

# ANNUAL REPORT

FY2018/2019



ENGAGE, ENRICH, EMPOWER

**EVERY  
COMMUNITY  
IS ITS OWN  
STRONGEST  
RESOURCE**

**COMPASSION  
PASSION  
TEAMWORK  
RESILIENCE  
INTEGRITY**

# ABOUT 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 OF 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.

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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

On behalf of BLESS, thank you for journeying with us for the past 5 years. As an organisation managed by Generation-Y leaders on a pro-bono basis, BLESS would not have been able to come this far without the support and help from our partners.

Since our beginnings, we have been committed to creating sustainable changes in our communities. Within 5 years, we have worked with many community and corporate partners, to be a blessing to the less privileged, particularly those residing in the rental communities.



**Francesca Phoebe Wah**  
Chairperson

Our innovative online community-giving portal, **Small Soul Blessings**, has raised over \$40,000 and met the physical needs of over 6000 beneficiaries. Through bulk purchase and support from suppliers, we also had cost savings of 121%.

**Shining Star Reads** started with just four volunteers, a mat and borrowed books at Clementi Ave 2. Today, with support from South West Community Development Council, we have grown from a humble 4 volunteers to 8 reading community groups, serving 16 rental blocks. Beyond the numbers, we are heartened to know that the children have indeed gained literacy skills through this programme.

**Values in Practice (VIP)** has also evolved over the years. With technology becoming an integral part of our society, VIP has also gone digital - the stories are available on VIP mobile application and the computer game is available on VIP website. By going digital, we are confident that we can reach out to more children, inculcating the right values in the next generation.

To ensure BLESS remains a sustainable organisation, we have also launched a social movement, Be A Giver, the latest addition to our programmes. In giving financially to BLESS, one picks up a new skills from professional trainers who are our corporate partners.

Till date, BLESS continues to be an organisation managed by young adults. It is a platform for youths to use the skills we gained in universities and the corporate world to serve and contribute to the organisation and the community. Every year, I am heartened to see new people joining the Management Committee.

Thank you for having faith in BLESS and entrusting it into my leadership for the past 5 years. I hope that you will continue to lend the same support to our new Managing Director, Gillian Peck. I believe she will lead the team well and bring BLESS to even greater heights.





# VICE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

BLESS will be celebrating our 5th anniversary this year. We have been working on increasing the outreach of our programmes, forming new Shining Star Reads community groups and new partnerships for Small Soul Blessings in the past year.

We are truly thankful for the strong support from our volunteers, community partners and vendors who helped make everything we do possible.

Over the past 5 years, BLESS has also seen many changes, with many of our members joining the work force, bringing new insights and experiences to strengthen the team. As we welcome new members coming on board, we will continue to engage and develop youth volunteers through our work. We look forward to another fruitful year ahead!



**Jesslyn Lim**  
Vice Chairperson (Administration)





# VICE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Bringing Love to Every Single Soul. In BLESS' name lies a tall order, yet it really is something that the 1st to 5th Management Committees have strived towards as we serve the rental communities and more. This would not be possible without the support of our partners and friends, to whom we offer our heartfelt thanks.

In the last year, we have been focusing our efforts on improving the Shining Star Reads curriculum and strengthening the rapport between volunteers and beneficiaries. Small Soul Blessings' gifting portal was also modified to make the user experience more seamless, so that donors can more easily pledge a desired amount to grant the wishes of our children and elderly beneficiaries.

Finally, for Values In Practice (VIP), the successful pilot has set the foundation for the way going forward – we were able to put together the storybooks and activity books, which engage students in understanding and adopting values, in Singapore's 4 official languages.

As we go forward, BLESS is excited to build on the groundwork done in the last half a decade, and help us move closer to our vision of creating "A community that gives, A Singapore that lives."

Thank you, thank you and thank you, from all of us at BLESS for your continued support.



