



Good Shepherd Centre

A Fresh Start

By **Rose** (not her real name)

I came from India to study in Singapore, graduating with a degree in marketing management. I was married in India in 2006. My husband got an Employment Pass with a job in tourism here. As a spouse I gave up my S Pass for a Dependent Pass. We have two children, Lyn, now 13 and Vi, 11. Our life as a family in Singapore was smooth sailing until crisis struck.

In April 2021, I was forced to leave home by my husband due to the issue of a third party on his side. I brought my two children with me. It was a sudden experience of no food, no job because I was under a Short-Term Visit Pass, and no shelter. One of my Singaporean friends immediately shared with me a number to call for help. When I shared my story with a staff of Good Shepherd Centre (GSC) my children and I were put in a very nice clean HDB flat with proper amenities like induction cooker, utensils, washing machine, ironing board, blankets, beds, kettle and many more. My girls and I were so relieved that we could quickly settle in to start afresh. May 2021 will always be a memorable date as that was when my girls and I moved into our new home despite the pain of being kicked out of our family home.

My life continued to be like a roller coaster ride with my husband refusing to support us during the separation. He made the

divorce process very difficult and stressful. I had never been in such a dire situation before and did not know how to deal with many things. Finding a job was tough.

I worried about my children's education and wellbeing, but the staff engaged them in all kinds of art and craft and other enriching activities. The emotional support from the staff of GSC never wavered.

As part of Covid-19 safe management measures, group activities were disallowed, so a staff came to our flat to teach me yoga to help me keep my balance physically and emotionally. My status as a foreigner did not make any difference to the staff; I felt their love, care and support. I appeared strong but inside my heart I was worried and scared. I trust that God will come to my help.

I am happy to share that previously I had bad time but now I have a stable job. I have security in my life, and I can support my children back in India. My children had to go back to India because it was too costly for them to study in Singapore as foreigners. My problem may not be solved yet, but I am in a better condition. I am still in GSC and continue to receive the support I need.

The staff of GSC are doing amazing work. Thank you for the care and support for my family and other families under your care.