

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2018**

WHOLE OF ME  
ALL OF US  
ONE IN CHRIST





# ABOUT CARITAS SINGAPORE

## Mission

To collaborate and provide leadership within the Catholic community in Singapore in fulfilling the Catholic Church's social mission, especially for the most vulnerable in society.

## Vision

To be the visible sign of God's love for humanity demonstrated by Catholics living the principles and values of the Catholic Social Teaching (CST).

**'Caritas' means 'charity' in Latin, and this reminds us to live our faith through social mission work.**

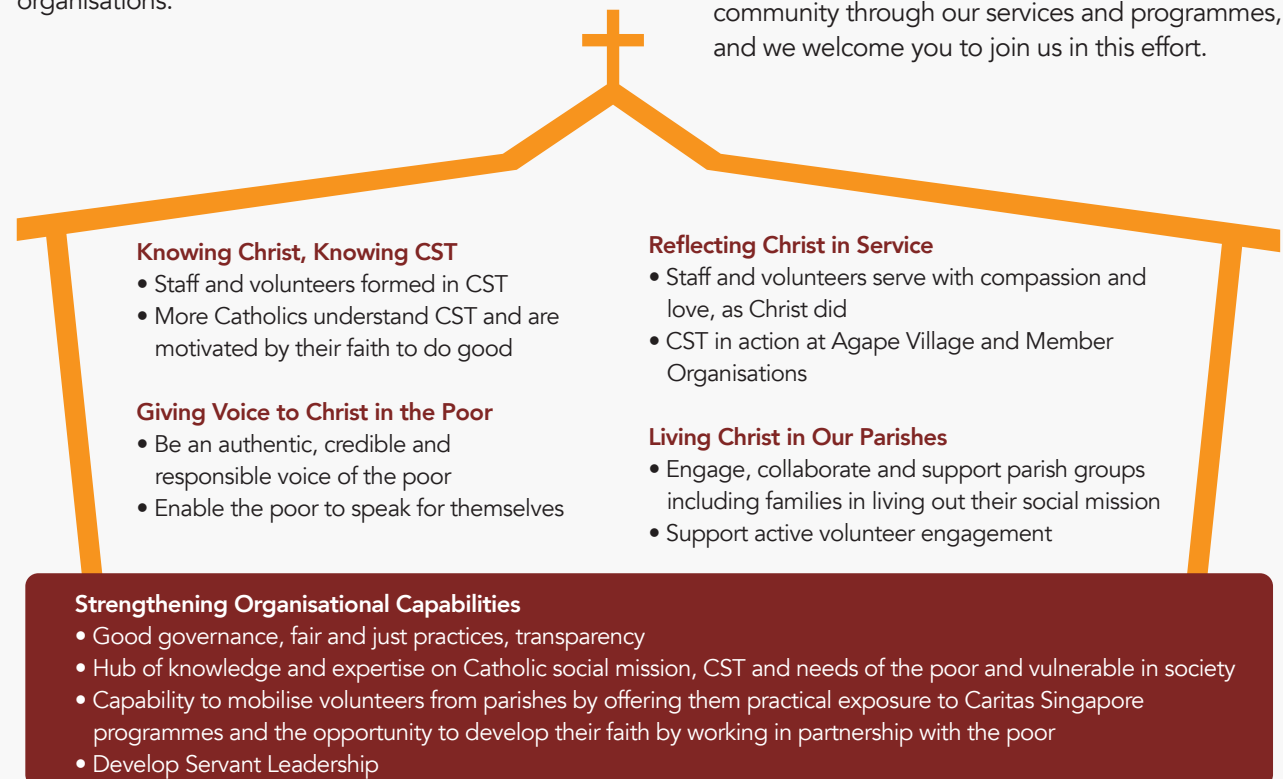
We work on the ground in Singapore as the official social and community arm of the Catholic Church, and the umbrella body for 27 Catholic charities and organisations whose work has touched the lives of many regardless of race, religion or nationality.

We are also a member of Caritas Internationalis, a global confederation of 165 humanitarian organisations.

The member organisations under our umbrella offer a wide array of services to clients such as the low-income, children, youth-at-risk, families, elderly, persons with health issues, persons with disabilities, migrants, and more.

There are more than 70 programmes run by these organisations aimed at helping people in need. Programmes and services include financial assistance, residential care for seniors and children, shelters, befriending, counselling, palliative care, student care, and skills training.

Caritas Singapore is about people; we serve the community through our services and programmes, and we welcome you to join us in this effort.



**Strategic Priorities (2015 to 2018)**

# MESSAGE FROM OUR ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM GOH



## To be the Body of Christ

As members of one body of Christ, we are made for God and for each other. We are called to exercise charity and use our gifts at the service of our brothers and sisters in need. For “if one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it” (1 Corinthians 12:24-26).

God, in his infinite wisdom, created us not as well-rounded, multi-talented, and self-sufficient people. He distributed his gifts in such a way that no one has all of them. To one person, He gave the gift of virtuosity, to another knowledge, to another sensitivity, and to still another evangelism (cf 1 Corinthians 12:8-11). No one is self-sufficient. Thus, it is a fact that we need one another to serve the poor and build up the body of Christ.

This marvellous design of God is demonstrated in the work of Caritas Singapore and the 27 member organisations under its umbrella. Each and every organisation and staff have their unique strengths, and bring something of value to the community. They are able to make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need because they tap into each other’s strengths and experience.

As St Paul aptly puts it, “From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:16).

Interdependence and coordination are essential to the growth and health of the whole.

We may not have the same function. But in the eyes of God, no one is greater or lesser than the other, and no gift more important than another. We know this from Romans 12:3 where St Paul declares, “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”

All are equally important and necessary.

Only when we recognise our interdependence and employ the gifts that God has bestowed upon us for our brothers and sisters in need, will the body of Christ be fully integrated and functional.

Therefore, let us continue to work together as a unified, healthy body, with Christ as the Head of the Church.

Yours in Christ,

**Most Rev William Goh, DD**

Archbishop of Singapore

Patron, Caritas Singapore



## **We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.**

Another year has swiftly passed us by. With God's mercy and love, Caritas has been able to see through many wonderful initiatives and for all of these, we are grateful.

### **A year in reflection**

In 2018, we convened the 6th edition of our biennial Caritas' Social Mission Conference to raise awareness of the need for authentic integral human development which involves, as Saint Pope Paul VI outlined in his Encyclical *Populorum Progressio* : "not just a question of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty but building a human community where all persons can live truly human lives." The event was blessed with abundant stories of faith in action and call for courage to see with Christ's eyes, the inequality in our midst and answer the cries of those in need.

Our Caritas family continues to grow. We recently welcomed HopeHouse and Marymount Centre into the fold. HopeHouse provides residential programmes for youths at risk, and Marymount Centre reaches out to marginalised women and children.

We are at the three-year milestone for Agape Village in Toa Payoh. This year we journeyed with 415 individuals and families through our integrated case management approach, and amongst the many highlights is that 26 babies were saved from abortion.

### **Moving ahead**

We believe that to be the authentic voice of the poor, we need to be data driven and research based. This year, we kicked off a research study to better understand service gaps in Singapore and identify opportunities to address the under-served needs of the vulnerable.

"Caritas in Mission" launched in 2018 is our newsletter available digitally as well as in hardcopy. It is intended as a way of keeping our Catholic community in the parishes in touch and aware of the Catholic Church's preferential option for the poor and how as Catholics, we can be guided by the Catholic Social Teachings (CST) to live out our mission of evangelisation through service and acts of charity.

Finally, 2018 marks a year of change and transition. Ms Bernadette Lau, our Executive Director (ED) of eight years retired from Caritas on 31 August 2018. We are blessed to have Ms Christine Wong taking over the helm as ED from 1 August 2018. Christine was most recently the ED of the Samaritans of Singapore (SOS) and is a registered and accredited social worker serving in the sector for over 30 years.

### **With thanks**

We continue to be humbled and inspired as we are generously blessed every year by our donors, benefactors and volunteers. The Catholic community in Singapore continues to give through the annual Charities Week during Lent, and we are also very encouraged with the increased donations coming through Giving.SG, the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) online giving portal.

Our work does not stop here. We will continue to partner everyone who "walks through our doors", and are counting on your prayers and financial support as we do our best to be a beacon of hope in the heartlands across Singapore.

May God's Peace be with you.

