



Darryl giving his mother a peck on the cheek for her birthday

Birthday for Claire this year is exceptionally sweet with Darryl by her side

## Sweet Reunion for a 5-year-old Boy

**Safe and Strong Families – Reunification (SSF-R)** is our latest service that works with children in foster care or voluntary children homes and their families to empower them and ensure their home environment is nurturing and safe to return to.

Our SSF-R Social Worker, Jessie, shared her journey with a young client who had been through so much and is now safely returned to the embrace of his mother:

The 1-year SSF-R program allowed me to work with Darryl and his mother intensively across the months that flew past quickly.

“Officer! Officer!” My 5-year-old client shouted excitedly when he saw me as I reached his childcare centre to meet him and his mother.

This mischievous and lovable boy had been removed from his natural family since he was one, and had already gone through four foster placements by the time I was assigned this case. At the tender age of five, Darryl\* would not know it was not common to have social workers in his life.

“This is my officer!” he shared happily with his classmate. **To automatically call a social worker like myself “officer” without any prompting gave me an immediate indication of the numerous child protection and fostering officers Darryl had seen across his 5 early years of life, and now - I was another one - and I hoped, his last.**

Against the odds, Darryl’s natural mother, Claire\* was doing tremendously well with all that was against her in her past and her present. As such, her case was referred to the SSF-R program for continued monitoring and intensive support for the sustainable, long-term reintegration of Darryl back to her care.

An impish little Darryl tried with all his strength to pull the keychain on my backpack as we walked towards the family’s 1-room rental flat. He was unbridled in his loud laughter and wild glee when I reacted in mock fear and squeals of protest, trying to get him to stop pulling (read: breaking) my keychain.

**And it is with this joy and zest for life that I hope to leave Darryl in as he continues his journey with his mother** – starting primary school, making new friends and beyond; in the good hands of Claire in her simple yet quietly fulfilling way of life and undying commitment and love for her son. Thank you, Darryl and Claire, for the memories and your precious trust and time, and I sincerely wish you both the best in life, health, and happiness for the years to come.

*\*Names changed for privacy*

Just like Darryl, the ultimate goal of Boys’ Town is to ensure that the children and youths we work with across our services can return to their natural families, back in the comfort of their homes and cherishing the precious time with their loved ones.

If you feel particularly moved and would like to support our cause of helping children and youth in need, Boys’ Town would greatly benefit from a monetary blessing, sponsorship of events and programmes or the gift of your time by volunteering. For more information, kindly contact us at [info@boystown.org.sg](mailto:info@boystown.org.sg)



Darryl and Claire with social workers Jessie and Leticia

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

# Travelling Back to Ancient Civilizations at Boys' Town Camp

This year's Boys' Town camp teleported the boys back to ancient civilizations, enchanted with mythological tales. Pre-camp activities included building team monuments, finding their way through a treasure room and decorating their own cake. These led to the actual camp on 29 June to 1 July kickstarted by a series of station games. The highlight was the amazing race where the boys travelled around Singapore to look for clues and complete the challenges issued by the station masters. The camp concluded with everyone gathering for a barbecue as well as reflection time for the boys.



The camp with its well-thought-out activities proved to be a fun and effective platform to instill organisational values of service attitude and personal discipline in the boys. They felt empowered when making decisions for the team which led to their collective successes and wins. Despite the minor disputes and differing opinions that surfaced, the boys learnt to resolve their differences calmly through the staff's guidance.



We constantly seek support to continue running camps, outdoor and adventure programmes for our residential boys. It is an integral component in our plans for the boys to acquire lifelong values and skills through such engaging activities, and these opportunities and experiences might come rare to them outside their stay in Boys' Town.

**"I learned to pay attention to my team mates" – A**

**"I learned to work with people when I have conflict with them" – X**

## What's Happening

### Boys' Town Adventure Centre - Public Climbs

Coming August and September, we will be opening our Adventure Tower and bouldering room to the public once again!

For activity updates, please refer to [www.boystown.org.sg/adventure-centre](http://www.boystown.org.sg/adventure-centre)



## Boys' Town is celebrating our 70th Anniversary!



### BT70 - 700 CHANGEMAKERS

To commemorate our 70th Anniversary, we would like to seek YOUR support to be one of the 700 Changemakers to help serve our children and youth.

