



BRINGING
LOVE
TO EVERY SINGLE
SOUL

ENGAGE. ENRICH. EMPOWER.

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2016/2017

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. Under the guidance of NUS professors, BLESS is driven by NUS students and alumni members. 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

Since our humble beginnings in 2014, BLESS has reached out to many communities and strengthened our governance significantly. Tracing our origins back to 2014, where a group of dedicated students with willing hearts and hands came together to dedicate themselves to serve the community. Fast forward to 2017, the pioneers of BLESS have graduated and entered the working world. Despite the life transitions, some of them are still serving in BLESS. Hence, in addition to the new NUS students, we also have a range of professionals in BLESS.

I am heartened to see many more individuals stepping out to join BLESS. Volunteers do not have more time than others but they make time because they have the desire to care for others. The heart of their actions is not about themselves. It's about towards others. Each volunteer in BLESS is an ordinary human with extraordinary humanity. Their dedication to the community and effort to impact lives and set examples for others to follow. When each individual in the community steps out to care for others in their community, Singapore would be transformed into a more caring society. In our seemingly small ways, we can collectively create a big difference in our community.

BLESS has planted several seeds in the rental community. Shining Star Reads @ South West was first conceived because we heard the voices of the parents that it is somewhat difficult for parents to bring their children to agencies for support programmes and we worked together with the community to co-create solution.

Over the last three years, we are happy to see many more volunteers stepping out to read to the younger children in their community. We have since sparked off collaborations with secondary school and pre-tertiary students to implement this reading programme. It was really inspiring to see these youths taking ownership of their own community, playing their part to address the issues in their community. The future such community-based interventions lies in the hands of those who stay in the community and we hope to see more of such individuals.

In the last financial year, we continued the pilot programme of Values-in-Practice @ South West, reaching out to more schools and students. With the matching grant and the strong support from the public, we continue to meet the physical needs of children. The hard work and dedication of the volunteers, the support from the private sector and the affirmation from the public sector has enabled BLESS to continue our good works.

For the coming year, we look forward to forging even stronger partnerships between the people, the private and the public, to plant even more seeds in our community.



Francesca Phoebe Wah
Chairperson

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

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

It is a **MEAN** to shift the community from a passive one to that of one that co-creates solutions to address problems within the community.

It is important to help the community, but it is more important to help the community to help themselves.

It is a **WAY** to make volunteering more sustainable.

Getting volunteers to commit to volunteer at their own void deck or at a location within their locality is a more manageable form of volunteerism than getting volunteers to commit to volunteer at a place which is further away from their house.

It is a **TOOL** to create a caring society.

When individuals step out to do something for their own community, they also would have indirectly established new social networks with others in their community.

COORDINATING COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Everyone has something significant to offer the community.



Every community is its own strongest resource.



The community thrives on the contribution of its members



Recognising the potential impact of volunteers on the community, BLESS actively mobilises and coordinates the efforts of the givers.



CONDUCTING APPLIED RESEARCH

Build and strengthen
capacity of communities

Replicate
model in Singapore

Document and develop
productive and cost-effective
community-based models

Publicize and share
research results to affect
policy changes

OUR GOALS



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

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.



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

1. BRINGING LOVE TO EVERY SMALL SOUL



2. BRINGING LEARNING TO EVERY SHINING STAR



3. BRINGING LOVE TO EVERY SINGLE STRANGER



BRINGING LOVE TO EVERY SMALL SOUL

The screenshot shows a website with a header "SMALL SOUL" and navigation links: Our Story, Gifting Process, The Gifting Shop, Events, FAQ, and Contact Us. A "Cart" icon is also present. The main content area is titled "The Gifting Shop" with a sub-section "Wish #16: Water Bottle" (S\$4.00), "Wish #14: Basic Watch" (S\$3.85), and "Wish #13: Back-to-school Stationary S..." (S\$6.00). Below these are "Wish #12: School Backpack" (S\$43.20), "Wish #11: Colouring Book" (S\$3.20), and "Wish #10: Popular & Bata Vouchers" (S\$20.00). A red button on the right says "View Cart / Checkout". To the right of the products is a vertical sidebar with the text "shop for good" and a quote: "Don't ever belittle your contributions! When we combine all of our sincere contributions, we could r...".

