

YOUTH REACH

From a **Recipient** to a **Giver**, *a Future Social Worker*



Jim with his Social Worker, TC

Jim*, 23, is a youth that we work with at YouthReach, our youth outreach service. His Social Worker TC has journeyed with him since his stay in a residential home, after his discharge when he faced financial challenges and till now, as a mentor while he pursues his Social Work qualification.

Jim came from a difficult childhood. His parents divorced when he was 2 and he did not have any contact with his father. His mother went through several volatile relationships and marriages, subjecting him to physical and emotional abuse. For his safety, he was placed in a children's home.

As a teenager who grew up without parental supervision, Jim mixed around with undesirable peers and ended up committing offences and was charged in court. He failed the conditions of his court order and was required to stay in a residential setting till the age of 17.

Life was not any easier after his discharge. His mother had made it clear that she was not interested in his well-being and was unable to care for him financially. She also has a new family now.

While juggling school, Jim worked a few part-time jobs after school or during the weekends which resulted in a strain on his health. He lived from hand to mouth to support himself during his academic years to pursue his dream of becoming a Social Worker.

Being in Touch with YouthReach

Jim feels closely knitted to the YouthReach staff and shared that YouthReach is a source of support and community for him. He confides in his Social Worker TC and actively works out issues and problems with him.

YouthReach supports Jim emotionally as he works through his childhood trauma and learns to be independent. He has learnt to build positive relationships with others and is determined to do well in his studies. YouthReach also linked him up with community resources that is helping him with his financial situation.

**Not his real name*

Boys' Town has watched the transformation of many children and youths under our care. Without the public's support, it would be difficult for us to sustain our programmes and services to reach out to the community. Help us make a difference in the lives of our future generation.



Jim at a service learning trip working with the community

Inspired to be a Social Worker

Jim will be completing his Social Work diploma this July, and plans to pursue a career in the social service sector. He aims to obtain a degree in Social Work and to do meaningful work for people. Like how his Social Worker TC has touched his life, Jim hopes to be the advocate for someone in the future.



Jim has grown up and aspires to be a Social Worker

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of Boys' Town,

I am privileged to see Boys' Town through its 70th anniversary and into a new era, and to carry on the good work of the Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel. Having been a boy who had benefitted from Boys' Town, I am now paying it forward to reach out to the other children and youth in need in the community that require help.



In the future, Boys' Town will continue to reinvent ourselves to meet the society's needs and to serve the children and youth sector with more services. We are grateful that so many of you care about Boys' Town and would like to thank you for your support in our cause.

God bless,

Roland Yeow

Executive Director

What's Happening Boys' Town Adventure Centre - Public Climbs

Our Adventure Tower and bouldering room are open to the public again in May! Look forward to new and exciting climbing routes after a reshuffling of hand holds!

For opening dates and time, please refer to www.boystown.org.sg/adventure-centre

Charity Movie – Marvel Studios' Avengers: Endgame

27 April (Saturday), around 2pm

The Cathay Cineplexes at Dhoby Ghaut

Be a hero – finish the fight with us!

As part of our fundraising efforts, the annual event brings together benefactors for a fun afternoon 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 as a token of appreciation, a movie ticket and a popcorn set. Donations are eligible for 2.5 times tax deduction (if applicable).

Contact Lorraine at **6690 5420 (ext 404)** or email lorraine@boystown.org.sg for more information.



RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Overcoming CHALLENGES AND FEARS at 'BT ONE' Camp



This year's camp theme of '**BT ONE**' – Boys' Town Ownership, Nurturing and Empowerment was well reflected in how the residential youths discovered their own strengths and at the same time, foster strong bonds and solidarity with their peers.



One of the boarders, Mike* had an emotional dysregulation as he was uncomfortable with the camp activities planned. **He refused to sleep in the tent nor participate in kayaking, and wanted to give up. However, his primary care staff spoke to him to understand his concerns and motivated him with words of encouragement and positive thinking.** Mike was able to rejoin the programmes and managed to be fully engaged in all activities.

