



ANNUAL REPORT 2019





**ON THE GROUND
FOR THE COMMUNITY
FOR ALL PEOPLE**



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.

WHAT WE DO

The work of the Caritas Singapore family is all about people; specially to partner and empower people in need in our community.

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



Through our programmes, we journey with the poor and elderly, families and children, youth-at-risk, persons with illnesses or mental health issues, persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities or special needs, the incarcerated, and migrants in our community.

There are numerous programmes run by the Caritas Singapore family, including soup kitchen, financial assistance, residential care, shelters, befriending, counselling, palliative care, student care, skills training, etc. While our main focus remains in Singapore, some members of the Caritas Singapore family look into humanitarian needs overseas.



The Caritas logo comprises three elements – the Cross, the name, and the region, Singapore.

The flaming cross symbolises Christ’s burning love for His people. This expression forms the core of the work done by the Caritas Singapore family.

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS

We are a member of Caritas Internationalis (CI) in Rome—a confederation of over 160 members worldwide that coordinate emergency operations, formulate development policy, and advocate a better world for everyone. As the mission arm of the Church, Caritas reaches out to the poor, vulnerable, and marginalised, regardless of race or religion.

CARITAS ASIA

Caritas Asia’s mission is to lead and build the capacities of Caritas organisations in Asia to address a range of programmatic issues from emergencies to advocacy for the most vulnerable communities. There are four Caritas Asia sub-regions: Central, East, South, and Southeast Asia (SEA). Caritas Singapore is in the SEA group together with teams from Cambodia, Indonesia (Karina KWI), Myanmar (KMSS), Malaysia, Philippines (NASSA), Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT OF CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS

In 2019, the Caritas Internationalis confederation came together for the General Assembly in Rome. Guided and inspired by the theme One Human Family, One Common Home, the assembly reaffirmed the Caritas mission of promoting dignity, solidarity, and stewardship. The assembly also re-appropriated the vision of Pope Francis in caring for Mother Earth, our common home.

The Holy Father indicated a path that Caritas should take for us to fulfill our mission.

Humility is best expressed in the readiness and willingness to listen, especially to the voice of God in the voices of the poor. Communion is nurtured by encountering people in their concrete contexts. Renunciation is the courage to listen, to accept other people’s ideas, and to work together on account of “the strength of loving each other in the Lord” despite having different ideas just like in the Acts of the Apostles.

We hope and pray that the main orientations that emerged during the General Assembly and the two encounters with Pope Francis may guide Caritas Asia and Caritas Singapore these coming years. Our mission is not just about work and efficiency, important and necessary they may be. Our mission is profoundly about our spirituality.

As I congratulate Caritas Singapore on your valuable contribution to the Caritas confederation, I also ask the God who is Love to bless you constantly.

“Humility, communion, and renunciation are three ‘essential elements’ for the Church to go forward.”

– Pope Francis

Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Another year has passed by swiftly. The Caritas board gives thanks to the Lord for his bountiful blessing and love. Thanks to the grace of God, we have had another year of being able to serve those in need meaningfully.

This year saw the baton being passed from the previous board chaired by Ms Janet Ang. We give thanks to the work done by Janet and her board members. Theirs was a spirit-filled board that lived out the Church's teaching on our social mission. During their stewardship, donations grew as did the members of the Caritas family. More was also done to reach out to the community through the launch of our newsletter, "Caritas in Mission", which is available digitally and in print. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide Janet and her board that they may continue to be a light and blessing to the world.

The work of serving those in need is a continuing one and the current board will build on the work of our predecessor boards. Our plans include the formation of a Catholic Social Workers Guild so that Catholic social workers can

be supported and encouraged by one another. We also hope that the members of the Guild will be a source of ideas and wisdom for the Caritas family in Singapore.

We intend as well to respond to the call of Pope Francis to care for the world that the Lord has given us by driving greater awareness of the need for good environmental practices.

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.”

Hebrews 10:24

In the pursuit of our Christian mission, we know we must journey with others. We continue to remain blessed by a strong network of donors, benefactors and volunteers. My board members and I, as well as those we serve, are very grateful to each of you for your generosity. Your support also encourages us to continue the work that we do. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you very much.

Caritas is also very blessed to have a strong family network comprising our member organizations. It is often said that the family is the crucial building block of society. And so it is also with Caritas.

We are able to fulfil the mission that the Archdiocese has charged us with because we have the members of the Caritas family working with us and we with them. Indeed, it is my hope that we will increasingly become an even more cohesive family that works as one body for collectively we will surely be more effective than the sum of our parts. This is a major priority for the board and I know it is also a priority for our member organizations.

As we end our first year as a board and begin another one, I pray that you will continue to support our work, and also that you will demonstrate through your actions the love of Christ to those around you for this is the essence of Christian service. We are all called to be disciples of Christ and may the peace that surpasses all understanding be yours in your journey.

Prof Tan Cheng Han



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It was a calling for me to become a part of the Caritas Singapore family; a calling to serve people in need in our community, just as I have done for the last 30 years, but this time, with emphasis on my faith reinforcing my work.

As His Grace shared at Annual Mass this year, "There is only one work. Anyone who is poor, deserves our help." Indeed. Anyone who is poor financially, physically, socially, mentally, etc. Our call to journey with the poor has grown in the support needed on the ground.

Maintaining professional standards and good governance in our work are important elements of how effectively we fit into the ecosystem of Social Service Agencies (SSA). In our daily work, we need to be mindful of how we reflect our Caritas ethos to be welcoming and respectful, and recognising every person's dignity as a human.

This year, the National Council of Social Services (NCSS) renamed VWOs to SSAs to better identify our work to the community. We were there! It was also a heart-warming experience to be part

of the launch of the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre's (NVPC) City of Good. I was invited to be a Panellist at the local inaugural conference on Ending Homelessness Together, and a Speaker at the Grief and Bereavement Conference. I was also invited by AIC to serve as a Visiting Consultant to the Mental Health Resource Panel.

“it is not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work.”

1 Corinthians 3:7-8.

We close this year with thanksgiving and gratefulness for a year of good work under the new leadership of our current Chairman, Prof Tan Cheng Han.

With his servant-leadership style, I have witnessed the true gift of God's love in empowering us to give of our best in our work here.

We placed emphasis on strengthening the expertise and building organisational team spirit in order for Caritas Singapore to work together better and be more effective in fulfilling our mission.

We pray for God's guidance and blessings for Caritas and look forward to another blessed year of journeying with our community and working closely with the Caritas family and our parishes.

We thank our dedicated priests Msgr Ambrose Vaz, Fr Christopher Soh, SJ, Fr JP Tan, OFM, and Fr David Garcia, OP, for teaching and encouraging us in our Catholic ethos.

Last but not least, our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors and dedicated volunteers who supported us in our work in the community.