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

PUBLIC MONETARY DONATIONS

Through an online gifting portal, people can 'click' to purchase an item for a child.



Receiving
a day of c...

CORPORATE MATCHING GRANT

Corporate partners will match the donations that the public has made. For each child that the public bless, another child will be blessed.



Launch of corporate matching grant for small soul. Thank you AIA and Xthleisure.

**720
wishes
fulfilled**

**\$3644.87
raised**

**\$1493.57
cost
savings**

**25
birthday
cakes
gifted**



the gifts at Family Service Centre on distribution!

SPONSORSHIP OF ITEMS

Bakeries may sponsor birthday cakes for children. Public can donate new items.

BRINGING LEARNING TO EVERY SHINING STAR



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

READING OF STORYBOOKS

Volunteers read to children and get children to read aloud after understanding the story.



SPEECH AND DRAMA

Volunteers guide children to write their own story and they get to act it out at the end of the year.



ACTIVITY BOOKS

Volunteers guide children to complete activity books targeted at improving language abilities.



the volunteer reading a new book
Clementi Ave 2.

♥ Eagerly contributing their ideas to their speech and drama production at Boon Lay.



♥ Completing the English worksheets.

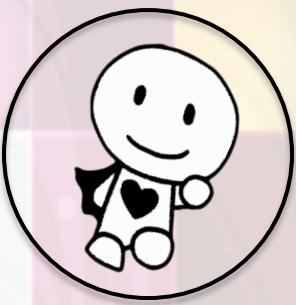
BRINGING LOVE TO EVERY SINGLE STRANGER



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



 Activity books for students
to work on,



**Assembly
Programme**



**Learn through
stories**



**Authentic experiences in
the community**



**Badges and
Certificates**



Computer Game



Community Fair



Activity books



Watching the assembly programme intently.



EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS

Silent Hero Award Ceremony

Launch of Matching Grant

**Second Year Anniversary
Celebration**

A Dabb Workshop

Musical Production

**New Collaboration with Hua Yi
Secondary School**

SILENT HERO

AWARD CEREMONY



Ms Francesca Phoebe Wah collecting the Silent Hero Award on behalf of BLESS.

BLESS was honoured to be awarded the Silent Hero Award in 2016. This award recognises outstanding organisations and individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. This award is a great encouragement to BLESS. It affirms our efforts in the community and inspires us to do more.

LAUNCH OF MATCHING GRANT

HELP BLESS A CHILD TODAY!

SELECT AN OPTION:

ESSENTIALS



A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE



www.bringinglovetoeverysmallsoul.com

BLESS launched a new single gifting portal; Bringing Love to Every Small Soul grew to integrate both the original Small Soul programme and the programme Baking with Love for Every Sweet Soul! The new gifting portal has a similar concept to online shopping sites to allow the public to contribute conveniently.

The Gifting Shop

[All Wishes](#)[Ongoing Wishes](#)[Essentials \(Fulfilled\)](#)[Birthday Surprises](#)[help / FAQ](#)

Cart: 0



Wish #23: Rising Walkin... S\$55.00



Wish #23: Quad Sticks S\$24.61



Wish #22: \$5 Popular Vo... S\$5.00



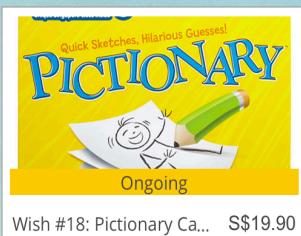
Wish #21: Nick Vujicic St... S\$13.93



Wish #20: Sleeping Bag S\$11.00



Wish #19: Saboteur Car... S\$22.00



Wish #18: Pictionary Ca... S\$19.90



Wish #17: Back-to-school... S\$4.00

They can also choose the items they would like to bless a child with and the number of children to receive the gifts. The portal will undoubtedly increase the ease and effectiveness of making such contributions, which will go a long way in meeting the needs of the children. Each donor also receives a personalised card from the child whom they have blessed.