Yours in Christ,  
**Janet Ang**  
Chairman, Caritas Singapore

## **MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN**



*Pope Francis said in his message for World Day of the Poor: "The Poor evangelise us and help us each day to discover the beauty of the Gospel. Let us not squander this grace-filled opportunity. On this day, may all of us feel that we are in debt to the poor, because, in hands outstretched to one another, a salvific encounter can take place to strengthen our faith, inspire our charity and enable our hope to advance securely on our path towards the Lord who is to come."*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## CHAIRMAN

### Janet Ang

*wef January 2015*

*serving since 2013*

Member, Board of the Agape Fund Trustees

Chairman, Executive Committee

Chairman, Nominations Committee

Vice President, Industry Solutions & Smarter Cities, IBM Asia Pacific

## MEMBERS



### Benedict Cheong

*serving since 2013*

Chairman, Audit Committee

CE, Temasek Foundation International



### Sr Maria Lau, IJS

*serving since 2006*

Chairman, Formation Committee

Provincial, Infant Jesus Sisters, Singapore



### Rev Monsignor Ambrose Vaz

*serving since 2013*

Member, Executive Committee

Member, Nominations Committee

Vicar General (Pastoral), Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore



### Jane Foo

*serving since 2011*

Chairman, Volunteer Resources Committee

Member, Advocacy and Research Committee

Regulatory Trainer, Salmon Thrust Pte Ltd



### Friar John-Paul Tan, OFM

*serving since 2011*

Chairman, Parish Engagement Committee

Member, Executive Committee

Member, Nominations Committee

Chancellor, Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore



### Rev Fr Christopher Soh, SJ

*serving since 2014*

Spiritual Director, Young Adults Committee

Member, Formation Committee

Regional Superior, Region of

MalaysiaSingapore, Society of Jesus



### Alan Lim

*serving since 2017*

Chairman, Communications Committee

Member, Fundraising Committee

Head, AP Blockchain Labs, IBM



## DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

### Anthony Soo

*wef January 2015*

*serving since 2011*

Vice Chairman, Formation Committee

Member, Executive Committee Member, Nominations Committee

Member, Volunteer Resources Committee

President, Catholic AIDS Response Effort



### Tan Cheng Han

*serving since 2013*

Member, Communications Committee

Professor and Chairman, NUS EW Barker

Centre for Law and Business



### Sabina Soh

*serving since 2015*

Chairman, Membership Committee

Member, Volunteer Resources Committee

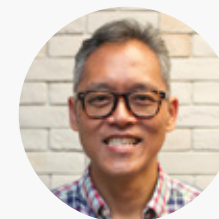


### Teo Jin Lee

*serving since 2015*

Chairman, Agape Village Management Committee

Managing Director, ODE Consulting



### Jeremy Khoo

*serving since 2015*

Chairman, Advocacy and Research Committee

Head, Fundraising, Communications and

Volunteer Management, Alzheimer's Disease Association



### Joachim Toh

*serving since 2015*

Chairman, Finance and Grants Committee

Member, Agape Village Management Committee

Deputy Chief Investment Officer, NTU



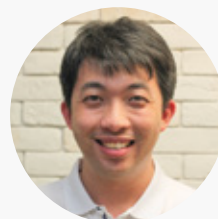
### Paul Beh

*serving since 2017*

Chairman, Fundraising Committee

Member, Agape Village Management Committee

President, Asia Pacific Reed Exhibition



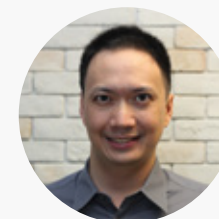
### Mark Tang

*serving since 2017*

Chairman, Young Adults Committee

Member, Membership Committee

Business Development, M-DAQ Pte Ltd



### Pius Lee

*serving since 2017*

Vice-Chairman, Young Adults Committee

Member, Agape Village Management Committee

Member, Parish Engagement Committee

Research Engineer, SMU

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## MEMBERS



**Janet Ang**  
serving since 2015  
Vice President, Industry  
Solutions & Smarter  
Cities, IBM Asia Pacific



**Rev Deacon  
Clement Chen**  
serving since 2015  
Permanent Deacon, Catholic  
Archdiocese of Singapore



**Willie Cheng**  
(until 31 Dec 2017)  
serving since 2006



## CHAIRMAN

**Frank Wong**  
wef January 2013  
serving since 2007  
Vice Chairman, Asia Philanthropic  
Ventures Pte Ltd



**Dr Lim Cheok Peng**  
serving since 2007  
Chairman, Ophir Ventures  
Sdn Bhd



**Jane Foo**  
serving since 2011  
Regulatory Trainer, Salmon  
Thrust Pte Ltd



**Laurence Lien**  
serving since 2015  
Chairman, Lien Foundation



**George Lim**  
serving since 2006  
Senior Counsel and  
Mediator, Consultant,  
Wee, Tay & Lim LLP



**Ng Kok Song**  
serving since 2013  
Chairman,  
Avanda Investment  
Management Pte Ltd



**Christina Ong**  
serving since 2015



**Raymundo Yu**  
(from 1 Jan 2018)  
Asia Pacific Chairman,  
Columbia Threadneedle  
Investments



# GOVERNANCE AND OUR VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES

We are fortunate to have a strong **volunteer Board** of Directors and Trustees. We are also blessed with various **volunteer committees** who graciously share their time and expertise with us as we grow and continue our efforts to partner the vulnerable in our community.

Volunteer committees comprise of people with various skills. They are appointed to work together with staff to perform specific functions for Caritas.



This volunteer committee organised our Social Mission Conference this year.

# BOARD INFRASTRUCTURAL COMMITTEES

## Audit Committee

**Chairman** Benedict Cheong

### Members

Elizabeth Sulisto (until 4 Sept 2018)

Francis Wan

## Executive Committee

**Chairman** Janet Ang

### Members

Anthony Soo

Rev Monsignor Ambrose Vaz

Friar John-Paul Tan, OFM

## Finance and Grants Committee

**Chairman** Joachim Toh

### Members

Agnes Liew

Belinda Young

Edwin Lee

Gerard Teo (from 1 Oct 2017)

Juliana Ng (until 29 Jun 2018)

Paul Teo (until 8 May 2018)

Tan Tee How (from 16 Apr 2018)

Thomas Goh

Thomas Teo (until 31 Dec 2017)

## Nominations Committee

**Chairman** Janet Ang

### Members

Anthony Soo

Rev Monsignor Ambrose Vaz

Friar John-Paul Tan, OFM

# BOARD PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

## Agape Village Management Committee

**Chairman** Teo Jin Lee

### Members

Augustine Tan (from 25 Jul 2018)

Ong Hoon Meng

Theodore Chan

Joachim Toh

George Lim

Irene Loi

Mark Wettasinghe

Jason Rodrigo\*

Paul Beh

Paul Long\* (until 31 Jan 2018)

Pius Lee

Esther Chia\*

## Advocacy and Research Committee

**Chairman** Jeremy Khoo

### Members

Esther Chia

Fred Cordeiro

Jane Foo

Jeremy Yeo

Roland Yeow

Tiffany Tham (from 1 Sept 2018)

## Communications Committee

**Chairman** Alan Lim

### Members

Geraldine Soh (until 5 Sept 2018)

Jeanette Tan

Jerry Tan

Stephanie Yip

Tan Cheng Han

Sr Wendy Ooi, FSP

Venessa Lee

## Formation Committee

**Chairman** Sr Maria Lau, IJS

### Vice Chairman

Anthony Soo

### Members

Rev Fr Christopher Soh, SJ

Rev Fr David Garcia, OP

Fang Swee Im

Goh Han Sern

Francis Tay

Stephenie Ng

Nicholas Chee

## Organisational Development

### Partner Network

Winifred Loh

Leonard Lee

Yvonne Low

Denise Pang

\* co-opted member

# PROJECT COMMITTEES

## Fundraising Committee

**Chairman** Paul Beh

### Members

Alan Lim

Kris Sidharta

Louis Lim (from 8 Jul 2018)

Perlita Tiro

## Membership Committee

**Chairman** Sabina Soh

### Members

Cheong Cheng Guan

Damien Ooi

Francis Mane

Jennifer Lim

Leong Seey Seey

Mark Tang

Patrick Chua

Sherlyn Khong

## Parish Engagement Committee

**Chairman** Friar John-Paul Tan, OFM

### Members

Damien Tan (from 6 Nov 2017)

Gabriel Fok

Jean Zee

Joel Er (from 28 Jun 2018)