Christine Wong

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

is responsible and accountable for the governance and management of Caritas Singapore



CHAIRMAN

PROF TAN CHENG HAN

wef January 2019
Serving since 2013
Dean & Chair Professor
Commercial Law, School of Law,
City University of Hong Kong



DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

TEO JIN LEE

wef January 2019
Serving since 2015
Managing Director,
ODE Consulting

MEMBERS



FR CHRISTOPHER SOH, SJ

Serving since 2014
Spiritual Director, Young Adults
Committee
Member, Formation Committee
Regional Superior, Region of
Malaysia Singapore, Society of
Jesus



MONSIGNOR AMBROSE VAZ

Serving since 2013
Member, Executive Committee
Member, Nominations Committee
Vicar General (Pastoral), Catholic
Archdiocese of Singapore



JOACHIM TOH

Serving since 2015
Chairman, Audit Committee
Deputy Chief, Investment Officer,
NTU



AGNES LIEW

Serving since 2019
Chairman, Finance and Grants
Committee
Ex-Banker, Founder of Oompf!
fitness



MARK TANG

Serving since 2017
Chairman, Young Adults
Committee
Member, Membership Committee
Risk Management, PMC Treasury
Asia



FRIAR JOHN-PAUL TAN, OFM

Serving since 2011
Chairman, Parish Engagement
Committee
Member, Executive Committee
Member, Nominations Committee
Chancellor, Catholic Archdiocese
of Singapore



JEREMY KHOO

Serving since 2015
Chairman, Advocacy and Research
Committee
Head, Public Relations,
Communications and Volunteer
Management, Alzheimer's Disease
Association



ONG HOON MENG

Serving since 2019
Chairman, Agape Village
Management Committee
Independent Advisor



PAUL BEH

Serving since 2017
Chairman, Fundraising Committee
Member, Agape Village
Management Committee
President, Asia Pacific Reed
Exhibition



ALAN LIM

Serving since 2017
Chairman, Communications
Committee
Head, AP Blockchain Labs, IBM



LUM HON FYE

Serving since 2019
Chairman, IT Committee
International Retail Company



PEGGY YEE

Serving since 2019
Chairman, Membership Committee
Director, PY Legal LLC
Vice-president, Disabled People's
Association of Singapore
President, Catholic Lawyers Guild



PIUS LEE

Serving since 2017
Chairman, Formation Committee
Vice-chairman, Agape Village
Management Committee
Member, Fundraising Committee
Instructor, Singapore Management
University



SR WENDY OOI, FSP

Serving since 2019
Member, Communications
Committee
Daughters of St Paul



TAN TEE HOW

Serving since 2019
Member, Finance and Grants
Committee
Executive Director, Chip Eng Seng
Corporation Ltd

TRUSTEES OF CARITAS SINGAPORE AGAPE FUND

holds the Fund on trust for its charitable purposes



CHAIRMAN
JANET ANG

wef Jan 2019
Serving since Jan 2015
Chairman, Institute of System Science, NUS
Independent Director, SPH



DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
LAURENCE LIEN

wef Jan 2019
Serving since Nov 2015
Chairman, Lien Foundation

MEMBERS



CHRISTINA ONG

Serving since Nov 2015



RAYMUNDO YU

Serving since Jan 2018
Chairman, Asia Pacific Bank Julius Baer



DEACON CLEMENT CHEN

Serving since Nov 2015
Permanent Deacon, Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore



TEO SWEE LIAN

Serving since Jan 2019
Chairman, CapitaLand Mall Trust



NG KOK SONG

Serving since Aug 2013
Chairman, Avanda Investment Management Pte Ltd



KWEK MEAN LUCK

Serving since Jan 2019
Solicitor-General, Singapore



NG KEE CHOE

Serving since Jan 2019
Chairman, CapitaLand



PROF TAN CHENG HAN

Serving since Jan 2019
Dean & Chair Professor,
Commercial Law, School of Law,
City University of Hong Kong

BOARD INFRASTRUCTURAL COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairman Joachim Toh
Members Benedict Cheong
Francis Wan
Patricia Lim
Secretariat Agnes Ng

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Prof Tan Cheng Han
Members Teo Jin Lee
Monsignor Ambrose Vaz
Friar John- Paul Tan, OFM
Secretariats Christine Wong
Adeline Chung

FINANCE AND GRANTS COMMITTEE

Chairman Agnes Liew
Members Belinda Young
Gerard Teo
Tan Tee How
Thomas Goh
Secretariat Veronica Njo

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman Prof Tan Cheng Han
Members Teo Jin Lee
Monsignor Ambrose Vaz
Friar John- Paul Tan, OFM
Secretariat Christine Wong

BOARD PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

AGAPE VILLAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Ong Hoon Meng
Vice-Chairman Pius Lee
Members Agnes Liew
Augustine Tan
Christine Wong
Esther Chia*
George Lim
Irene Loi
Jason Rodrigo*
Mark Wettasinghe
Paul Beh
Theodore Chan
Spiritual Director Sr Elizabeth Lim, RGS
Secretariat Gordon Pinto

*Co-opted member

ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chairman Jeremy Khoo
Members Esther Chia
Fred Cordeiro
Ivan Yeo
Jeremy Yeo
Roland Yeow
Tiffany Tham
Secretariat Jorain Ng

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman Alan Lim
Members Alvin Neo
Jeanette Tan
Jerry Tan
Sr Wendy Ooi, FSP
Stephanie Yip
Vanessa Lee
Secretariat Anita Sebastian



ORGANISATION CHART

FORMATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Pius Lee
Members Anthony Soo
 Fang Swee Im
 Francis Tay
 Goh Han Serm
 Nicholas Chee
 Fr Christopher Soh, SJ
 Fr David Garcia, OP
 Stephenie Ng

Secretariat Jacob Soo

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Chairman Paul Beh
Members Kris Sidharata
 Louis Lim
 Perlita Tiro
 Pius Lee

Secretariat Pamela Lim

IT COMMITTEE

Chairman Lum Hon Fye
Members Ong Hoon Meng
 Philip Yeap
 Steven Tan
 Wang Wei Lung

Secretariat Manolo Fetalvero

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman Peggy Yee
Members Cheong Cheng Gian
 Damien Ooi
 Frances Mane
 Jennifer Lim
 Leong Seey Seey
 Mark Tang
 Patrick Chua
 Sabina Soh

