

CasaRaudha
WOMEN HOME



2019
*Annual
Report*



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“

Once when I was running,
From all that haunted me,
To the dark I was succumbing,
To what hurt unbearably

Searching for a glimpse
of peace and tranquility,
That would set my sad soul free,
In time I stumbled upon it,
An inner calm and peace

And because of hope,
I am beginning to see and believe,
In who I am becoming,
Casa Raudha, a shoulder that I can lean on,
Casa Raudha a place that I can call home.

- **Mdm L, Survivor of Domestic Violence**

MESSAGE FROM

ABDUL ROHIM SARIP

PRESIDENT

Since its inception in 2008 our objective is to provide shelter for vulnerable women and children affected by domestic abuse.

Residents who stay with us are in search of peace and safety. They will have access to many empowerment programs and activities including counseling and entrepreneurship. We aim to equip them with skills to manage life challenges when they leave the shelter, and many do.

We have been making efforts combating Domestic Violence (DV) since 2018. An initiative called 'End DV Campaign' has started in November 2019 and we are in partnership with MSF. This one-year campaign calls for the community to work together against DV. Events and activities are organised and planned to create public awareness. The first activity, graced by Prof Faishal as GOH, saw a group of professional women who came together to discuss and propose an intervention plan for the community to work on. Series of activities will be carried throughout the year and will end in November 2020.

No organisation can work without a dedicated team of staff members. Casa has been lucky to have amongst its staff very dedicated and hardworking people. Nevertheless we must strive towards creating a committed team and a strong believer in championing the cause.

In order to provide our residents, staff and volunteers with the resources required to bring about an impactful change it is important to have adequate funds. Hence, funding remains an important aspect of running and managing Casa Raudha.

We have built a considerable reserve since 2008. Our investment committee plays an important role to get the maximum return from our reserves.



Note of Thanks

President Halimah Yacob has been our Patron since the beginning. She has been a strong supporter and advisor, and has been with us through thick and thin, weathering all storms and challenges. CR saw her rise from an MP to Minister of State, Speaker of parliament and currently the highest office of the land, as President of Singapore. CR cannot be prouder of our Patron. After a sterling achievement of 12 years, she will step down as Patron in March 2020. We cannot thank her enough and wish Madam President all the very best.

Note of Welcome

CR would also like to welcome Minister Indranee Rajah, who has graciously agreed to accept our invite to be the new patron. We are confident that she will make significant contribution to CR with her experience in law, finance, education and community work. Welcome Minister!

In closing, I would like to end with a note of encouragement to our staff and volunteers who strive to keep up the good work. Let's hope with more outreach efforts planned for 2020 we will see more changes in the society.



MESSAGE FROM THE PATRON

HALIMAH YACOB
PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

In the 12 years that I have been Patron, I have seen Casa Raudha Women Home strengthened the services for women who have suffered family violence.

In addition to being a safe haven, the shelter has played an important role in providing practical assistance, programmes and emotional support to help these survivors and their children recover from their trauma and rebuild their lives.

To date, it has made a big difference to more than 1,000 women, helping them build up the life skills necessary for independent living in the community.

Over the years, Casa Raudha Women Home has also expanded its services beyond residential care to include upstream measures such as collaborating with partners to spread the message of zero tolerance towards family violence, and a co-creation workshop involving 50 Malay Muslim women on solutions to end domestic violence in the community. Casa Raudha Women Home has also been proactive in conducting family violence awareness training for partners.

As I step down from my role as Patron of Casa Raudha Women Home this year, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and applaud the contributions by the Management Committee, staff, donors and volunteers of Casa Raudha Women Home, as well as all in the community who have stood by the survivors of family violence. I am glad to have been part of your journey.

Thank you.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2018 - 2020



ABDUL ROHIM SARIP
PRESIDENT



AINI MAAROF
VICE-PRESIDENT



ZHULKARNAIN ABDUL RAHIM
HONORARY SECRETARY



FAIRUZ ADAM
TREASURER



HAMZAH ABDUL MUTALIB



ROSEWATI SUKIMAN



SAIDAH MOHAMED



ABDUL HAMID ABDULLAH
(2019)



WILEEEZA GAPAR
(2019)

SUB-COMMITTEE

2018 - 2020

CORPORATE

Oversees administration, finance, human resources and public relations

Chaired By:

Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim (HR)
Fairuz Adam (Finance)

OPERATIONS

Aligns residents' immediate needs and developments with the Society's vision, mission and core values

Chaired By:

Rosewati Sukiman

TRUSTEE

Responsible for the management and proper presentation of the Society's assets

Chaired By:

Abdul Rohim Sarip

AUDIT COMMITTEE

To assist the Board in carrying out its duties in regards to financial reporting and other legal compliance

Chaired By:

Aini Maarof

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Responsible for encouraging social entrepreneurship amongst residents and optimizing the Society's resources.

Chaired By:

Abdul Rohim Sarip

INVESTMENT & ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Coordinates and oversees the Society's investment portfolio, providing the Management Committee with strategic financial advice and oversees building maintenance and repair.

Chaired By:

Hamzah Abdul Mutalib

Vision

A haven for positive change and new beginnings for mistreated women

Mission

To provide shelter and care for the abused and homeless women, and to empower them to be confident and self-reliant

Core Values

COMPASSION

We serve our clients with love and care, ensuring their safety and privacy while treating them with respect and dignity

COMMITMENT

We are steadfast in pursuing our cause and achieving excellence in our service

INTEGRITY

We strive to do our best in an honest, justified, consistent and ethical manner

Provide immediate care, shelter, protection, counselling services and moral education for the victims of domestic violence/individuals in crisis

Empower clients to take control of their lives and equip them with life and social skills

Build hope, self-resilience and minimize dependency of our clients

Satisfy applicable requirements

Continually improve the Quality Management System

Quality Policy

Collaborate with other organizations in furtherance of the Society's objectives

"The organization has demonstrated effective implementation and maintenance/ improvement of its management system and is capable of achieving its policy objectives."