Merissa Goh

Pius Lee

Tan Dong Xing (from 6 Nov 2017 to 26 Aug 2018)

## Volunteer Resources Committee

**Chairman** Jane Foo

### Members

Anthony Soo

Michael Charles Loh

Michelle Lee

Sabina Soh

## Young Adults Committee

**Chairman** Mark Tang

**Vice Chairman** Pius Lee

### Spiritual Director

Rev Fr Christopher Soh, SJ

### Members

Alina Chia

Bernadette Sandra

Celeste Wee

Charmaine Liu

Hannah Lee

Michelle Lee

## IT Committee

**Chairman** Ong Hoon Meng

### Members

Philip Yeap

Samantha Fok

Steven Tan

Wang Wei Lung

## Social Mission Conference 2018

### Co-Chairs

Jeremy Khoo

Benedict Cheong

### Members

Helen Choo

Martha Suen

Francis Tay

Audrey Kuah

Irene Lim

Linda Lee

Anastasio Marcelo

Alvin Neo

Sheryl Chen

## Golf for Charity 2018

**Chairman** Simon Ong

**Vice-Chairman** Mark Tay

**Tournament Director** Eric Teoh

**Advisor** Paul Beh

### Members

Benson Loi

Kuo Yew Ting

# CARITAS

## DOUBLE CELEBRATION OF OUR SAINTS



Photo: Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales

*"For peace is not simply the absence of warfare, based on a precarious balance of power; it is fashioned by efforts directed day after day toward the establishment of the ordered universe willed by God, with a more perfect form of justice among men."*

-- Pope Paul VI

### Caritas Founder and Patrons

One man; one vision. From humble beginnings in Germany 1897, Lorenz Werthmann founded the first Caritas organisation. In the 20th Century, Giovanni Battista Montini, the future Saint Paul VI, laid the foundations for an international network. Caritas Internationalis was officially recognised in 1954.

### Double canonisation in 2018:

#### Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Oscar Romero

On Sunday, 14 October, the canonisations of Caritas Internationalis **founder** Pope Paul VI and our **patron** Archbishop Oscar Romero were celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square during the Synod of Bishops on Youth.

**Pope Paul VI** is the author of landmark Church teachings *Populorum Progressio*, *Humanae Vitae* and *Evangelii Nuntiandi*. Pope Francis described him as "the great light".

Oscar Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador from 1977 until he was assassinated in 1980. He became increasingly outspoken against human rights violations in El Salvador.

[www.caritas.org](http://www.caritas.org)



Caritas Asia organised the Asia Regional Conference for Caritas' global campaign "Share the Journey" in Bangkok, Thailand, on 11-13 June 2018. The conference was attended by 105 staff of the Caritas Asia and the wider Caritas family.

In his opening remarks, Archbishop Isao Kikuchi, President of Caritas Asia, shared, "Asia hosts the largest undocumented flow of migrants in the world, mainly between neighbouring countries. This phenomenon demonstrates just how big of a thing migration is in our region."

In his keynote address, Mr Michel Roy, Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, shared how the quality of Caritas' engagement is the barometer of our own humanity. This is shown in how we meet and welcome migrants.

Fr John Murray (NCCM-Caritas Thailand) shared, "We are much more than just an NGO... We have a firm foundation; our faith. These 20 action points\* which are principles for our action with and for migrants remain ever in place, knowing them to be not just unreachable goals in some ideal reality".

The real need and impact of the global campaign took shape as participants listened to honest sharings from seven migrant workers and urban refugees who found their way to Thailand in spite of hardship and unimaginable pain. And still, there was fear in their hearts as they continue to search for positive change.

One of them shared, "Anger and vengeance take too much from a person; drains you of energy and it is not motivating. So now, every day, I am turning my negatives into positives."

# CARITAS ASIA

## ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE: SHARE THE JOURNEY



Asia Regional Conference on  
Share the Journey  
Photo: Caritas Asia



The Caritas family with our migrant friends,  
including Msgr Yovko from the Apostolic  
Nunciature, came together for a photo in  
front of our Singapore skyline.

\*<https://migrants-refugees.va/20-action-points-migrants>  
[www.caritas.asia](http://www.caritas.asia)

# SOCIAL MISSION CONFERENCE 2018

Themed '**Whole of Me, All of Us, One in Christ**', our sixth Social Mission Conference (SMC) focused on how we as Church can help support, direct our efforts and work for a more holistic and inclusive development of each person and all persons in our society; Integral Human Development. SMC 2018 was held at the Performing Arts Centre of Catholic Junior College on 21 July 2018.

At every conference, we aim to bring like-minded people together to understand, reflect, and act on what's happening within our community. By listening to experts on the ground, we explore underserved needs and gaps in the social service sector.

In his opening address, our Archbishop William Goh encouraged all participants to work for greater alignment and collaboration with partner organisations and the government, so as to better serve those in need. He shared how Integral Human Development has to be understood in the perspective of a desire; a call. A vocation.

**"Men's hearts are restless until they rest in God. By hindering spiritual needs/growth, we deprive people of true happiness in life."  
– Archbishop William Goh**

## ***Through the eyes of the poor***

Dr Ng Kok Hoe, from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, shared his findings on the issues of public rental housing in Singapore and the challenges faced by those who live there. Mr Jeremy Khoo, Chairman of the Caritas Singapore Advocacy and Research Committee presented the preliminary findings of our research on youth's needs and social service organisation's challenges.

## **WHOLE OF ME**

The highlight of the conference was the insightful sharing by His Eminence, Cardinal Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development. He said, "Development is part of our human vocation. ... To say that human beings are persons, means that we are talking about relations. The human person that reaches out to be in relation with others. ... in our coexistence, pursue the common good for all of us."

Participants enjoyed his frank and enlightening explanation of the Church's teaching on Integral Human Development, and his humble comments on recognising the human person in everyone and to do what we can to work for a more authentic development in our society. Cardinal also responded graciously to the various questions from participants with insightful pointers, suggestions and encouragement.





The afternoon saw the presentations of many inspiring persons in three different breakout tracks:  
– **Walking with You** [Elderly], **Sharing the Journey** [Migrants] and **Holding your Hand** [Families].

Dr Wong Sweet Fun, Chief Transformation Officer, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital and Yishun Health, National Healthcare Group and Ms Jayne Leong, Lead Social Worker, GoodLife!@Yishun, Montfort Care both shared with their outreach efforts to the elderly, the needs of the elderly as well as the various initiatives needed to aid the development of each elderly person.

Dr Tan Lai Yong, Resident Fellow, Director, Outreach and Community Engagement, College of Alice & Peter Tan, National University of Singapore, and Mr Mark Goh, Chairman of the Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People (ACMI) engaged participants with their insights on the challenges in our social norms, structures and the needed action to welcome and reach out to our migrant brothers and sisters.

Mr Roderick Theseira, Chairman of the Archdiocesan Commission for the Family and Mr Kelvin Poon, Chairman of the Morning Star Community Services spoke on the need and importance of building unity with parishes, church communities and other partners more effectively to reach out to vulnerable families.

In all three tracks, participants took away ideas and received encouragement to do more for those in need, especially within their communities.

## ALL OF US

Four highly engaging speakers, Mr Han Fook Kwang, Mr John Lim, Ms Teo Jin Lee, and Rev Fr David Garcia, OP, inspired participants to reflect on the notion of inclusive development and what each of us could do to be part of the ongoing efforts.

They called for the need to have a more inclusive mindset (a new Singapore narrative) to see that all persons, regardless of ability, are important in our society. Also mentioned were the services and programmes at our one-stop social service hub in Agape Village, and the role of the laity to practise the co-responsibility for the life of the Church and continue its mission in the development of our society.

It was agreed that safety-nets should be implemented in a way that does not diminish individuals and families self-motivation.

## ONE IN CHRIST

At the closing address, our Chairman, Janet Ang called on participants to kickstart authentic human development by continuing to reach out to the vulnerable among us, through workplaces, parishes and families. She asked, “Empowered by the presence of Christ in us, what can we do now to kickstart authentic development?”

The day ended with a Eucharistic celebration led by Cardinal Turkson.



# TRANSPARENCY AWARD

We are happy to have garnered the Charity Transparency Award again this year.

We are committed to good governance. To ensure compliance with the Charities Code of Governance, we developed a sound financial system and governance reporting structure.

Our compliance standards are also in line with Caritas Internationalis Management Systems (CIMS).