Secretariat Jacob Soo

PARISH ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

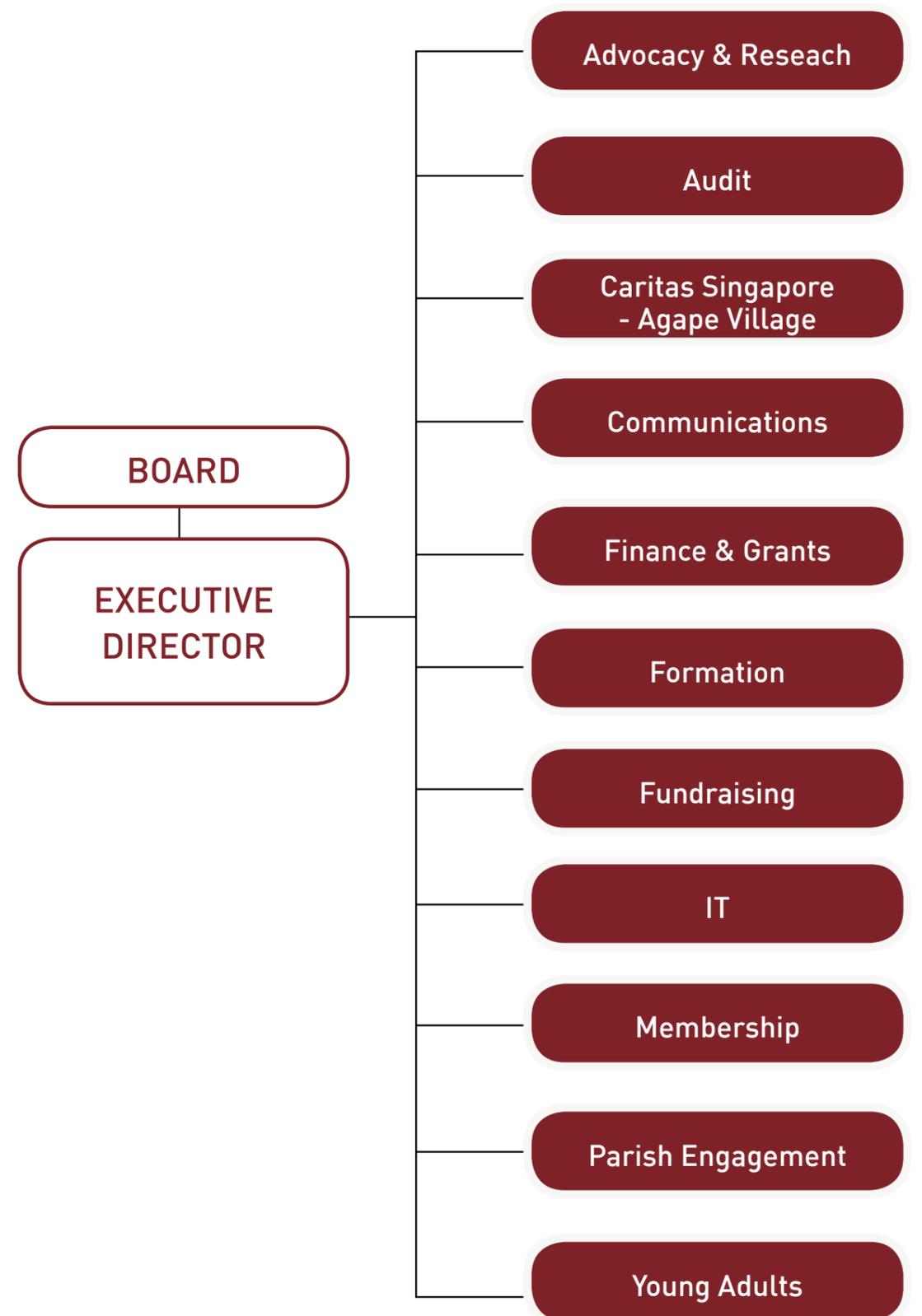
Chairman Friar John-Paul Tan, OFM
Members Damien Tan
 Gabriel Fok
 Jean Zee
 Joel Er
 Joey Chan
 Merissa Goh

Secretariat Eve Ong

YOUNG ADULTS COMMITTEE

Chairman Mark Tang
Spiritual Director Fr Christopher Soh, SJ
Members Alina Chia
 Bernadette Sandra
 Celeste Wee
 George Tan
 Julian Chua
 Marissa Yee
 Maryana Hermawan

Secretariat Gail Ng





ON THE GROUND

Our work is a visible sign of God's love for all. We remain updated and in touch with social issues on the ground through research studies, public events, and effective programmes.



ANNUAL MASS

Every year in January, we gather to celebrate Mass to give thanks for the past year as well as to begin the new year with blessings.

On 5 January 2019, more than 200 people including board members, volunteers, and staff from the Caritas Singapore family attended Mass celebrated by our Archbishop William Goh.

In his homily, His Grace embraced how the Caritas Singapore family is able to help various vulnerable groups because of the different charisms they have been blessed with.

The Mass also saw the handing over of the chairmanship from Ms Janet Ang to Prof Tan Cheng Han. In her thanksgiving speech, Janet thanked the Caritas family for their commitment to "partner the poor".



In his inaugural speech Prof Tan said, "My hope is that we may more truly exemplify the person of Jesus, and that our collective work will be a visible sign to the community".



As we continue to improve our outreach and communication with all our stakeholders, we expanded on our digital outreach to reach all our stakeholders; young and old, free and busy. We are now also on: Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



Instagram was launched in 2019!



Website



Facebook



Instagram

@CaritasSingapore

Keep updated and stay connected with us!

CHARITY TRANSPARENCY AWARD

This year, we are among the 67 charities to receive the 2019 Charity Transparency Award from the Charity Council.



This award is in recognition of our good disclosure practice as recommended under the Charity Transparency Framework. This is our fourth award since 2016.

We are proud to share the stage with other members of the Caritas Singapore family; Catholic Welfare Services, Clarity Singapore, and Assisi Hospice. Assisi Hospice also garnered the coveted Governance Award this year.

What a record for the social service sector in Singapore! We are grateful for the affirmation of our work for the community.



CARITAS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL SERVICE COMMUNITY

1 At the Unite for Mental Health 2018 held in October by Silver Ribbon Singapore, Christine presented on Prevention, Assessment & Intervention in Suicide Work at a breakout session.



2 Christine served as a panellist together with Tim Oei (CEO, NKF) and Dr Lee Cheng (former president, Silver Ribbon) at the Singapore Governance for Outstanding Organisation Directors conducted by the Singapore Institute of Directors, in collaboration with Social Service Institute and the National Council of Social Service. The panel shared insights on Driving Strategic Change in a Non-Profit Organisation.



3 The National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) held a talk for all NGOs to better understand the Bicentennial Community Fund. At this talk, Christine and the Salvation Army Singapore's Marcus Moo were invited to share experiences and best practices to inspire other non-profit organisations' efforts for fundraising and donor engagement.

4 Christine served as panelist on a discussion on "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child - Intergenerational Poverty". The panel was part of New Hope Community Services' first Homelessness Learning Forum in Singapore. The forum brought together partners on the ground for networking and a healthy dialogue.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT: CARITAS RESEARCH STUDY 2018

We completed a study on the underserved needs of youth-at-risk in Singapore. Twenty-one social service professionals and 45 at-risk youths aged between 15 to 25 years old were interviewed.

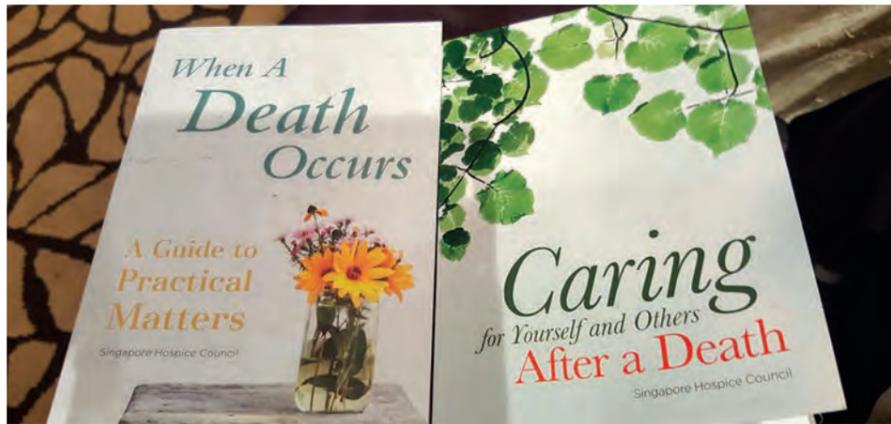
The results revealed a mismatch between the social service programmes and youths' articulated needs, and highlighted the importance of considering the role of psychological need for autonomy and relatedness in bridging the gap.

The results and recommendations were shared with the organisations involved in the research study.

GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT

At Singapore's inaugural Grief and Bereavement Conference titled "Our Collective Voices", Christine spoke on "Unspeakable Grief" at a breakout session where she shared insights on grief and loss, and the taboo and shame associated with suicide. Organised by the Singapore Hospice Council (SHC), the conference aimed to improve the local standards of grief and bereavement care.

- SHC has also launched two books; Christine was one of the contributing authors for the book, "Caring for Yourself and Others After a Death".



CATHOLIC SOCIAL WORKERS GROUP

We invited Catholic social workers in Singapore to form a faith-based support group. With 47 registered members as of 9 September 2019, the group has gathered for Mass, fellowship on Dignity and Participation, and also held its first committee meeting.

