

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2017/2018



ENGAGE. ENRICH. EMPOWER.



BLESS

Bringing Love to Every Single Soul (BLESS), is a community-focused Non-Profit Organisation, launched in August 2014 by Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor for South West District. Having recognised the bountiful potential of social capital, BLESS actively targets the community as a focal point of intervention to support the less privileged in the society.

Believing that every community is its own strongest reserve, our focus is on **maximizing social impact and creating sustainable changes in different pockets of community.**

CONTENT

2 Chairman's message

3 Vice-Chairman's (Administration) message

4 Vice-Chairman's (Operations) message

5 Our Vision

6 Our Mission

7 Our Goals

8 Our Values

9 Our Programmes

REGULAR PROGRAMMES

10 Small Soul Blessings

12 Shining Star Reads

14 Values in Practice

NEW PROGRAMME

16 Be A Giver Social Movement

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

32 Third Year Anniversary

34 Graduation Ceremony

36 Financial Statement

OUR PEOPLE

37 Board of Directors

38 Fourth Management Committee

42 Reflections

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The best way to be sensitive to the needs of others is to simply listen. Over the last four years, I have heard many stories from our beneficiaries and volunteers.

We have heard and seen many changes in the society in the last four years. Similarly, much has changed in the lives of the beneficiaries and volunteers this period. Since BLESS is a Non Profit Organisation that exists for our beneficiaries by our volunteers, we need to also change in the way we operate at BLESS.

We are grateful for the stronger support from the community for our works at BLESS. Today, we have an office space, a second home for our volunteers and beneficiaries. We have also launched a new social movement, Be A Giver, to promote the spirit of giving and volunteerism.

For the coming year, we look forward to working closely together to form a stronger support network for our beneficiaries.



Francesca Phoebe Wah
Chairperson

VICE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It has been a fruitful year again at BLESS! Seeing how our initiatives have grown and matured, reinforces our belief that with purposeful intervention, it is possible to create sustainable changes in pockets of community.

We started off as a group of young individuals who simply wanted to make a difference by gathering community resources to bless less privileged children. Today, we see 6 fully grown community groups of Shining Star Reads and 2 rounds of Small Soul Blessings each year supported by youth volunteers.



Jesslyn Lim Chin Voon
Vice Chairperson (Administration)

This year, with the launch of Be A Giver movement, BLESS is in the midst of developing a sustainable model to raise awareness and encourage giving through engagement programmes such as Food Trails and workshops. We are happy to share that the events were well-received and we have some participants who are now volunteering with BLESS!

In the upcoming year, we will also be focusing on continuous development of our volunteers by providing avenues for cross-initiative training and an online portal for tracking of activities.

We look forward to another exciting year ahead, as BLESS continues to chart its path as a catalyst for sustainable community development.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

BLESS has seen several operational changes since its beginning in 2014, yet one thing remains: our dedication to impacting and improving lives, whether in big or little ways.

This year, we underwent rebranding for our initiatives. Together with our new social movement *Be A Giver*, these programmes have grown in stability, strength and scale.



Gillian Peck Zhi Ning
Vice Chairperson (Operations)

We are honoured by the support received from community partners, volunteers, donors and participants from the public, who have enabled, and continue to enable us to build on our past efforts. It is with their investment and commitment of time and resources that we are able to go forth in boldness, to begin filling the gaps we identify in the communities.

In the following pages, you will glean greater insights into the year's happenings and milestones through our keystone programmes. May they be of encouragement, and spur you on to making giving a part of your daily lives, just as we do our best in doing the same!