**Gillian Therese Peck**  
Vice Chairperson (Operations)





# OUR VISION



A COMMUNITY  
THAT GIVES



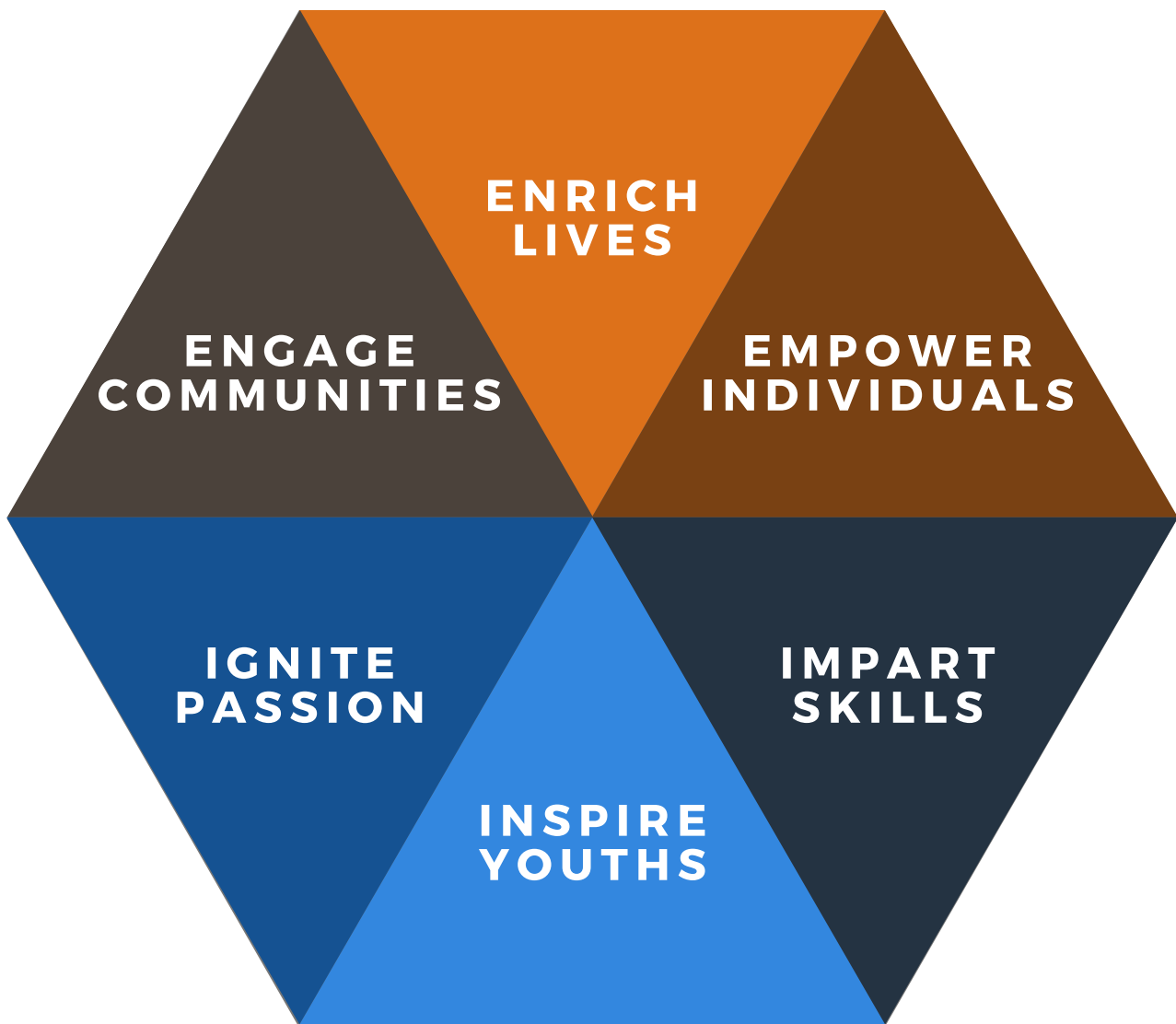
A SINGAPORE  
THAT LIVES



# OUR MISSION



# OUR GOALS



BLESS aims to develop the 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. At the same time, BLESS aspires to develop the capacity of youths by **igniting passion, imparting skills and knowledge**, and **inspiring** them to initiate community interventions.

# OUR VALUES



COMPASSION



PASSION



TEAMWORK



RESILIENCE



INTEGRITY



# OUR PROGRAMMES

A dark red circle with a gradient, darker at the bottom.