Our Chairman Janet receiving the Charity Transparency Award for Caritas Singapore.

Our Caritas family continues to grow. We recently welcomed HopeHouse and Marymount Centre into the fold.



HopeHouse provides residential programmes for youth-at-risk. Their vision is to be an Oasis of Hope, with the goal of giving youth hope for a new beginning. HopeHouse is open to male youth-at-risk, aged 16 and above, regardless of race and religion.

## Programmes and Activities

HopeHouse will develop Individualised Care Programmes for each resident which will include emotional development and educational development including life skills training. The programmes may also include group counselling and family involvement. Residents will also be exposed to community involvement projects to help them in their social integration and development.



Marymount Centre, which is the social service arm of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Singapore, is set up to reach out to marginalised women and children.

## Programmes and Activities

Under Marymount Centre, there are three 24-hour residential homes for children, namely Ahuva Good Shepherd – Interim Placement and Assessment Centre, Ahuva Good Shepherd – Small Group Care, and Ahuva Good Shepherd – Children's Home. Good Shepherd Student Care provides after-school care for students of Marymount Convent School, while Good Shepherd Centre is a 24-hour crisis shelter for abused women and their children.

# WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

This is a summary of the work done for the financial year from 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018.

Total funds raised for the construction of Agape Village building was \$14.5m and total construction cost was \$13.1m. The surplus of \$1.4m from the building fund will be transferred to a sinking fund in FY2019 for the purpose of maintenance and operational costs of Agape Village.

| Financials                                    | FY2018 (\$)       | FY2017 (\$)      |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Donations and Fees                            | 9,164,366         | 8,268,190        |
| Donations from Fundraising Events             | 285,270           | 361,591          |
| Other Income                                  | 826,309           | 756,731          |
| <b>Total Income (Incoming Resources)</b>      | <b>10,275,945</b> | <b>9,386,512</b> |
| Costs of Charitable Activities                | 9,446,262         | 8,852,253        |
| Fundraising Costs                             | 263,312           | 308,030          |
| Governance Costs                              | 307,348           | 254,907          |
| <b>Total Expenditure (Resources Expended)</b> | <b>10,016,922</b> | <b>9,415,190</b> |
| <b>Net Income (Incoming Resources)</b>        | <b>259,023</b>    | <b>(28,678)</b>  |
| Ratios  | FY2018 (\$)       | FY2017 (\$)      |
| Fundraising Ratio <sup>1</sup>                | 2.80%             | 3.60%            |
| - Fundraising Costs                           | 263,312           | 308,030          |
| - Total Funds Raised                          | 9,449,636         | 8,629,781        |
| Programme Ratio <sup>2</sup>                  | 94%               | 94%              |
| - Costs of Charitable Activities              | 9,446,262         | 8,852,253        |
| - Total Expenditure                           | 10,016,922        | 9,415,190        |
| Reserves Ratio <sup>3</sup>                   | 2.07 years        | 2.19 years       |
| - Reserves                                    | 20,174,688        | 19,915,665       |
| - Expenditure (excluding Fundraising Costs)   | 9,753,610         | 9,107,160        |

<sup>1</sup> Measures fundraising efficiency. Computed based on the formula: Fundraising Costs ÷ Total Funds Raised.

<sup>2</sup> Measures funds deployed on charity programmes versus fundraising and overheads. Computed based on the formula: Costs of Charitable Activities ÷ Total Expenditure.

<sup>3</sup> Measures number of years of reserve. Computed based on the formula: Reserves ÷ Total Expenditure (excluding Fundraising Costs).

# AGAPE VILLAGE

We opened Agape Village in 2015 to serve as a one-stop social service hub for anyone who walks through our doors seeking help. Fourteen member organisations are co-located here to provide holistic care management.

Agape Village has also served as a good venue for programmes, talks and workshops.

## Caritas CNY Lunch with Friends

On 3 February 2018, we hosted friends from Catholic Welfare Services and Society of St Vincent de Paul Singapore, as well as those from our community partners Care Corner Senior Activity Centre and Potong Pasir Residents' Committee – to a Chinese New Year Lunch at Agape Village.

The event was graced by Mr Saktiandi Supaat, MP for Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC. With the support of volunteers, generous donors and corporate partner, beneficiaries of various ethnic and religious backgrounds from the participating organisations enjoyed a delicious lunch, and celebrated with the community.



## Public Talks @ Agape Village

On 14 July 2018, we launched the first of the public talk series at Agape Village. The series serves as a platform for our member organisations and partners to share professional knowledge and expertise on a wide variety of topics, as well as raise awareness of the programmes and services provided by the organisations involved.

Titled Understanding Labour, Birth & Postnatal Self-Care, speakers for the first half comprised Ms Pat Chong (Joyful Parenting) a certified Childbirth Educator, and Ms Pamela Lim, a certified breastfeeding trainer. The second half was helmed by Ms Laura Jonathan, a Clinical Psychologist at Clarity Singapore. Besides practical tips on how to practice mindfulness with their baby and spouse, Ms Laura Jonathan also taught the participants how to do a self-compassion pause.

Case Management ✓

**415** cases served



Agape Village

Share-A-Pot @ Agape Village

**496**  
registered participants

**7**  
completed cycles  
(10-12 sessions per cycle)

**70**  
volunteers



Montfort Care - Big Love

**327** child protection clients



Mt Alvernia Hospital  
Outreach Clinic

**919**  
Medical clinic patients

**842**  
Dental clinic patients



Clarity

**232** clients at psychotherapy counselling  
**404** workshops/programmes/  
public talk participants



Boys' Town (YouthReach)

**89**  
New youths reached

**44**  
Youths under regular follow-up



ABLE

Return to work (RTW) and Day Rehabilitation clients

**116**

Successful job placements and return to employer

**35**

Family caregivers and care recipients

**84** and **71**

Hours of home-based respite

**264**



Catholic Business Network

Community and employability fairs  
Jobseekers

**180**

Attended workshops

**34**

Pro bono career counselling cases

**25**

Participated in mock interviews

**18**



ACMI

Attended Skills Development courses

**1,165**

Beneficiaries of Bread Basket outreach

**1,079**

Participants of Community Activities

**680**

Case management clients

**138**



Family Life Society (FLS)

Counselling and para-counselling cases

**137**

Pregnancy Crisis Service Data

Hotline calls

**185**  
served

Cases (Face to Face)

Babies saved (AV)

**31**

**26**

Before and aftercare support beneficiaries

**31**

**115** New clients

**21** Existing clients



Catholic Welfare Services



Catholic Lawyers Guild

**112** clients at pro bono legal clinic

**8** pro bono representations

# YOUNG ADULTS



**Fully Alive in God's Love**, facilitated by Rev Fr Christopher Soh, SJ, was held on 2 June 2018 at Agape Village for more than 70 young adults.

We spent a day together, reflecting and sharing on the social teachings on integral human development, and how these could help us to be more fully alive in God's Love.

The event included sharings from staff and volunteers from member organisations such as ACMI, ABLE, CWS, Mamre Oaks, Boys' Town, SSVP, Clarity Singapore and Morning Star Community Services.



**Faith on Film** was a night of reflection for 40 participants on the social teachings of the Church through the movie – 'Freedom Writers' (pic left).

This event was done in collaboration with lay Spiritual Directors Celina and Lance from Kingsmead Centre on 27 January 2018 at Agape Village.

The **Spirituality of Work** on 4 Nov 2017 was our first collaborative formation workshop with Vocare, a young adult community from the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The workshop for about 50 young adults was led by Fr David Garcia, OP, with sharings from Caritas Vice-Chairman Anthony Soo, and CYA member Celeste Wee.

**Volunteering opportunities** were identified with Morning Star CareNights programme and Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) Night Missions, Cafe and Shelter. These sparked new initiatives from volunteers including connecting with a bakery to provide buns for Night Missions, and even organising a dance workshop for the children from Morning Star and IJHCC.

Our mission is to support Caritas Singapore in integrating faith and social responsibility among Catholic Young Adults through four strategic thrusts: Educating; Inspiring, Facilitating; and Training and Developing.

We enjoyed a **Day of Recollection** on 1 September 2018 with Spiritual Director, Fr Christopher Soh, SJ, who introduced extracts from the working document for the Synod 2018 on the role of young people to 'help rejuvenate the face of the church' and the Apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis 'Rejoice and Be Glad' on embracing a holy life.

