

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

When Dreams Take Flight



A Shattered Home

Wei Lun* lost his mother who passed away from a drug overdose in 2007. As the sole breadwinner, his father often worked long hours and was unable to supervise and care for Wei Lun. Hence, Wei Lun often spent his days at his grandmother's home.

Wei Lun's grandmother doted on him but was very lenient and often allowed him to act as he wished – this included frequent late nights out with friends and excessive gaming which often resulted in scoldings from his father. The disparity in parenting styles caused a strain in Wei Lun's relationship with his notably absent father.

Running away from home became a norm for Wei Lun and his father often had to file Missing Persons reports to look for him. Eventually, his father referred him to Boys' Town as he was not sure how else to manage his son's behaviours.

Encountering New Hope

Despite his troubled background, Wei Lun adapted well when he first came to Boys' Town. He was open to talking about his emotions during counselling sessions and that gradually brought about improvements in his well-being and emotional state. Wei Lun also picked up a new interest and joined his school's basketball team and regularly attended training sessions.

Wei Lun displayed positive behaviours in his time at Boys' Town. He was respectful to the staff and got along well with the other residents. He was entrusted with various responsibilities and even took on roles such as the dormitory in-charge.



Stock photo used

His father also started to take a more proactive approach to spend time with him and their relationship significantly improved.

Boy with Big Dreams

Soon, Wei Lun was discharged from Boys' Town and was successfully reintegrated back home. He still plays basketball actively and now enjoys a closer relationship with his father and grandmother. Today, Wei Lun is pursuing a NITEC course to fulfil his childhood dream – to be an aircraft engineer.

Announcement on Change in Chairman

Dear Supporters of Boys' Town,

Boys' Town has been constantly evolving over the past 73 years to better cater to the needs of the vulnerable children and youths in the community. In April, we saw another significant change as we announced the following:



Mr Gerard Lee How Cheng has officially stepped down as the Chairman of the Board of Directors and Mr Bruno Lopez was appointed as the new Chairman with effect from 1 April 2021.

Since 2005, Mr Gerard Lee has provided Boys' Town his invaluable experience. Under his stewardship, Boys' Town transformed from a residential home to a social service agency with six key services; raised over \$11 million for a new building and was awarded the Non-Profit of the Year in 2011 by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre. The Board wishes to express their deep appreciation to Mr Lee for his significant contributions and guidance during his tenure.

Mr Bruno Lopez is an existing Board of Director, having joined the board since 23 April 2020. As an alumnus of fellow Gabrielite institutions St. Gabriel's Primary and Secondary Schools, he has also been actively involved in the Catholic community. The Board looks forward to working closely with Mr Lopez to grow Boys' Town to greater heights.

We would like to thank God for His blessings and guidance in our journey to serve the children and youth in-need and their families. We seek your continued strong support for Boys' Town.

On behalf of the Board,
Brother Dominic Yeo Koh
Board of Director

BOYS' TOWN ADVENTURE CENTRE (BTAC)

The Lost Island Holiday Camp



It has been a challenging period for BTAC as many activities were affected by the restrictions in place of COVID-19. BTAC rose to the challenge and developed new programmes to bring adventure-based experiential learning for youths.

BTAC launched 'The Lost Island' - an inaugural school holiday camp for the public as well as the clients of Boys' Town Fostering Services. The camp consisted of various outdoor and adventure-based activities and participants challenged their limits to overcome their fear of heights while scaling and abseiling the BTAC tower. To mark their accomplishments, the participants engraved their initials on a token which was hung at a mini hall of fame.

The Lost Island camp was well received by both the kids and their parents/guardians, leaving BTAC thank you notes as well as positive feedback on social media.



A child decoding a message in one of the activities



Participants enjoying a camping activity in one of the 'dark rooms'

HAPPY 92ND BIRTHDAY!

Brother Roger, one of the founding Brothers of Boys' Town, turned 92 on 22 March 2021. As always, a small group of staff came together to hold a simple celebration for him. During which, he shared fondly about his days back when he was supervising the residential boys in Boys' Town. Bro Roger embodies perseverance and commitment to the mission of serving the marginalized and we are grateful to have spent this special day with him.



BOYS' TOWN FOSTERING SERVICES (BTFS)

Appreciating Foster Mothers

To appreciate foster mothers this Mother's Day, BTFS distributed gift packs to our partners such as Home For Good and 100Homes. The bag included practical and useful items such as thermal flasks, notebooks and Tupperwares. We hope that the foster mothers enjoyed this little token from us!