**SMALL SOUL  
BLESSINGS**

A light red circle with a gradient, lighter at the bottom.

**SHINING  
STAR READS**

A light red circle with a gradient, lighter at the bottom.

**VALUES IN  
PRACTICE**

A dark red circle with a gradient, darker at the bottom.

**BE A  
GIVER**

# SMALL SOUL BLESSINGS



**An online platform congregates and presents needs from different social service agencies. Community giving efforts are coordinated to meet the physical and emotional needs of beneficiaries identified by these agencies.**

Much like online shopping, one can simply 'click' and purchase items on the online gifting portal –on behalf of our beneficiaries. BLESS sources for supplies in bulk for cost savings, and distributes the gifts to the children, fulfilling their wishes. With the support of our corporate partners, we have also launched a matching grant in 2016 that will match dollar-for-dollar donations, enabling more to benefit from your giving.



[Home](#) [Gifting Process](#) [The Gifting Shop](#) [FAQ](#) [🔍](#)

**Help bless a child today!**

SELECT AN OPTION:

ESSENTIALS



A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE



**\$44, 298.51**

**DONATIONS COLLECTED  
THROUGH THE  
SMALL SOUL PORTAL**

**6415**

**BENEFICIARIES  
BLESSED**



**\$53, 707.73**

**COST SAVINGS  
THROUGH BULK  
PURCHASE**



**VISIT OUR PORTAL HERE:**

**[WWW.SMALLSOULBLESSINGS.SG](http://WWW.SMALLSOULBLESSINGS.SG)**



# SHINING STAR READS



**A community-based reading programme held at the void decks of rental blocks to bring learning opportunities closer to homes, Shining Star reaches out to 4 to 9 year-olds.**

Reading sessions are held on a weekly basis for children from lower-income families. For each reading session, there are five components: (a) reading for understanding, (b) reading for fluency, (c) word learning, (d) completion of learning sheets and (e) mobile library.

With a structured curriculum to teach English, the children have shown remarkable improvements in their reading scores.

**BLESS engages residents living in the locality to implement the programme, in bid of promoting sustainable volunteerism.**





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

**BOON  
LAY**

**CASA  
CLEMENTI**

**NANYANG**

**TELOK  
BLANGAH**



**TECK  
WHYE**

**ANG MO  
KIO**

**KEAT  
HONG**

**JURONG  
GREEN**



# VALUES IN PRACTICE



**Values-In-Practice (VIP), is a structured student engagement programme to intentionally inculcate values in pupils, encouraging them to put values into practice. It features 10 activity booklets and 8 storybooks, which are developmentally appropriate for each primary level.**

VIP builds on the existing MOE Values-in-Action framework, putting a greater emphasis on **self-directed and self-initiated community involvement**. A 5-step framework is designed to get pupils to put their values into practice: (a) understanding the value, (b) learning the value, (c) observing the value, (d) thinking about the value and (e) translating the value.

## 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



**VISIT OUR VIP PAGE HERE:**

[WWW.VALUES-IN-PRACTICE.COM](http://WWW.VALUES-IN-PRACTICE.COM)



# BE A GIVER



**"Be A Giver" social movement hopes to promote the spirit of giving.**

**100% of the funds raised through this social movement go towards supporting BLESS. With a skills-based volunteering model, there are no manpower costs for BLESS.**

All the funds raised would be used to continue to extend the reach of BLESS' programmes to beneficiaries, facilitating BLESS to be a sustainable non-profit organization, existing for the community and funded by the community.





## COURSE FOR A CAUSE

OUR PARTICIPANTS GIVE TO THE LESS PRIVILEGED AND LEARN A SKILL FROM PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS AT THE SAME TIME



## FOOD FOR A CAUSE

OUR PARTICIPANTS GIVE TO THE LESS PRIVILEGED THROUGH THOUGHTFUL FOOD TRIALS AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS



**VISIT OUR BE A GIVER PAGE HERE:**

[WWW.BEAGIVER.SG](http://WWW.BEAGIVER.SG)



# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## SHINING STAR EXPLORES



Children aged 4 to 9 from 6 community groups were treated to an experience at Gardens by the Bay organized by Shining Star Reads on 29 June 2019. They visited the Heritage Gardens, Flower Dome and Cloud Forest in a learning journey that allowed them to explore the gardens and gather information.

