



THE VINE
COMMUNITY
SERVICES LTD

2016
ANNUAL
REPORT





“WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS CITY”

— **Tom Franz**, CEO of VCSL

This has been my first full year with VCSL, and I have to say, it has been a learning experience! I really want to express my thanks to all of our supporters. You have really touched my heart and made our work at VCSL possible.

When you take the time to step back and look at the task of a non-government organisation that is focused on social justice, the way VCSL is, it can sometimes seem like the need is just too great and you as an individual are just too small.

Over the next year we plan to focus on development within our refugee fellowships, our front-line response to victims of human trafficking, and reaching out into the local community with The School of Opportunity. It is also our desire to create opportunities for all our supporters to get some hands-on experience with us.

When I think of your support, I realise what an important mission it is that we are undertaking. You make it possible for us here to believe that we can make a difference in this city. So, from all of us here, to all who have supported us this past year, thank you!

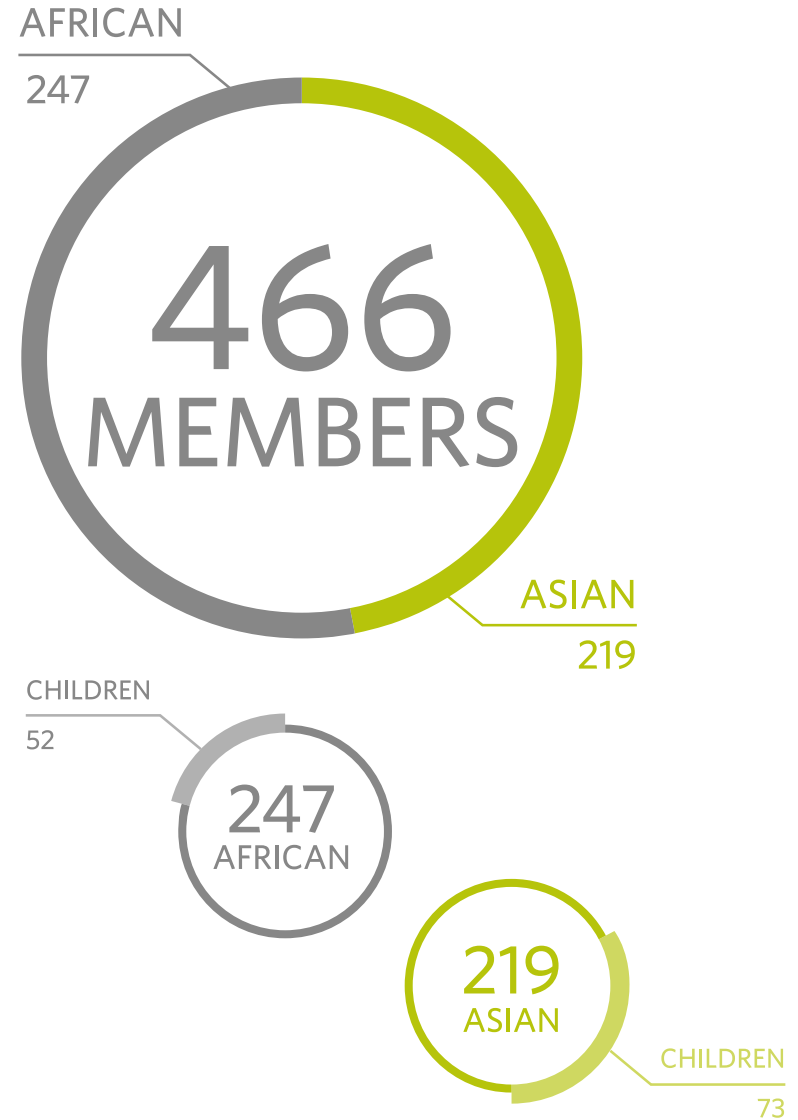
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OUR SERVICES



OUR REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER COMMUNITY



*All figures in this report are based on VCSL's internal data and reflect the period between October 2015-September 2016



