

2017
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

THE VINE
COMMUNITY
SERVICES LTD



HELP THEIR
LIVES **SPIN**
AGAIN

MESSAGE FROM OUR JUSTICE ADVOCATE



“What if we began not only thinking with justice minds about situations around us, but responding with justice hearts as part of our lifestyle.”

Many people are intimidated by the word ‘advocacy’, thinking that it means being outspoken and publicly making a stand on an issue. But it needn’t be that way. In the church today, we have a new generation who don’t need to be convinced of the rightness or wrongness of an issue before getting behind it. They don’t need to be persuaded of its validity as a just cause – it’s an instinctive justice reaction from within. They feel a sense of outrage when they witness an injustice in society. For many of us, the question is not about the rightness or wrongness of an issue, but how can I respond in my small sphere of influence in my everyday life? How can I be an advocate for justice in my work and family?

What if we began not only thinking with justice minds about situations around us, but responding with justice hearts as part of our lifestyle. By this, I mean making it part of our automatic default way of living. When I say lifestyle, I don’t mean a more desirable, fashionable way of living, but a more purposeful lifestyle concerned more about others than ourselves. It requires an outward focus, choosing to see the situations we are concerned about with justice eyes. How can I help here? What can I do there? How can I respond in a way which shows love to my neighbour? In this way, we become justice advocates every day by the way we live. This would really be a meaningful justice lifestyle, having great impact and making a difference in our city. It only takes 2% of the population making a stand on a particular issue to sway public opinion and change society. Now that’s real advocacy.

Tony Read
Justice Advocate

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



What a year! The past twelve months have been full of triumph and setback. Several of our community were resettled. A few survivors of human trafficking were vindicated in court. But we also lost a community member and saw an appeal of a successful human trafficking case. We have cried, and we have cheered, and through it all, we have been amazed at the support that we have received. On a weekly basis, students contact us and ask how they can help, and teachers, business people, large corporations, small businesses, and communities have all come forward to make lives better. The spirit of the 'What I Have I Give', campaign is alive and well!

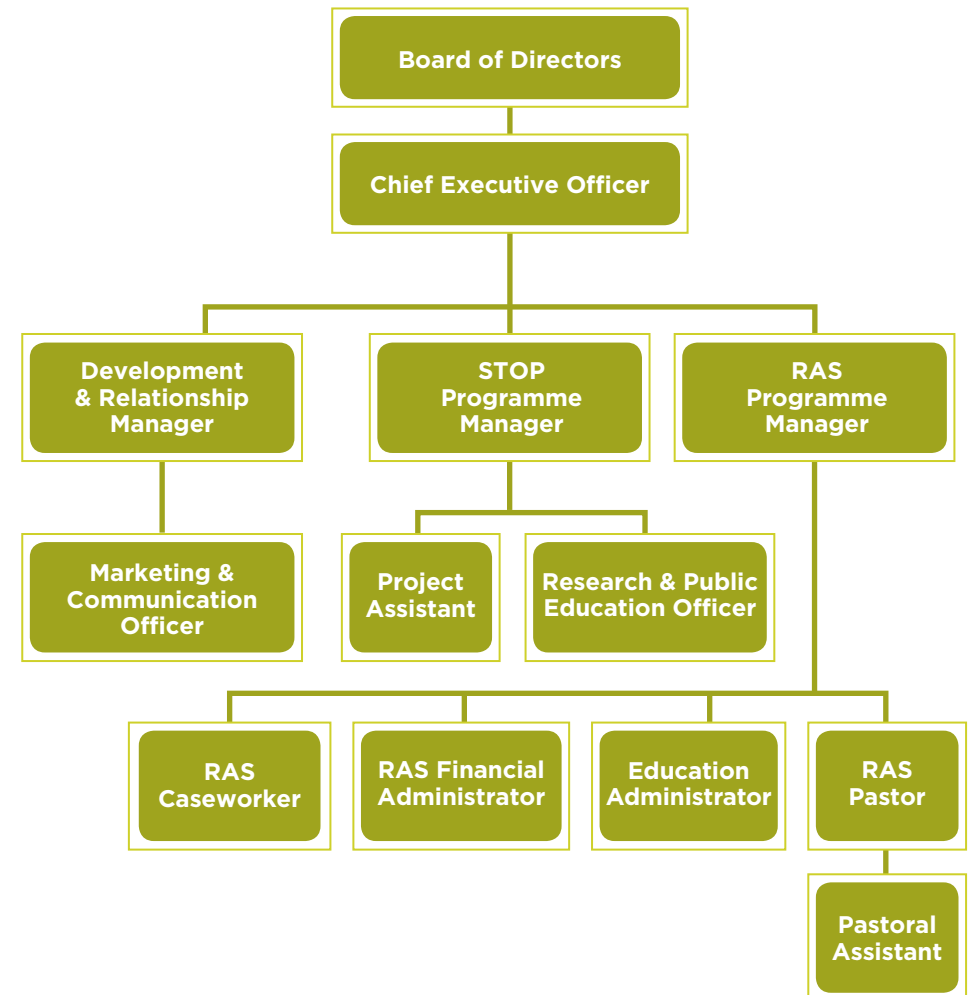
Our values of dignity, justice, and hope are delivered through three main strategies: relief, development, and social reform. This coming year we will be ramping up our development strategies. Our work with refugees will focus on improving how we prepare people for their next phase of life, building a path towards reintegration for trafficking survivors.