The children were tasked to complete activity worksheets and take pictures of relevant flora before heading over to Hua Yi Secondary School for a photo-editing workshop. Volunteers from the school accompanied the children to guide and assist them in their tasks. The children's works are to be presented to their parents during a "Gratitude"-themed exhibition in November 2019.

In efforts to encourage the inculcating of skills in children and promoting volunteerism among youths, the event received funding support of \$3000 from the National Youth Council's Young ChangeMakers (YCM) Grant.







# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## 4TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Another year passes as BLESS celebrated its 4th anniversary on 1 December 2018. Partners, volunteers and members all gathered to mark the occasion and share their joy. Ms Low Yen Ling, who has offered her continual support since our inception, attended as our guest-of-honour. It was our delight to share our growth and appreciation with all who had made yet another fruitful year.

Much fun was had as terrarium and leather making workshops were held for our members and contributors. Participants chipped in to learn the arts of making self-sustainable miniature gardens and leather crafting. Turnout for the activities was great as the workshops buzzed with excitement. We are glad to announce that all proceeds from the workshops will go towards BLESS' outreach in an effort to touch more lives.

In honour of our volunteers, Ms Low was invited to give out certificates to the 5th committee members of BLESS for their services to the committee. Ms Low said, "when all of us play our part in the community, Singapore would eventually be transformed into a more caring society. In our seemingly small ways, we can collectively create a big difference." Indeed, without the overwhelming support of so many, BLESS would not have arrived at its 4th anniversary with so much to be thankful for.

As we move forward, BLESS aims to continue to touch the lives of the community through 4 key programmes:

**Shining Star Reads** is a reading programme for children living in rental blocks of the community.

**Small Soul Blessings** is an online platform to coordinate gift-giving for the needs of our beneficiaries.

**Values In Practice** is a structured student engagement programme to encourage children to put the values they learn into practice.

**Be A Giver** is a social movement to promote the spirit of giving through organized events.





# BLESS IN THE NEWS

## PUTTING HER BLESSED FOOT FORWARD



**What began as course projects that Ms Francesca Phoebe Wah (Arts and Social Sciences '14 '18) undertook as an undergraduate has blossomed into an organisation that caters to the underserved in Singapore.**

### **WHO IS SHE?**

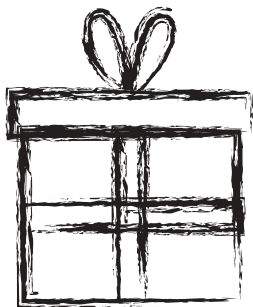
The winner of the FASS Student Leadership Award in Academic Year 2014/15, and the 2016 Singapore Silent Hero Award, Ms Francesca Wah founded Bringing Love to Every Single Soul (BLESS), a non-profit organisation that engages the community in order to better the lives of the less-privileged.

Be good stewards of our lives regardless of whatever circumstances we are in and inspire the next generation to do likewise.” This is both the adage that Ms Francesca Phoebe Wah lives by and the change she wants to see in Singapore. And if you are not sure what that looks like, Ms Wah, 27, sets a good example. By day she is a primary school teacher, a job she views as a form of social work. “I have always wanted to be on the front line,” she elaborates. “As a teacher, I get to interact with the children daily and can identify the children and families who need more support, and refer them to the relevant organisations.”

Ms Wah, who majored in Psychology, and later received a Masters in Social Work, is the Subject Head of Pastoral Care at her school. “Social work is really about human

relationships and dynamics. And in fact, I've always believed that every profession needs to have a social worker!" she says with a laugh. "My social work knowledge enables me to manage discipline cases differently," she says. "It allows me to design intervention methods – such as anger management techniques and increasing children's motivation – with school counsellors to better provide help to the children."

Outside of work, Ms Wah is the founder of BLESS, a registered non-profit organisation whose main beneficiaries are low-income families and children residing in rental blocks. Unlike many social service organisations, it does not conduct individual casework, focusing on community interventions instead. From 35 volunteers who were undergraduates at its start in 2014, the organisation now comprises professionals as well as university students, all running the show on a pro bono basis. 'To create sustainable changes in our community' is the mission of BLESS, while its vision is for 'a community that gives; a Singapore that lives.'