**REFUGEES AND
ASYLUM SEEKERS**

“WE BELIEVE EVERYONE WAS BORN WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT,

we believe everyone has a gift from God, and we nurture these gifts for the glory of God”

— **Roy Njuabe**, Lead pastor

Over the past year, we successfully trained a number of our refugees and asylum seekers (RAS) to take up leadership roles within the RAS fellowship and serve in wider areas of The Vine Church, such as the Ladies of The Vine leadership team and the media and production team. We also organised discipleship courses including Alpha, Cleansing Stream, Elijah House and The Teachings of Christ Discipleship and Evangelism Course*, to enrich and empower the spiritual lives of those who attended. Our pastoral care and counselling programmes successfully journeyed with families in marital crisis and worked to restore broken relationships.

Our outreach programmes have taken us to three international schools in Hong Kong, two churches, a Christian musical concert, and an outdoor Easter egg hunt event. Through these programmes, our RAS members were able to develop friendships, raise awareness, and reduce negative sentiments towards the community.

Our future vision is to create platforms where RAS can be trained, and also to develop programmes that will enable them to make use of their gifts and talents, overcome fears, and develop faith through a close relationship with God and each other.

*course sponsored by CWM/Nethersole Fund

RAS COMMUNITY INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES



Traditional African Drum and Dance Performance

Our RAS African Drumming Group performed at Queen Elizabeth Stadium before 2,000 people for the *Twenty* event



Goldman Sachs Football Funday

In our third year partnering with the Goldman Sachs Community TeamWorks programme, their employees continued to help raise awareness and develop relationships with our RAS community



Ma Wan Easter Egg Hunt

Our RAS fellowship performed a skit about Jesus' life story to over 2,000 local audience

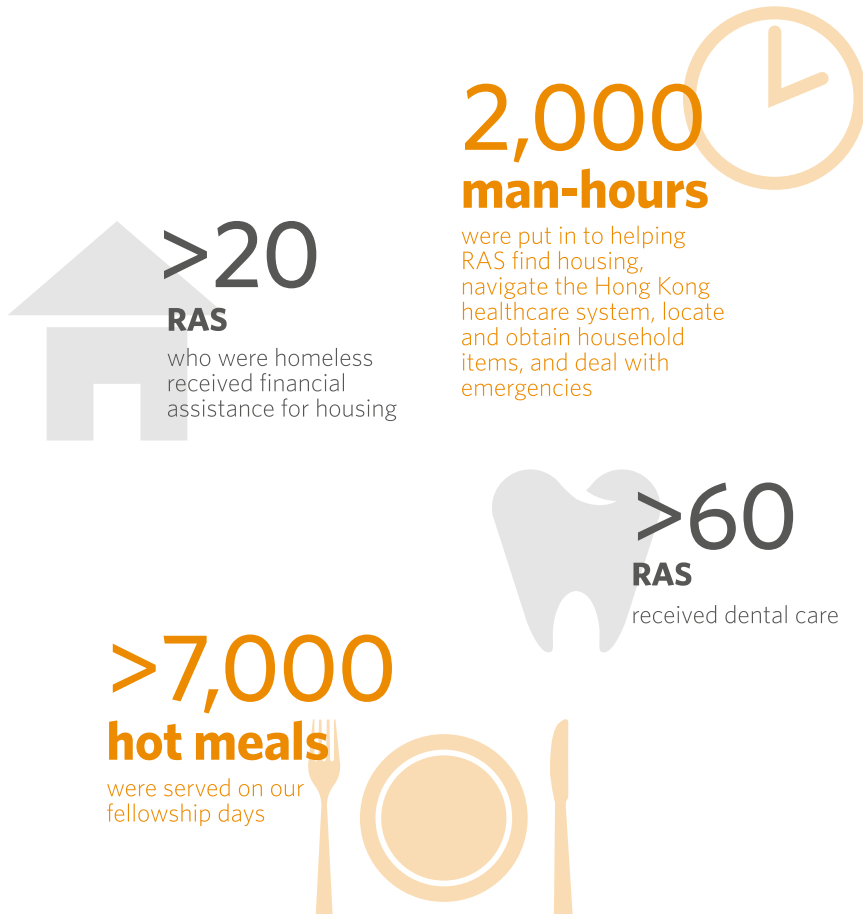


RAS Football Team

We won one gold and one silver cup at the 2015 Home & Away Charity Football Tournament

RAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

At the beginning of 2016, we saw the need to separate the pastoral care and assistance aspects of RAS. Two social workers were hired to oversee the administration of approximately HK\$2 million in financial aid to over 400 refugees and asylums seekers. The social workers have instituted a programme and survey system that allows us to track our effectiveness in helping our community and their struggles here in Hong Kong. We will use this information to measure the effectiveness and improve our services, to bring more awareness to the circumstances they are facing, and to work with governmental and non-governmental agencies on humane and liveable policies. We hope to reach out to new communities and find more partners so that we can increase the support that we give to those we serve.



In Remembrance of

Saidi Mbambu

1977 - 2016

Saidi practised law in his home country, he fled to Hong Kong to escape political persecution 14 years ago. Even while seeking asylum in Hong Kong, his passion for human rights never ceased. He dedicated his life to serving our African RAS community and fought for justice on their behalf in this city.



“We were deeply saddened to lose such a good friend as he battled with crippling kidney failure and unyielding restrictions. He was part of the RAS ministry right from the beginning, and one of the founders of the African Fellowship. Saidi became a powerhouse in preaching the Word of God, and spoke forcefully about injustice. We will always miss his friendly smile and strength of character.”

— Tony Read, pastor —

“Shortly after he arrived in Hong Kong, brother Saidi and I met at The Vine. In the beginning we were only acquaintances, but later we became brothers. We have shared meals, taken walks, traded stories, and supported each other in prayers. His presence, smile, and gentleness will always be missed.”

— Alex Lee, friend —



A SEASON OF GROWTH

This has been another successful year for The School of Opportunity (OPP). We have received the best funding to date for programmes and resources, which has enabled us to serve over 500 underprivileged children and adults through our Summer School, Easter School, Curriculum Days, adult courses, and vocational courses. We were able to provide one of three accredited external courses, including barista, logistics, and food and beverage service training to 50 adults.

Our Keeping Kids in Kindergarten (K³) programme currently supports 21 students, between the ages of three and six to receive early education from local schools. This increased from 18 students in the 2014-2015 academic year. We currently have nine extra students on our waiting list, whom we are seeking sponsors for to support them for the next academic year.

>500

children

attended our education programmes and events



50

adults

received accredited vocational training



21

students

in our K³ programme



The New Season

We want to honour Mrs Jill Raymont, who founded and ran OPP for four years, and has stepped down from the position of teacher-in-charge this year. Jill planted the seed for OPP, she nurtured and cared for our students like her own children. While we are sad to say goodbye to Jill, we are excited about the new season ahead with Ms Hyacintha Faustino. Hyacintha will take up the reins as the new project manager, and together we hope to make a bigger impact in the community with the amazing work at OPP.

Traditionally we have worked to serve asylum seekers, both children and adults, but it has always been in our hearts to reach into other communities in need and offer them these same life-changing educational opportunities. In 2017, we would like to grow the demographic we serve by reaching out into the surrounding Wan Chai community, and see how we can meet the needs of our neighbours. This will be a challenging step, but we feel these bridges need to be built between cultures and communities.

Summer School

Our largest programme to date, proudly sponsored by Centaline Charity Fund

5

week programme filled with academic classes and field trips



>60

students attended each day



>30

volunteer teachers and helpers



STOP.

STOP TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE

“I WILL KEEP FIGHTING AGAINST INJUSTICE, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES FROM ME!”

A female client grabbed my hand and said this to me during our last interview. Since then, her words have become the driving force for the team.

— **Tina Chan**, Project Manager

In late 2015, we faced some planning difficulties. Through dialogues with our stakeholders and partners, we began to see the gap in victim assistance and protection, something which has eventually led to our dual roles in policy advocacy and social service provision. As of today, we operate four programmes: Legal Assistance Referral, Outreach, Network Building, and Public Education.