**'Creed on the Street'** served as platforms for young adults to come together to talk about important social issues.

session 8: Do we have a responsibility towards migrants?  
session 9: Make us true servants: How can we volunteer effectively?  
session 10: Education - how level is the playing field?

On 30 November 2017, we organised our first **outing for 30 children** from the Morning Star Community Services CareNights' Programme to Bounce Singapore.





*CJC students conducting a stakeholder analysis at the 30 May 2018 workshop on advocacy.*

# ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH

The Advocacy and Research Committee advocates with and on behalf of the vulnerable to foster a more caring, compassionate and inclusive society

## Identifying needs and solutions

- Over 200 local and international journal articles, government reports and data on vulnerable groups in Singapore were jointly reviewed with the Lien Centre for Social Innovation (LCSI).
- In early 2018, LCSI was commissioned to study the under-served needs of vulnerable groups in Singapore from the perspective of social service practitioners and their clients. More than 40 clients and 40 social service practitioners from various social service organisations participated in the study. Preliminary findings were shared at Caritas' Social Mission Conference 2018. The research is expected to end by late 2018.

## Raising awareness

- Regular posts on the Singaporeans Against Poverty (SGAP) Facebook page featuring local and international news concerning individuals and families living in poverty.
- Ongoing fortnightly news digest on social issues, initiatives and welfare policy development.

## Engaging the wider community

- A Mental Health Network meeting with key stakeholders in the mental health sector was convened on 20 January 2018 to explore ways to concretise ideas raised at Caritas RoundTable V.
- A workshop on advocacy was conducted on 30 May 2018 for 41 students from Catholic Junior College (CJC) who were part of CJC's Ignite Residential Programme.
- Presentations on Caritas Singapore were delivered to professionals from DUKE-NUS Graduate Medical School's Centre for Ageing Research and Education (CARE) on 21 March 2018; and the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) and Community Foundation of Singapore (CFS) on 12 September 2018, to exchange ideas on ways to help the vulnerable in Singapore.
- Ongoing engagement with Caritas' member organisations to better understand their services and programmes. Fifteen out of 27 member organisations have been engaged thus far.

# FORMATION

We promote awareness of the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and its application in daily living as Christ's disciples. Our objectives are to:

1. deepen the awareness and application of CST in the light of the Church's mission in the world.
2. enable the Caritas Singapore Family (Board/Committee Members, staff and volunteers) to understand and practise CST.

| Outreach     |     |
|--------------|-----|
| COMMUNITY    | 485 |
| STAFF        | 100 |
| YOUNG ADULTS | 250 |

## Workshops and Retreats

1. **Catholic Social Teaching** workshops for individuals interested in CST and its application in daily life
2. **Living Our Faith in Community** workshops for small Catholic communities to integrate life and faith, introduce CST and its application in their lives
3. **Personal Moral Compass** is a 42-week course (six modules) exploring topics on morality such as ethics of sex, bioethics, and social justice
4. **Discipleship Retreat** involves faith formation of staff and volunteers by Msgr Ambrose Vaz on 17 March. Participants are led into a deeper reflection on the biblical aspects of discipleship
5. **Review of Life** (ROL) workshop gives an introduction to the ROL method, and provides a time for reflection on ways to apply the method to actual life situations
6. **Induction** exercises (7 February and 1 August) for new staff in the organisation and our member organisations as an introduction to Caritas, and to inculcate Caritas' principles of service derived from CST
7. **Induction** workshop for volunteers (11 May and the 13 June) in collaboration with Volunteer Management department to enable a more meaningful experience for all our supporters



## Beyond the Valley of Dry Bones

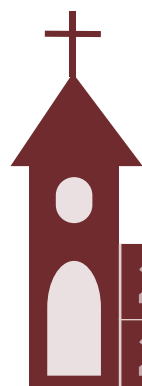
This three-part series workshop, an extension of our Social Mission Conference, was in collaboration with Kingsmead Centre. Fr Christopher Soh, SJ, guided 75 participants on some key points of what integral human development looks like for Catholics, our society and communities and how this can be put into action through our discernment and decision-making processes.

# PARISH ENGAGEMENT

We engage, collaborate and support parish groups to live their social mission by reaching out to the vulnerable in our society.

Our one-day **Agape Experience** (AE) programme is open to youth and RCIA members in all parishes. Through AE, participants learn about our social mission work in Singapore. AE also serves as a meaningful collaboration between Caritas and parishes.

Held on Saturdays, AE consists of welcome through praise and worship, ice-breakers, an introduction to the history of the Catholic Church in Singapore, a skit on empathy for participants, introduction to Catholic Social Teaching, introduction to 'Care for Creation' or 'Laudato Si', and information on the work done by the Caritas Singapore family.



|             | PARISHES | PARTICIPANTS |
|-------------|----------|--------------|
| <b>2017</b> | 20       | 814          |
| <b>2018</b> | 25       | 1,252        |



We organise regular events, retreats, and workshops for member organisations (MOs) to dialogue, build stronger ties and to collaborate on key work areas.

In 2018, we welcomed another two member organisations to the fold: HopeHouse and Marymount Centre.

1. **Leaders' Council Meetings** to share updates and explore collaboration opportunities.
2. **Biennial Overseas Leaders Retreat**, attended by 45 leaders, with spiritual director, Fr Christopher Soh, SJ. The theme of the retreat, "Beyond the Valley of Dry Bones" looked at living out Integral Human Development at the personal, community/organisation and societal levels.
3. **Staff appreciation lunch** to affirm good work, network and build community spirit.
4. **Collaboration with Formation department** to provide formation and induction programmes for personal development.
5. **Regular visits** to the member organisations to network and participate in key events.

## MEMBERSHIP AND CAPACITY BUILDING

# VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Shout-out to all volunteers who supported us with their skills and time for Charities Week, Social Mission Conference, Charity Golf, Share-A-Pot @ Agape Village, Agape Experience, Rooftop Farming @ Agape Village and more.



**>13,200**  
volunteers hours clocked



by **>350**  
volunteers



**34** recipients of  
Long Service Awards  
for serving  
**5-12** years



**53** volunteers  
supported **2** volunteer induction  
activities

We collaborate with organisations who wish to engage and enrich the lives of the different communities we serve.



**3 Feb 2018**

Masterseals participated in our CNY Lunch with Friends event by spending time with our clients from Catholic Welfare Services, St Vincent de Paul and Potong Pasir RC. The Masterseals team served lunch that day, and also gave out red packets to a much appreciative crowd.



**29 Aug 2018**

Daimler Financial Services spent time with elderly participants for Share-A-Pot, as well as MontfortCare's GoodLife Activity.



**7 Sep 2018**

A team from Marsh Cares joined us for another year! They taught more than 40 children at Morning Star Primavera Centre, Bedok North centres and CareNights to create an eco-terrarium.

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)



# FUNDRAISING

We raise a common pool of funds to support the charitable work of our member organisations through fundraising events, sustained giving through monthly GIRO payments, and online donations through **Giving.sg**.

Charities Week 2018 remains our flagship annual fundraising event during Lent where appeal envelopes are distributed to parishes, Catholic schools and businesses.

In 2018, we raised \$6.6 million during **Charities Week**.



| Funds raised for Charities Week <b>\$6.6 million</b> |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Parishes</b>                                      | <b>\$5,326,246</b> |
| <b>Schools</b>                                       | <b>\$73,499</b>    |
| <b>Business and others</b>                           | <b>\$1,159,091</b> |