Looks like this group is taking shape!



OUR STAFF



STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP: BUILDING THE KINGDOM TOGETHER BY REV FR DAVID GARCIA, OP

We gathered for a full day workshop with Fr David Garcia, OP, to learn, reflect, and discuss the different principles of CST. We garnered a greater understanding of our role as Caritas in Singapore.

JOHN MAXWELL TEAM LEADERSHIP GAME

Conducted by certified coach, Andrew Soong, the John Maxwell Team Leadership Game helped refresh our understanding of Caritas core values, strengthen our leadership abilities, and forge stronger working relationships.

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT (PDPA)

We revised our internal PDPA policies in alignment with Singapore's implementation of NRIC advisory guidelines on 1 September 2019. Training sessions were also conducted to explain the fundamentals of the policies and its application in our work.

STAFF RETREAT

Guided by Deacon Sherman Kuek, we reflected on how the various parts of the Lord's Prayer call us to a conversion of our hearts, attitudes, and relationships with each other, as well as a deeper conviction of our work as staff of Caritas.



LENTEN REFLECTION BY REV FR CHRISTOPHER SOH, SJ

During Lent, Fr Christopher Soh, SJ, guided us on a reflection, drawing from content of Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad). We were encouraged to re-think our own 'sustainable energy', and to examine the graces we need and the obstacles that hinder us from drawing closer to God.

NCSS SERVICE-BASED VOLUNTEERISM CONSULTANCY

From October 2018 to February 2019, Caritas Singapore participated in the NCSS Service-based volunteerism consultancy. A consultancy, Empact reviewed the Caritas Singapore volunteer framework, including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), volunteer handbook, training for staff and volunteers, and rescoping of tasks of a skill-based volunteer so that it is easier to engage community partners for regular bite-sized skill-based volunteering.

THE CARITAS SINGAPORE FAMILY

CARITAS YOUNG ADULTS

The Caritas Young Adult committee visited IJHCC as part of their efforts to engage the Caritas Singapore family.

Mark Tang, chair of Young Adults Committee was invited to speak at the Catholic Business Network's 'Christ@Work' Conference. Mark with his fellow panellist Audrey Tan shared their thoughts on the most pressing questions in the minds of young working adults during the segment titled, "Discovering the Will of God for Me in the Marketplace: Youth Perspectives".

This new committee looks forward to working more closely with member organisations, and inspiring other Catholic young adults to join in the social mission of the Church through an increased participation and support of the work of the Caritas Singapore family.



VOLUNTEER INDUCTION PROGRAMME

This year, 47 of our dedicated volunteers spent a morning with us for our Volunteer Induction Programme. They learnt more about the work of the Caritas Singapore family and were also introduced to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

CARITAS SINGAPORE FAMILY STAFF INDUCTION PROGRAMME

Fourteen new staff from the Caritas Singapore family were at our staff induction, to network and get to know their peers in the family.

The twice-yearly staff induction workshop for new staff comprises presentations on the social landscape in Singapore, information about the work of the Caritas Singapore family, and the social teachings and principles of service.



LEADERS' COUNCIL MEETING

The Leaders' Council Meetings served as a time to explore possibilities of shared services and collaboration within our Caritas Singapore family.

As each meeting was hosted by a different member of the family, it allowed the Caritas Singapore family to learn about each other's work, network and bond.

ANNUAL APPRECIATION LUNCH

The afternoon was filled with activities for all the staff of the Caritas Singapore family to affirm their good work, and to promote networking, and community spirit.





FOR THE COMMUNITY

We stay connected and contribute to the work of the global Caritas confederation. Here in Singapore, we remain committed to our outreach and work in our community.

THE WORLD

Themed One Human Family, One Common Home, the General Assembly in May sought to define the Caritas confederation mission of dignity, solidarity, and stewardship, and to embrace Pope Francis' vision to care for the Earth. We were represented by Chairman, Prof Tan Cheng Han and Executive Director, Ms Christine Wong.

“It was humbling for me to hear the stories of the poor being served in much more challenging circumstances than what we face in Singapore. It has also given me a greater appreciation of the profundity of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* which has made care of the Lord's creation a pillar of Catholic social teaching.”

– Prof Tan Cheng Han



One Human Family, One Common Home also reflects Caritas' mission to protect both the poorest and most vulnerable people, and the world. The assembly was also an opportune platform to launch the 2019 face of Share the Journey; The mural is made of faces of the people who have journeyed with Caritas on foreign soil.



Christine represented Caritas Asia to present the region's collective expectations to the GA members. She spoke on six key areas:

1. To continue to give opportunity for those who are still growing
2. Investment in interreligious harmony
3. New partnership principles
4. Good financial management
5. Investment in the environment
6. Ensure sustainable solidarity in the work of charity

Photo Credit: Louise Norton/ Caritas Internationalis.
www.caritas.org

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS VISIT

Monsignor Pierre Cibambo Ntakobajira (Ecclesiastical Assistant) and Aloysius John (Secretary General) of Caritas Internationalis dropped by our office for a friendly visit on 8 July 2019.



PARISHES AND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

AGAPE EXPERIENCE (AE)

Through prayer, experiential learning, and engaging activities, AE reaches out to catechumens and confirmands in our parishes to learn about the Church's social mission and how the sacrament relates to Catholic Social Teaching.



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING (CST)



IN PARISHES

CST sessions were conducted for participants in the RCIA of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd and Church of the Risen Christ, and also for the Young Adults Community at St Anne's Church.

IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

This year, we started conversations with Catholic schools to understand their CST needs.

In June, we conducted a two-morning CST workshop for St Nicholas Girls' School. Participants comprised the school management and core team of teachers heading Religious Education, and Character and Civics Education.

Fr David Garcia, OP, also conducted a CST workshop centred on the principles of Human Dignity and Common Good for all the principals of the Catholic schools.



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS COURSE, NEPAL

Caritas India organised an International Development Dynamics Course in Dhulikhel Village Resort, Nepal, in July 2019 for social work professionals in Asia and other regions. Our ED, Christine Wong and Parish Engagement Executive, Eve Ong attended this 15-day course. Participants also went deeper into understanding the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching in the work of Caritas.



CARITAS ASIA CONFERENCE AND FORUM

Cardinal Tagle, President of Caritas Internationalis, led a retreat for directors of the Caritas Asia network, reflecting on Charity, Integral Human Development, and Communion.

The Forum that followed served as a platform for leaders to build and strengthen effective working relationships within the Caritas confederation.



caritas.asia



CARITAS IN MISSION (CIM)

Our quarterly newsletter sheds light on current social issues in Singapore. In 2019, we focussed on the Poor (March), Mental Health Issues (June), Care for Our Common Home (September), and Youth-at-Risk (December). CIM is distributed in parishes in Singapore.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS (PMC)

PMC is a 41-week course on Moral Theology conducted by Fr David Garcia, OP, which provides a fuller understanding of morality and how we may build our capacity to pursue good.

LIVE THE GOSPEL IN THE WORLD

Live the Gospel in the World is a two-part programme which aims to help participants live their faith more intentionally in their lives. Consisting of a weekend retreat followed by three follow-up sessions, participants learnt more about the principles of the CST and how these help them to live their faith in their daily lives. The retreat was conducted by Fr David Garcia, OP, and facilitated by members of the Formation Committee.



INTO THE CAVE

Respectively themed 'The Spirituality of Rest' and 'Gift of Self: Who am I to you?', Into the Cave is a two-part series of reflective sessions for young adults to pray, reflect, and discern the various social issues and concerns in their lives, and put their faith into action.