## BRINGING DREAMS TO LIFE

**In its last cycle, BLESS' Small Soul Blessings programme collected \$34,107 which went to 5,030 beneficiaries.**

### REAL-LIFE APPLICATION

BLESS' programmes centre on both the beneficiary and the community. Small Soul Blessings is a novel giving programme that lets Internet users pick the "blessing" they wish to bestow upon someone in need. "It is similar to the concept of online shopping, except that in this case, it is online shopping to bless someone." Ms Wah adds. Shining Star Reads is a weekly reading programme that caters to children living in rental blocks in Singapore. The other two programmes – Values In Practice and Be A Giver Social Movement – seek to transform the society into a caring one. The former is a structured programme that teaches values to children through stories, activity books and computer games, encouraging them to put values into practice. The latter is a social movement that promotes the spirit of giving among Singaporeans.





Ms Wah shares that BLESS was born out of her NUS days. “These ideas started off as my undergraduate projects,” she says. “During one of my Social Work undergraduate modules, we conducted interviews with parents so as to understand their reasons for not sending their children for the free reading sessions at family service centres. “As most reading programmes are held at libraries or social service agencies, parents have to bring their children to the venue. That translates to \$1.40 for an adult bus ticket and \$0.65 for a child bus ticket. A round-trip would cost about \$4,” explains Ms Wah. “Having come from a lower-income family myself, I can identify with the struggles they face – having to choose between using the \$4 to put food on the table or to use it to better their child’s education. I was compelled to bring reading programmes closer to their homes – like at the void decks of rental blocks.” Shining Star Reads began at a void deck of a block in Clementi Avenue 2, with just four volunteers, a mat and some borrowed books. “Today, with the support from South West Community Development Council, we have grown to eight reading community groups, serving 16 blocks,” she says.

Small Soul Blessings, likewise, started when she was at NUS. “In 2013, Pasir Panjang Hill Community Services was calling for donations for Children’s Day presents for 120 children. I remembered how comforted I was as a child when I had my soft toy with me, no matter what happened. So, I wanted to bless 120 children with a Minion soft toy each that Children’s Day. Being an undergraduate, I did not have the means to bless all 120 children. So, I asked my friends if they would like to contribute. And they asked their friends and so on.” Within two days, she had enough to provide for a total of 364 children from four social service agencies. “This was definitely the power of community – I cannot do what I do without the support of the community.”

Many lessons she learned during her undergraduate days continue to serve her well. “My professors emphasised that there are resources in the community,” she says. “All we need is someone to mobilise and coordinate them. I wanted to continue both the programmes so I started BLESS.”



### FROM THE GROUND UP

BLESS was organically formed by a group of students. They kept the start-up cost low, paying just for the entity registration and then cobbling together everything else. “Back then, we didn’t have many resources – no money, no office space. Yet, we were rich in skills, energy and passion! All we wanted to do is to find a need and meet it.”

The road was paved with obstacles, but Ms Wah and the team soldiered on. “Back then, no one really believed in us so it was hard for us to get funding,” she remembers. Her void deck reading programmes proposal for instance was initially met with a string of rejections from funders, primarily because it had never been done before. In addition, the team discovered that the existing reading programmes did not serve their needs. “Most programmes catered to children reading to gain new knowledge. However, most of the children in these rental communities are learning to read. So, we decide to curate our own curriculum for this programme and train volunteers to conduct it.” The team then decided to make the effects of their work measurable, by tracking the learning outcomes of the children. “We then showed the potential funders that there were real positive results. Eventually, we gained stronger support.” In 2016, a \$10,000 matching grant was launched in partnership with a number of corporations to further encourage giving efforts. For every child that the public supported through Small Soul portal, another child would receive support through the matching grant.

Fast forward to the present, and BLESS shows no signs of slowing down. It celebrated its fourth anniversary on 1 December 2018 with the launch of its new Unity Centre at Bukit Batok. Shining Star Reads continues its good work weekly, through the eight reading community groups which hold sessions on different days. “I am definitely satisfied to see the impact we have created,” says Ms Wah, who adds that BLESS plans to spread their work beyond western Singapore in the next five years. “At our third anniversary celebration, children from Shining Star Reads put up a theatre performance. The parents were very touched to see how much their children had improved in their language abilities. Some came to thank us afterwards – that keeps us going.”