One way we feel that we can respond better is by consolidating our work. Our focus this year will be on specific communities, with individual holistic 'branches'. We will combine our education, social, and ministerial work with refugees into a single branch capable of delivering more effective and efficient service.

This new holistic approach has been in the works for a long time, and we've rebranded ourselves to reflect our new focus. We wanted a name that gives an idea of what we do, one that keeps a deep connection with The Vine while at the same time allowing us to reach out to other communities. I am proud to introduce, for the first time, *Branches of Hope!*

Tom Franz
CEO, VCSL

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE





CONTENTS

Our Services	7
Our Refugee and Asylum Seeker (RAS) Community	8-10
Giving Back	11-12
RAS Assistance Programme	13-14
The School of Opportunity	15-16
STOP	17-18
Our Team	19
Financial Update	20
Our Partners and Supporters	21
How You Can Support Us	22

OUR SERVICES



RENTAL:
HK\$1,500
PER MONTH



**TRANSPORTATION
TO IMMIGRATION
DEPARTMENT +
MEDICAL SERVICES**



**ELECTRICITY +
WATER:
HK\$300
PER MONTH**



**FOOD:
HK\$1,200
PER MONTH**

**What the Hong Kong
Government provides**

What VCSL provides



**INSTITUTIONAL
VISITS**



**FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE**



**PASTORAL
CARE**



**RELOCATION
PREPARATION**



**WEEKDAY SOCIAL
GATHERING +
ACTIVITIES**



**TRANSPORTATION
TO THE VINE CENTRE
EVENTS**



**POST-TRAUMA
COUNSELLING
REFERRAL**



**REFERRAL TO THIRD-PARTY
NGOS FOR FURNITURE,
CLOTHING + OTHER
NECESSITIES**



**EDUCATION +
TRAINING
PROGRAMMES**

OUR REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER (RAS) COMMUNITY

AFRICAN
312

ASIAN
327

**639
Members**

CHILDREN
75

CHILDREN
88

ASIAN
124

**312
Monthly
Assistance**

AFRICAN
188

Note: All figures shown on this page are based on VCSL's internal data and reflect the period between Oct 2016 - Sep 2017.



REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

“To see our refugee work as developmental, help us to make use of refugees capabilities rather than their vulnerabilities”

Roy Njuabe, Lead Pastor



Refugee crisis is a complex issue generated by conflicts, persecution, violence and unrest. Solving the problem requires acute knowledge and skills in order to bring about positive and sustainable change in the lives of refugees.

To develop a better understanding of the varied nature of refugeehood and the strategy to deal effectively with its challenges, I embarked on a study trip to Oxford University in July 2017. Through engaging with key stakeholders in the field including UNHCR staff, policy makers, lawyers, and border control officers, I gained new insights into finding long-term solutions for refugees and forced migrants.

One of the objectives of this course was to understand the correlation between refugees and development, which has both developmental and humanitarian dimensions. These include local integration, for those who have the potential to remain in the host country; resettlement, for those who would be resettled to another country; and voluntary repatriation, for those who would return to their home country. At its best, a refugees programme should be able to address the developmental issue of refugees - yet refugees are often omitted from the plans of governments, NGOs, and development partners.