ISO Auditor on Quality Management System ISO 9001:2015:
Extract Findings
(2017 - 2020)

Governance

RESERVES POLICY

- To maintain its reserves at a level which is at least 3 years of operating expenditure.
- The Management Committee members regularly review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are sufficient to fulfil CRWH's continuing obligations on a quarterly basis.
- The reserves shall not be utilized except with the approval of the President and Honorary Treasurer or Secretary, and only when the cashflow falls below 3 months of the monthly operating expenses.

GOVERNANCE EVALUATION

- The twenty-one item questionnaires by the Commissioner of Charities were all answered affirmatively.
- The questions are on governance issues, constitution, financial matters, responsibilities of Management Committee members and the general administration.

Quality Objectives

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Upon appointment or election, Management Committee and staff members are required to read the Conflict of Interest Policy, and to sign a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Declaration form.
- This is to confirm that the Policy has been understood, and that he or she will fully disclose to the Council when an actual or potential conflict of interest situation arises. The Declaration is signed annually.

CORPORATE

- Achieve ZERO major non-conformance in certificate's body audit within the certification cycle
- Achieve ZERO non-compliance to MSF's monthly reporting and muster adult requirements

WELFARE

- Achieve at least **85%** of children attending kindergarten/infant care/school after admission per year.
- Women to receive at least **2 counselling sessions** per month

OPERATIONS

- Achieve at least **85%** of client's satisfaction of the services rendered

PROGRAMMES

- Achieve at least **85%** of attendance for programmes

Operational Highlights



Casa Raudha Women Home, does not only operate as a shelter, but, as an Organization, overarching the operational components that provide immediate, temporary and safe accommodation to the vulnerable women and their children.

It is a place where these individuals/families escape the instances of domestic violence and intimate partner abuse, to find peace and to reflect upon their life and to make sense of what has been happening.

The Shelter helps these Survivors by providing a platform for them to find a sense of empowerment and to gain tangible resources for them to create a new life.Putting the needs of these individuals/families as priority, the Organization ensures that the running of the shelter functions efficiently.

Basic Needs



ACCOMMODATION



AD-HOC FINANCIAL SUPPORT



FOOD & DRINK



CLOTHING



MILK AND DIAPER

Psychological Needs



CARE & SUPPORT



COUNSELLING



EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMMES

Service & Facilities



24 HOURS SERVICE



SAFETY FEATURES



LAUNDRY



KITCHEN

Sponsorships



ACADEMIC
(EXAM FEES & TUITION)



FOOD HYGIENE COURSE



SEWING & BAKING



WSQ COMPUTER LITERACY

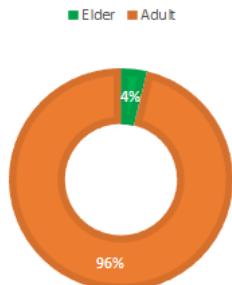


POST-CARE FUND

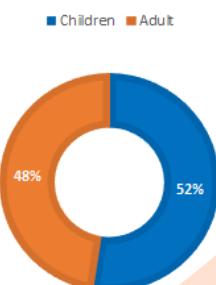
Statistics



60 YEARS AND ABOVE



CHILDREN IN THE SHELTER



Operation Management

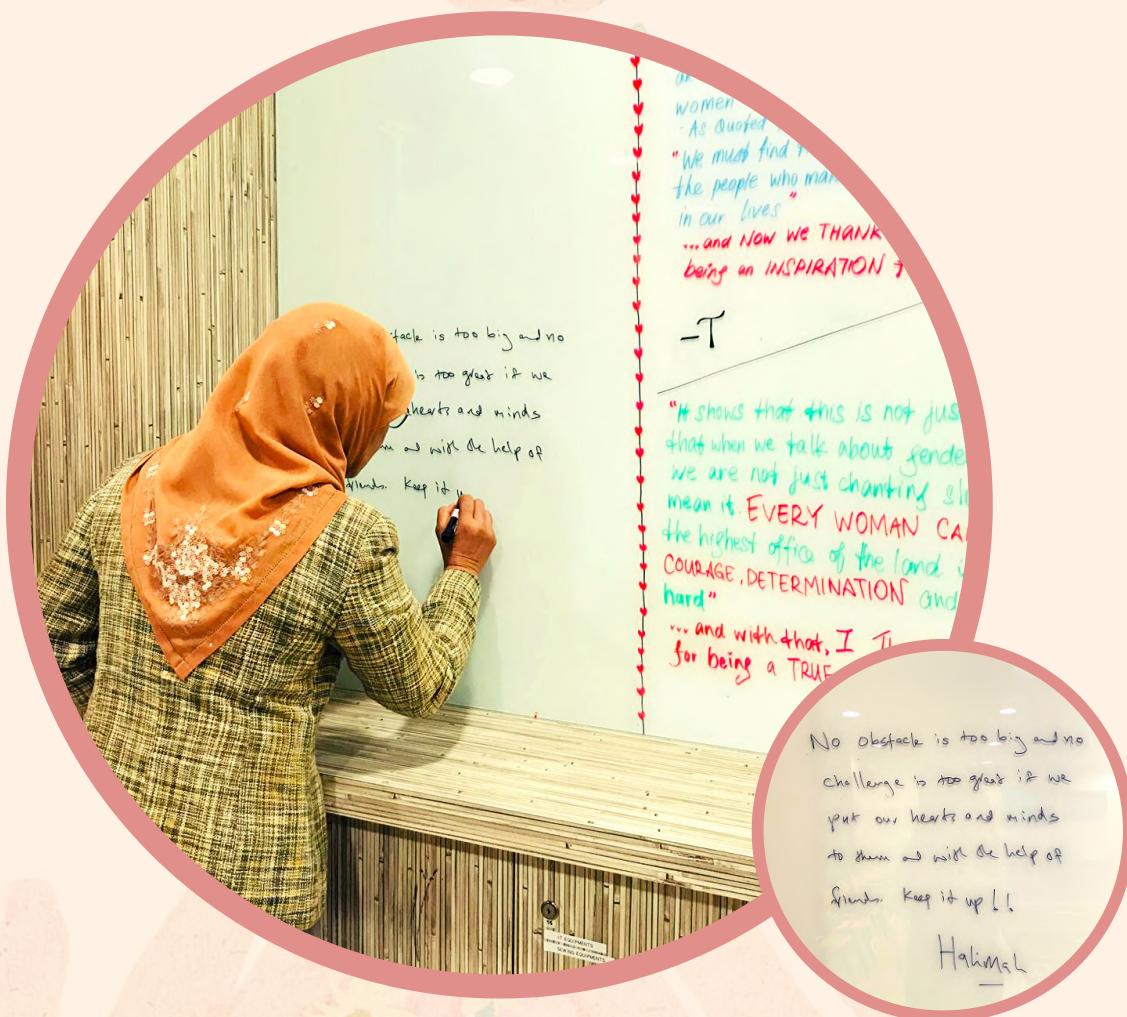
The Operation Committee reviewed the Standard of Procedure to ensure that it is aligned with MSF's Standard of Care (SOC).



