommodation. They also introduced her to Hope of the City, where she was invited to join the Mommies Learn English class. Through the love and care of Hope's teaching team and EFCC staff, she began to climb out of the dark pit of hurt and pain.

By the end of 2022, as the time came for Pinky to find her own place to live, her anxiety grew. She hadn't yet found a job even though she was applying everywhere. To ease her fears,

Mei Fun at Hope of the City guided her through mock interviews and prayed with her, reminding her to give all her worries to God. Soon after, Pinky got a part-time position at a cake shop, bringing her enough income to rent a 40 sq. ft subdivided flat.

Over time, however, health issues dictated she find a less physically demanding job and she again prayed for a solution. God was faithful and Pinky was offered a clerical position in a medical start-up run by Professor Bing, a caring Christian brother. At first, Pinky was hesitant, lacking the confidence to take up the challenge, but with assurance from Mei Fun, she committed to trusting God to help her.

Pinky has now been working at the company for six months and, in addition to clerical duties she is also responsible for supervising and organizing

work. She loves her job and works as a supportive teammate to her colleagues. What's more, she's now living in a subdivided flat adjacent to her mum and stepfather. They've reconciled and often share meals together. Pinky is filled with gratitude for God's provision in her life.

As a regular at the Mong Kok Baptist Church, Pinky looks forward to being baptised by the end of next year. "I feel full of confidence and hope in my future because of God's leading," she says. "God's work in my life has been simply amazing!"

- *Trained 19 volunteered to teach 54 ladies in our weekly mommies Learn English classes, providing 159 in-person lessons at Hope Centre.*
- *Provided 34 parenting classes, emotional support groups and family bond events to 31 women.*



## *Elderly Care*

### *So Kam Por Por's story*

Hope of the City's volunteers began making monthly visits to So Kam Por Por, a 78-year-old widow living alone in a public housing estate, in 2015. Since her husband's passing, she has relied on social welfare and her community for assistance. She regularly joins activities at the nearby elderly centre, chats with neighbours, and exercises on the stationary bike in her Shek Kip Mei estate's common area.

Having a boisterous personality and adventurous spirit, So Kam Por Por always looked forward to the day trips organised by NGOs because she got to enjoy some sightseeing to different parts of Hong Kong. However, with the pandemic and its social-distancing regulations, all such activities were cancelled and So Kam Por Por began feeling depressed and lonely.

Then, in January 2023, So Kam Por Por had a bad fall in her home that left her stranded on the floor for hours before she managed to reach the SOS button to call for help. After four weeks in hospital, she spent another six weeks rehabilitating in an elderly care home. The whole experience was so traumatic that, to this day, recalling the incident brings tears to her eyes.

Yet other memories fill So Kam Por Por's heart with gratitude, such as remembering how volunteers reached out to care for her in her time of need. After her fall, she was rushed to the hospital with no time to pack anything, not even her shoes or dentures. During her hospitalisation, she couldn't get out of bed or eat much at all. Thankfully, Doris, a Hope volunteer who has been visiting

her since 2018, brought her some new shoes, while other volunteers brought food soft enough for her to swallow. Through the love and care received from volunteers, social workers, and staff, So Kam Por Por was finally well enough to return home.

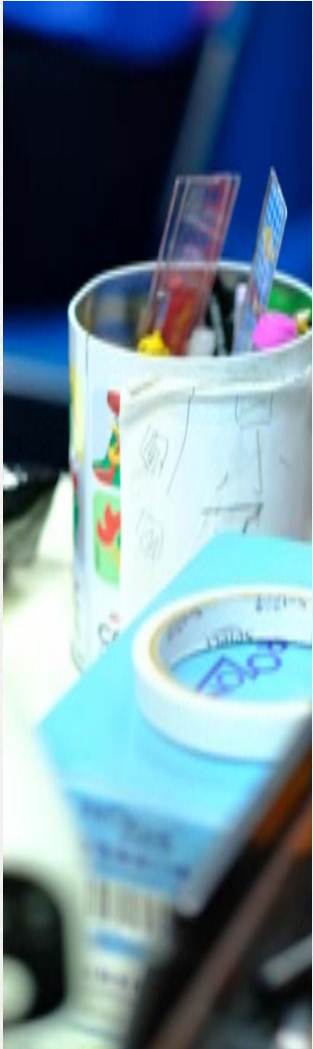
These days, So Kam Por Por can't walk for very long, so she often sits under the big oak tree in her estate, people-watching. Occasionally, she makes use of her \$2 elderly transport card to take bus trips to scenic spots around Hong Kong, with Tsim Sha Tsui being her new favourite destination. Her body may be weakened but her spirit is once again strong.



