

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES



*Stock image used

A Rough Patch

Home is a safe place where we look for security and comfort. Unfortunately for some children and youth, it turns into a place where they find themselves battling to survive daily. 15-year-old Bobby* came to Boys' Town in November 2021, after Child Protection Services assessed that it was no longer safe for him to remain at home.

Bobby's transition to Boys' Town has not been easy as he came with his own set of issues. He was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) at a young age, which made it challenging for him to adjust to new routines at Boys' Town and socialize well with his peers.

Little Gestures, Big Difference

It was his time in Boys' Town that changed Bobby's outlook on life. Initially demoralized and disheartened, Bobby was not ready to open up to anyone during his first few days in Boys' Town. His communication with his Social Worker and Youth Worker was marked by silence and unspoken words. However, with much support and encouragement, they have provided a safe and nurturing environment for him to express his thoughts and emotions. As he began to work on himself, there were noticeable changes in his engagement and he had been participating actively in our

programmes and strived to get along better with his peers.



*Stock image used

Rallying Strong Support from the Community

As with all journeys, the people who surrounded each individual matters. While he was away from home, other support agencies have also been working with Bobby's family in providing interventions to address the stressors that were a major cause of the family violence.

The work with Bobby and his family for full reintegration is a work in progress. Together with the collective efforts of Boys' Town and stakeholders, we believe that the family will reach the goal and be reunited in future.

*Not his real name

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of Boys' Town,

Nation building requires a significant commitment of time, resources, and people. It is an honour to be able to come together in 2022 to serve one another and to recognize another year of perseverance and success. As this year's theme is "Stronger Together," I would like to express my gratitude to all our donors, benefactors, volunteers, staff, parents and beneficiaries for supporting Boys' Town's mission. This exemplifies how our community collaborates to build a stronger and more resilient community for one another, which will ultimately contribute to a stronger nation. I would like to wish you all a wonderful National Day celebration, and to thank God for His protection and for helping us to build a stronger nation together.

God Bless,

Roland Yeow

Executive Director

Canonization Celebration

of our Founding Saint, St. Louis Marie de Montfort

20 July 2022 marked the 75th anniversary of the canonization of our Founding Saint, St. Louis Marie de Montfort. To celebrate this momentous event, Boys' Town, in collaboration with St. Gabriel's Foundation, came together to lift a large balloon sculpture in the shape of a rosary in the air!



St. Louis Marie de Montfort is a saint in the Catholic Church and was canonized (declared a saint) on 20 July 1947 by Pope Pius XII. He was known for his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and of praying the rosary.

May we always carry out our mission of helping children and youth in-need as we follow the footsteps of St. Louis Marie de Montfort to help the last, the lost and the least.

*Please note that the balloons were not released into the sky.

BOYS' TOWN ADVENTURE CENTRE

THROUGH THE EYES OF AN INTERN

Hello, my name is Aind! I am an intern from Republic Polytechnic pursuing Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Learning. Let me bring you through my journey as an intern here and how Boys' Town Adventure Centre (BTAC) has made me stronger as an outdoor practitioner!



THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMMES

BTAC has widened my view of the outdoors and how the outdoors played a part in therapeutic programmes. My first experience was at Gear Up programme. The design framework of the programme provided a safe space for participants to share their emotions and thought processes during debrief sessions. Although it was only a few sessions, I managed to see improvements in the participants, with one participant leading a group for the first time. I was fortunate to have a helpful and friendly Programme Leader who would take the time and effort to guide me along the way.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The most memorable part of my internship was when I was a part of the planning team for Project Mettle for ITE College Central. It was a journey-based Therapeutic Adventure programme designed with the Environmental Charter of Outdoor Education as a key driver of engagement and change. I had the rare opportunity to go to Tioman, Malaysia for an expedition recce. In Tioman, at Juara Turtle Project, I saw the devastation of how a simple fishing line could end generations of turtles. I even got to witness the full circle of a turtle's life! Together with the team, we have learnt that everyone has a part to play in protecting the environment from further damage. Overall, my experience has brought me closer to my goals and I am excited for what the future has to bring!