MAKING AN IMPACT

My dream and vision for the work here in VCSL is to help the refugees regain their dignity to become self-reliant, enhancing their odds to a durable solution – either to integrate and contribute to the development of Hong Kong, resettle in a new country or voluntarily return home.

The development-based approach helps us accentuate the refugees’ capabilities rather than their vulnerabilities. With the generous help of supporters and volunteers, we have been able to host a series of discipleship courses through the year including Alpha, Cleansing Stream, Elijah House and The Teachings of Christ Discipleship and Evangelism Course*. Through these trainings, our RAS members have been empowered and become more confident in their quest for a durable action. The diagram below explains the direction of our development programmes which are designed to help refugees and asylum seekers in resettlement, repatriation and integration; by doing so, our vision of restoring dignity, justice and hope are accomplished.



NUMBERS AT A GLANCE IN 2017

7
 Repatriation
 Return to
 homecountry

9
 Resettlement
 Resettle to
 another country
 Receive refugee status
 Total: 24 people

4
 Integrated
 Married to local

*Course sponsored by CWM/Nethersole Fund

GIVING BACK

We believe that every community holds great value regardless of its social status. Through acts of service, RAS members get a chance to appreciate the local community for the love and generosity continually bestowed upon them. Giving back also provides a great opportunity for the RAS members to show their skills and talents. We hope that hosting outreach activities would allow our clients to give back to the society and portray a positive image for the RAS community here in Hong Kong.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017

March



Easter Egg Hunt

Our RAS members helped with logistics, drama performance, cultural drumming and Henna painting at the Ma Wan Easter Egg Hunt, an event that hosted over 3,500 participants.

June

Citi GDP Cup

VCSL is proud to be Citi Hong Kong's charity partner and co-hosting the Citi GCD Cup this year. Our RAS football players had the privilege of serving a team of special needs children as coaches in a friendly match.



September



Elderly Home Visit

RAS members joined The Vine's Chinese Community to show love and care at the elderly home, an activity organised by St James Settlement.

October

Macquarie Soccer Game

Our RAS children had a blast playing football and making new friends at a collaborated event organised by Macquarie Bank and Dream Sports.



Band of Rider Bikeathon 2017

Earlier this year, a group of 16 supporters participated in the Band of Riders Bikeathon during the Easter holiday. The challenge involved riding 420 km in 4 days over the mountainous and coastal roads from Hualien, Kenting to Kaohsiung in efforts to raise fund for the refugee work here at VCSL. Although from different backgrounds, everyone blended in so well and participants were able to demonstrate teamwork and encourage each other to overcome the 4-day journey. Also we were blessed to have a team of 3 riders from the Macquarie Bank and the Bank has generously matched funds raised by this team. With all the amazing support from the community, the riders went above and beyond their goal and raised over HK\$730,000 for this event.

Apart from riding, riders had the opportunity to attend an orientation and refugee home visit hosted by VCSL to gain a better understanding of the plight of refugees. It was amazing to see some of these friendships continue after the home visit, and the riders were showing genuine care for the refugee families.



Riding on this success, we will be hosting a Round the Island challenge in Taiwan next Easter.

JOIN US IN
2018

Our Bikeathon is a very popular event. Spots are limited, so visit our website for details and sign up soon!
www.vcsl.org/bikeathon2018

RAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

The RAS Assistance Programme was created to help RAS members meet the most basic needs such as food, shelter, and health. This year, we have supported 312 RAS members with mental and living assistance on a monthly basis.

RAS members face many challenges daily, often unaware of the resources that are available to them. Our support includes helping them to engage property owners and housing agencies, access health care and social welfare system, coordinating donations and connecting members to useful resources in the city. We also collaborate with other humanitarian agencies by hosting joint events, classes, and activities to raise awareness on issues plaguing RAS.

Looking ahead, we hope to further expand our assistance programme and to find sustainable solutions in housing, employment, and relocation.

SHARD'S STORY

Finding affordable housing remains one of the most challenging issues for asylum seekers in Hong Kong. Shard was homeless, and spent sleepless nights on the streets of Wan Chai, often falling asleep while sitting up. On rainy days, he took shelter with other homeless people at the nearby subway station.