- *For twelve consecutive years, we continue to build relationships with the elderly living alone. A total of 31 volunteers paid monthly visits to 17 elderly and 86 volunteers visited 67 elderly in Shek Kip Mei and Ngau Tau Kok respectively.*
- *Partnered with Hong Kong Family Welfare Society to hold eight smartphone training classes to 20 elderly from 15 volunteers.*



Pastor Raymond's story



Pastor Raymond always envisioned the Christian Church of Mustard Seed in Sham Shui Po as a community church, emphasising outreach and caring for the community. Since the church opened its doors in 2012, God impressed on him that loving our neighbours goes beyond loving friends and family: our neighbours include those around us and the strangers we meet day to day.

With this in mind, Pastor Raymond began reaching out to the youth at Kowloon Technical School, next door to his church. In particular, he felt called to tutor students. He soon saw the difference that one-on-one tutoring made, not only in the students' grades, but also in helping them build self-esteem and a desire to pursue their dreams and goals. Furthermore, relationships within their families also improved. This strengthened his resolve to care for more children in the neighbourhood, and his church members began visiting eight nearby families on public holidays and festivals.

Over time, mainly through word of mouth, more students were referred to the church for tutoring, but Pastor Raymond was the sole tutor. Then, in 2022, he was put in touch with Hope of the City and an inaugural summer programme for English Oral Tutoring was organised. In partnership with Hope, the church's tutoring ministry has continued to expand, with eight English Corner sessions held over two school terms, in addition to a two-week intensive English course in the summer.

Pastor Raymond believes strongly in the power of joining hands and uniting efforts to carry out God's good work. "By opening our hearts to collaborate, we can reach out to more people and access more resources to meet the needs of the local community," he says.



Walking side by side with the children and their families through the highs and lows of life, trust is built and relationships are strengthened. One joyful result has been seeing a number of families come to faith after experiencing God's love through the tangible and caring support of the church.

- *Provided 370 weekly one-on-one or small group tutoring sessions to 68 primary and 38 secondary students by 64 dedicated volunteers.*
- *Sponsored 218 classes for 143 students with paid tutors.*



## Men's Fellowship

### Alfred Hau's story

- *Gathered bi-weekly between six volunteer leaders and 23 men from our local partner, the Christian Concern for Homeless Association (CCHA). Over the course of 20 meet ups and event celebrations, men living in CCHA's hostel received emotional and practical support in the context of a caring and committed brotherly community.*
- *Together with CCHA, 26 volunteers regularly visited the homeless community in Tung Chau Park for 36 weeks, together with 33 volunteers participating in one-off festival celebrations serving 160 fellows struggling from poor living conditions.*

One segment of society often overlooked when it comes to drawing sympathy or resources are the men that others may call 'down and out.' At Hope of the City, we call them buddies. Without families, friends or hope for their future, many live in bed spaces or men's dormitories for the homeless.

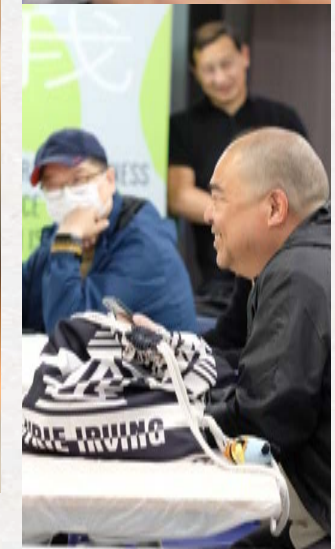
"At first, I didn't know how I could serve these men; we come from very different backgrounds," says Alfred, one volunteer among a small band of Christian brothers who've taken on the sometimes challenging role of walking alongside the buddies, "but gradually, I came to realize that all of us are the same, whether rich or poor - weaknesses and limitations see no boundaries."