OUR

VISION

**A
COMMUNITY
THAT GIVES**



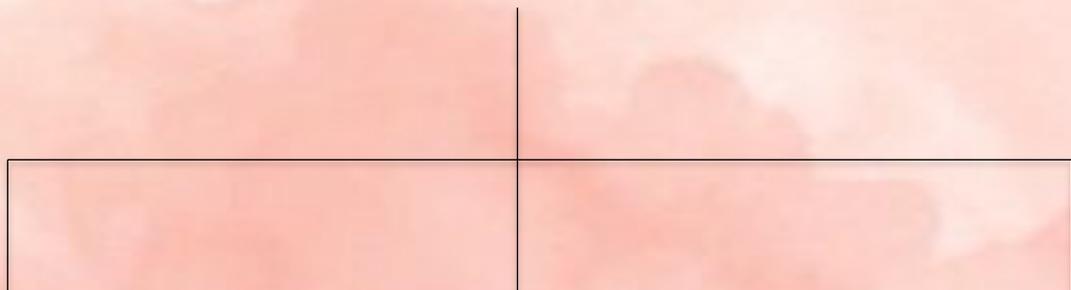
**A
SINGAPORE
THAT LIVES**

OUR

MISSION

**To create sustainable changes in
our community.**

DRIVING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH



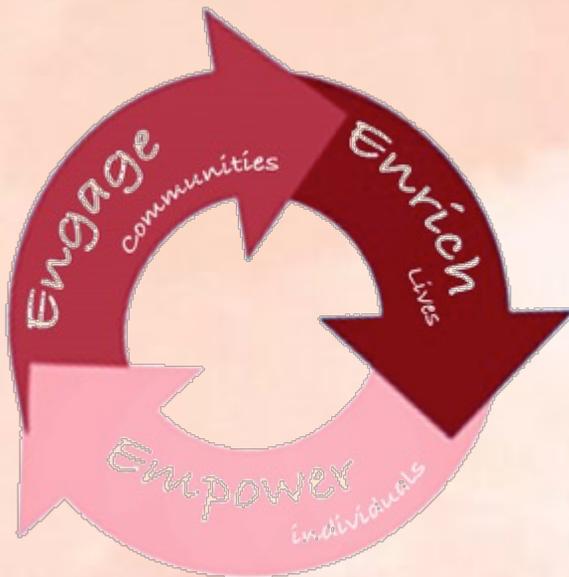
COMMUNITY
CAPACITY
BUILDING

COORDINATING
COMMUNITY
RESOURCES

CONDUCTING
APPLIED
RESEARCH

OUR

GOALS



To develop capacity of communities by **engaging communities** in efforts to **enrich the lives** of the less privileged, **empowering both the givers and the recipients** through this process.

To develop capacity of youths by **igniting passion, imparting skills and knowledge** and encouraging them to **initiate community interventions**.



OUR

VALUES

COMPASSION

We have a heart for people.

PASSION

We serve with a heart.

TEAMWORK

We work as one.

RESILIENCE

We persevere against all odds.

INTEGRITY

We uphold the morals of BLESS.

OUR

PROGRAMMES

This year, we did a rebranding of our programmes. We renamed the programmes for easier reference and redesigned the logos to include BLESS mascot. In addition to our three regular programmes, we also launched a new social movement, Be A Giver.



SMALL SOUL BLESSINGS

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Gifting Shop'. At the top left is a red gift icon followed by the text 'The Gifting Shop' in a red, cursive font. To the right are links for 'help / FAQ' and a shopping cart icon labeled 'Cart: 0'. Below the header are four navigation buttons: 'All Wishes', 'Ongoing Wishes', 'Essentials (Fulfilled)', and 'Birthday Surprises'. The main content area displays four wish items in a grid:

- Wish #29: Water Bottles** (Ongoing) - \$5.30. Image shows three water bottles: grey, blue, and red.
- Wish #27: Kindergarte...** (Ongoing) - \$7.48. Image shows a purple backpack.
- Wish #24: Back-to-school Stati...** (Wish Fulfilled!) - Image shows school supplies: pens, a ruler, a calculator, and a sharpener.
- Wish #23: Foldable Aluminium...** (Wish Fulfilled!) - Image shows a blue and silver wheelchair.



**Online platform
that congregates needs from
different social service
agencies and coordinates
community giving efforts**





Volunteers sorting out and packing the stationery gift packs before delivering it to the children.

\$34, 106.75

Donations collected through Small Soul portal

5, 030

Beneficiaries blessed

\$41, 351.73

Cost Savings through bulk purchase



Scan the QR code to visit
Small Soul website!

SHINING STAR READS



**Reading Programme
held at the void decks of
rental blocks to bring
learning opportunities closer
to their homes**





Shining Star Reads started with just four volunteers, a mat and borrowed books at Clementi Ave 2 four years ago. With the support from South West Community Development Council, we have grown from a humble 4 volunteers to 8 reading community groups.



CLEMENTI AVE 2



CASA CLEMENTI



BOON LAY



TELOK BLANGAH



TECK WHYE



ANG MO KIO



KEAT HONG



JURONG GREEN

VALUES IN PRACTICE



**A structured curriculum
to intentionally inculcate
values in pupils through
everyday teaching.**



The VIP Model

Understanding
the Value
through
stories



Learning
the Value
through 3 key
value-statements

Thinking About
the Value
by engaging
in what-if
scenarios
discussion

Observing
the Value
by identifying
role-models
practising it/
through school
events

Translating
the Value
through
serving the
community

WHAT-IF SCENARIO

Your friend, Jane, always forgets to bring a pencil case to school. As she puts her stationery loosely in her schoolbag, she tends to lose them easily.