(Left) - Data collection during a turtle hatching event.

(Right) - Mother turtle heading back to the ocean after a successful nesting.

Strengthening Communities Festival of Children

Sanctuary Care (SC) hosted our first Festival of Children (FOC) Programme. This year we deviated from our annual Milk and Diaper Run outreach and instead ran a festival for parents and children. The objective of this festival was to serve low-income families nationwide by providing them with both pre-loved and new items for infants and children.

The runway leading up to this festival presented opportunities for individuals such as members of the public, staff and volunteers to work hand in hand. It was heartwarming to witness members of the public donating both pre-loved and new items for our beneficiaries.



On the day of the event, SC partnered with Clinical Intervention Centre to incorporate mental health talks. We also teamed up with Boys' Town Adventure Centre in conducting fun outdoor adventure activities for the children of the attendees. Our team worked hard in ensuring that all beneficiaries obtained their items and redeemed their coupons for daily necessities such as milk, diapers and clothes.

We are excited to share that the event successfully served a total number of 64 community participants. Through this initiative, we hope to form bridges across communities and support families regardless of their backgrounds. Sanctuary Care would like to express our gratitude to our donors and supporters. We are extremely heartened by the support and look forward to seeing you at our next event!

YOUTHREACH

Yummy Waffles Party!



On 28 June 2022, YouthReach held a Waffles Party as part of a street outreach initiative that welcomed 20 youths. It was an open-invite event organized at YouthReach for youths to socialize in a relaxing setting with access to free-flow waffles. The youths also had the opportunity to experience different approaches of expressing themselves through various art forms.

Besides strengthening the rapport with our current youths and reaching out to new ones through network outreach, this party also enable our Youth Workers to test out a few Youth Development Programme (YDP) ideas like social dance and collage-making activities. The party was well-received among the youth with 60% and 86.6% expressing high interest (giving a rating of 8 out of 10) to learn more about social dance as well as returning for the event respectively.

The party was imbued with a sense of joy and we have received great feedback. The months ahead will be exciting as we start work on similar themed parties and potentially a social dance YDP.

To find out more about YouthReach's engagements, follow our Instagram page @Youthreachedus



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 1000 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 contact us during office hours, Monday to Friday, 9am - 6pm or call our duty officer at **9623 4731** outside office hours.

BOYS' TOWN FOSTERING SERVICES

SPREAD THE LOVE OF FOSTERING!



After a 2-year hiatus, Boys' Town Fostering Services (BTFS) finally held its roadshow again at City Square Mall from 17 – 23 June 2022. We were all very excited to be back in public and to spread the word about fostering via face-to-face conversations.

Everyone in the department took turns to man the 7-day booth. The team was actively engaged in flyer distributions in the mall, answering questions from public and promoting complimentary fringe activities for children like glitter tattoo hand painting.



A colouring contest was organized for children aged 4 to 9 years old to promote the roadshow. The colouring contest artwork was designed with the quote "Love Finds a Way". This theme was inspired by our foster families' love for their foster children as they help the vulnerable foster children overcome their many life challenges.

During this one-week road show, we reached out to over 1,500 people and received 34 interest slips from the public who were keen to find out more about fostering and how they can support children and youth in-need. We look forward to having more roadshows to help spread the importance of fostering!

We appeal to your generosity and kindness to help us raise **\$150,000** from **15 August 2022 – 30 September 2022** through this newsletter campaign. Donations received from this will help to support Boys' Town's operations and programmes.

If you would like to donate digitally:

▼ Donate via Giving.sg

<https://tinyurl.com/btnews22>



SCAN TO DONATE

▼ Donate via cheque

Alternatively, you can donate by issuing a crossed cheque made payable to "Boys' Town", and mail to:

624 Upper Bukit Timah Road
Singapore 678212

Kindly indicate 'NL' and include your name, address, telephone number and identification number (if you require tax deduction) on the reverse side of the cheque.

For enquiries, please call **6690 5420** or email info@boystown.org.sg

UNSUBSCRIBE

If you no longer wish to be on the Boys' Town mailing list, please e-mail us at info@boystown.org.sg or call **6690 5420**



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