Choose to bless a child today!

SECOND YEAR ANNIVERSARY



One big BLESS family.

BLESS celebrated our second year anniversary in October 2016. We were honoured to have Ms Low Yen Ling to grace the occasion. Shining Star children from Clementi Ave 2 put a skit titled, Rainbow Fish, to inspire the audience to care for one another. There was also a dialogue session at the end of the celebration.



♥ Dialogue session at our second year anniversary wtth our estemmed panel.



♥ Volunteers and children putting up a skit.



♥ Volunteers engaging children in some outdoor games after the anniversary celebration.

A DABB WORKSHOP



Children finding a superhero card which they could identify with.

A group of NUS Social Work master students conducted a two session workshop for the children at Casa Clementi, to help the children to gain a better understanding of their strengths.

MUSICAL PRODUCTION



A group photo before watching the musical.

BLESS is grateful to The Fingers Player for sponsoring the tickets to the ITSY musical for our Shining Star children and their families. For many of them, it was their first time watching a musical and it was an eye-opening experience.

NEW COLLABORATION

HUA YI SECONDARY



NEW: Shining Star Reads @ Jurong Green

BLESS started a collaboration with students from Hua Yi Secondary School! We first welcomed the volunteers on the 28th of March, and together we hope to bring the reading programme to the Jurong Green community group.



♥ Volunteering training session



♥ Let's learn! Volunteers reading to a child.



♥ Let's do! Volunteers guiding a child to complete his learning sheets.

IN THE NEWS

SHINING STAR

B12 THE STRAITS TIMES | THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017

COMMUNITY

In fast-paced Singapore, there are those in need – and those who take up the cudgels on their behalf. This is the latest in a series on noteworthy causes that The Straits Times will be spotlighting.



Volunteers and children from the Shining Star programme under Boon Lay. Under the programme, children from rental blocks and lower-income families are taught language skills. It is run by non-profit organisation Bringing Love to Every Single Soul and is at four locations – Boon Lay, Telok Blangah and two places in Clementi. ST PHOTO KEVIN LIM

Causes

A chance to shine

Bringing Love to Every Single Soul (Bless) was founded in 2014 by National University of Singapore students and alumni under the guidance of their professors. Founder Francesca Wah, 25,

On the 9th of March, 2017, The Straits Times brought one of our programmes, Shining Star Reads, into the limelight. We were certainly very heartened to read about how the children enjoy and look forward to each lesson of fun and learning! We'll always remember the power of a community effort as we continue imparting the joy of reading to our children.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME

From Funding Organizations	\$32, 446
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From Donations	\$17, 273
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Total Income:	\$49, 719
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EXPENDITURE

Programme Expenses	\$51, 005
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Balance carried forward to next FY:	- \$1, 286
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The detailed financial report is available on our website.

OUR PEOPLE

BLESS remains a non profit organisation anchored by undergraduates and young working adults who set aside time intentionally to build caring communities.

The core team and leadership, with Ms Francesca Wah at its helm, were previously NUS students and current working adults who rose to the challenge to effectively direct resources towards the cause of blessing our communities. In 2017, we also welcomed new faces into our various committees!