She would always request to use your stationery. At times, she may even lose your stationery. "Sure, do you have an extra pencil that I can use?" Jane asked for the third time that I can use!" Jane asked for the third time that day.

Would you continue letting her use your stationery? What might you do to show Jane that you care for her?

SCHOOL EVENTS

Total Defence Day is celebrated on _____

Who are the people that help to keep Singapore safe? (Circle one)

"While you are worried about a delay to your holiday plans, he is worried about missing a potential threat."

"A mistake could cost you your job, but a mistake could cost him his life."

"When members of the public are engaging themselves at courtdown parties with their loved ones during festive occasions, I take pride in working hard with my colleagues to ensure police sufficiency to ensure the safety of others."

Our Home Team officers are indeed our guardians, protecting our homeland against security threats. Off duty, they are ordinary citizens with the same need for support and understanding.

BE A GIVER

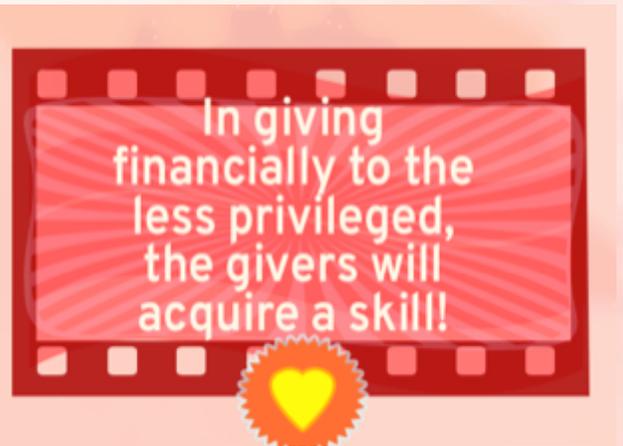


**A social movement
focused on community
building through promoting
the spirit of giving.**





“In giving, you receive!” This is the spirit behind Be A Giver social movement. BLESS partners with corporate trainers and café owners to make this social movement possible. There are three components of Be A Giver social movement.



COURSE FOR A CAUSE

TERRARIUM MAKING



These participants participated in Course for a Cause. In giving financially to support BLESS works, they received a terrarium-making kit and attended a two hour workshop to create their own terrarium. At the end of the workshop, they get to bring home their own terrariums!





Participants building their own terrariums!

I had fun building my terrarium. My terrarium has both land and water. I used the blue sand to create a river and added a duck.



COURSE FOR A CAUSE

EMCEE



These participants wanted to pick up the art of emceeing. Participants learnt emceeing skills from the renowned trainer, Mr Mark Chng. Besides sharing the ABCDEs of hosting, he also taught them breathing techniques and other warm-up exercises.



Participants learning to be more aware of their breathing.



Participants working in groups to plan their speech.

The trainer was lively and engaging. I came here because I was interested in hosting but I did not know how to and had no prior experience. After the short course, I gained several useful tips and is more confident.



COURSE FOR A CAUSE

CODING



These children were keen to learn how to code and create their own mini game. They saved up and convinced their parents to allow them to participate in this social movement. These children attended 3 sessions of coding workshop by Early Coders Academy. At the end of their workshop, they tried and played the different mini games their course mates have created.

Code. Create. Conquer.



Proud children at the end of the three-sessions coding workshop .

I've always wanted to learn coding but it's usually very expensive. I'm glad that I can pick up coding skill at a lower cost and support the less privileged children at the same time. The workshop was really fun. All of us created different games and the trainers were very patient and friendly.



COURSE FOR A CAUSE

ARCHERY



These participants get to learn from dedicated trainers and play archery at Salt and Light Archery. They have different types of bows and arrows, suitable for people of various ages.



I had a good time bonding with my children over archery. They have a wide range of equipment suitable for people of various ages.



COURSE FOR A CAUSE

LEATHER CRAFTING



These participants attended a leather crafting workshop by Hides and Thread. The experienced leather crafter, Mr Jonathan, taught participants how to care and maintain their leather products and gave an overview of leather crafting tools and techniques. Participants get to bring home their personalised leather project – coin pouches, bracelets or cardholders. They get to choose from a range of coloured leather and personalise their creation.