DISCIPLESHIP RETREAT

As part of the ongoing faith formation of our staff and volunteers, a Discipleship Retreat was conducted by Msgr Ambrose Vaz. Nineteen participants were led into a deeper reflection on the biblical aspects of discipleship and servant leadership.

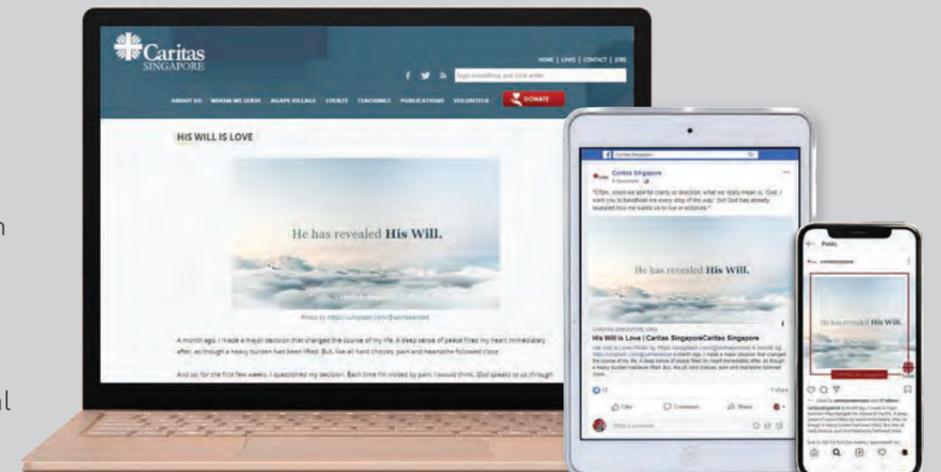


REVIEW OF LIFE (ROL)

The ROL is a formation tool to help Catholics integrate faith and life. Several workshops were conducted throughout the year for the public. Sessions were also held for RCIA facilitators of the Church of the Risen Christ, the Young Christian Society, and tertiary students.

CAMINO DE SINGAPORE

The online Camino de Singapore is a fortnightly reflection on local news regarding vulnerable individuals and families from a Catholic perspective circulated via our social media platforms.





FOR ALL PEOPLE

The work of the Caritas Singapore family is for everyone; organisations, teachers and students in schools, individuals, etc.

CARITAS SINGAPORE — AGAPE VILLAGE

Caritas Singapore-Agape Village (AV) is a one-stop integrated social service hub housing 14 of our member organisations. Officially opened in November 2015 by Archbishop William Goh, the organisations based at AV partners and empowers those in need regardless of race, religion, or nationality.

Integrated case management (next page) for people in need in the community is a key reason that 14 of our 27 organisations are based at AV. In areas where more support is needed, the main case worker would collaborate with other social service agencies, government bodies as well as community partners to complete the care cycle.



SHARE-A-POT

We celebrated three years of Share-A-Pot activities at AV this year. We have seen about 100 participants at each session. Share-A-Pot sessions are held twice a week.

As a volunteer-run event, we see about 40 volunteers at each session. They organise the weekly themed-based sessions and occasional outings to engage seniors through exercise, and a nutritious bowl of soup.

The seniors keep coming back to make friends to reduce social isolation, enjoy a meal with old and new friends, and to exercise and keep active.



INTEGRATED CASE MANAGEMENT



PUBLIC TALKS

We held four public talks at AV to reach out to various stakeholders.

- **(November 2018)** In You, Death Has Lost Its Sting - Preparing for Death: a talk on the Christian understanding of death and the need for Advance Care Planning.
- **(May 2019)** In You, Death Has Lost Its Sting - Preparing for Death (Chinese)
- **(February 2019)** Celebrating the Golden Years: to share valuable tips on retiring smart and self-care for the second half of life.
- **(July 2019)** Parenting Essentials of What Christian Parents (Really) Need, and What a Child (Really) needs: a talk for Christian parents.



KAMPONG CARNIVAL

Held in October 2018, the event was organised with Potong Pasir Zone 1 RC and the Singapore Wellness Association, and drew more than 500 people to our premises.

Kampong Carnival was a fun-filled event which served as a platform to share with residents about the numerous programmes and services offered by organisations in the neighbourhood.

Exhibition booths were set up; rehabilitation and respite centres were open for visits; and free dental screenings as well as awareness talks were available to engage the community.

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 2019 remains our flagship annual fundraising event during Lent where appeal envelopes are distributed to parishes, Catholic schools, and businesses.

In 2019, we also organised a charity dinner, Down Memory Lane, and a charity golf day.

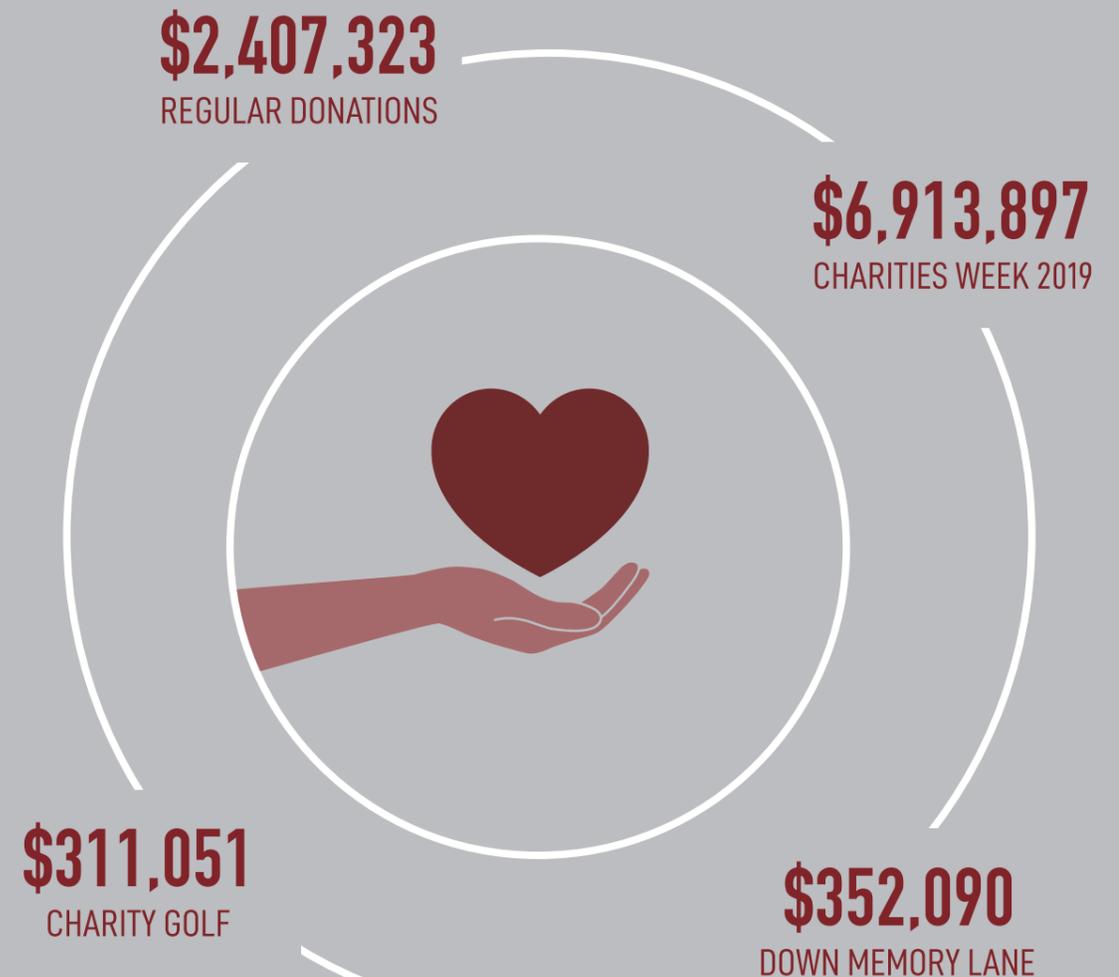


We launched a special edition coin collection: The Saints of Caritas.