## Charities Week 2018

| District           | Parish                                  | 2018 S\$  | 2017 S\$  |
|--------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| City               | Cathedral of the Good Shepherd          | 7,700     | 1,112     |
|                    | St. Joseph's Church (Victoria Street)   | 223,200   | 261,131   |
|                    | Church of Sts Peter & Paul              | 23,710    | 34,061    |
|                    | Church of Our Lady of Lourdes           | 176,585   | 9,640     |
|                    | Church of the Sacred Heart              | 64,885    | 67,481    |
|                    | Church of St. Teresa                    | 137,852   | 78,828    |
|                    | Church of St. Alphonsus (Novena Church) | 5,020     | 3,650     |
|                    | Church of St. Bernadette                | 473,439   | 355,904   |
|                    | Church of St. Michael                   | 79,498    | 58,051    |
| East               | Church of the Holy Family               | 451,072   | 474,586   |
|                    | Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace       | 133,761   | 132,983   |
|                    | Church of St. Stephen                   | 42,160    | 56,490    |
|                    | Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour | 274,849   | 391,229   |
|                    | Church of the Holy Trinity              | 117,652   | 67,591    |
|                    | Church of the Divine Mercy              | 86,152    | 96,150    |
| West               | Church of St. Ignatius                  | 687,441   | 768,983   |
|                    | Blessed Sacrament Church                | 100,888   | 105,187   |
|                    | Church of St. Mary of the Angels        | 104,954   | 132,249   |
|                    | Church of St. Francis of Assisi         | 33,789    | 48,435    |
|                    | Church of the Holy Cross                | 355,407   | 579,268   |
| North              | Church of St. Joseph (Bukit Timah)      | 107,171   | 120,467   |
|                    | Church of St. Anthony                   | 20,220    | 17,486    |
|                    | Church of the Holy Spirit               | 530,804   | 367,682   |
|                    | Church of the Risen Christ              | 127,378   | 126,240   |
|                    | Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea      | 39,604    | 42,052    |
|                    | Church of Christ the King               | 131,940   | 150,815   |
| Serangoon          | Church of the Nativity of the BVM       | 143,178   | 186,792   |
|                    | Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  | 152,440   | 154,519   |
|                    | Church of St. Francis Xavier            | 253,533   | 277,986   |
|                    | St. Anne's Church                       | 73,626    | 134,481   |
|                    | Church of St. Vincent de Paul           | 148,881   | 104,965   |
|                    | Church of the Transfiguration           | 17,455    | 5,500     |
| Total All Parishes |   | 5,326,246 | 5,411,994 |
| Others             | Schools                                 | 73,499    | 73,883    |
|                    | Business and Other Donors               | 1,159,091 | 585,420   |
| Grand Total        |   | 6,558,837 | 6,071,297 |

Funds raised support the work of Caritas Singapore and its Catholic charities.

# FUNDRAISING

**Golf for Charity 2018** was held at the Singapore Island Country Club on 1 August, and graced by Mr Lim Boon Heng, Chairman of Temasek Holdings. The new organising committee, led by Mr Simon Ong (Chairman) engaged 140 golfers, and sold 35 flights. We raised \$285,270 for this event.



## THANK YOU!

Every year, we are humbled by the generosity of our donors, benefactors and volunteers.

Their giving has enabled the Caritas family to continue serving the vulnerable here in Singapore.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Top: Simon Ong, Eric Tham (UOB),  
Lim Boon Heng, Paul Loo (Coco Tree)  
Bottom left: Fr Henry Siew  
Bottom right: Dr Phillip Tseng

# 2018 GRANT DISBURSEMENT

We disburse funds through a formal grant making process that covers stages of early engagement, application, evaluation, approval, agreement, disbursement, and monitoring.

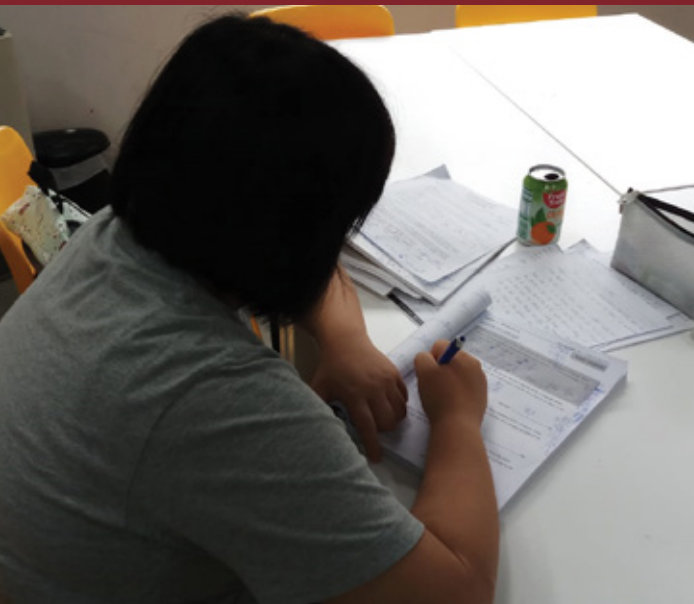
| Organisation  | Amount (\$)      |
|---|------------------|
| Abilities Beyond Limitations and Expectations (ABLE)                                | 680,000          |
| Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People (ACMI) | 478,000          |
| Assisi Hospice  | 10,000           |
| Boys' Town Singapore  | 800,000          |
| Canossaville Children's Home  | 10,000           |
| Canossaville Children & Community Services  | 310,000          |
| Catholic Aids Response Effort   | 270,000          |
| Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives Singapore (CHARIS)                    | 297,000          |
| Clarity Singapore   | 365,000          |
| Catholic Lawyers Guild  | 25,200           |
| Catholic Welfare Services   | 300,000          |
| Family Life Society   | 530,000          |
| Infant Jesus Homes & Children's Centres   | 461,000          |
| Jesuit Refugee Services (Singapore)   | 47,500           |
| Mamre Oaks  | 284,000          |
| Montfort Care   | 734,700          |
| Morning Star Community Services   | 742,000          |
| Roman Catholic Prison Ministry  | 100,000          |
| Parish Charitable Works   | 226,142          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>6,670,542</b> |

## OUR STORIES

Every day, we hear stories from the Caritas Singapore family that inspire and give us the strength to continue our social mission.

The following pages carry a heartwarming sharing from our intern, Ryan, as well as impact stories from the Caritas family.

# JOURNEYING WITH THE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER



Jasmine\*, 12, is taking her Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) in 2018. She lives with her mother Mdm Seah\*, a widow in her 40s, who draws a low monthly income. Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) assessed that, apart from facing difficulties in her studies and failing various subjects in school, Jasmine was experiencing issues arising from low self-esteem.

In addition to the assistance from a Family Service Centre and Social Service Office, Jasmine and Mdm Seah are supported in various ways by the Caritas Singapore family.

**Catholic Welfares Services (CWS)** [Lead Case Manager] has been supporting Jasmine since 2015 through the CWS Bursary, an education bursary for students from low-income families. A social worker from CWS journeys with Mdm Seah and provides her with a listening ear when she faces work challenges and single parenting issues.

**acts29** conducts weekly Guided Learning Programme for Jasmine since March 2018, and the sessions include tuition for English/Mathematics and learning of life skills.

**Empowering Families Out of Poverty Project** funded the costs for Jasmine to attend the Guided Learning Programme, including food and transport costs. The project also supports her enrichment programmes offered by other service providers to enhance her learning development.

Jasmine's self-esteem and confidence have improved. She attends the Guided Learning Programme regularly, and has shown improvements in some of her subjects. She displays good self confidence, being more vocal and open in sharing about herself when communicating with the staff and volunteers from CWS and acts29.

Mdm Seah is managing her situation better after receiving emotional and moral support. She has become more resilient. She continues her efforts to work well with her colleagues.

The mother-child relationship between Jasmine and her mother has also improved, and Jasmine is more respectful towards her mother.

We set up Agape Village (AV) in the heartlands in 2015. AV is a one-stop social service hub offering integrated and holistic care to those in need, regardless of race, religion or nationality.

*\*Details have been changed to protect the identity of the clients*



# MOVING FORTH WITH STRENGTH AND COURAGE



Mdm Suzy\*, 29\*, lives in a 4-room HDB flat with her 3 young children, elderly mother and younger brother who is unemployed. Mdm Suzy is divorced. Due to family violence, she stayed in a shelter with her young children for a few months. Her ex-husband was incarcerated on numerous occasions for voluntarily causing hurt on her and her children, and he also has drug conviction records. Mdm Suzy had filed and taken out a Personal Protection Order (PPO) and Domestic Exclusion Order (DEO) against him.

Mdm Suzy is currently earning \$1,043 a month to support herself and her family. To earn some additional income, she has been baking cookies and cakes in her spare time.

In early May 2018, Mdm Suzy was referred to the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) for assistance. With the collaborated efforts from the various member organisations, Mdm Suzy was provided with relevant assistance for her and her family.

Social workers from Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) and SSVP worked together to help Mdm Suzy manage her emotions and her family's financial situation. She was given interim assistance by CWS and referred to SSVP for long term assistance.

SSVP volunteers (also known as Vincentians) provided Mdm Suzy with befriending and financial assistance. The Vincentians assisted Mdm Suzy and her family to

move into a rental flat and away from her ex-husband.

Lawyers from Catholic Lawyers Guild (CLG) provided pro bono legal advice to Mdm Suzy on her bankruptcy matters.