Each year, individuals are selected from the BLESS team to share their reflections on their journey in BLESS. We hope that their words will be able to serve as sources of inspiration to all!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



From left to right:

Francesca Phoebe Wah Li Ting (*Chairperson*),
Geena Liaw Jin Yi (*Vice-Chairperson, Administration*),
Lim Sheng Wei, Justin (*Vice-Chairperson Operations*)

THIRD

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Finance Committee

Appointment	Name
Director	Herman Chan Keng Wee
Accountant	Judith Zhou Tian Ruo
Treasurer	Ngim Wei Qiang

Marketing Committee

Appointment	Name
Director	Gillian Peck Zhi Ning
Public Relations	Gerilyn Wah Li Juan
Creative Design	Lim Sin Nee
Editor	Ann-Marie
Fundraising	Chen Ying Ying

Human Resource Committee

Appointment	Name
Director	Vivien Ng Zhi Wei
Assistant	Mona Siow Bao Ling
Assistant	Inez Leong

Bringing Love to Every Small Soul Committee

Appointment	Name
Advisor/ Vice-Chairperson	Geena Liaw Jin Yi
Director	Tan Pei Ling
Secretary/ Donor Manager	Yeo Kai Wen
Public Relations	Leow Li Wen
Website Manager	Lim Yu Jing
Resource Manager	Wong Poh Yee

Bringing Learning to Every Shining Star Committee

Appointment	Name
Advisor/ CEO	Leung Sin Hang
Director	Celine Tham
Public Relations	Lisa Wong Shi Ying
Secretary/ HR Manager	Lin Hong Yue
Curriculum Manager	Francesca Phoebe Wah Li Ting
Resource Manager	Lim Tian Wen
Manager (CG1)	Evelyn Chee
Manager (CG2)	Priscilla Khong
Manager (CG3)	Elly Chaw
Manager (CG4)	Peh Li Ping

Bringing Learning to Every Single Stranger Committee

Appointment	Name
Advisor/ Deputy CEO	Jesslyn Lim Chin Voon
Director	Clarissa Lim
Secretary/ PR Manager	Shirlynn Koh Zhi Wen
Curriculum Manager	Lim Xue En
School Coordinator	Grace Caines



Leung Sin Hang

Chief Executive Officer

Bringing Love to Every Single Soul

BLESS - this organisation, this family and its people - will always have a very special place in my heart. Nothing else has come even close to changing my life than how BLESS did.

My journey with BLESS was filled with moments of being pulled out of my comfort zone and placed in unfamiliar grounds. These were situations I barely had experience in - witnessing the livelihoods of the less privileged, engaging them, working with community partners, balancing expectations of all kinds of stakeholders... The list goes on.

More often than not, I felt uncomfortable. But when I looked around and saw how my fellow BLESS members conquered their own discomfort and were blind to any distracting differences - it was their unwavering fighting spirit and unified focus on building sustainable changes that truly prevailed.

And I believe this is the magic of BLESS.

This organisation brings together people from all walks of life and almost indiscriminately places them in unanticipated positions, situations. While this appears to be very careless, it is also the most effective, life-changing way of testing and honing one's fighting spirit.

I found myself asking me this question "How far will I go to serve my community? How long do I intend to serve? What does giving back mean to me? What difference do I want to make?" Which is why at this juncture, I am bidding goodbye to this organisation because I realise I have so much more to learn.

Thank you for showing me the neglected truth of our society. Thank you for planting the seed in my heart to always give back and make time to serve.

Thank you for instilling in me stronger sensitivity and compassion towards the needy.

Above all, thank you BLESS for the friendships.

Good things you have done, great things you are destined for.



Chen Ying Ying

Fundraising Officer

Bringing Love to Every Single Soul

**Team work makes the dream work.
As a team, we can do more and help more people.**

As I participated in planning BLESS' initiatives, I could see the passion from the team in helping the society. With great team effort, we were able to gain some traction, which I am proud of. I was also influenced by that team spirit.

I've learnt that resilience is really important because BLESS is still a young organization and members have to work hard and smart in order to achieve our goals.

Discipline is also another value I've picked up, because everyone is also juggling other activities and we've got to work independently even for complete tasks that are less straightforward. Hence, I've learnt to be more focused on the necessary tasks and keep the BLESS vision in mind.