This collection captures the heart and motivation of all of us who journey with Caritas; we are the legacy of St Pope Paul VI, the founder of Caritas.



2019 FUNDRAISING



CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

The Church celebrated World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September. To commemorate this special mission, we launched a mini online campaign on Laudato Si' to raise awareness of what individuals can do to #HealOurHome.

To increase our reach to the community, we included dedicated posts on social media in September to show lifestyle changes and choices we make in our daily work and personal life. We are walking the talk to #HealOurHome.

Part of the campaign included adding a leaf above the 'i' in Caritas to symbolise our growing efforts in outreach and to do our part to care for our environment.

Our September issue of Caritas in Mission, which also focused on the same theme, was picked up by various Caritas organisations in the confederation as well as the Catholic News here. It was also used at the Synod of the Amazon in October in Rome. 🌿



CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

DAIMLER FINANCIAL SERVICES

- [10 December 2018] After a positive volunteering experience interacting with Caritas Singapore in August last year, Daimler Financial Services (DFS) volunteers joined our Share-A-Pot seniors for their year-end outing at Gardens By the Bay.
- [28 June 2019] In line with their theme for DFS Month: Caring is mobility – finding new ways to “MOVE” our community”, DFS team partnered with ABLE Singapore to volunteer at ABLE's Family Caregiver and Care Recipient Retreat.

GLOBAL INDIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

- [21 August 2019] About 15 students from the Global Indian International School (GIIS) aged between 14 to 15 together with their teacher, Ms Ida Dcosta, volunteered at the Share-A-Pot programme.
- [25 September 2019] Six GIIS students (three of them new) volunteered at Share-A-Pot programme after their exams. One of the girls returned the next day as she had such a meaningful experience.



VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Attended by 50 volunteers, the volunteer appreciation dinner was preceded by Mass celebrated by Rev Fr Edward Seah. The evening included an award-giving segment for recipients of the five-year long service award.

Thank You Volunteers! Because of you, we can play a meaningful part in building God's kingdom.

- Prof Tan Cheng Han



CHARITIES WEEK VOLUNTEERS

Each year, a committed group of volunteers help collect our Charities Week envelopes from parishes and Catholic schools all over the island. They help with the counting, verification, and checking data entry—for which we are extremely grateful.



URBAN FARMERS

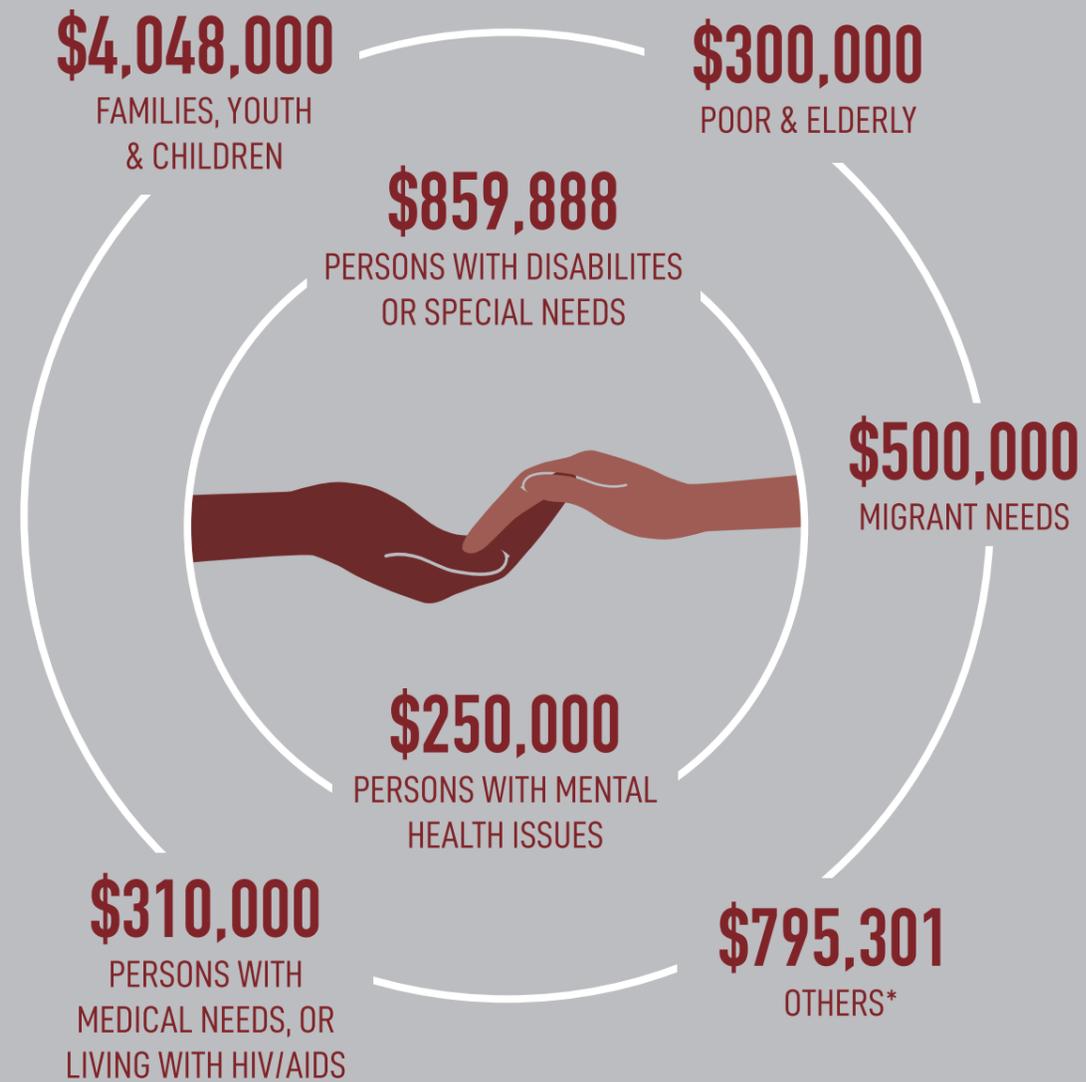
A group of volunteer Urban Farmers take pride in caring and harvesting their crops and even creating different composites to nurture various plants. Rooftop farming helps reduce our carbon footprint and provide a space for communities to gather at Caritas Singapore-Agape Village.



FACILITATORS COMMUNITY

Our Facilitators Community gathers each month to grow and deepen their knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and their facilitation skills. These facilitators provide support at various formation workshops and programmes as needed.