In 2019, in collaboration with the Christian Concern for Homeless Association a weekly fellowship of six buddies started at Hope Centre in SSP. Each Wednesday, the group would meet to share a meal and learn how to be a better man. Today, there are 30 buddies in the group, and six very dedicated volunteers from church: Tony, Alfred, Brian, Alvin, Kenny and Joe. Together, they strive to live out the teachings of Christ in word and

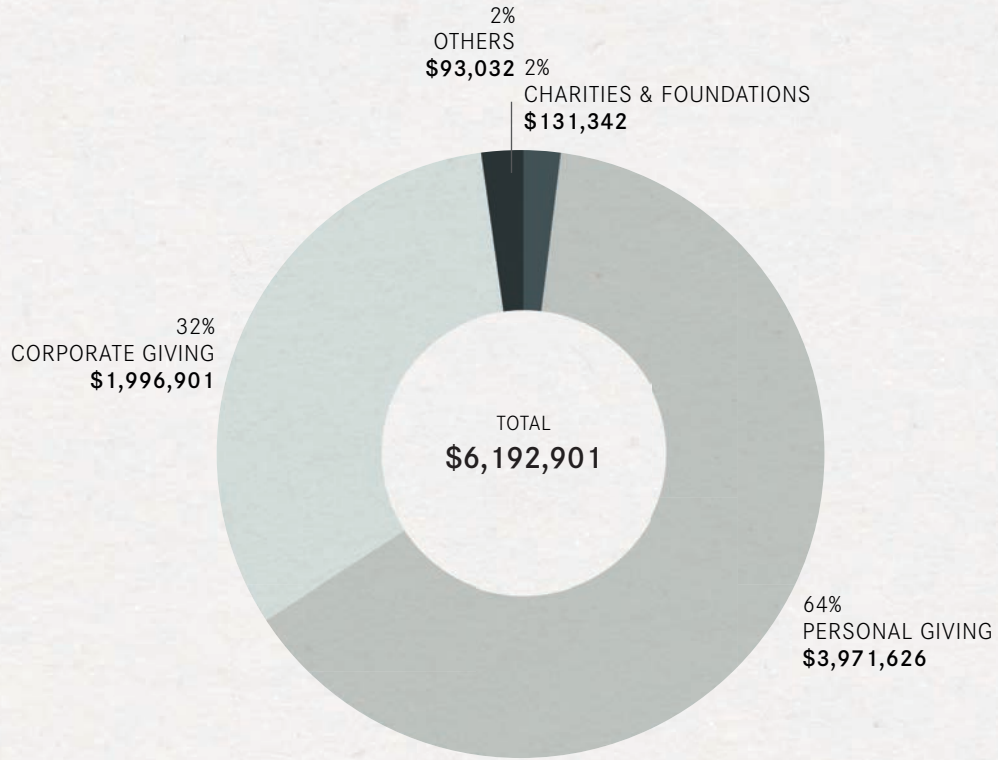
deed. Along with KK, the men's dorm supervisor, our volunteers have visited buddies in the hospital, prepared healthy food for them, accompanied them to appointments, and encouraged them through many difficulties. God's blessings are evident: we've joyfully witnessed 18 buddies accept Christ as their personal Saviour, with six already baptised and attending local churches.

"I always look forward to our fellowship," Uncle Tuen, one of the buddies, says. "When I have problems, it's good to know that I have someone to talk to and help me through."