After several months, he came to VCSL and joined the Asian fellowship. He started coming regularly to our weekly gatherings and became an active member. Learning of his homelessness, our RAS team reached out to Shard and acted on his behalf to engage with the housing agency and landlords. A few months later, he was finally able to secure an affordable home under the VCSL RAS Assistance Programme. Apart from receiving monthly support, he felt genuinely loved and cared for.

“ I was homeless for 6 months. VCSL helped me talk to landlord and agencies to get this place (current home). Different people from church cared for me. Before I was totally hopeless but VCSL gave me the strength to continue live in HK. I want to say Thank You. ”

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE IN 2017

 138
Free medical service*

 71
Free Dental Care**

 2,000
Volunteer-hours

 7,000
Hot meals served

 350
RAS received housing assistance

 63
Families benefitted

*Service provided by Chinese International School, Lauren Bramley & Partners and Stanley Wellness Centre.

**Service provided by Health in Action.



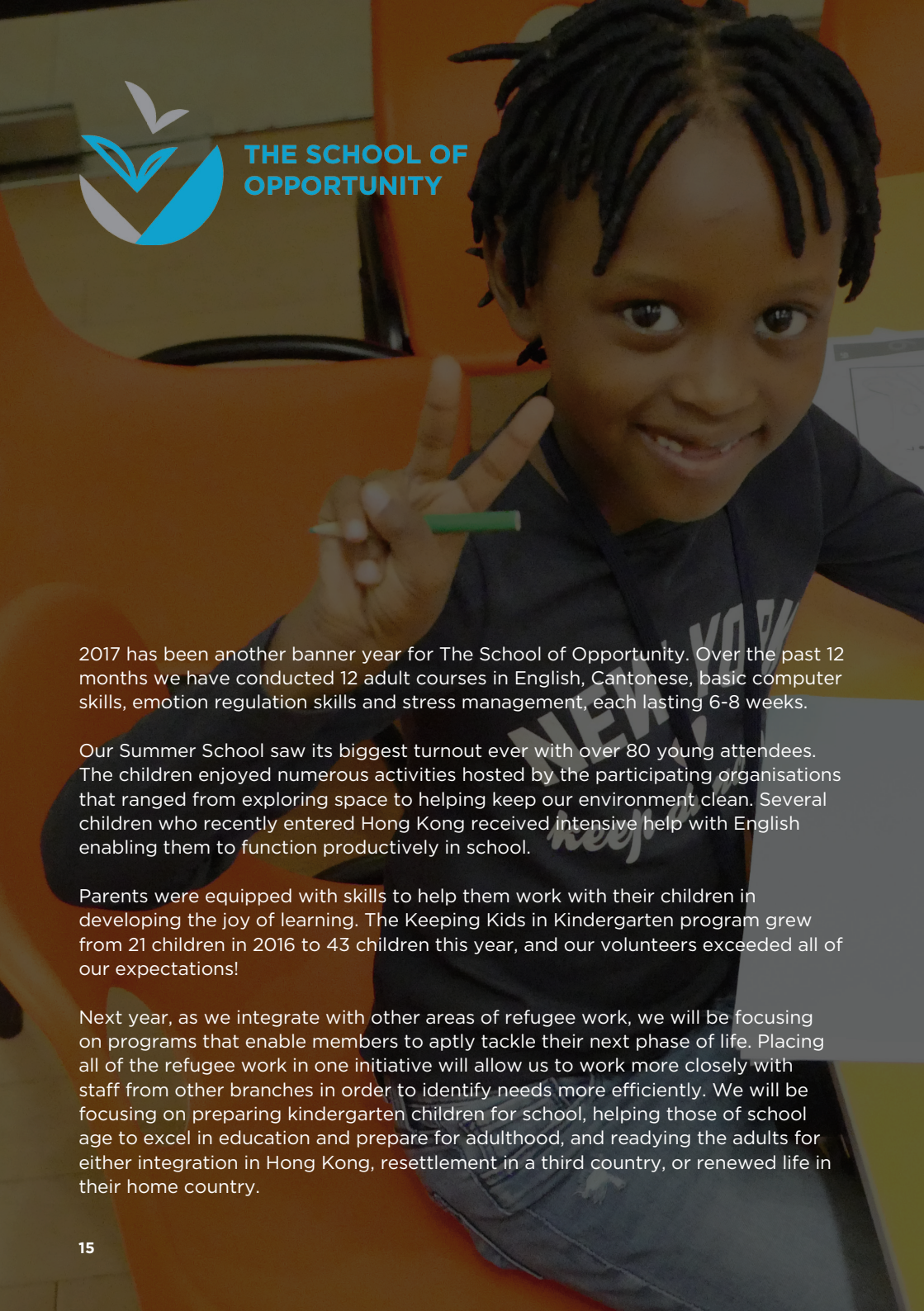
Shard brought us to the subway near Happy Valley and showed us where he used to sleep before receiving help from VCSL.