BTFS Feature:

Our Grandfather Story

BTFS had the chance to collaborate with *Our Grandfather Story* to feature our foster mother, Mdm Nicole, on their in-focus 'Can Ask Meh?' segment. It featured questions about her fostering journey, struggles and rewards and is scheduled to be published this month.

To find out more about fostering and be the transformation in these children's lives, call us at 9113 7612 or email us at fostering@boystown.org.sg! Do check out our Facebook page at Boys' Town Fostering Services for more updates!

YOUTHREACH

YouthReach x Balestier Khalsa FC

YouthReach started the soccer Youth Development Programme (YDP) back in 2012 to engage interested youths through this sport. The YDP's regular soccer trainings double up as a platform for our youth workers to inculcate values, engage the youths and address issues they may be facing day-to-day. Over the years, the youths we engaged have found a community of positive peer support through this programme.



On 25 March 2021, YouthReach signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Balestier Khalsa Football Club (BKFC). With this partnership, BKFC will support the work of YouthReach through providing training opportunities, equipment, exposure as well as mentoring by BKFC players for our aspiring youths. **We look forward to the exciting plans in store for our soccer youths!**

CLINICAL INTERVENTION CENTRE (CIC)

Safe Circle for Trauma-Informed Care

Boys' Town Clinical Intervention Centre is a member of the Safe Circle, a collaboration across seven agencies in Singapore to focus on community-based mental health services for children, youth and their families. Findings from the Singapore Mental Health Study have shown that traumatic childhood experiences can have an impact on one's physical and mental health in adulthood.

Through the Safe Circle, CIC aims to create awareness around trauma and empower individuals to play their part in creating a safe and caring community through trauma-informed care. We have conducted awareness talks and workshops targeted at educators, parents/caregivers, peer supporters and helping professionals.

In the long run, children and youth who receive support will develop into adults with reduced risk of physical and mental health issues due to early identification and provision of social support and intervention.

SAFE CIRCLE
For Trauma Informed Care

Click [HERE](#) or Scan to Sign Up

The Safe Circle programmes are complimentary programmes for parents, teachers, young adults, and helping professionals.

As a participant in the programme, you will learn about what trauma is, its prevalence in Singapore, how it affects our children and youth, and how to integrate trauma-informed care into your work and life.

<https://bit.ly/3q46f4d>

Partners:

Powered by

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.

SANCTUARY CARE

Helping Hands for Baby Kayden



See Hwee* was 5 months pregnant when she first contacted Sanctuary Care. She had just lost her job due to circumstances arising from the pandemic and was having difficulty finding employment.

See Hwee had to live off her savings and financial assistance provided. Still, she would need caregiving support for her child when he was born so she could be freed up to look for a job. See Hwee was separated from the father of her child and had no family in Singapore to rely on.

Time passed and her son, Kayden* was born. **Sanctuary Care stepped in to support her with caregiving of Kayden when he was 2 months old.** He was placed in the care of Andrea*, a respite carer with Sanctuary Care. In the 3 months that he was living with Andrea and her family, he had blossomed into a bubbly baby who loved being carried around.

Apart from caring for Kayden, Andrea also focused on helping him develop his sensory motor skills. Under her care, Kayden achieved his developmental milestones and was even steadily gaining weight. **During her weekly visits, See Hwee was heartened to see that her son was growing healthily and happily.**

While Kayden was cared for under Sanctuary Care's respite service, See Hwee managed to secure a job and she worked hard to save money. Even though See Hwee and her parents initially had a strained relationship, things improved and her parents eventually moved back to Singapore to support her with raising Kayden while she went to work.

After three months of respite care, Kayden was finally able to return home, a happy baby, reunited with his mother and loving grandparents.

*Not their real names

Interested to be a short-term respite carer like Andrea?
Find out more at www.sanctuarycare.org or call us at 6221 0588!

We appeal to your generosity and kindness to help us raise **\$200,000** from **1 May 2021 – 31 August 2021** through this newsletter campaign. Donations received from this will help to support Boys' Town's operations and programmes.

▼ Donate via www.boystown.org.sg



SCAN TO DONATE

▼ Donate via PayNow **PAYNOW**

Using your bank's payment app, you can donate to us by keying in the Boys' Town UEN:

**BOYS' TOWN FUNDRAISING
UEN: 201534576H007**

For tax deduction purposes, kindly key in your information using the below template under Reference:
NL <space> NRIC <space> Mobile No.

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



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