Admission Criteria

- Individuals/Families in crisis or in need of protection from domestic violence
- Parental consent to be sought for individuals 16 to 20 years of age
- Not suffering from any communicable disease that may be transmitted in community setting
- Not suffering from serious medical or psychiatric conditions
- Activities of Daily Living (ADL)
- Should not be active alcohol or substance abusers
- Priority given to those who apply for family violence related issues and those with young children

Programme Highlights



Inspirational quote for the Survivors of Domestic Violence by Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of Singapore, during her visit on 3rd January

The Step Out Step Up Programmes (SOSUP) aim to educate, empower and enrich the women with their rights, knowledge and equip them with skills that they could use to enhance the quality of their life. It offers them access to resources without limitations and restrictions, including allowing them to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society.

ADULTS' PROGRAMMES; SOSUP

Positive Moms

The women were taught the importance of being a good role model to their children and recognize behaviours in their children that might trigger conflict.



"What I loved and enjoyed about the sessions were learning new techniques to better interact with my children."

- Participant

Building Self-resilience

The women learnt how to identify their strengths and weaknesses, manage their emotions and the importance of building self-esteem and confidence.



"Finding my own identity, learning the importance of having my own me-time to recharge and building my confidence are some of the areas that I found useful and helpful throughout the programme."

- Participant

Understanding Cycle of Violence

The women were given insight on the long-term impact of the violence and the effect it may have on their family, especially the children and learn how to break the toxic cycle.

"Thank you for giving us emotional support, guidance and reassurance that this is not the end, that I am strong and brave to make good decisions."

- Participant



Dollars & Cents

The newly developed and customised (concept-friendly that is easy to understand with simple language used) curriculum teaches the women, the importance of how to better manage their Savings, the difference between Needs and Wants and Budgeting in order to achieve financial stability.

The entire curriculum was planned, developed, checked, executed and re-evaluated over a period of 8 months, before it was launched to the intended participants in September 2019.



1 KNOW ABOUT SAVINGS

The first step was to understand the concept of saving and to differentiate between their wants and needs.

2 PLAN YOUR MONEY

Participants learnt how to track their spending habits and identify the problems in their spending cycle; controlled spending and overspending.

3 LET'S DO BUDGETING

Budgeting covered interrelated topics such as, benefits of budgeting, managing money within income and understanding the different choices when it comes to budgeting.

Consolidated Participant's Feedback:

- *"The budgeting tools such as MIMOS really taught me on the importance of putting aside some money for emergency use."*
- *"I learnt to be more disciplined so that I am stable and can stand on my own feet."*
- *"The programme helped to open up my mind about saving and budgeting, something I had no knowledge about."*

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES; I AM SMART

The children that come to the shelter have often witnessed the violence between their parents. Some have become the primary victim themselves. How they behave socially, is guided by what they have seen at home. Conflicts were often addressed by aggressive behaviour. Hence the I Am SMART programme, has been customized to engage them in recognizing the talents that they may have and to teach them to apply appropriately. The programme also hopes to teach them to unlearn and relearn social skills for them get by with their everyday lives. The I Am SMART concept taught the children to be task-oriented, ability to plan a timeline and to prioritise their needs to achieve the goals.



Series of Workshops on Social Skills with Mr Zafar, Team Vision

Safeguarding Workshop for Children with Dr. Vani



This activity teaches;

- Proper etiquette of communication and building language skills to speak with confidence
- Recognizing the importance of mutual respect during interactions
- Importance of building self-worth
- Identifying good traits of people that they look up to and being optimistic

Apart from learning social skills, the children participated in the Dollars and Cents workshop and learnt;

- To be responsible with their money
- To calculate the money that they have and to decide how to spend it wisely through role-play



Tutoring service is one of the support provided to the children in the shelter. We engaged external private tutor as well as partnering with the

NTU Academic Mentorship Programme; NTU Welfare Club



The children enjoyed a day out to the Singapore Zoological Garden to have fun which was sponsored by Wildlife Reserve Singapore.

