

### RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

# ALTERNATIVE Beginnings

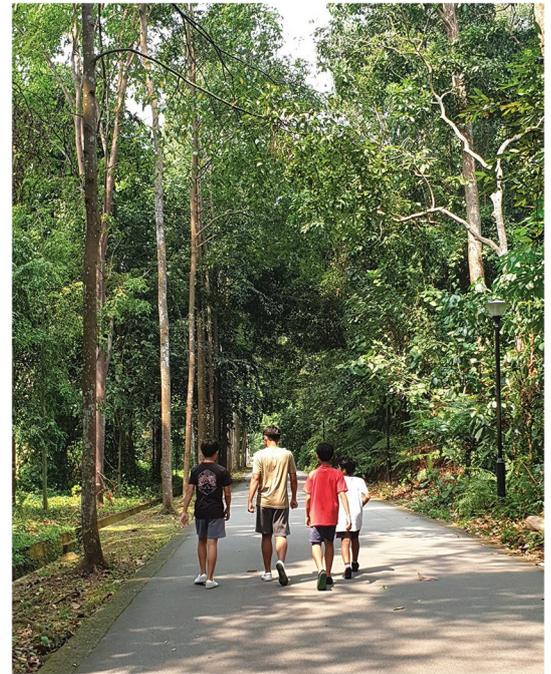
*"I want to work harder for my N-Levels so that I don't disappoint my parents."*

Nicholas\* was first admitted to Boys' Town on a 12-month probation order. At 17, he was susceptible to negative peer pressure and often had difficulties expressing himself. Growing up, he had a distant relationship with his family.

In Boys' Town, Nicholas had to decide if he should retake his N-levels which he had fared poorly for, or to start working. After adjusting to his stay at a residential home, he shared with his Social Worker his desire to change and focus on his academics. To Nicholas, he views his probation order as a second chance to start over, and this chance came through **Boys' Town Alternative Schooling (BTAS)**.

## Nicholas' Journey with BTAS

BTAS helps our residential boys who have been temporarily taken out from their regular schools due to behavioural issues, having missed school for a few years or are at-risk of dropping out etc. Lessons follow the mainstream school syllabus. At BTAS, our aim is to eventually reintegrate boys like Nicholas back to their schools.



To Nicholas' teachers at BTAS, he is inquisitive, motivated and shows initiative over his own education. They shared that he is a hardworking and diligent student. **Nicholas feels grateful that BTAS gave him a second shot at taking his N-Levels and feels that the small class size and individualised curriculum greatly benefitted him.**

Beyond BTAS, Nicholas shares a good relationship with the staff and the other boys and is often described as calm and good tempered. He would often play a brotherly figure, taking care of the younger boys and engaging them during activities.

## Scaling New Heights

Nicholas was eventually selected as the recipient of the "Best Improved in Academics" award for the year. Nicholas' results improved significantly after enrolling into BTAS and he has successfully secured a place in ITE. His Social Worker's wish is for him to continue growing as an individual and find courage to pursue his dreams.

*\*Not his real name*

**Without your support, it would be difficult for us to sustain the diverse programs and services we run such as BTAS to reach out to those in need.**

**Help us renew the hope of children and youths who will form our future generation!**

## Message from Bro Dom

It is said that Singapore was a country born into crisis. Before and from its independence, Singapore has gone through many tumultuous moments in its history. Boys' Town too, is an institution that was born out of a crisis and came as a response in 1948 to help children who were orphaned by the Second World War. It was built by the efforts of two fellow prisoners of war - Brother Vincent and Mr. McDermott.

Today, the world is facing another crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic. As Singapore now enters the stage of a "Circuit Breaker", the social isolation measures have brought about lots of disruption to the lives of our people. The impact is especially tremendous on the social, healthcare and economic front.

Boys' Town is no exception to this impact on our society. Being an essential social service provider to youths who have to be in out-of-home care, we must ensure the continuity of our services. It has also taken a toll on staffing, where the increased needs have called for two teams of staff on 24-hour duty shifts as well as additional temporary staff.

