



## Boys' Town is 70!

This year, Boys' Town is celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



Boys' Town first began in 1948 as residential care for war-torn orphans, imparting education and life skills to them. Over the next 70 years, we have expanded to provide a range of services from residential service, fostering, youth outreach, adventure therapy, clinical intervention and family reunification. We cater to both boys and girls, from infants to teenagers.

We are now becoming a one-stop children and youth centre, and our mission remains the same – to help children and youth-in-need become socially integrated, responsible and contributing members of society.

## Passing the Leadership Baton

- From Irene Loi  
to Roland Yeow

28 years of service to Boys' Town. I have finally decided to take a back seat in the operations and management of the organisation. I was first invited to join Boys' Town in 1989 as a Social Worker by Bro Dominic Yeo Koh. Over the years, I have taken different positions and roles from Social Worker to Assistant Director to Board Member to being its Executive Director for the last 10 years. Over all these years, I have worked under the leadership and mentorship of Bro Emmanuel, and with his passing on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, I thought it was time to put an era to rest and pass the baton on to the next generations of leaders.

I am most happy to introduce my successor, Dr Roland Yeow, who was a product of the training and values taught by the Gabrielite Brothers in Boys' Town. Roland was a resident of Boys' Town from 1992 to 1993. He came back to contribute as a Programme Supervisor, looking after the Home boys after obtaining his degree in Engineering. He left again to do his Doctorate in Management - Specialization: Organizational Learning, Development & Non-Profit Management and came back to continue his work as a Programme Supervisor, rising up the ranks to Assistant Director, Deputy Director and ear-marked for leadership renewal as the Executive Director.

With his roots in Boys' Town, and with the Montfortian values he embodies, I am sure he will continue with the mission of Boys' Town, always reaching out to those whom the world rejects and not giving up on any child or youth who is in need of help.

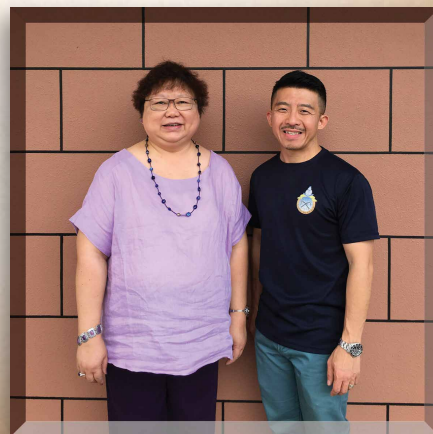
I look forward to a renewed Boys' Town with its roots deeply entrenched in love and compassion.

In the meantime, I will not be disappearing from the scene. I will remain to assist Boys' Town in its clinical work as well as help the Brothers out with the maintenance and promotion of St Gabriel's Foundation in its mission of ensuring the continuity of the work and spirituality of the Brothers.

Finally, I would like to THANK EVERYONE for your support and love towards the mission of Boys' Town in reaching out to children and youth who are most in need. I hope you will continue with your prayers and your faith for the new leadership so that the work of St Louis Marie de Montfort, "Those whom the world rejects must move you the most", can be continued and Boys' Town can reach out to more children and youth in need.

GOD BLESS

Simply Yours,  
Irene





## BOYS' TOWN ADVENTURE CENTRE & YOUTHREACH

### Youth-at-Risk Engagement – Adventure

The collaborative program by 2 departments – Boys' Town Adventure Centre and YouthReach – was built on principles of Adventure Therapy to provide an experiential and fun form of engagement for youth-at-risk. Designed to incorporate various hands-on physical activities to expel their energy meaningfully and to gain self-confidence, the 6-month program also aimed to reduce the 9 youths' misbehaviour in class.

The attainment of both hard and soft skills was especially beneficial in promoting a sense of mastery in the youths. They tasted the sweet fruit of success in different ways – ranging from being officially certified in activities such as 1 Star Kayaking and Level 1 Sports Climbing, to pulling off the feat of planning, executing and facilitating a climbing event for 20 Republic Polytechnic students, to trying out the unique activity of artificial caving. The adventure programme concluded with a 3D2N camp in Boys' Town that tied together the skills, knowledge, bonds, self-reflection and new values they had acquired across the programme. Lastly, the youth were presented with pre-recorded videos of encouragement, motivation and love from their parents and caregivers which served as a beautiful and fitting finale to a wonderful time together.



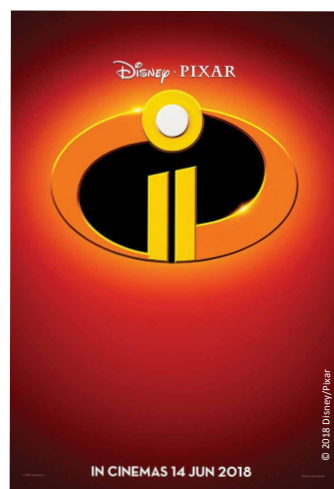
## What's Happening

### Boys' Town Adventure Centre - Public Climbs

Experience climbing and abseiling our very own Adventure Tower and bouldering room!

MONTH	Opening hours from 6pm to 10pm				
May	3 May (Thu)	7 May (Mon)	15 May (Tue)	23 May (Wed)	

Entrance fee is \$12 nett, and equipment rental is available at additional charges. All proceeds go to helping the children and youth that Boys' Town serves. A one-off online registration is required for first timers. For more information, please visit [www.boystown.org.sg/public-climb/](http://www.boystown.org.sg/public-climb/)



### Charity Movie – Disney/Pixar's Incredibles 2

Venue: The Cathay Cineplex

Time: 7.30pm

This June, let us be **The Incredibles 2**-gether!

