

SANCTUARY CARE

A New Dawn for *Nala*

These are stock photos used to protect the child/family's identity

Caught in an abusive marriage and with limited social support, Sumi* faced serious challenges in taking care of herself and her 4-year-old daughter, Nala*. With the frequent beatings she suffered and the possibility of physical and emotional harm looming over her daughter, **Sumi realised that she needed to create a safer future for herself and Nala and decided to reach out to social work agencies for counsel and support.**



However, as the sole caregiver of her daughter, Sumi had to forgo work in the day while waiting for a spot at the childcare for Nala. Over time, her extended absence from work affected her financially. Sumi soon realised that she was in danger of losing her job if the situation persisted. To stabilize her employment, Sumi's social worker approached Sanctuary Care to explore caregiving options while efforts were being made to secure a place for Nala at the nearest childcare.

Sanctuary Care soon arranged for Nala to be cared for by respite carer Mana* for 3 weeks. As an experienced caregiver with Sanctuary Care, Auntie Mana and her family welcomed Nala into their lives for that 3 weeks and showered her with warmth and affection. Her two young daughters were Nala's newest fans! They readily shared their room and toys with her. Nala relished her time at Auntie Mana's place and even had her birthday celebration at Auntie Mana's home.

Meanwhile, Sumi worked hard to earn money for their future. Initially she was worried about how Nala would fit in a stranger's family and whether she would adjust well. However, her fears were quickly put to rest when Nala updated her daily on how much fun she was having at Auntie Mana's place.

With the interim care offered by Sanctuary Care, Sumi managed to stabilize her work situation during that period. Her social worker was also able to secure childcare at a centre nearby so that Nala can transition into childcare at the end of the respite care period. Feeling much at ease, Sumi is now able to better address important issues in her life in order to provide a better future for Nala.

The gift of respite had changed the direction of both the lives of Sumi and Nala. With the temporary support system, the mother and child now have a fighting chance to stay together for the long road ahead.

**Not their real names*

Message from Roland



Dear Friends and Supporters of Boys' Town,

This year has been something different, as we experience the storm of living with a global pandemic in our midst. In spite of that, we believe that not all storms come to disrupt your life, some come to clear your path. It is a reminder that as nature is faithful to its call, we are also called upon to be faithful to our service and the clients we are caring for as a social service agency.

As we turn this faithfulness into strength in our journey of serving children and youth in-need, we at Boys' Town would like to express our gratitude to all of you for your continuous support in our cause.

God Bless,

Roland Yeow

Executive Director



BOYS' TOWN Family Fiesta 2020



The Boys' Town Family Fiesta 2020 was yet another successful event even though it was conducted with a twist this year. The annual event aims to promote family bonding and engage the children, youth and families that we serve. This year, it became even more important for us to keep our clients and their families connected to the Boys' Town family during this period of social distancing.

Instead of a physical event, the staff of Boys' Town packed and delivered family fiesta appreciation packs containing nourishment and activity vouchers to the families. 4 families also received the Boys' Town Family Awards in recognition of their love and dedication for one another, especially amidst the difficult times during this pandemic and with Covid-19 looming over the months ahead. Each family was presented the award by Dr Roland Yeow, our Executive Director and an accompanying Social Worker in the comfort and safety of their own homes.



We hope these heart-warming gestures and well-intentioned efforts will touch the hearts of many other children, youth and families that come through Boys' Town and look forward to continuing this annual event in the years ahead.

Emmanuel Service Festival

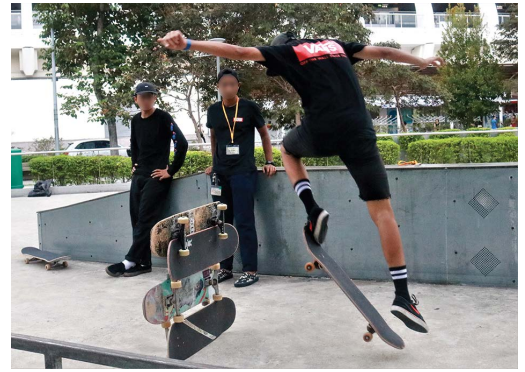
Brother Emmanuel (1933 – 2017) joined the Brothers of St. Gabriel in 1951 at the age of 17 in Canada and came to Singapore as a missionary in 1954. He served in various leadership capacities – including his time as principal of Boys' Town English School (the present Assumption English School) and subsequently St. Gabriel's School. He eventually became the longest serving Director of Boys' Town for 33 years, continuing his lifetime of dedication towards helping underprivileged children and youth. Brother Emmanuel was called home to the Lord on 31 August 2017.

In memory of the late Brother Emmanuel and his selfless contributions to the community and Singapore, Boys' Town celebrated the Emmanuel Service Festival for the third year this September. Staff were involved in making 100 baby breath bouquets which were then presented to the frontline healthcare workers at Ng Teng Fong Hospital and KK Women's and Children Hospital. Through this, we wished to express our gratitude to the healthcare workers who toil hard daily and especially so during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A group of our residential boys were also involved in the programme and volunteered their time at Willing Hearts to help with delivering meals as well as cleaning up of the kitchen. It was a meaningful day of celebrating the late Brother Emmanuel's legacy and spirit of giving back to the community.