Many of our youths have been through many crises that are still ongoing in their lives. With the restriction of the circuit breaker, our residential youths are feeling even more of a strain. It is your kindness that helps us bring relief to them in such a difficult time.

We appeal to your generosity once again which will go a long way in helping the neediest in our society. Thank you for your kindness and ongoing support for our youths in need.

God bless,

**Bro. Dominic Yeo Koh Tuan Kiok**  
District Superior & Supervisor of School,  
Boys' Town

## What's Happening

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Boys' Town's operations as well as our donations, and we foresee tougher times ahead. Despite that, we have responded well, and the safety and well-being of our clients remain as our priority.



Boys' Town Flag Day 2020  
10 June 2020

We appeal to you for your continued support and generosity for Boys' Town as we tide through this difficult period together.

In view of the current COVID-19 situation, our 2 key fundraising events that we have planned for will not be taking place in June. We hope to be able to conduct these events in the later part of the year. Do stay tuned for updates or follow us on Facebook at Boys' Town.



Boys' Town  
Charity Movie  
26 June 2020

## A Lifetime OF DEDICATION

Brother Roger Venne first joined the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel in 1945 when he was just 16 years old. With the skills of a professional tailor, he was called upon to join Boys' Town to start a tailoring section for the boys. Just like that, he boarded a ship from Canada and arrived in Singapore on 4 March 1953. In Boys' Town, Bro Roger taught the boys how to make items such as mattresses, pillow, cushions, window curtains and school uniforms; producing them in the hundreds!



Teaching boys the art of tailoring

Bro Roger also supervised a dormitory and worked mostly with the younger boys. He often brought them out for activities such as picnics, football, softball, and swimming. His heart was always open to the boys in need, providing many of them with clothing to wear. Bro Roger was attached to Boys' Town for 33 years until he was given new responsibilities to look after the aged and sick Brothers.



Bro Roger taking the boys out  
in a lorry in 1960

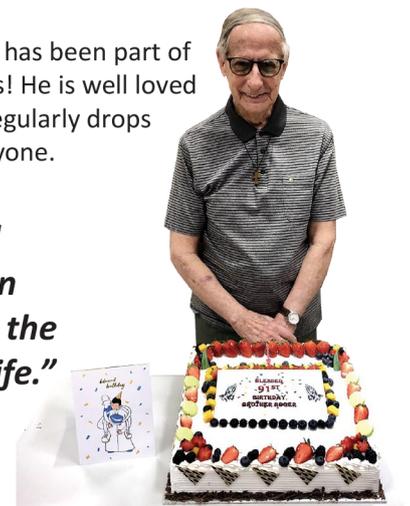


Bro Roger having a chat  
with the current residential boys

Today, at 91 years old, Bro Roger has been part of Boys' Town for a total of 67 years! He is well loved by both the boys and staff and regularly drops by the office to say hello to everyone.

**"I thank God for all these years passed in Boys' Town. They were the happiest years of my life."**

– Bro Roger



# Ask A Youth Worker!

In conjunction with YouthReach's 10th Anniversary this year, we rounded up some questions for Jai, our Youth Worker formerly under Residential Services and now, YouthReach. He is also an old boy of Boys' Town.



Jai handing out high-fives during a service-learning trip to Balai with the youths

**Q What was your fondest memory as an old boy?**

**A** From feeling angry about being sent here to the bond I've developed with the other boys and staff, learning drums and forming bands, to winning 'Boy of the Year' and graduating. There were so many fun memories in my four years as an old boy.

**Q Do you see a difference between Boys' Town then and now?**

**A** Back then it was more regimental, with the focus being mainly on discipline. Today, Boys' Town focuses more on supporting our youths emotionally and helping them go through difficult issues in their lives as well.

**Q Can you tell the readers about what you do as a Youth Worker at YouthReach?**

**A** Mainly case management, counselling and running programmes such as drama, music, soccer and fitness for the youths which is also how we help them work through their issues.

**Q What do you love most about working with youths?**

**A** I love the conversations. It is a privilege for me to hear their incredible stories of resilience - like working at a young age to take care of their families, as well as creating plans and actions to achieve their dreams for the future amidst their struggles. It is really rewarding to support the youths and watch them grow into wonderful people.