We published Hong Kong's first *English-Cantonese Glossary of Human Trafficking Terms Used in Hong Kong* in March this year, and since then we have gained a reputation in the field. This toolbook has attracted attention from across the city, including the Department of Justice, which requested multiple copies for their staff. We also received many new opportunities in the past 12 months, including invitations to speak at international conferences, and provide training to frontline organisations. The positive feedback we received has deeply encouraged the team to continue to work closely with the Cantonese-speaking community.

STOP is currently the only provider of both legal and social assistance for trafficking victims in our city. We hope to continue our good work, as well as extending our programme in providing emergency housing as a holistic service in the future.

STOP publishes Hong Kong's first *English-Cantonese Glossary of Human Trafficking Terms Used in Hong Kong*

The book reached out to more than 45 organisations, educational institutions, corporates, government and foreign affairs bodies, local and international news agencies – altogether over 14,170 people



8 victim identification training workshops

17 talks and seminars on human trafficking, to over 6,800 people

>7,000 followers on social media channels

STOP eNews reaches

>830 subscribers

Awareness is key

Our outreach programme connects us with trafficked victims who are underserved or never rescued

48 outreach visits conducted

175 sex workers reached

550 migrant domestic workers reached

JUSTICE ADVOCACY

— **Tony Read**, Justice Advocate

We all want to see good things happen around us in society. We want to see justice restored – but sometimes we seem to be just left picking up the pieces and trying to help those who are victims in some form or other. It can be frustrating.

Advocacy is about trying to be part of the solution and not just dealing with the results of the problem. The theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said it more forcefully this way: “It is not sufficient just to bind up the wounds of those who are injured under the wheels of injustice. We should try to drive a stake into those very wheels that cause injustice”. Strong words, and a call to try to be agents of change.

VCSL’s vision is to respond to those we serve in the RAS, OPP, and STOP initiatives by dealing with their needs, and by advocating for change on their behalf. Our advocacy work primarily focuses on four areas:

- The Vine Church, where we raise awareness about issues of concern in society, ask people to respond in prayer, and to support particular VCSL issues we are working on.
- The Justice Conference Asia, an annual event we organise each year to introduce other churches to biblical justice theology, and local social issues that need addressing.
- Partner with other NGOs to exchange information, share concerns, engage in joint representation to government departments, speak to schools and student groups, and write letters and articles to news media on social justice issues.
- In government, we connect with members of the Legislative Council to raise issues in panel committees and main sessions in order to voice concerns over policies causing harm to society.

"I believe everyone has a heart to give"

a message from our supporter Elmer Cheng

My involvement with VCSL started with the first Home & Away Charity Football Tournament. I saw the RAS teams play with such intensity that they forgot about all their life struggles. Something as simple as playing football, which you and I play for fun, but for refugees, it gives them dignity and purpose. This has made me want to become more involved with VCSL and resonated with my family's desire to give. So throughout the years we held our own DIY fundraising events, like donate your birthday and anniversary to VCSL. This year I also helped organise the first VCSL golf tournament. I believe what we've done at VCSL will make an impact in society. Everyone has a heart to give, I hope more people will be inspired and start asking how they can make a difference.

TESTIMONIES



The smile on my kids face is priceless, thank you very much and God bless. David

To: The school of opportunity

Thank you for having fun at summer school.

My favourite thing to do at summer school was reading about science. It was interesting and good.

From: Reuben.