GRANT DISBURSEMENT



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Financials	FY2019 (\$)	FY2018 (\$)
Donations	9,321,220	9,164,366
Donations from Fundraising Events	663,141	285,270
Other Income	781,323	826,309
Total Income (Incoming Resources)	10,765,684	10,275,945
Cost of Charitable Activities	9,820,926	9,446,262
Fundraising Costs	453,195	263,312
Governance Costs	327,801	307,348
Total Expenditure (Resources Expended)	10,601,922	10,016,922
Net Income (Incoming Resources)	163,762	259,023

Ratios	FY2019 (\$)	FY2018 (\$)
Fundraising Ratio ¹	4.53%	2.80%
- Fundraising Costs	453,195	263,312
- Total Funds Raised	9,984,361	9,449,636
Programme Ratio ²	93%	94%
- Cost of Charitable Activities	9,820,926	9,446,262
- Total Expenditure	10,601,922	10,016,922
Reserves Ratio ³	2.00 years	2.07 years
- Reserves	20,338,450	20,174,688
- Expenditure (excluding Fundraising Costs)	10,148,727	9,753,610

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

² Measures funds deployed on charity programmes versus fundraising and overheads. Computed based on the formula: Cost of Charitable Activities ÷ Total Expenditure.

³ Measures number of years of reserves. Computed based on the formulas: Reserves ÷ Total Expenditure (excluding Fundraising Costs.)

OUR CARITAS SINGAPORE FAMILY



Caritas SINGAPORE

The Caritas Singapore family is made up of 27 Catholic charities serving various segments of our community



FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- Canossaville Children and Community Services
- Christian Family and Social Movement
- Family Life Society (FLS)
- Infant Jesus Homes and Children's Centres
- Marymount Centre
- Monfort Care
- Morning Star Community Services (MSCS)



YOUTH

- Boys' Town
- HopeHouse



PERSONS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

- Clarity Singapore



POOR AND ELDERLY

- Catholic Welfare Services (CWS)
- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP)



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OR SPECIAL NEEDS

- Abilities Beyond Limitations and Expectations (ABLE)
- Faith and Light Community (FLC)
- Mamre Oaks



PERSONS WITH MEDICAL NEEDS

- Assisi Hospice
- Mount Alvernia Hospital



MIGRANTS

- Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People (ACMI)



PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

- Catholic AIDS Response Effort (CARE)



OVERSEAS MISSIONS

- Acts29 Mission
- Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS)
- Jesuit Refugee Service



THE INCARCERATED

- Roman Catholic Prison Ministry (RCPM)



GUILDS

- Catholic Business Network (CBN)
- Catholic Lawyers Guild (CLG)
- Catholic Medical Guild of Singapore (CMG)
- Catholic Nurses Guild (CNG)

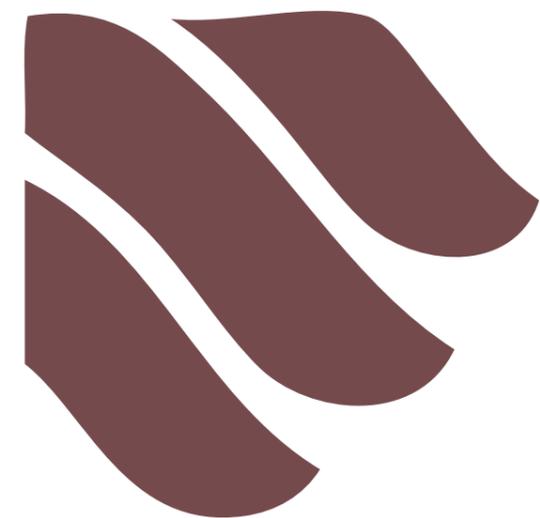
Scan the QR code for more information on our member organisations





STORIES

The work of the Caritas Singapore family reaches far and wide across our green city. We focus our efforts and collaboration to empower individuals and families in need. Here are some of our stories.



LOVE THAT BINDS



When I was growing up, I had what many would consider a privileged lifestyle. I had tons of toys and branded clothes, attended enrichment programmes, and travelled the world with my parents. Yet, I always felt sad and empty as if there was something missing in my life.

For the first 20 years of my life, my dad worked overseas, returning only once in a long while to visit my mum and me. His visits were so few and precious that I would cling to him, demanding his full attention. Those were indeed happy moments for me. But feeling the acute loss of his presence, I would cry unconsolably and lock myself in my room whenever it was time for him to leave.

While I appreciated his sacrifice of working hard to give us a good life, I constantly struggled with my emotions and craved my dad's love, time, and attention. The pain of missing my father sometimes seemed unbearable.

Finding the Silver Lining

Today, I realise that my personal experience has helped me to understand the importance of love, care, and attention that all children need, especially during their early stages of life. Whenever I encounter a child from an underprivileged or broken family, or a child at risk, I ask myself, "What can I do to help, comfort, and encourage them?". I want to be able to bring them happiness and assure them that I will always be by their side to guide them through the difficult times.

I have been with Morning Star for six years now, and love working with children who are challenging. I strongly believe that every child has a story to tell and deserves to be nurtured and encouraged so that they can become responsible, caring adults and citizens.

While these children would test my patience some days, I acknowledge that this is part-

and-parcel of their growing up and my love for them should be a constant in their lives.

My heart finds fulfilment when they improve and I see the difference that I make in their lives. They would write notes of appreciation which warm my heart; and when I see a significant change in their behaviour for the better, I am filled with gladness. My journey with Morning Star has helped me to grow and appreciate what I have in life. It is when you see how other people without privileges and material comforts struggle that you realise how blessed you are.

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

morningstar.org.sg

A SECOND CHANCE



From cooking to gardening, Marie is someone who loves working with her hands. She was a cook in a kindergarten for seven years until a stroke in April 2018 meant she had to stop working. She felt dejected and worried about how she would cope financially.

Help came in the form of a 'good Samaritan' nurse who informed Marie about Abilities Beyond Limitations and Expectations' (ABLE's) services while she was recovering in Tan Tock Seng Hospital. Marie soon joined ABLE's Return-to-Work programme and started rebuilding her life through physiotherapy. She also attended employment support sessions under the guidance of ABLE's multi-disciplinary Rehabilitation team.

Marie regained her confidence and participated in an in-house work trial between September

to October 2018, conducting a telephone survey as part of a collaboration project with North West Community Development Council.

"I felt more positive and encouraged after attending the programmes," Marie shared. "From this job trial experience, I have learnt to be more patient and not to give up even when faced with challenges."

Marie also attended a Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) training in Effective Workplace Communications to improve her employability. After completing the training, Marie was even more determined to secure employment.

This presented itself as a job interview opportunity with BreadTalk. Marie was both excited and apprehensive as it

was her first-ever formal job interview. This soon turned to delight when she was offered the position of Pastry Artist at BreadTalk's outlet at Nex. Her job involves decorating pastries such as doughnuts, croissants, bread, and pizza.

Starting work at BreadTalk was nerve-racking for Marie. She was unsure if she could cope within the compact workspace and during busy periods. Her initial concerns were addressed during ABLE's job support visits. Gradually, Marie adapted well in her role and improved her working speed with the support of both the ABLE Rehabilitation team and her fellow BreadTalk colleagues.

Ultimately, Marie's positive attitude and willingness to learn enabled her to regain a productive and independent life.

Abilities Beyond Limitations & Expectations (ABLE) 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-sg.org

LOVE IN A SMILE



When a golfer was greeted with a warm smile from a hardworking caddy, he was startled as the caddy only had two canine teeth. Yet, his warm smile touched the golfer's heart and inspired him to launch the Smiles for Good programme to provide free dentures to those in need, with the support of Caritas Singapore and Mount Alvernia Hospital's Outreach team.

Three beneficiaries of this programme shared their experiences – Mr Tan Sioh Tee (73 years old), Mr Ng Say Huat (58 years), and Mdm Oh Swee Kim (80 years).

SHAPING SMILES, CHANGING LIVES

Mr Tan was referred by the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP), a member organisation of Caritas Singapore. His existing five-year old dentures were a bad fit and affected his ability to eat properly. After receiving his new dentures, Mr Tan expressed

his gratitude to the staff at SSVP and Mount Alvernia Hospital's Outreach team.