I am very grateful to be involved in the planning process and I believe BLESS will only grow bigger and better, along with its members.



Clarissa Lim

Executive Director
Bringing Love to Every Single Stranger

It has been an exciting journey with BLESS over the past 2 years. It hasn't been easy juggling work commitments and BLESS at the same time, but I'm thankful for the supportive and understanding team that I work with that made it all possible!

Volunteering in BLESS is fulfilling because we don't just help the less privileged for a day and leave, we help the community to help themselves, making it sustainable in the long run.

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." In Single Stranger, we have activities that allow children to practice good values in their everyday life. The result of this project might not be visible instantly, but I'm excited to see our children of today grow up to be individuals who care for their community!



Grace Caines

School Coordinator

Bringing Love to Every Single Stranger

My journey started in 2015 after I chanced upon an email advertising for a research role in BLESS. Although I could not commit to the initial role I had applied for, I was intrigued by what I had learnt about the organization. I eventually volunteered as the curriculum manager of Single Stranger. After leaving school, I was inspired to stay on as the School Coordinator, and am glad to have the continual opportunity to contribute my time and skills for the cause.

I am nothing less but grateful for the years working alongside the dedicated Single Stranger team. I take immense pride in having contributed to the materialization of our VIP (Values-in-Practice) moral education program, and am joyous each time I see a student eagerly responding to our adorable VIP Mascot.

I am glad that despite recently transitioning from student to working adult, I am still able to put my value of volunteerism into practice with BLESS.



Peh Li Ping

Community Group Manager (Boon Lay)
Bringing Learning to Every Shining Star

I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to be involved with BLESS as it serves as an avenue for me to contribute to my neighbourhood, Boon Lay.

Started off as a volunteer with the initiative "Bringing Learning to Every Shining Star", I did both outreaching and storybook reading to children, ages 4 to 9, before taking up the role as a Community Group Manager. It is heartening to see the children picking up new words through reading and slowly gaining the confidence to read aloud during session.

Beside having a group of dedicated committees, our resident and student volunteers have also played a pivotal role in making the programme possible. As I have been a fan of "kampong spirit", it is therefore an endearing experience to see how members of the community are being motivated and committed in nurturing the minors.

Lastly, it was also a humbling experience to assess both the strengths and weaknesses of our programme and to learn of ways to improvise in the course of bringing learning opportunities closer to children.



Lim Tian Wen

Resource Manager

Bringing Learning to Every Shining Star

The best part about volunteering in Shining Star is the children. Some days, they can be the sweetest little angels, hanging on to our every word and reading along enthusiastically with us. Other days, they would act cheeky and we would be chasing them around for a good few minutes before they would settle down for the reading.

When we finished our reading sessions early on some days, we would invent games to play with our kids, mostly tag, and we would laugh along with them as they played. If I missed a reading with them, I would hear from the other volunteers that some of the kids were asking for me. Throughout the year, these kids are my constant reminder that the sacrifices I made are worth it, especially when the going gets tough.

As resource manager for the fairly new and growing Shining Star initiative, I have faced a fair amount of challenges in running our reading sessions. Along with my fellow committee members, we have had to take on various responsibilities to answer these challenges. I was a delivery man, ferrying logistic items from our temporary storage in Our Learning Lodge to the program locations in taxies. Our Shining Star committee had to become all things, to answer all our needs so that by all means, we can keep our reading sessions running and our kids happy.

On hindsight, this past year in BLESS has reminded me that giving with meaning requires sacrifice. Volunteering was more difficult than I thought, and more rewarding at the same time in spite of these difficulties. Which is why I have the utmost respect for my fellow committee members who have committed as much, or even more of their time and resources than me for our kids. I am grateful to have served with them this past year and I am grateful to BLESS for this opportunity to be a blessing to our Shining Star kids.



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 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.



**BRINGING
LOVE
TO EVERY SINGLE
SOUL**

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**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