They also had a good time watching Frozen 2 sponsored by SG Assist.



Event Highlights



In 2019, Casa Raudah celebrated with its clients, volunteers and partners series of events with the objectives to bring together professional women and Survivors of domestic violence to share their journey, combating emotional and social challenges. Hence, it is an empowerment platform for their voices to be heard and to inspire and aspire others.



International Women's Day, 2nd March

Invited Speakers:

- Sarah Bagharib, founder of Crazy Cat / host of Wahhnita
- Fatema Holawala, Nutritionist
- Noridayu Jumain, Ms Singapore Malay Asia 2017/18
- Ms Sharul Channa, actor, host / the first female stand up comedian in Singapore



Mdm Saidah Mohd, Board Member, CRWH sharing the importance of having positive mind and attitude.



Mothers' Day, 4th May

Aishah Samad, Southeast Asian Games bronze medallist shooter interacting with the children and discussing their innovative craft ideas.

The event also showed the children showcasing their business skills by selling hand-made jewellery, brownies and cookies, after attending the "Empowering Kid Bosses" in Tech boot camp.



International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 30th November

Invited Speakers:

- Noor Mastura, survivor of sexual violence
- Mdm Farhanah Johari and Mdm Amelia Patibo, Survivors of domestic violence.



Dance performance; children of CRWH



Hari Raya Celebration, 28th June

Guest-of-Honour Minister Desmond Lee was presented with a token of appreciation, a hand-made tote bag that was designed and handcrafted by children of CRWH.



Events with partners show collaboration effort that have become an integral part of the Society. Since 2009, Casa Raudha has hosted Hari Raya, inviting all three other crisis shelters and community partners. Through such celebration, it brings the partners together and has forged a unique relationship for us to work hand in hand in this common space.

The annual iftar (breaking of fast) was celebrated on 18th May with our clients, volunteers and partners.



Thanks to all our donors and sponsors especially to Copper Chimney for the scrumptious vegetarian buffet spread.



Thanks to the Zakat and Fidyah contributors, our clients are able to receive their shares on several occasions throughout the year. The amount received (NTUC Food Vouchers / cash) has helped the families in welcoming Ramadan and prepare for Hari Raya. There were also other times where the funds were given to them on ad hoc basis.

76 families have benefited from the disbursement.

Total disbursement;

- Zakat - \$6216.00
- Fidyah - \$11,400.00



Volunteers and Staff

Capability Building



"Through the training programs for volunteers, Casa Raudha provides us with skills and techniques as a platform for us to come together to help the survivors of domestic violence to make a fresh start."

- Casa Raudha Volunteer



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Workshop

On 28 September 2019, a training workshop for volunteers was held to re-introduce in depth knowledge on the topic of Understanding Domestic Violence and its impact.

One of the activities was a role-play session to equip the volunteers with knowledge of what he/she can do to help victims of domestic violence.

The workshop ended off with a reflection session of what the volunteers learnt and how they would use the knowledge to contribute to the organisation.

STAFF & VOLUNTEER

Teambuilding

In October 2019, 35 volunteers and staff participated in this team building event. It is a platform for the team to:

1. Bond and get to know each other better
2. To identify on current challenges and brainstorm possible solution such as volunteer recruitment and retention process

As a result, a subcommittee comprising of Ms Sakina, Madam Zainab, Madam Martilah and Mr Tay Kok Choon was formed.

These key volunteers will further deliberate and propose an enhanced Volunteer Coordination Services (VCS) and will present it in 2020.



Fundraising Events



In 2019, there were two major fundraising events. Apart from raising money for its cause, it is also to increase the visibility and support for the organisation in order for it to establish steps and put into action its planned activities in fulfilling its mission.

Visit from Maybank Islamic Banking, from right;
Norzulkarnaen bin Nor Mohamad, Hamzah A Mutalib,
Rohim A Sarip (CRWH President),
Zainal Abidin bin Jamal (Maybank Group Islamic Chairman),
Ustaz Mohd Kamal Mokhtar, Muhammad Azzad Ahmad, Zaharah Ariff.



Hand-made Pouch by Casa Raudha's clients as a token of appreciation

On September 17th at the Warren Golf & Country Club, Casa Raudha held its first-ever charity golf event as part of its fundraising efforts in hopes that the funds raised were able to help and rebuild the lives of the vulnerable families and individuals. Guest-of-Honour Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources graced the event with more than 110 participants in attendance.

Through this fundraising event, Casa Raudha has managed to raise a total of \$120,000 with the help and support from the donors as well as participants.

FRIDAY COLLECTION

On March 15th, Casa Raudha held its Annual Mosque Friday Collection at Sultan Mosque as part of its fundraising initiatives.

The annual event is in partnership with Madrasah Al-Junied Al-Islamiah and PADI, where public can make donations through cans held by the students at all the mosques situated in Singapore.

Through this fundraising event, Casa Raudha has managed to raise a total of \$132,611.35. Our utmost appreciation to MUIS, all mosques in Singapore and its congregators. Special thanks to the Sultan Mosque and our volunteers. The event would not have been a success without their support.



Community Outreach



"Since 2016, the Ministry of Social and Family Development has embarked on the Break the Silence | Against Family Violence campaign, to drive home the message that domestic violence is not a private matter. The community's efforts make all the difference."