As part of our fundraising efforts, the annual event brings together benefactors for a fun night with their family and friends. We are targeting to raise \$50,000 through this Charity Movie to help support our programs and services.

For every \$50 donation, you will receive a movie ticket and a popcorn set. Donations are eligible for 2.5 times tax deduction (if applicable).

Visit [www.boystown.org.sg/charity-movie-2018/](http://www.boystown.org.sg/charity-movie-2018/) for more information.

For enquiries, contact Lorraine at 6690 5420 (ext 404) or email [lorraine@boystown.org.sg](mailto:lorraine@boystown.org.sg)



## An Afternoon with President Halimah Yacob



On 28 October 2017, we were honoured to have President Halimah Yacob visit Boys' Town. Together with Madam President, our boys from residential services and the seniors from GoodLife! painted a mural themed 'My Home' while the younger children and their families from our fostering services did paper cutting and stamping art.

Our youth also took this opportunity to showcase to Madam President the art pieces they have created during their art sessions.

During lunch, everyone got the chance to mingle with Madam President. The day concluded with a dynamic song performance put up by two of our boys and photo-taking with our distinguished guest.



### FOSTERING SERVICES

*"These children are our future generation. We must provide them with hope. I wanted to help make a difference to the society, I wanted to help change lives."*

– Mdm Wendy, on why her family decided to foster a child

## The Journey of a Foster Parent



Mdm Wendy with her foster child, Carrie\*

Carrie\* was only 5-month-old when she was placed under the foster care of Mdm Wendy and family. "We were all excited waiting for her. After 11 years, we were going to have a baby in our home again. I remembered Carrie's smile, she was such a happy baby! She did not have much belongings with her – a few diapers, some milk powder and a handful of outfits," recounted Mdm Wendy on the first encounter with her foster child.

Mdm Wendy and her husband contemplated becoming foster parents for 4 years. They first learnt about fostering through a good friend who fostered 2 children and were inspired by their friend's commitment to her foster children. Foster parents take in children from disadvantaged backgrounds and provide them with an environment to grow and feel loved.



Mdm Wendy and Mr Lip Yong are foster parents who signed up with Boys' Town Fostering Services

Mdm Wendy's 3 sons were supportive and were eager to welcome a foster sibling into their lives. They help to feed Carrie, engage her in play time and even help with diaper duties. "Carrie shares a strong bond with my second son, Samuel. They spend a lot of time together and he adores her," said Mdm Wendy.



Aaron, Samuel and David were thrilled to be big brothers to their little foster sister

Since Carrie entered their lives 8 months ago, Mdm Wendy highlighted, "We see her as our own daughter and do and give what is best for her."

Foster children are placed with foster families temporarily while Child Protection Officers (CPO) work with their natural parents to resolve any safety and welfare concerns. Only after assessing the safety, ability and willingness of the natural family will the CPO consider the process of reintegration. For many foster families, the reintegration process may be daunting.

Mdm Wendy felt the same, "Reintegration is inevitable and will be heart-breaking, but it will be worth it as we have provided refuge for a child who needed our love and the safety of our home."

Boys' Town Fostering Services is a Fostering Agency appointed by the Ministry of Social and Family Development in 2015. Our professionals work with foster families to ensure the safety, well-being and development of our foster children. To apply to be a foster parent to change young lives, please email us at [fostering@boystown.org.sg](mailto:fostering@boystown.org.sg)

\* Her real name was not disclosed due to confidentiality



## Who WE ARE...

Boys' Town is a charity started in 1948 by the Brothers of St. Gabriel. We provide residential care, fostering, adventure therapy, youth outreach and other community and school-based programmes and services for over 500 children and youths from disadvantaged and disengaged families. We are an Institution of a Public Character (IPC) and a member of the National Council of Social Service.

**YOU CAN  
EMPOWER &  
CHANGE LIVES**

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



We accept:  

For enquiries: 6690 5420  
or [info@boystown.org.sg](mailto:info@boystown.org.sg)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### REPORT SCAMS

Boys' Town is not organising the sale of ice cream and handmade pencils to raise funds.

We have put up a notice on our website to notify the public of possible scams. The authorities would like to advise victims to lodge a police report.

If you encounter these peddlers, please check with us before making any donations.

You may reach us at the contact details above during office hours Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm, or call our duty officer at **96234731**.

## MSF Minister Desmond Lee visits Boys' Town

We welcomed Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) Minister Desmond Lee on 7 December 2017. He was introduced to Boys' Town in an innovative manner – through a puppetry show and newscast presentation proudly done by our youth. The boys were very honoured to be involved in this special project and to have the chance to chat and share with the Minister in an informal setting. They also brought him around to show him the facilities in Boys' Town.



## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

### Orientation Camp 2018

Our residential youths kickstarted the new year with the annual orientation camp. The 3D2N camp provided the opportunity for the boys to adjust back to residential living after the long December holidays and to bond with the other boys and staff.

The boys were split into teams and participated in a variety of activities ranging from amazing race around Gardens by the Bay, archery tag to dragon boat racing. They showed enthusiasm and teamwork during the camp, overcoming the obstacles and challenges placed before them.



Through the carefully crafted activities, the boys learnt and experienced the importance of service attitude and personal discipline. After the full day of physical activities, they returned to Boys' Town with for a sumptuous barbeque dinner. The camp concluded as a memorable experience for all.