

A step in their shoes

Six Boys' Town boys and two staff undertook their most ambitious project to date: a 300-kilometre walk from Malaysia to Singapore to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Brothers of St. Gabriel.

The walk sought to emulate the challenges faced by these early missionaries who set up seven institutions in Singapore and three in Malaysia.

The institutions in Singapore include Montfort Secondary School, Montfort Junior School, St. Gabriel's Secondary School, St. Gabriel's Primary School, Assumption English School, Assumption Pathway School and Boys' Town.

It also raised funds for the running of the St. Gabriel's Foundation, which was set up in 2001 to continue the Brothers' mission of education in Singapore.



The Brothers of St. Gabriel arrived in Singapore in 1936. Most came from France, Spain and Canada with the mission of bringing education to poor and disadvantaged children.



From 30 July to 6 August, the team woke up at 4am and walked over 35 kilometres for about 10 hours each day, passing through Malacca, Muar, Batu Pahat, Pontian and Johor Bahru.



Old Boys' Town boys and school participants came to walk with the team and encouraged them in the final 50km.



Jackies Low (first from the right) pressing on in the light rain with his team mates. He shares, I am happy and proud to finish this walk. There are a lot of new memories made. We sang songs and told each other jokes so we could forget about the tiredness. I took part in this because Boys' Town has helped me a lot. I used to skip school but now I've learnt to have self-discipline and work hard."



The Boys' Town team taking a rest at St. Gabriel's Primary School and sharing their experiences with Brother Dominic Yeo Koh (left) and Brother Francis Chua.

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Benefactors' of Boys' Town

At Boys' Town, we bring meaningful life transformation to hundreds of children and youths: family by family, person by person.

There are vast growing needs throughout our community, not only for those who are economically challenged, but those suffering emotional, mental and spiritual challenges as well.

As we move forward, we want to make a determined effort to build deeper in the areas of strength-based approaches, family reunification and family preservation to create resilience and a stronger social fabric.

Staff will also be trained in positive behaviour therapy to help change negative thought patterns and improve one's emotional health, and occupational therapy to help those with special needs enhance their psychological and physical functions and facilitate independent living.

We are excited by the opportunities to make a difference for people who have little in today's world, some of whom share their stories with us in this issue.

Thank you for being here for us with your support and prayers. Because of you, these children and youths can have a second chance.



Irene Loi
Executive Director
Boys' Town



A Night to remember

Join us for a night of music and good food as we bring back the Veronica Young thanksgiving concert this November. Popularly known as the Connie Francis of Singapore in the 1960s, Veronica Young and friends will be performing at a dinner concert to help raise funds for Boys' Town.



Date: 28 November 2015, Saturday

Time: 7pm - 10pm

Location: Boys' Town training hall

10 guests per table for a \$2500 donation

Individual seat for a \$250 donation

All cash donations are entitled to 300% tax exemption.

Other contributions in the areas of catering, decorations, door gifts and sound system are welcome to help defray the fundraising cost.

For reservations and enquiries, please contact:

Lorraine Koenitz @ 6690 5420 (ext 404)
lorraine@boystown.org.sg

Elaine Chong @ 6690 5420 (ext 406)
elainechong@boystown.org.sg

Social Work

Join our fostering efforts

Boys' Town was selected by Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) in February this year to recruit and support foster parents in caring for children in need.

MSF aims to work with new fostering agencies like Boys' Town to care for 600 vulnerable children over the next 5 years under the Fostering Scheme. The eventual goal for the fostering landscape is to raise the pool of foster parents to 500, over the next 3 to 5 years.

We are looking for organisations and individuals to partner us in 2016 to help raise awareness for this cause. This includes:

- Delivering a talk on fostering during lunch
- Setting up a fostering booth at your outlets
- Sharing stories on foster families to your network
- Displaying our educational posters and brochures
- Volunteering as a foster care ambassador/recruiter
- Signing up as a foster parent

If you are interested to find out more, please contact our representative Mr Rudy Freeling at hotline 9113 7612 or email rudyfreeling@boystown.org.sg.



**Fostering.
It Takes
Someone
Like You.**

 Give A Child What They Need Most.
A Childhood. Loving Parents.
And a Nurturing Home Environment.

MSF
MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL AND FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT

Snapshots!

We would like to thank supporters for providing many programme opportunities for our youths each year. We are immensely grateful for your kindness!



Scaling the wall at NTU's rock climbing carnival



Our proud finishers of the Singapore Aquathlon 400m open sea swim and 3km run



Learning to build games using a computer science application



Having a good laugh playing charades with NUS volunteers

Who WE ARE...

Boys' Town is a charity started in 1948 by the Brothers of St. Gabriel. We provide residential care, street outreach, community and school-based programmes for over 300 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.



Yong Sheng and friends from Boys' Town Hostel playing with the children at an orphanage in Batam. They were there to build a water filtration system for the home.

Hear their stories Change their lives



I was left homeless when my mother and stepfather sold off our home due to financial difficulties. I lived at the void deck and experienced hunger for the first time when all I had was crackers for my daily meals.

A social worker found me and referred me to residential care where I eventually found my way to Boys' Town. Since I came in, I have received help with my school fees and pocket money for my daily meals. I found people who accepted me for my struggles and encouraged me to come out from my reserved self.

I am now studying in ITE and plan to sign on with the Army after I graduate.

Yong Sheng, 19

I was disappointed with my poor school grades and picked up smoking and cutting myself to temporarily escape the stress and frustration.

A friend introduced me to Boys' Town YouthReach where I explained my self-injury to a counsellor and learned that emotions will pass and I could cope with them in ways that do not leave me scarred.

I am now attending tuition at the YouthReach centre to help with my studies and have made supportive friends in the dance group. I have learnt to love myself and hope to help others in need.

Vinny, 15



The dance girls performing at an old folks' home



Vinny and friends at dance practice