**- Assoc Prof Dr Faishal Ibrahim
Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development and Ministry of Education**

End DV, Talk to Me, November 2019



End DV Campaign

November 2019 saw the beginning of a one-year campaign to end domestic violence. Casa Raudha Women Home supported the collaboration of Casa Raudha Ltd with the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF).

This campaign consists of three series;

- End DV **Talk to Me** - End DV **Walk with Me** - End DV **Work with Me**



End DV Talk to Me

On November 22, the End DV campaign kicked off with a workshop to bring together professional women, community leaders, religious teachers, and women from different walks of life in an engaging session where they shared their thoughts on domestic violence.

Sharing by the experts on the issue, provides insight to the participants on the DV landscape that is supported by the MSF.

After much deliberation, the participants came out with ideas and suggestions on how the intervention plan could involve the community to take part in this campaign.

The event was presided by Guest-of-Honour Assoc Prof Dr Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Social and Family Development and Ministry of Education.



The second and third series of the campaign will see more public taking part in the upcoming walkathon in showing support to end DV and as well as the community working towards the implementation of the proposed intervention plans.



Trainings & Workshops

Over the years, there have been more efforts put in by the leaders and the community to raise awareness on domestic violence.

Casa Raudha has been invited to conduct workshops and trainings to organisations and institutions that were keen to learn more on domestic violence and its impact on the Muslim community. The sessions were delivered in bilingual.

There were 50 teachers from Madrasah Al-Maarif Al-Islamiah as well as 150 religious teachers under the Asatizah Recognition Scheme (ARS) organised by PERGAS attended the workshop.



Consolidated Participant's Feedback:

- *"I am more confident to step in and lend a helping hand to prevent the violent situation from escalating."*
- *"I wish for the session to be longer as the lessons and values I learnt are truly relevant and interesting."*
- *"It was an eye-opening session as I learnt something new but important at the same time."*



Networking Sessions

SG CARES COMMUNITY NETWORK @ JURONG WEST PARTNER GUIDE

On November 6, Casa Raudha set up a booth at Jurong Green Community Centre as part of the SG Cares Community Network event to call for community action against family violence.

There were several other booths to raise awareness on issues that are close to the hearts of the community.

The event was graced by Guest-of-Honour Minister Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development.

As part of MSF initiative, Casa Raudha has been invited to be part of the two-year term (2018-2020) of the Family Violence Working Group (FVWG) for the Jurong area. The group comprises of Family Service Centres, hospitals and police in the district.

The represented team will meet and discuss on the family violence issue that has been happening in the district and to provide support.



Social Enterprise



*Opening of Casa Raudha's Hydroponics III by
Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of Singapore, on 3rd January.*

The Hydroponics was sponsored by President's Challenge 2018.

Our Social Enterprise is a platform for the clients to think big and become boss in their own way. They acquire sustainable skills to enable them to continue with their small businesses even after they left the shelter.

Ramadan Cookie Project



Our annual Ramadan cookie project started in 2014 and is still going strong!

This year, three survivors of domestic violence came together to bake Hari Raya cookies to be sold. They baked honey cornflakes, red velvet cookies and butter cookies. In total, 200 bottles of cookies were sold and they earned \$2,453 as income!

All proceeds went directly to the women who took part in the project.

Thank you to all who have supported this project!

Farm Fresh Produce

One of Casa Raudha's social enterprise initiatives is its organic produce from the hydroponics.

The selling of organic produce such as Xiao Bai Cai, Ulam Raja, Pandan as well as potted plants is still going strong.

Like in every of its Social Enterprise platform, its clients are given opportunity to take part in the selling of the produced.

The produced were sold mostly at the Maarof Mosque, Assyakirin Mosque and Jurong Spring CC.

Thank you to all who have supported!

Viewing of the herbal plants by Mdm Halimah Yacob during her visit on 3rd January

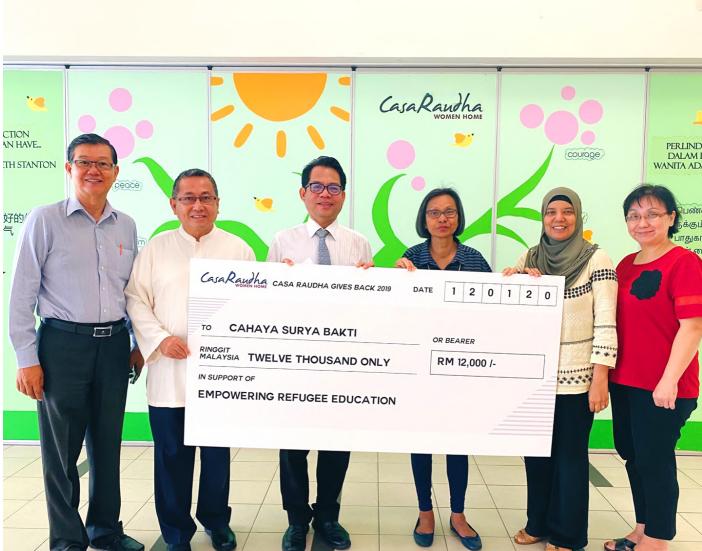


Casa Raudha Gives Back



The survivors of domestic violence had a Meet and Greet session with Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of Singapore, in support of the Casa Raudha Gives Back project during her visit on 3rd January.

CRWH believes that empowering others will empower one's self hence this project will not only impact the lives of the beneficiaries but also the lives of the CRWH clients.