2018/2019

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## ① TOTAL INCOME: \$

**FUNDING  
ORGANISATIONS****\$30, 992****DONATIONS****\$8, 617****FUNDING  
ORGANISATIONS****\$4, 161**

## ① EXPENDITURE: \$

**PROGRAMME  
EXPENSES****\$51, 644****BALANCE  
CARRIED  
FORWARD****- \$7, 871**



# OUR PEOPLE

## BLESS 5th Management Committee



### CORE TEAM

FRANCESCA PHOEBE WAH  
CHAIRPERSON

PECK ZHINING GILLIAN  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON (OPERATIONS)

LIM CHIN VOON, JESSLYN  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON (ADMINISTRATION)

## FINANCE

**JEREMY ONG**  
FINANCE DIRECTOR

**LIM XUE EN**  
TREASURER

**KELVIN CHOONG KIAH HONG**  
ACCOUNTANT

## MARKETING

**EUNICE TAN**  
MARKETING DIRECTOR

**A SUMATHI**  
CREATIVE DESIGN

**AMY KOH AI LEE**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS EXECUTIVE

**LOW CHANG YEE**  
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

**FONG ZI MEI JACQUELINE**  
EDITOR

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**MONA SIOW BAO LING**  
HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR

**ALEX TAN YANXU**  
HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

**LOW BAO LING VIVAN**  
IT DIRECTOR

**JERALD GAN**  
IT EXECUTIVE

**YAP RI HAO**  
IT EXECUTIVE



## **SMALL SOUL BLESSINGS TEAM**

**KATHY ZHOU  
DIRECTOR**

**TOH JAN LI CHARMINE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

**ABEL CHAN  
DONOR MANAGER**

**TAN KA JIN  
PUBLIC RELATIONS EXECUTIVE**

## **VALUES IN PRACTICE TEAM**

**PHYLLIS SENG  
DIRECTOR**

**ANGELINE CHIANG XUE ER  
ILLUSTRATOR**

**JONATHAN LEE JUN WEE  
ILLUSTRATOR**

**YEO PEI XIN, ARELA  
ILLUSTRATOR**

**CELEST POH  
ILLUSTRATOR**

**RAINE TEO E NING  
ILLUSTRATOR**

## **SHINING STAR READS TEAM**

**GOH QIAN CI  
RESOURCE MANAGER**

**TAN ZHI LIN  
ADMIN SUPPORT**

**DEBBIE KUNG SZE HUI  
CURRICULUM DEVELOPER**

**CHUA SUE YU  
MANAGER (CASA CLEMENTI)**

**JONATHAN LEE KWANG JIANN  
MANAGER (CASA CLEMENTI)**

**MIN TAN  
MANAGER (TECK WHYE)**

**RACHEL TAN RUI QI  
MANAGER (BOON LAY)**

**SOH YAN XI  
MANAGER (BOON LAY)**

**POH ZHI WEI  
MANAGER (KEAT HONG)**

**TE (TING) SZE YING  
MANAGER (TELOK BLANGAH)**

**BREANNE KAUR GILL  
MANAGER (JURONG GREEN)**

**RACHEL TAN WEI XUAN  
MANAGER (JURONG GREEN)**

**LETCHUMI  
MANAGER (ANG MO KIO)**

**CELINE THAM  
MANAGER (NANYANG)**

## **BE A GIVER TEAM**

**GERILYN WAH LI JUAN  
DIRECTOR**



# OUR REFLECTIONS

I volunteered in BLESS's marketing team as the Marketing Director. I was involved in overseeing the marketing team, which covers the marketing, design and public relations aspects of BLESS. Our team supports BLESS's efforts by reaching out to the community through a variety of means such as social media platforms, promotional collaterals, and outreach materials, among others.

Volunteering at BLESS has allowed me to see how much brand awareness is important to an organisation like BLESS. BLESS is doing wonderful work in the community and this is something that the public should know that they can be a part of, be it as a person giving, or a person receiving. I am glad to see that our efforts have allowed many beneficiaries to be part of the programmes, as well as the community being responsive to BLESS's efforts.