Participants working on their leather products.



Reminds me of all the crafting I did when I was younger. So glad I came for this and the proceeds all go to charity! I'll tell my friends about it and come again with them.

COURSE FOR A CAUSE

WATER COLOURING



These participants learnt lettering and watercolouring techniques from Artnotes. All materials and tools were provided. Most came to the workshop with zero experience on lettering and watercolouring, but left feeling accomplished with their artwork.



Precious Mother-Daughter time learning about watercolors and hand lettering together on a Saturday morning. Would highly recommend anyone to participate in this Be A Giver social movement!



FOOD FOR A CAUSE



Instead of learning a new skill, some participants prefer to spend time to bond with their friends and families over food. At the same time, they get to be more aware of the needs in the community.





It is my privilege to be able to share my story at these events. I hope that from my sharing, the participants get to know more about the disabled community and know that disabled is not unable.



THIRD YEAR ANNIVERSARY



BLESS had our third year anniversary celebration at Keat Hong Community Centre. The children were greeted with a special surprise, BLESS mascot.



GRADUATION CEREMONY



BLESS held a graduation ceremony for the graduating batch of children from Shining Star Reads. It was a proud moment for the parents as they witness their child performing and collecting their graduation certificates.

As part of their speech and drama programme, the children from Shining Star Reads work on their performance with the volunteers. They wrote their own script and did a reader's theatre production on their graduation day.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME

From Funding Organizations	\$62, 936
From Donations	\$17, 002
Total Income:	\$79, 938

EXPENDITURE

Programme Expenses	\$33, 998
Balance carried forward to next FY:	\$45, 940

The detailed financial report is available on our website.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



From left to right:
Francesca Phoebe Wah Li Ting (*Chairperson*),
Jesslyn Lim Chin Voon (*Vice Chairperson, Administrations*)

FOURTH

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Finance Committee

Appointment	Name
Director	Vivien Ng Zhi Wei
Accountant	Yeo Kai Wen
Treasurer	Ngim Wei Qiang

Marketing Committee

Appointment	Name
Director	Lim Sin Nee
Fundraising Officer	Gerilyn Wah Li Juan
Editor	Ann-Marie
Be A Giver IC	Peh Yingqi Amelia
Be A Giver IC	Dian Syarafina Loh

Human Resource Committee

Appointment	Name
Director	Mona Siow Bao Ling

IT Committee

Appointment	Name
Director	Gan Tang Chow Jerald
Assistant	Mah Chia Hui
Assistant	Low Bao Ling Vivian

Small Soul Blessings Committee

Appointment	Name
Director	Tan Pei Ling
Secretary/ Donor Manager	Abel Chan Zhong
Public Relations	Tan Ka Jin
Website Manager	Lim Yu Jing
Resource Manager	Wong Poh Yee

Shining Star Reads Committee

Appointment	Name
Public Relations	Lisa Wong Shi Ying
Secretary/ HR Manager	Lin Hong Yue
Resource Manager	Goh Qian Ci
Manager (CG1)	Lim Hui Yee
Manager (CG2)	Chua Sue Yu, Quek Yew Hong Ryan
Manager (CG3)	Tan Zhi Lin
Manager (CG4)	Soh Wei Xuan
Manager (CG5)	Soh Yan Xi M Shamini
Manager (CG6)	Rachel Ker
Manager (CG7)	Lim Xue En

Values in Practice Committee

Appointment	Name
Secretary/ PR Manager	Shirlynn Koh Zhi Wen
Writer	Fong Zi Mei Jacqueline
Illustrators	Angeline Chang Xue Er Jonathan Lee Jun Wee Yeo Pei Xin, Arela Celest Poh Raine Teo E Ning



Lim Yu Jing

Director
Small Soul Blessings

Having joined BLESS for over year, I witnessed the members and leaders of the organisation put in much dedication into it. On top of their day jobs or full-time studies, the members still take time and effort to craft proposals, organise projects and events in the interest of beneficiaries.

Being in one the programs that is online based (Small Soul), it can take a while for meaningful results to be observed. I've learnt to be patient and have faith in our plans and members. Meeting the rest of the BLESS members from other programs during the anniversary dinner, I felt encouraged to persevere and see through the completion of the Small Soul cycle.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve the community though BLESS and to have met many like-minded peers and individuals. Their resilience and altruism is admirable and has motivated me to think about more ways that I can to give back to society.