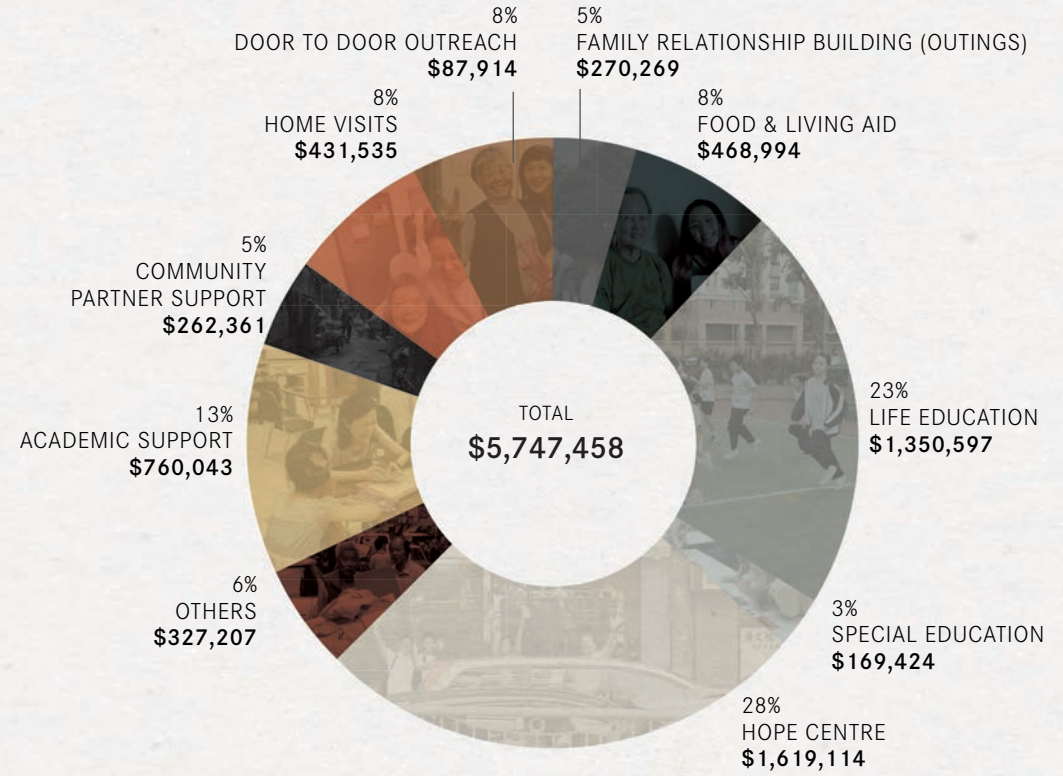
Lives changing lives. Not only are the buddies' lives being transformed, but ours are as well. As Alfred shares, "My experience in this group has been incredibly enriching, allowing me to grasp God's intention for the buddies. It has also deepened my understanding of the relationship between suffering and care. I sincerely hope that through the buddies' fellowship, we can journey together towards the Kingdom of Heaven!"





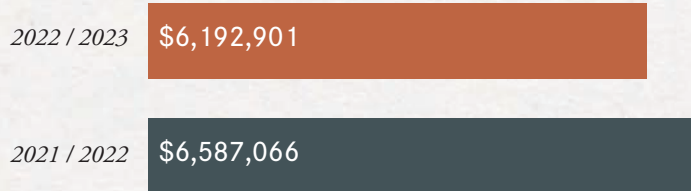


SOURCE OF INCOME



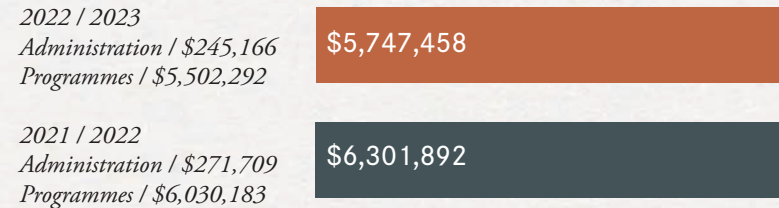
PROGRAMME EXPENSES  
Projects and Sponsorships

INCOME



EXPENSES

Administration vs Programmes





In order to increase our efficiency and effectiveness in serving the city, we will continue to focus on nourishing a stronger sense of personal autonomy among our dedicated volunteers. To this end, we have established a number of independent committees dedicated to serving specific groups of beneficiaries, namely children, youth, women, men, and the elderly. We recognise that our frontline volunteers have the clearest insight into the actual felt needs of each of these groups, and we will strive to support them in formulating and maintaining programmes and activities to best meet these needs while also nurturing deep, caring personal relationships.

As for youth and young adult career development – a primary focus of Hope over the past several years – we will endeavor to identify more external partners to provide professional training and internship opportunities in areas including F & B, IT and other in-demand career pathways. At the same time, we will strengthen our life-skills and mentorship programmes to fully support these young people in their personal development and the pursuit of future goals.

*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](http://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/volunteer](http://hopeofthecity.com/volunteer)*

*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](mailto:info@hopeofthecity.com) with enquiries or referrals.*



China Holiness College  
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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