Handover of cheque ceremony to Cahaya Surya Bakti

"Cahaya Surya Bakti would like to extend our gratitude to Casa Raudha for their generous contribution to our organisation in 2019. With your kind support, we were able to provide the practical educational resources such as teachers, books, class equipment and transportation to and from school for our vulnerable Rohingya children refugees."

- Mdm Soraya Alkaff, Founder of Cahaya Surya Bakti

Running into its 4th Year, Casa Raudha Gives Back Project is a collaborative effort between Casa Raudha Women Home (CRWH), the survivors of domestic violence and volunteers. Its a platform to give back to the community and become positive change agents.

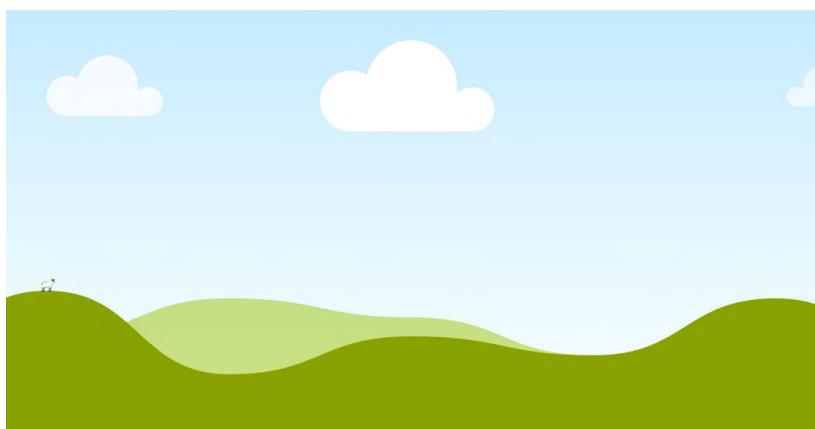
200 tote bags sold at \$30 each was specially handcrafted with utmost love and care with positive words and quotes that inspire our women. A total amount of \$3,960.00 was raised collectively which was converted to MYR12,000.00.

On the 10th of January 2020, the fund was disbursed to the intended beneficiaries, Cahaya Surya Bakti, in support of the education for the Rohingya children refugees school in Malaysia.

Huge thanks to all supporters / donors of this project!

"It's heartening to see the continuation of Casa Raudha Gives Back Project, and I am glad and humbled to be a part of it. I am blessed to have the opportunity to help other women and children through this little deed."

- Mdm Yeo, survivor and now a change agent



Reflections



The terms "domestic violence" and "family violence" are often interchanged. It is a pattern of abusive behaviour that occurs between two or more people who are in a domestic relationship.

It could be in the form of physical, emotional, sexual abuse, just to name a few.

In the story of Serena, we can see how it not only destroyed her life but her children's lives, and the journey they had to go through together to get out of the crisis situation.

Domestic Violence through the eyes of a family

A MOTHER'S STORY

My children saved my life. Not in a metaphorical way, but in a literal way. If they hadn't insisted that we should leave the house, there is a high chance I wouldn't be alive today.

Sharing about my experience with domestic violence is not easy, I am still struggling to this day.

But I hope what you can take away from my story is this: Domestic Violence can come in all shapes and sizes.

My name is Serena (pseudonym), and I am a mother of three beautiful young children. I came from a family of six, with three older siblings and two parents.

I met my husband in school, when I was in Secondary 1 and him in Secondary 3. Like any other new couple, the beginning stage was always full of colours and happiness. Thinking back, I did see traces of jealousy and his changed behaviour each time I spoke to my male friends.

As our relationship progressed, so did his negative behaviour towards me especially after getting engaged. He started finding faults in the things I did. I had to listen and obey to whatever he said or else all the verbal abuse would start.

After we got married was the first time, he hit me. His violent behaviour escalated after a simple joke shared between me and his sister as he was not in favour that I had a good relationship with them. He then forced me to enter the room and that was the first time he hit me.

He even hit me when I was pregnant with my first child. The saddest thing was not being physically abused, but the fact that he was not sorry for what he has done.

MY TURNING POINT

The worst incident happened on the 15th of September when he found out that I was in contact with some of my international friends and assumed I was having an affair. Without a care, he struck me and this time, in front of the children and his father. His beating was so severe that I could not get up from my bed. My eldest son called my second brother and he came with the police. I was taken to the hospital due to the severe injuries.

I did not know the words that came out my eldest son is my turning point. He was only 13 then when he said to me; "We should leave the house." I took up the courage from his word and started to plan my escape. It took me four weeks to finally the opportunity when my husband is not at home to pack up bags, gather all my children and left the house.

A NEW BEGINNING

My Social Worker then introduced to Casa Raudha Women Home. I never felt more at ease when I first arrive in the shelter. My stay here has been nothing but positive as I began to get to know other women and their stories. We became close and they are like my sisters.

The programmes definitely boosted my self-esteem and confidence, especially the workshop on "Building Self-Resilience". I saw a change in my children too, they are now more interactive and open to sharing their feelings with me. Our relationship definitely got closer.

If I could describe my journey, it would be exhaustive, full of hardship and with bitter and sour memories. Now, my goal in life is to have my own house with my children. My dream is to finally be at peace, like a bird freed from a cage.

Domestic Violence through the eyes of a family

CHILDREN'S STORY

MAKING A BOLD DECISION

ADAM (PSEUDONYM), 14

Growing up, my relationship with my father turned sour after I witnessed the violence happening in the house. I used to not be scared of him, but I became scared and anxious when he started getting angry. I thought it was normal that my parents were fighting, but I was too young to understand what was really going on.