Please visit [www.boystown.org.sg/700changemakers](http://www.boystown.org.sg/700changemakers)

### Open House

Come visit us – we are having an Open House at our Upper Bukit Timah campus! Learn more about our key services at our exhibition booths and have a go at our Adventure Tower – climbing and abseiling with professional support.

**Time** 1.30pm – 4pm

**Venue** Boys' Town (624 Upper Bukit Timah Road S678212)

*(Can be accessed from Assumption Pathway School or Assumption English School entrances)*



YOUTHREACH

# The Museum of the Unlovables



Project Fireworks was created to harness the power of the expressive arts to explore stories and issues with youths and to provide them with a space to share their perspectives with others who may not normally be privy to their inner thoughts and emotions. It also aimed to spark dialogue within the community about the issues raised. Applied Theatre and Movement workshops were crafted to investigate themes and individual narratives with the participants. It culminated in a theatre production 'The Museum of the Unlovables' held in YouthReach's centre in Tampines.

Over 4 runs of the production across one weekend in June, the audience were engaged in a post-show dialogue with the youth workers and the participants. An audience member reflected that through the



performance, she realised that society should not be placing the blame on the youths when something bad happens but instead, examine what they as other members of society could do better. Mr Yew, an audience member, spoke up during the post-show dialogue and shared that he was blown away by the stories. He said, "I think that this project should be shown to the MP." This view was echoed by several other audience members, who approached the staff and insisted that the production should be viewed by other stakeholders as it succinctly and powerfully captured the underlying and universal need for love that we all share as human beings, youths and adults alike.

BOYS' TOWN ADVENTURE CENTRE

## A Special Camp Experience for K2 Children

The Boys' Town campus was filled with young children's voices and laughter on 29 and 30 June when Boys' Town Adventure Centre (BTAC) conducted a 2D1N camp for 100 K2 students from Marymount Kindergarten. The activities centered around Marymount Kindergarten's three core values – Compassion, Gratitude and Teamwork through experiential learning and community living.

Thank you to the BTAC team for making the camp very meaningful and really fun for the children. This is one experience in their kindergarten life that they will remember for sure.  
- Marymount Kindergarten staff

The students kicked off the camp by designing their class flags, followed by an afternoon of fun where they went through different stations of blindfold obstacle course, water gun battle and a climbing session at our in-house bouldering room.

Overall, the camp was a wonderful opportunity for the K2 students to experience the core values in action through the specially crafted activities. The night away from home taught them independence and the responsibility of taking care of their sleeping area. They left the camp with shared memories of new experiences forged with their friends.



BTAC tailors programmes that cater to the diverse needs of the clients - ranging from young children and school students for camps, team-building activities for companies and climbing certification courses for interested parties. Contact us at [adventurecentre@boystown.org.sg](mailto:adventurecentre@boystown.org.sg) for more details!

# 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.

## FOSTERING SERVICES

# Let Our Foster Children Celebrate Father's Day with You



Boys' Town Fostering Services (BTFS) celebrated Fathers' Day at Cornerstone Church together with our foster parents Mdm Wendy and Mr Lip Yong who are church members. The BTFS team met with the other members of the church before and after their service, sharing about the fostering scheme and the benefits of fostering. The objective of the sharing was to spread awareness about the plight our foster children go through.

During these meaningful engagements, the BTFS team was fortunate to meet interested couples who applied to be foster parents with us. Through our outreach efforts, we often meet families who are open to welcoming children from disadvantaged backgrounds to their homes. Our foster children are aged 18 and below with most of them being younger than five years old. BTFS extends its heartfelt gratitude to Mdm Wendy, Mr Lip Yong and the administration of Cornerstone church for giving us the opportunity to share our message and services.



If you would like to be a foster parent and provide love to the children in need, please email us at [fostering@boystown.org.sg](mailto:fostering@boystown.org.sg)

**We sincerely seek your love and support especially in this year as Boys' Town turns 70.**



As we strive to provide high quality programs and interventions to the children and youth in need, we face financial challenges with the increased demand from the underprivileged community.

**Your contribution would greatly benefit our clients. Every little bit helps.**



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