15-year old Jai learning how to play the drums

**Q Most meaningful encounter you have had with the youths:**

**A** I've had many meaningful encounters but one in particular stood out. A youth who previously did not want to be engaged saw me on the streets one day and waved me over to join him and his friends. He then introduced me as the person he turns to when he needs help. It was an amazing feeling like I have impacted and played an integral part in his life.

**Q What would you like to share with/say to the readers about the youths in need that you work with?**

**A** Youths of today are just that - youths. They go through similar or even more complex issues than we probably did as youths ourselves. Perhaps we could all begin with empathy and learn how we can be there for those that fall through the cracks. It really does take a village to raise a child.

BOYS' TOWN ADVENTURE CENTRE

## 2019 SEMBCORP GO GREEN FUND COMPETITION

Recently, Boys' Town participated in the 2019 Sembcorp Go Green Fund Competition with BTAC's Serving Gaia initiative and was awarded the Gold Award. This award recognises our efforts in engaging our staff through education and outreach, as well as contribution towards recycling and sustainability in our daily lives.



## SCUBA-X

Besides adventures on land, Boys' Town Adventure Centre (BTAC) also offers a water-based adventure experience known as "SCUBA-X". During this programme, participants get to learn the basics of SCUBA diving, snorkelling, and freediving within the safe boundaries of a swimming pool.



Through this programme, BTAC aims to equip participants with behavioural management skills on top of the technical skills learned. Participants are invited to start their journey of self-discovery and self-acceptance through developing emotional awareness, emotional expression, and emotional acceptance.

**Interested to engage BTAC?**

**Contact us at [adventurecentre@boystown.org.sg](mailto:adventurecentre@boystown.org.sg) or 6690 5420 now!**

# Who WE ARE...

Boys' Town is a charity started in 1948 by the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. We provide residential care, fostering, adventure therapy, youth outreach and other community and school-based programmes and services for over 2000 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.

## 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.

## SANCTUARY CARE

# A Helping HAND from One Mother to Another



*This is a stock photo used to protect the foster child's identity*

Neethya\* was 22 weeks pregnant when her community social worker reached out to Sanctuary Care. During which, she was experiencing an antepartum condition and had to be hospitalized for about a week so she could be treated. At that point, Neethya was already caring for 3 other children and the only other caregiver was her elderly mother who was too frail to care for all of them in her absence.

**Sanctuary Care was contacted by Neethya's social worker to help find a respite carer who could support her youngest child, a cheerful 3 year old boy named Akash\*.**

After reaching out to Sanctuary Care, Akash was placed with one of our trusty respite carers, Roma\* for one week. In that time, Akash continued to attend childcare while residing temporarily in Roma's home. The 3-year-old spent his time playing with Roma's daughters, trying new food and even learnt how to eat with a fork!

Neethya was initially worried about Akash's wellbeing but was reassured by the regular updates from Roma through pictures and videos of Akash. With the help from Roma, Neethya was able to seek medical treatment for her condition and Akash returned home to her a happy little boy.

**Respite carers help families stay together in the long term by being a support system for parents in need. Will you take that step to create that impact by opening your heart and home to a child?**

**Interested to be a short-term respite carer like Roma?  
Find out more at [www.sanctuarycare.org](http://www.sanctuarycare.org)**

*\*Not their real names*

## YOU CAN **EMPOWER** AND **CHANGE LIVES**

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



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

We accept:  

We appeal to your generosity and kindness to help us raise \$200,000 from 1 May 2020 – 31 August 2020 through this newsletter campaign. Donations received from this will help to support Boys' Town's operations and programmes.

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

*Photos featured in this newsletter were taken before the COVID-19 enhanced measures implemented by the government.*



BOYS' TOWN  
**Residential Services**

BOYS' TOWN  
**Clinical Intervention Centre**

BOYS' TOWN  
**YouthReach**

BOYS' TOWN  
**Fostering Services**

BOYS' TOWN  
**Sanctuary Care**

BOYS' TOWN  
**Adventure Centre**