At the end of the camp, Mike approached the staff to express his gratitude for being there for him which allowed him to successfully undergo the camp with the rest of the boarders. He was thankful that the camp provided him the opportunity to experience activities that were out of his comfort zone, and he felt a strong sense of accomplishment after completing these physically and mentally demanding activities. Through this camp, Mike grew as an individual and was able to better cope during challenging times.

*Not his real name



FOSTERING SERVICES

The Difficulties and Rewards of Fostering

Being a foster parent may not be the easiest job in the world, but it may be one of the most fulfilling. Mdm Kamaliah is one of our foster parents who provide a loving home for our foster children since 2017! Read on to find out about her most challenging and rewarding experiences:



Mdm Kamaliah (center) is a foster mother who is caring for 3 foster children now.

Mdm Kamaliah and her husband did not start out as official foster parents. Their journey began with a 9-year-old girl whom they altruistically cared for, and eventually became their inspiration to help other children in need. Mdm Kamaliah has since looked after four foster children and spoke fondly of how they brought joy into her life.

However, her fostering journey has not been without any challenges. She recalled her greatest struggle was the resentment she faced when fostering a 12-year-old girl who refused to even sit next to her. Mdm Kamaliah was very patient and mindful of her interaction with her foster child, and her efforts eventually paid off after 6 weeks!

One day, her 12-year-old foster child climbed into Mdm Kamaliah's bed, wanting to talk. This seemingly small gesture signified the start of her trust and reliance on her foster family. This, to Mdm Kamaliah, was what made her fostering

journey rewarding and fulfilling. Despite it being a bumpy journey, Mdm Kamaliah urged that it is worthwhile.

***“If you have the capacity to provide shelter and love, why not?
It gives you a sense of fulfillment to see a child smile, with no fears, again.”***

– Mdm Kamaliah

To apply to be a foster parent, send us a message to **9113 7612** or email us at **fostering@boystown.org.sg**

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

A NEW SHELTER for Traumatized Children

Shelter is a unit under our Residential Services that adopts a trauma-informed model, helping boys aged 10 to 13 years old who come from abused or neglected background. Referred to us by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) Child Protection Services, Boys' Town provides a haven and the care for these boys who experienced trauma in their growing years.

The need to expand Shelter was due to the increasing number of child protection cases being referred to Boys' Town. With the support from MSF, we have increased the capacity for the new Shelter by 7 beds to accommodate up to 17 boys.

Our new Shelter has a cozy environment with a larger area. The dining hall has ample space with the intention to recreate meal times just as how a family would do in their homes. We also have a living area and a TV area that are conducive for bonding among boys and staff.



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



We accept:



For enquiries: 6690 5420
or 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.

BOYS' TOWN ADVENTURE CENTRE

A *Fun-Filled* TEAM BUILDING COHESION



To promote staff cohesion and team building, Boys' Town Adventure Centre (BTAC) was engaged by Springfield Secondary School for their year-end workplan seminar for 85 staff.

The day kickstarted with team building games for the school's executive and administrative staff, focusing on coordination and communication. The staff shared that they enjoyed the programme as the games were open to be played by staff of all ages. They also found it

impactful as the games created awareness about how communication breakdown and misinterpretation could cause problems for them at work.

In the afternoon, the teachers were broken into teams for station games that tested their ability to coordinate, communicate and work together to overcome different challenges. The teachers also had a climbing session at our in-house bouldering room, with many of them indicating that it was a fun exposure to the sport.



"Thank you for helping to organise the team building sessions, accommodating our numerous requests, and always being so professional in our communication. Our staff enjoyed themselves and liked the positive experience very much."

— School Staff Developer, Springfield Secondary School

Corporate team building like this are just one of the many programmes that BTAC conducts. We cater to participants of all ages and backgrounds, and are able to customise our activities to fit the clients' needs.

We have conducted camps for kindergarten children, corporate social responsibility programmes as well as certification courses in climbing and abseiling for the public.

Interested to engage BTAC? Contact us at adventurecentre@boystown.org.sg or 6690 5420 now!