Also referred by the SSVP, Mr Ng had never worn dentures and was having difficulty eating food that was hard and tough. At his first fitting, he required some help getting accustomed to biting down. When asked what he would like to eat after getting his dentures, he said that he could not wait to chomp on fried chicken!



Petite and frail-looking Mdm Oh was referred by Thye Hwa Kuan Senior Activity Centre at Toa Payoh. She had to have her loose tooth removed and full upper and partial lower dentures made. Upon getting her new dentures, she was overwhelmed with gratitude. With tears in her eyes, she said, "Thank you, Thye Hwa Kuan and Mount Alvernia Hospital Outreach for shortlisting me for this (the dental work)."

A DIFFERENT SMILE

Having a proper set of teeth is very important as there are nutrition and health implications.



Toothlessness often results in low self-esteem and causes a person to be reluctant to smile or communicate. In serious instances, it can even lead to depression. Smiles for Good inspires us to bring lasting smiles to all.

The Mount Alvernia Outreach Medical and Dental Clinics provide subsidised primary healthcare services to the wider community, especially to the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalised.

<https://mtalvernia.sg/>

A STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM



Joan* is a single parent to her nine-year-old daughter Louise*, who was born out of wedlock. They lived with Joan's divorced brother, Peter*, who offered Joan co-ownership of his matrimonial flat.

When Peter became abusive towards Joan and Louise, Joan decided to move out. But her co-ownership property status meant she could not apply for a flat of her own and thus the mother and daughter had to move from one temporary home to another.

Joan's debts began to pile up. Her salary was barely enough for the family to make ends meet. To make matters worse, Joan's family ceased all forms of support. The guilt of not being able to provide for Louise left her depressed. Her health suffered and she lived in constant fear of being harassed at her workplace by creditors.

Things began to look up when Joan was referred to Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) and the Social Office of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) in Caritas Singapore-Agape Village. The family received financial aid from CWS and later SSVP. With SSVP's mediation help, some outstanding loans were settled. The SSVP Social Office also provided Joan with budgeting skills to manage her finances better, and counselling to address her parenting and relationship issues. As for her housing bind, Joan received legal advice from Catholic Lawyers Guild (CLG) to wait till the flat could be sold before pursuing any further legal recourse.

Such community support has given Joan a new lease of life – one filled with confidence and hope.

** The names of persons in this story have been changed to protect their privacy.*

Catholic Welfare Services (CWS), established since 1959, runs homes for the aged, offers services, and conducts programmes to help the poor, destitute, and those in need.

catholicwelfare.org.sg

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is committed to offer person-to-person help to all those in need. 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.

ssvpsingapore.org

Catholic Lawyers Guild (CLG) 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.

clgsingapore.com

A HAVEN THAT NURTURES



Samuel* is an 18-year-old youth who gained admission to Boys' Town in March 2019.

Samuel had experienced multiple caregivers as his natural parents were unable to care for him then because of financial difficulties. Due to safety concerns, he was placed in a Children's Home but soon outgrew the system. As he entered late adolescence, Samuel yearned for space and freedom but his family was not ready for him to be reintegrated back home.

Unable to afford rental accommodations in the open market, Samuel turned to Boys' Town for shelter. Besides providing him a roof over his head, Boys' Town has given Samuel the much-needed emotional and psychological support under their Hostel Programme. These come in the

form of the staff as well as an annual financial sponsorship that covers his personal expenses as he pursues his tertiary education.

Samuel is currently in his first year of a Tourism and Resort Management course, under the School of Business and Accountancy in one of the local polytechnics. A pleasant-mannered and responsible youth who shows potential leadership qualities, Samuel excels in school and is a member of a student ambassador group. Recently, he represented the school in an overseas leadership camp.

Samuel has set clear goals and aspirations to continue with a business-related course in university after his National Service. He said, "My goals are pretty simple - to graduate with a diploma and to become self-sufficient."

“ My goals are pretty simple - to graduate with a diploma and to become self-sufficient. ”

- Samuel*

He is grateful to Boys' Town saying, "Boys' Town has helped me by providing a place for me to stay and supporting me with a sponsorship when I was unable to work. The Hostel programme has cultivated my sense of responsibility and helped me understand the importance of being independent."

** The name of the young man in this story has been changed to protect his privacy.*

Boys' Town is a one-stop children and youth centre helping boys and girls from disadvantaged families. Their services include residential care, fostering, youth outreach, adventure therapy, and clinical intervention.

www.boystown.org.sg

FAMILY-SPONSORED MOVIE GIFT WARMS HEARTS



Students in Canossaville's after-school care services were treated to a movie during their September school break. Gerald and Janet sponsored 86 tickets for students and staff at NEX.

"My husband and I are very thankful to have an opportunity like this to spread some joy to other children," says Janet. "Though it's just a movie, we are glad to see the smiles on their faces after enjoying the show. Being parents ourselves, if the children are happy, we are happy. This is what matters to us most."

Gerald and Janet's sons were happy to meet so many new "friends". They were even willing to contribute their pocket money to buy the tickets! What darlings! The family received a handwritten 'Thank You' note from one of the students.

Damon Goh, Community Partnerships Manager with Canossaville shared, "We are blessed to be able to bring our children for this movie outing. Our children have been working hard revising and preparing for their End-of-Year examinations. This outing provides a timely opportunity for them to relax and recharge before the school reopens."

Just look at those faces!

Thank you from Canossaville and Caritas Singapore!

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).

canossaville.org.sg

A JOY TO HAVE AROUND - IAN



Photo by Tim Mossholder on Unsplash

The biblical story of Abraham welcoming the three strangers to his home is one that is held closely to the heart of Mamre Oaks. Like the story, Mamre Oaks strives to be a place of nourishment to our guests by providing sustenance so they may have strength for the journey. We also aim to be a place of hospitality through acceptance and building of relational ties with our special needs friends and their caregivers. In mission, we hope that all who come our way will be able to call Mamre Oaks their home, but that is not always the case. Every farewell is difficult, which is why when a member is accepted into the Mamre Oaks family, he/she is celebrated and warmly welcomed into our community.

I am reminded of Ian's first day at Mamre Oaks. On his first day, he resisted any interactions and hardly looked at anyone. He refused to step into our centre and only showed interest in the library outside our centre. Every day, he would sit by the library,

quietly flipping through the books. During lunch he would refuse to sit with us, preferring to sit alone at one corner. We wondered then, if he would one day be able to join us for group activities and open up to the rest of us.

Today, Ian takes great pride in being our centre's librarian. Every day, he looks forward to spending some time at the library, tidying and "scanning" the books. He is known to be very helpful, often willing to help push his friends on wheelchairs and carry his friends' belongings when it is time for their dismissal. Once, I was moving heavy boxes and without hesitation, he stood up and helped to move the boxes with me. It was a big gesture coming from Ian because he is usually nonchalant towards the things happening around him, often engrossed in his own activities. Ian also has a great sense of humour! Although we have yet to hear Ian speak in our centre, he often does things (like make a funny remark or gesture)

which cracks all of us up. It is a joy when we first discover a member's talent or when we hear their laughter for the first time and Ian has such a hearty and contagious laughter!

It has been a year since Ian first joined us and he has opened up considerably. As he develops relational ties with the people around him, he shows his emotional capacity to show care to his friends and bring joy to those around him.

Mamre Oaks' empowers persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead lives of meaning, dignity, and fulfilment through engaging activities at its day activity centre.

mamreoaks.sg

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

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