YouthReach 10th Anniversary

Founded as a joint youth outreach project between Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) and Boys' Town, YouthReach was officially launched in 2010 as the street outreach arm of Boys' Town to serve vulnerable boys and girls. Over the years, we have served over 2,700 youths in the community through youth-centric programmes such as using sports and the arts to engage them meaningfully and to provide them with a strong support system.



*This photo was taken before February 2020.

On 23 July 2020, YouthReach celebrated its 10th anniversary and reminisced 10 years of youth work in the community. The videos and speeches shared with the staff highlighted the growth and journey of the street outreach arm of Boys' Town.

Earlier this year, YouthReach also hosted the board members of Caritas and CWS in conjunction with this milestone where the team shared stories of their work with the youths as well as how YouthReach's work has evolved 10 years since its inception.

BOYS' TOWN ADVENTURE CENTRE

BE THE **FORCE** OF **TRANSFORMATION**

2020 has been a year of transformation for Boys' Town Adventure Centre (BTAC). As the outdoor and adventure industry struggles to adapt to the new normal, BTAC has undertaken a necessary transformation in order to meet the needs of the children and youth that we serve.

BOYS' TOWN FOSTERING SERVICES

Our Online Presence for Foster Parents Recruitment



Boys' Town Fostering Services (BTFS) held its first webinar for recruitment of foster parents on 18 July 2020 in collaboration with Home for Good, a Christian network started to promote and support fostering and adoption within the Christian communities. Through the webinar, we successfully engaged 13 applicants.

Earlier this year, BTFS also launched its Instagram page (@boystown.fostering-services) and has gained more than 170 followers since. We had our first Instagram livestream session featuring local celebrity Ms Sharon Ismail and our foster mother Mdm Kamaliah as they talked about the fostering journey. It was an interesting session viewed by 2,000 people and garnered over 170 likes.



BTAC recently launched 4 new activities under our GEAR UP programme as well as Project Gratitude which was specifically designed to ensure that the enhanced safe management guidelines are maintained in a small group size. With that, we hope that participants can still interact, learn and grow in a safe environment.

BTAC recently concluded a GEAR UP programme and received feedback from the teachers that highlighted the positive changes observed in the participants and how the BTAC staff created a safe space for the participants' growth.

Your positive vibes during the programme helped the kids feel comfortable and engaged in the activities. Keep up the good work!

– Mr X, Teacher

Thank you BTAC instructors who have taught our students in more ways than one 🌈

– Ms M, Teacher

I want to say sorry for my behaviour towards you during the last day of the session. Thank you guys for helping me throughout the whole session by encouraging me to overcome my fears and I really really thank you guys.

– K, participant of GEAR UP Programme

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 2000 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.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Coping with Circuit Breaker in a Residential Home



**This is a stock photo used to protect the boy's identity*

Louis* has been living in children's homes for most of his life since the young age of six. Due to severe abuse and neglect from his parents, he was removed from his natural home for his safety. Louis did not understand why he could not and was not given the choice to live with his family. Living in a residential home was what he grew up with and that became what was normal for him.

At 14, Louis was transferred to Boys' Town. He faced tremendous difficulties in controlling his emotions, forming positive relationships with adults and was not coping well in school. Being in a new environment, he was resistant to the changes initially. Over time, trust was built between Louis and his social worker here at Boys' Town and he learnt better ways of managing his emotions and applying them in school, with his peers and more importantly, within himself.

In April when the Circuit Breaker was announced, Boys' Town suspended all outdoor programmes and activities with volunteers for the safety of our clients. For a residential boy who spends all his days in Boys' Town, Louis was saddened to hear that as he always looked forward to the fun programmes and outings as well as interacting with the friendly volunteers.

Unlike many of the other boys, Louis was not able to go on home visits to meet his family due to his home situation. He was often worried and wondered, "How is my family doing at home? Are they okay?". Understandably, the Circuit Breaker was a particularly disheartening piece of news for him.

Fortunately, the Circuit Breaker was lifted in June and Louis was able to return to school where he finally got to see his friends. Selected sports activities at Boys' Town were also resumed with safety measures in place and Louis was able to find joy once again.

As with how we have adjusted to this new way of life following the pandemic, Boys' Town looks forward to journeying and creating a new sense of hope for youths like Louis who has had to adjust to their own set of "new normal" in their lives. With your continued support, together let's make their lives a little better.

**This is a story made of a composite of individuals to protect their confidentiality*

Donate at
www.boystown.org.sg



We accept:

We appeal to your generosity and kindness to help us raise \$200,000 from 1 October 2020 - 31 January 2021 through this newsletter campaign. Donations received from this will help to support Boys' Town's operations and programmes.

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

BOYS' TOWN FUND RAISING UEN: 201534576H007

If you would like to be contacted for tax deduction purposes, key in **NRIC <space> Mobile Number** under **Reference No.**

Donate via
PayNow



SCAN TO PAY



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

Those whom the world rejects must move you the most.

- St. Louis Marie de Montfort



BOYS' TOWN
Residential Services

BOYS' TOWN
Clinical Intervention Centre

BOYS' TOWN
YouthReach

BOYS' TOWN
Fostering Services

BOYS' TOWN
Sanctuary Care

BOYS' TOWN
Adventure Centre