As BLESS turns another year older, it has indeed been a blessing to be able to contribute to its efforts to reach out to the community. I wish BLESS greater success to reach out to communities across Singapore. May BLESS be able to enrich the community with its positive efforts!



**Eunice Tan**  
Marketing Director

# OUR REFLECTIONS

I volunteered at BLESS as an editor in the marketing team for two years. I wrote the copy for the bimonthly e-newsletters as well as the words for Cause for a Cause's marketing posters and emails. I was also briefly involved in Be A Giver's treasury work and helped out with events on the ground.

I think volunteering at BLESS allowed me to observe and contribute to the inner workings of community work and building and the current needs of neighbourhoods, especially the disadvantaged residents. The most memorable times for me were the brainstorming meetings with the marketing team, because they opened my eyes to how much work goes into liaising with stakeholders and beneficiaries, and of course the huge amount of effort and planning needed for each community event. Our team had many foodies so there was bonding over food involved in most sessions! :)

I hope BLESS continues to grow and reach out beyond the Southwest, so as to benefit more neighbourhoods. I think it has many initiatives that have a lot of potential to enrich the lives of many more Singaporeans, and this thought is one that brings me a lot of hope!



**Ann Marie**  
Editor (Marketing)



# OUR REFLECTIONS

I have volunteered with Shining Star Reads @Boon Lay for 4 years, whereby I helped to conduct reading sessions for children in underprivileged families to improve their language abilities. I have always believed that volunteering is a two-way street, such that volunteers will equally benefit from what they have contributed. Indeed, my time volunteering at BLESS has not just left me with fond memories but also impacted me greatly. It was comforting for me to see the children diligently reporting for every of our reading sessions. Over the years, as I build rapport with the kids, they eventually treated me as their friend and would share with me their daily encounters in school.

Besides the rewarding experience volunteering at Shining Star Reads, I was also very touched by the many interactions I had with fellow volunteers in the BLESS family. Their passion for volunteering has motivated me to do more for the community.

I hope BLESS will continue to grow and expand in the following year as we recruit more volunteers to join the BLESS family, and hopefully to see more beneficiaries benefiting from our programs!



**Soh Yan Xi**  
Community Group Manager, Boon Lay  
(Shining Star Reads)



# OUR REFLECTIONS

I am extremely thankful to have been a part of BLESS Small Soul Blessings in the past year, where we consolidated the needs of the underprivileged from various social service agencies, and engaged internet users via an online gifting portal to fund their needs.

Prior to my time at Small Soul Blessings, an initiative I organised with my schoolmates in close partnership with BLESS was bringing Shining Star Reads to a new location within Choa Chu Kang. We held weekly sessions for children living in rental flats to enhance their self-confidence and literacy abilities through equipping them with reading and communication skills. Having mentored the children at Shining Star Reads for a year and using creative ways to engage them through arts and craft or fun science demonstrations, I have grown to be more sensitive towards the community's interests and needs, and learnt to adapt quickly to situations.

Through interacting with others, I learnt to identify with them better, understand their circumstances and form meaningful friendships with them. Moreover, I realised how much simply lending a listening ear to a student as they share their struggles in school or at home could serve as a first step to make them feel heard and cared for.

Volunteering with BLESS truly humbles me to not take my circumstances and the community I am placed in for granted, and instilled in me a stronger sense of belonging to our society. Most of all, it beautifully reminds me that amidst my individual human inadequacies, great things can be achieved when we, as a society, work together in showing kindness to others!

In the coming year, I hope that BLESS continues to not only provide care for the needs of residents at Southwest, but also creatively leverage on their existing skills and resources for the community to be empowered themselves. I eagerly look forward to what lies ahead!



**Charmaine Toh**  
Assistant Director  
(Small Soul Blessings)

# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US DONATE TO BLESS

**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!**

You may donate to BLESS by:

Making a bank transfer to our  
DBS Current 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.**





**[contact.us@sg-bless.org](mailto:contact.us@sg-bless.org)**



**[www.sg-bless.org](http://www.sg-bless.org)**



**Bringing Love to Every Single Soul**

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