Mdm Suzy requested for tuition assistance for her three young children; her eldest daughter, who was going to Primary 1 in 2019, was having difficulty in reading and her two sons had problems recognising words and numbers. Caritas Singapore found a suitable tutor for them through our Volunteer Management System who is an experienced kindergarten teacher.

We set up Agape Village (AV) in the heartlands in 2015. AV is a one-stop social service hub offering integrated and holistic care to those in need, regardless of race, religion or nationality.

*\*Details have been changed to protect the identity of the clients*



## A LONE CAREGIVER



We sometimes wonder how much burden a person can bear in his life. Mr Toh Ah Seng is living proof that strength can be found in love, even at the most difficult times.

Now 72 years old, Mr Toh married his wife, Madam Cheok in April 1976. It was a match made by his sister and her mother when he was 32 and she was 28 years old. Madam Cheok had suffered from epilepsy since young and the belief at that time was that the marriage would aid her recovery.

Mr Toh took responsibility for finances, grocery shopping, household chores, cooking, etc. He cherished their life together.

Back in 1980, Mr Toh took on the main parenting role when their son was born. When Chin Soon started Primary One, he was assessed to be autistic and intellectually challenged, and taken out of mainstream education. While Mr Toh tried his best to teach him basic life skills, Chin Soon could only manage limited independence. He also has difficulties expressing his feelings and with social interaction, sometimes exhibiting aggressive behaviour. Now, 38-years-old, Chin Soon receives support from the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS) Employment Development Centre Workshop. Mr Toh continues to love Chin Soon, spending most of his time caring for him.

In August 2017, Madam Cheok was diagnosed with stage four cervical cancer and needed care beyond what Mr Toh could provide. Madam Cheok was admitted to Assisi Hospice in February 2018. Mr Toh faithfully visited her everyday immediately after completing his job. He would spend two hours with her before rushing home to meet Chin Soon.

While Mr Toh takes pride in the fact that he does not need any daily financial assistance by living within his means, he needed the support of a Hospice Care Team that could understand him and his needs. Assisi Hospice's social worker, Ms Jaclyn Lee, lightened Mr Toh's grief by providing a safe outlet for him to express his emotions through narrating the story of his life. Being able to share his life-story with Jaclyn in Hokkien was therapeutic. This allowed him to reconcile and make sense of all that has happened in his life. Assisi Hospice also supported him as he plans his future with his son.

Madam Cheok passed away on 16 March 2018 and both Mr Toh and Chin Soon were by her side.

There are many people like Mr Toh living lives of dignity and inspiring us with their profound love. To help families like his with support and good palliative care for their loved ones please visit

<https://www.giving.sg/assisi-hospice>



## I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW



### Madam Tan's Life After Cataract Surgery

It has been about a year since Madam Tan Bee Yiok, from Tanjong Pagar GRC, was treated for cataracts at Mount Alvernia Hospital\*. This former housekeeper was aware of her failing vision, but had not pursued treatment due to her financial circumstances.

### A Much Improved Outlook on Life

Madam Tan looks after her mentally disabled grandson while her son and daughter-in-law work. We recently caught up with her.

The chatty 81-year old was overjoyed to see Mr Koo Hoong Mun, our staff from the Community Outreach Department at Mount Alvernia.

Affectionately calling him 'uncle', she praised his past kindness in fetching her back and forth for the pre-check, surgery and post-operation reviews at Mount Alvernia Hospital.

She also expressed her gratitude to the Residents' Committee (RC) staff for shortlisting her for the treatment. When she meets members of the Committee around her estate, they invariably ask about her eyesight.

"My eyesight is definitely better," she shared in Hokkien. "After the operation, I opened my eyes and could see so clearly! Now it's so much easier for me to do housework."

Madam Tan's social life has also improved, along with her vision. Thanks to her surgery, Mdm Tan is able to enjoy her daily activities with more relish as she can see what she's doing, and she need not worry about missing something or accidentally hurting herself.

"I'm happy to meet my friends every day at the market and go with them for RC outings," she shared. "I get red packets and free food whenever I join the RC activities. Some of my peers still complain about these freebies, but what is there to complain about?"

We should be contented. Stop comparing and complaining," declared the feisty octogenarian.

Great philosophy, don't you think?

*\*Madam Tan's surgery was performed pro bono by Dr David Chan from Atlas Eye Specialist Centre as part of the SPECTacular Programme by the People's Association.*

Mount Alvernia Hospital operates outreach medical and dental clinics at Caritas Singapore – Agape Village. The two clinics provide subsidised healthcare to the wider community.

<https://mtalvernia.sg>



## STRENGTH THROUGH ADVERSITY



\*Linda's husband passed on six years ago after contracting HIV, leaving her and their son behind. Unfortunately, she discovered that she had also contracted HIV from him. Linda had promised her husband that she would care for their only son and intended to fulfil this promise.

Linda and her son held foreign passports, although her husband was Singaporean. So, the flat could not be owned by them. Her migrant status also meant that she could not gain full-time employment. And her son attends polytechnic and will shortly be required to serve his national service and make a choice on his nationality.

They were referred to ACMI for legal assistance. ACMI enlisted the help of a pro bono lawyer and persuaded her sister-in-law to provide support and alternative housing to the mother and son.

"My son was a teenager when we moved to Singapore... when I think of my husband, I resolve to do everything possible to ensure that he has a better future as that was my husband's wish. No matter how hard it is, I will struggle to see him through."

Her son is doing well in his studies, made possible through a bursary. His humour helps them through tough times. Once when asked to do the Offertory at Mass, they were asked if they were husband and wife. She responded that they were mother and son, and her son quipped, "See, Mom, I told you not to wear skirts like that." She laughed, "I cannot help it... I can only wear what I get from the thrift shop."

Due to the high cost of HIV medications and their growing financial demands, she decided on her own to reduce her dosage. This affected her health badly, and she became weaker. Just as legal matters of the estate was settled, case workers noticed her declining physical state and investigated. Her doctors urged her to continue her medications properly and attend regular check-ups.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) together with ACMI and the social worker from a local hospital formed a tripartite network of collaborative support around Linda. They assisted with her obligatory medical costs and found a longer term solution to her financial and medical needs. The parish of St Ignatius stepped forward to help with the costs for medicine as part of their work of mercy for the vulnerable. Meanwhile a benefactor provided 'groceries that were nourishing which eventually boosted Linda's health, much to her gratitude'.

With the support of ACMI and other well-meaning organisations, hopefully both mother and son will be able to live a better life.

ACMI's aim is to respond to the pastoral needs of all migrants and itinerants in Singapore regardless of race, language or religion.

[www.acmi.org.sg](http://www.acmi.org.sg)

*\*Not her real name*





## YOUTH WILL FIND A WAY



In 2012, \*Jane was running around with undesirable peer groups and had a poor relationship with her mother. She came from an unstable background as her parents were divorced and she was staying in a one-room rental flat with her mother and maternal grandmother. Her mother had to take on two jobs to make ends meet.

A youth worker engaged with Jane and worked with her for two years by initially introducing her to YouthReach's dance programme. Jane got to know a group of other girls of similar backgrounds who were also searching for direction in their lives. On a weekly basis, these girls would meet at the YouthReach Centre and learnt dance from a volunteer dance instructor. Over time, the girls formed a close bond and started to support one another. They discussed their struggles during group sharing sessions and celebrated their successes through their dance performances. As a result, their self-esteem and confidence grew as they began to feel good about themselves. Eventually all the girls moved on to continue with their tertiary education.

Jane, who will turn 18 in November this year, has done very well. Accepting the help provided by volunteer tutors, she prepared for the 'O' levels and successfully secured a place in a polytechnic. Now, a second-year student in a polytechnic, Jane is a beneficiary of a corporate sponsorship which supports her education expenses.

The relationship between Jane and her mother has also improved as they benefitted from the individual and family counselling sessions offered to them. YouthReach's case worker has assisted them to apply for financial assistance from various community resources and helped her mother to budget and manage their expenses better.

It is tough to be a youth today as they deal with a host of struggles. But with help, these youths will be able to find their way and achieve their goals.

For more than 70 years, Boys' Town has been caring for children and youth in need. YouthReach, started in 2010, serves youth, both boys and girls, who have fallen through the cracks.

The youth outreach centre caters to over 400 at-risk youth between the ages of 10 to 24 in Tampines and Toa Payoh. Its motto is that no one should be left behind, staying true to the Montfortian conviction that "those whom the world rejects must move you the most".