OUR TEAM



Thomas Franz
CEO



John Macpherson
Ambassador



Tony Read
Justice Advocate



Lolly Law
Relationship and
Development Manager



Roy Njuabe
Refugee and
Asylum Seeker Ministry
Lead Pastor



Lillian Warui
Refugee and
Asylum Seeker Ministry
Pastoral Assistant



Shirley Wong
Refugee and
Asylum Seeker Ministry
Administrator



Tina Chan
STOP.
Project Manager



Janice Tsang (R.S.W.)
STOP.
Caseworker



Danielle Chan
STOP.
Project Assistant



Hyacintha Faustino
The School of Opportunity
Project Manager



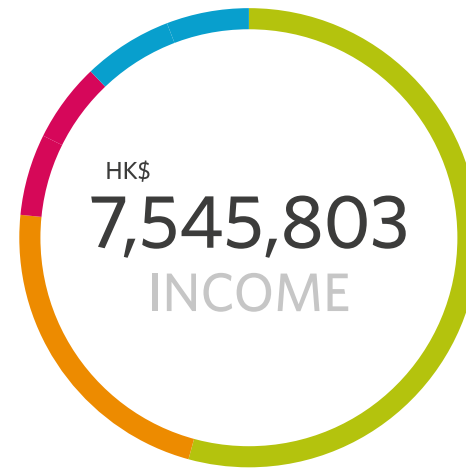
Aline Ruzzon
The School of Opportunity
Administrator



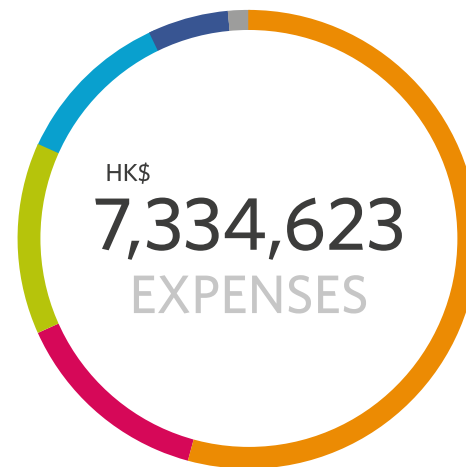
Isabella Lok
Marketing and
Communication Officer

FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2015 - SEPTEMBER 2016



- The Vine Church Pledge 54%
- Grants and Foundations 21%
- Fundraising Events 12%
- General Donations 12%



- Refugees & Asylum Seekers 55%
- STOP. 14%
- Salary 13%
- The School of Opportunity 9%
- Administration 7%
- Fundraising 2%

THANK YOU

OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS



*names in alphabetical order

Action for Reach Out | Barefoot Love | Baptist Harmony Church
 Chinese Recreation Club, Hong Kong | Fullness In Christ Fellowship
 Kowloon Cricket Club | Kwoon Chung Bus | Love Wanchai
 Mission For Migrant Workers | Operation Mobilisation (HK)
 Peel Street Poetry | RainLily | Sons & Daughters

Special thanks to:
 Anna Cummins (copy editor), Cherry Chu (graphic designer), Jonathan Magee and Ron Tse (photographers)

GIVING

IMPORTANT: PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR DETAILS BELOW

We need your details so that we can mail you a tax receipt for your donation over HK\$100.

(Please use **BLOCK LETTERS**, as name appears on HKID/ Passport)

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

TYPE OF DONATION:

- ONE-OFF DONATION** Amount: HK\$ _____
- MONTHLY DONATION** (By credit card only, please fill in credit card details below)

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMIT TO A MONTHLY DONATION OF

HK\$1000 HK\$3000 HK\$5000 HK\$ _____

From _____ (DD/MM/YY) To _____ (DD/MM/YY)

(Leave blank if until further notice)

DONATION METHOD:

- CASH** Do not send cash through post.
- CHEQUE:** Make cheque out to "THE VINE COMMUNITY SERVICES LTD"
 If you would like a US tax receipt, please make the check payable to 'Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc.'
 with nothing written on the lower left corner of the cheque.
- ONLINE GIVING VIA PAYPAL** www.vcsl.org/donations
- ATM/BANK TRANSFER** HSBC Acc No: 499-814499-838, Acc Name: The Vine Community Services Ltd
 Submission of transfer receipt should be made within 2 weeks after donation by email/fax to the office:
accounts@vcsl.org / (+852) 2865 5381.
- CREDIT CARD** Visa Mastercard

Card No:

Expiry (MM/YY) /

CVV number (3-digit security code on the back of the card)

Cardholder name: _____

Authorised Signature: _____

Pursuing Dignity,
Justice, and Hope



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