Realization hit me as I grew older. The quarreling, fighting and violence became too much. As I witnessed my father hitting my mother, I then thought that was not normal anymore. I couldn't believe I uttered the words "we should leave this house" to my mother one day. I not only wanted to protect her, but I wanted to protect my siblings as well. I knew I was too young to interfere in my parent's relationship.

My siblings and I used to not talk to each other, and we were always doing our own things. It was not easy for me to adapt to the changes when I first came to the shelter. That was when my siblings and I became closer. And I am nothing but happy now.

IF MY FATHER WAS HERE... I WOULD TELL HIM THIS

"I wish you would man up and apologize for your wrongdoings."

SCARED THEN, BRAVE NOW

ELLISYAH (PSEUDONYM), 11

I used to see my father hitting my mom and I used to be scared and wanted to run away. I knew that he will not hit me but still I was frightened of him. I saw it for the first time when I was in Primary 3. I used to block the horrible memories at home when I went to school.

My friends were my listening ear and they used to tell me to stop my father but I was scared. Last year my mom told me one day that we were going to move out of the house and I felt like I could finally taste freedom.

When it finally happened, I felt peace and relief and at the same time happy because I still have my siblings and my mother together.

IF MY FATHER WAS HERE... I WOULD TELL HIM THIS

"You had one job as a father. Why couldn't you control your anger in the first place even after several chances given to you?"

Financial Report



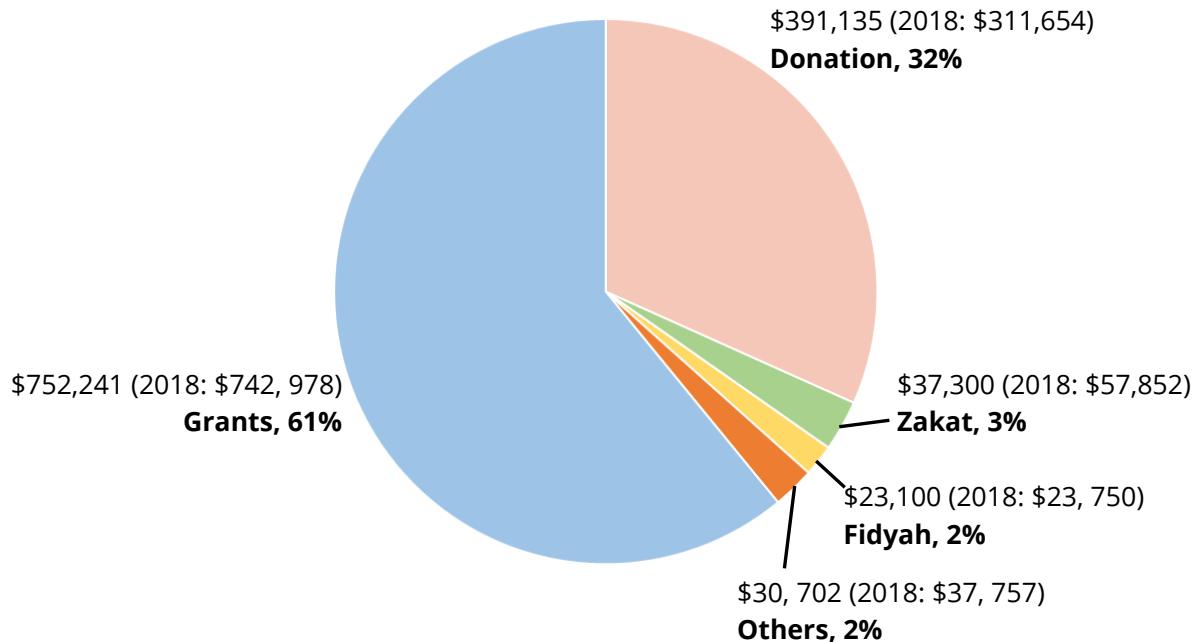
Quote from 2019 Financial Auditor, "the accounting and other records, required by the regulations under the Societies Act to be kept by the Society have been properly kept in accordance with the provision of those regulations..."

- MSA & Partners PAC

INCOME

\$1,289,064

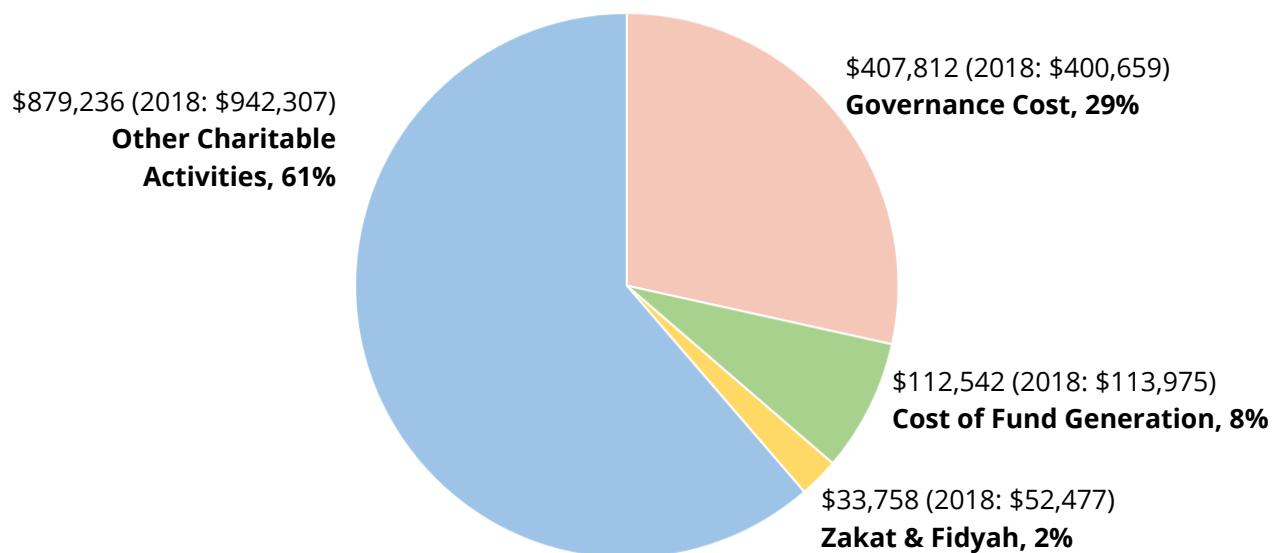
(2018: \$1,173,991)