The team engages youth through street outreach, interest-based programmes and referrals for counselling and case management.

[www.boystown.org.sg](http://www.boystown.org.sg)

*\*Not her real name*

# THESE LEAST BROTHERS OF MINE



"And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'"  
Matthew 25:40

During my semester break as an undergraduate Social Work student at the National University of Singapore (NUS), I decided to intern at Caritas Singapore. My internship gave me the opportunities to experience firsthand the Church's social services for vulnerable groups.

On 11 July 2018, I visited Agape Village (AV) to experience the Share-A-Pot programme which happens twice a week at AV. This session was also part of the pre-Social Mission Conference programme.

Catering to the vulnerable elderly, Share-A-Pot aims to engage them through various meaningful activities: Exercise, sessions on healthy lifestyle habits, bonding games and enjoying a nutritious bowl of soup over lunch.

Personally, I was heartened to see so many elderly people participating joyfully in all the activities. Though it was just a simple programme, the lively and dynamic atmosphere created by the volunteers, clearly rubbed off on the elderly participants. More than just experiencing improvements to their physical health, these elderly participants did feel a strong sense of belonging and solidarity with one another.

For me, seeing the many smiles on the faces of the elderly, reaffirmed my desire to be a Social Worker. In my future work, I hope that I would be as life-giving and encouraging as the volunteers I saw at the Share-A-Pot programme.

Another highlight for the day, was my experience at the Mamre Oaks' Day Activity Centre. The centre supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, by engaging them with a range of activities. Every Wednesday, a baking session is organised for their members.

As it was my first time interacting closely with adults with special needs, I had to take cues from the volunteers at the centre. I realised that because I did not understand the unique behavioural needs of the adults, I could not communicate well with them.

In contrast, the staff and volunteers at the centre, who had journeyed with the adults for a longer period, were able to warmly and wholeheartedly embrace them. Through their actions, the volunteers were showing that these adults, though with intellectual disabilities, were indeed gifts from God. While I still struggle to understand this, it was moving to know that the "least brothers of mine" were being lavished with love and care.

On hindsight, there was a paraphrased quote, widely attributed to St John Chrysostom, which could be used to encapsulate my experience at AV that day. The quote reads: "If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find him in the chalice."

This reminds me that Christ is indeed present in everyone, especially the weak and the vulnerable. Also, as much as I thought that I was the one in the position of giving, God was the one meeting me through the people I met at AV that day. God was doing something for me. He was showing me my unique path to find joy, charity and hope. I hope that my desire to be a Social Worker will glorify Him!

– Ryan Ng

# MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

## POOR, SICK AND THE ELDERLY

**Catholic Welfare Services** is the backbone of the Church's charity efforts since 1959. It runs homes for the aged, offers services and conducts programmes to help the poor, destitute and those in need.



**Society of St Vincent de Paul** is a lay Catholic organisation of staff and volunteers committed to offer person-to-person help to all those in need. Funded by donations and collections from the churches, the core work of the members are the regular home visits and organising activities based around the love of neighbour and bringing Christ's light to the poor.



## FAMILIES, CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Boys' Town** is a one stop children and youth centre helping boys and girls from disadvantaged families who may have faced hardship due to difficult home situations, financial struggles, abandonment or abuse. Their services include residential care, fostering, youth outreach, adventure therapy, clinical intervention and family reunification.



**Canossaville Children and Community Services** has an inclusive preschool and student care centre that caters to mainstream children and children with mild to moderate special needs (priority to those with hearing loss). We reach out to the most disadvantaged in the community.



**Christian Family and Social Movement** works towards building good Christian families and assists all family members to live and fulfil their various roles in the family, workplace, community and nation.



**Family Life Society's** mission is to strengthen marriages, families and uphold the dignity of human life. They serve all in need regardless of race, religion or background. Their services and support include: Marital and Family Therapy, Individual Counselling, Pregnancy Crisis and Support, Educational Programmes for Teens/Children and their parents.



**HopeHouse** provides residential programmes for youth-at-risk. Their vision is to be an Oasis of Hope, with the goal of giving youth hope for a new beginning. HopeHouse is open to male youth-at-risk, aged 16 and above, regardless of race and religion.



**Infant Jesus Homes & Children's Centres** provides a safe and caring formative experience for children and youth and a cohesive environment to help them grow into responsible young persons.



**Marymount Centre** reaches out to marginalised women and children. They manage three 24-hour residential homes for children, a 24-hour crisis shelter for abused women and their children, and a student care centre that provides after-school care.



**Montfort Care** runs a network of programmes committed to improving the lives of individuals, families and the community facing transitional challenges. Services offered by Montfort Care include three Family Service Centres, child protection service by its Big Love Child Protection Specialist Centre, cyber wellness programme for youth by its MeToYou Cyber Care programme, as well as GoodLife! and YAH! programmes to support active and frail seniors to age-in-place.



**Morning Star Community Services** aims to strengthen and enrich family life through upstream, preventive and early intervention family programmes, workshops and counselling.



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OR SPECIAL NEEDS

**Abilities Beyond Limitations & Expectations** seeks to enable and empower the physically challenged to live productive, meaningful and independent lives. ABLE also provides respite care to family caregivers to achieve self-care and empowerment.



ABLE SEAS, a social enterprise was set up to provide accounting and payroll services.

**Faith and Light Community** reaches out to persons with intellectual disabilities and their families through friendship and activities to help them realise that they are precious gifts from God despite their weaknesses and difficulties.



**Mamre Oaks'** vision and mission is to empower persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead lives of meaning, dignity and fulfilment through engaging activities at its day activity centre in Agape Village.



## PERSONS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

**Clarity Singapore Limited** is a Catholic mental health charity that provides counselling services and conducts mental wellness workshops and talks.



## PERSONS WITH TERMINAL ILLNESSES

**Assisi Hospice** is a Catholic charity providing compassionate, personalised and quality palliative care to adults and children with life-limiting illnesses through inpatient, home and day care services.



## PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS

**Catholic Aids Response Effort** provides care to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The team (comprising staff and volunteers) provides befriending services, counselling and support through various programmes.





## THE INCARCERATED

**Roman Catholic Prison Ministry** offers befriending and spiritual support services for prisoners and their families during incarceration as well as their after-care needs. It provides counselling and fellowship services that help promote their human and spiritual development.



## MIGRANTS

**Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People** looks after the pastoral needs of migrants in Singapore with casework, breadbasket programme, befriender networks, skills development and integration courses.



## OTHER SERVICES

**Catholic Lawyers Guild** provides mutual support and encouragement among lawyers for the sanctification of their professional work, as well as the provision of legal assistance to the Church and persons in need.



**Catholic Medical Guild** is where Catholic doctors come together to examine social and ethical issues in the light of Church teachings, and also conduct humanitarian missions overseas together with other organisations.



**Catholic Nurses Guild** promotes professional and spiritual growth of nurses, in every collaboration with the Church, to aid the sick, elderly and persons with disabilities in our society and outreach efforts.



**Catholic Business Network** aims to bring together Catholic business owners, Catholic professionals and executives for the advancement of Catholic values and ethics in their work and to serve the broader community. CBN also offers career counselling and job matching services.



**Mount Alvernia Hospital** operates the outreach medical and dental clinics at Agape Village. The two clinics provide subsidised primary medical care and dental services respectively to the wider community, especially to the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised.



## OVERSEAS MISSIONS

**CHARIS (Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives Singapore)** coordinates the Archdiocesan response to disasters and humanitarian needs overseas.



**acts29** is a mission-based organisation committed to serving marginalised communities especially amongst the youth.



**Jesuit Refugee Service, Singapore**, is an international Catholic organisation whose mission is to accompany, serve and advocate for refugees and forcibly displaced people.



# CORPORATE INFORMATION

Caritas Singapore Community Council Limited (Caritas Singapore) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

**Registration No** 200613504D (ACRA)

**Charity No UEN:** 200613504D

**Company Secretary** Vivienne Lim

The CSCC Agape Fund is a trust with Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status and a registered charity.

**Charity No UEN:** T06CC2001K

**Company Secretary** Vivienne Lim

**Legal Counsel** Genesis Law Corporation Advocates & Solicitors

## **Auditors**

Ernst & Young

One Raffles Quay North Tower, Level 18

Singapore 048583

## **Bankers**

DBS Bank Ltd

12 Marina Boulevard, Level 3 MBFC Tower 3

Singapore 018982

## **Registered Office**

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