Being in BLESS for the last two years has given me the chance to meet so many new people and learn immeasurably from them. Leading two teams as the executive director of Single Soul and Be A Giver has allowed me to learn not only more about myself as a leader but also more about the different team members I interacted with, greatly improving my interpersonal and project management skills.



Tan Pei Ling

Director
Small Soul Blessings
Be A Giver

Through working in BLESS and with the BLESS team, I've experienced the qualities of teamwork, group communication, and above all, a passion for helping the greater community. It is this passion that is evident in all members of BLESS, allowing each of us to sacrifice time and effort into supporting the organisation's activities despite busy schedules and the demands of working or school life.

I hope that the projects I have been working on have made a positive impact on the community, be they big or small. It is my sincere wish to see them flourish as pillars of BLESS, one that can only be fulfilled with further collaboration, effort, and hard work between BLESS and the community.

To a greater BLESS in 2019 and beyond!



Rachel Ker

CG Manager
Shining Star Reads

As one community, together we make a difference.

As I look back at time in BLESS Shining Star, I am most grateful for the relationships that have been made. No program is perfect – but it's the conversations with the families and children we supported and the heart of the people serving alongside me that really kept me motivated to keep giving my best.

The families taught me how Shining Star is so much more than just a reading programme. Being in the community on a regular basis and getting to know the children and family, we became a where the families came to when they needed resources and were a connector both for resources to be invested in this community and for the community to get other resources out there.

The children taught me to meet them where they were. Some children were faster, some were slower, some like to sit and read, while others are more active. But every child had a story to tell and we were there not just for reading, but to support their growth holistically. I was very encouraged by how my volunteers and I worked together to come up with creative ways to engage the boys and persevered even when we struggled at times to get their attention. Together we would also discuss how to approach each child based on their unique personalities and self-perception to best encourage their learning.

There is much more to be done and it's easy to despair; but the gratitude expressed by the families, the improvements shown by the children and the time and effort by our volunteers are always a good reminder of the work that has been achieved thus far and a motivator to keep making things even better.



I started my journey with Shining Star Reads in 2014 as a volunteer. Being a volunteer with BLESS was an important aspect in my life as I had very little volunteering experiences. By volunteering with Shining Star, I had the chance to positively impact children from lower income subgroups through teaching and guiding them. I thoroughly valued my volunteering experience especially since I enjoy interacting with children.

Furthermore, volunteers are provided opportunities to participate in decision making by sharing our opinions and ideas in further enhancing the learning experiences of the children. This illustrates that BLESS does not undermine the potential of volunteers but instead empowers them by providing varied and ample opportunities for growth. All these various factors further propelled me to continue my stay with Shining Star.

Gradually, in 2017, both Yan Xi and I were given the opportunity to lead the program as Community Group Managers(CGM) for Shining Star Boon Lay. As a CGM, I was increasingly able to internalise the essence of BLESS and its' belief in building a caring community.

Moreover, I feel glad to highlight that besides Shining Star fulfilling its' purpose, it has become a platform that empowers children which is immensely inspiring. For instance, the older children in Shining Star Boon Lay, contributed to supporting other younger children during the reading sessions. They utilized their learning experiences to give back to the younger ones. In fact, we strongly believe that they will continue to be role models for the younger ones.



Shamini
CG Manager
Shining Star Reads

Seeing them being empowered from a participant to a volunteer assisting others, further encourages me to be committed towards supporting BLESS and the children. Such small yet remarkable changes made, further boosts me to continue impacting the children's lives by dedicating myself towards serving BLESS children meaningfully.

I believe the combined efforts of BLESS has led to creating meaningful impacts both at the individual and community level holistically. Ultimately, I hope that more would step forward towards building an empowering and caring community. I would like to end off with a quote by Mother Theresa, "In this life, we cannot always do great things. But we can do small things with great love".



You may donate to BLESS by:

Thank you for journeying with BLESS. Let us continue to work together to make our society a better place, by bringing love to every single soul around us!

Making a bank transfer to our DBS account

Name: Bringing Love to Every Single Soul (Singapore) Ltd.

Account Number: 020-902111-4

Write your cheque made payable to

Bringing Love to Every Single Soul (Singapore) Ltd.



**Copyright © 2018 BLESS.
All Rights Reserved.**

**BRINGING LOVE TO EVERY SINGLE SOUL
(SINGAPORE) LTD.**

Registration Number: 201418096G

Contact us!

contact.us@sg-bless.org

Website: www.sg-bless.org

Facebook page: Bringing Love to Every Single Soul