EXPENDITURE

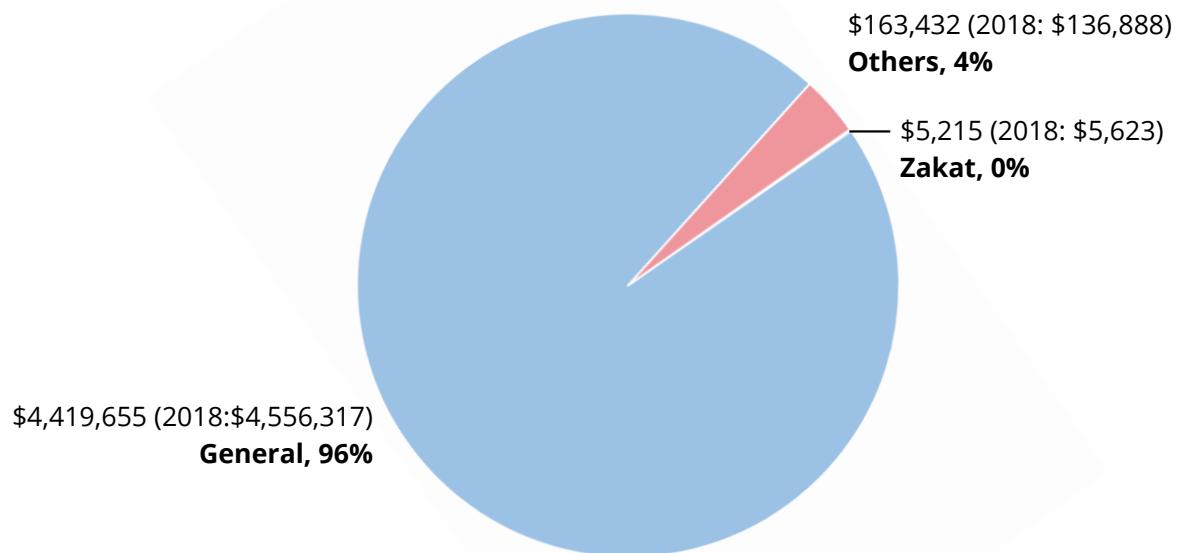
\$1,399,590

(2018: \$1,456,851)



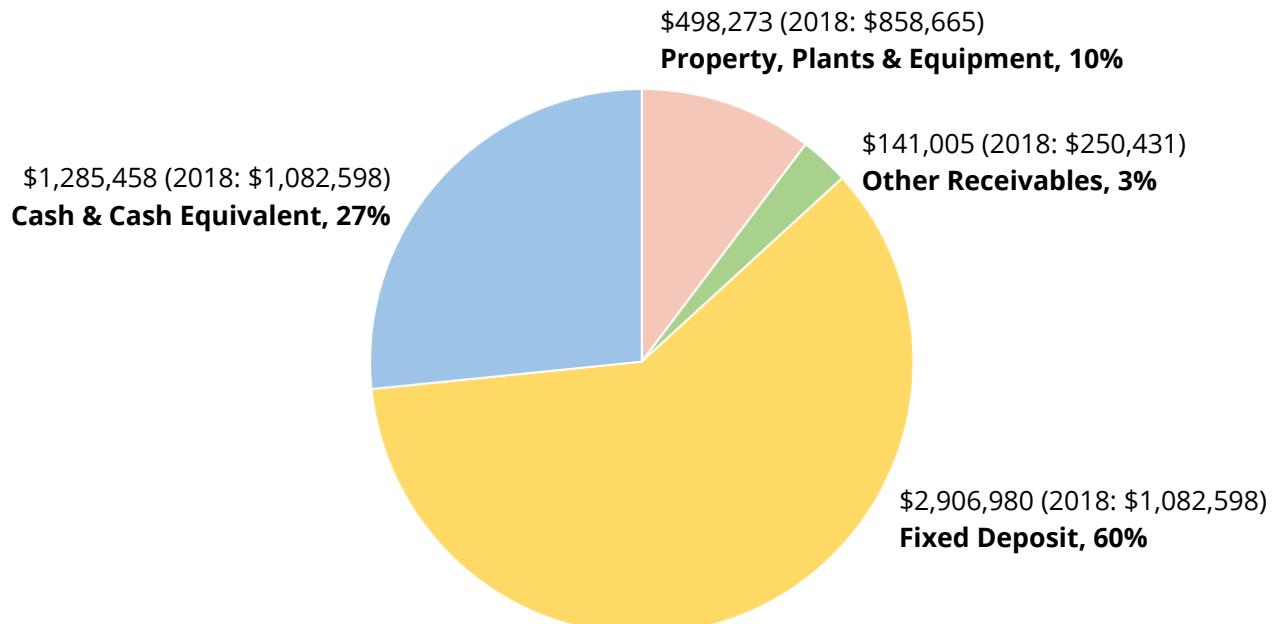
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