Shard joined the Goldman Sachs Community TeamWork event earlier this year with 19 other RAS members for a cooking lesson. Partnering with the locals, Shard demonstrated leadership and teamwork.



THE SCHOOL OF OPPORTUNITY



2017 has been another banner year for The School of Opportunity. Over the past 12 months we have conducted 12 adult courses in English, Cantonese, basic computer skills, emotion regulation skills and stress management, each lasting 6-8 weeks.

Our Summer School saw its biggest turnout ever with over 80 young attendees. The children enjoyed numerous activities hosted by the participating organisations that ranged from exploring space to helping keep our environment clean. Several children who recently entered Hong Kong received intensive help with English enabling them to function productively in school.

Parents were equipped with skills to help them work with their children in developing the joy of learning. The Keeping Kids in Kindergarten program grew from 21 children in 2016 to 43 children this year, and our volunteers exceeded all of our expectations!

Next year, as we integrate with other areas of refugee work, we will be focusing on programs that enable members to aptly tackle their next phase of life. Placing all of the refugee work in one initiative will allow us to work more closely with staff from other branches in order to identify needs more efficiently. We will be focusing on preparing kindergarten children for school, helping those of school age to excel in education and prepare for adulthood, and readying the adults for either integration in Hong Kong, resettlement in a third country, or renewed life in their home country.

ESTHER'S STORY

Esther* was 10 years old when she arrived Hong Kong as a refugee. Together with her parents, she became an active member of VCSL, attending classes as a student and helping younger kids in class as a volunteer. She worked diligently and graduated from the Hong Kong public school system this year.

With her good grades and positive attitude at work, Esther has received offers from several universities in Hong Kong, despite her refugee status. She has even received a scholarship, though her school fees are not fully covered. Her parents



have turned to VCSL for help; and we are in the process of putting together an education fund to support her university pursuit. Esther is very excited about her freshman year and hopes that she will become a teacher one day and give back to the community.

*Name has changed.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE IN 2017:



Curriculum Days

85
Children



Keeping Kids in Kindergarten

43
Children



Adult Classes

106
Students



Summer School

84
Children



Volunteers

65
Adults

STOP.

STOP TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE

We began 2017 by assisting in the repatriation of two of our very own clients, Victoria and Elim*, to Kenya. Both were reunited with their families and friends, and we were even able to provide financial assistance for Elim to enrol in a driving course to become a local bus driver.

It is encouraging to witness healing and growth in our clients. The people we serve at STOP are true life warriors. They have experienced unimaginable hardships, yet they are unwilling to let go of the slim possibility of hope. My team and I have the privilege of accompanying them on their recovery journey, and, although our day-to-day work is made difficult by Hong Kong's draconic legislation, we are encouraged and moved by the generosity of our volunteers and partner organisations.

*Name has changed.

An Online Story Platform

2017 was also a year full of new projects and partnerships. On the 5th of July, together with a number of front-line local organisations, we launched www.100storiesHK.org - Hong Kong's first multimedia platform dedicated to giving a voice to trafficking survivors in the city. Through these stories, we aim to increase the public's awareness of the devastating effects of human trafficking on its victims by giving it a human face and voice.



International Visitor Leadership Programme in the U.S.



It was my honour to be invited by the U.S. Department of State to join the International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) in August. I spent three weeks travelling around the United States, visiting more than 20 organisations and government departments to learn about their anti-human trafficking efforts. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and words cannot describe how it felt to be chosen to participate in the programme.

Run For STOP 2016

Last but not least, we hosted our first fundraiser, #RunForSTOP, at the end of last year bringing 32 runners to Cambodia to join the Angkor Wat International Half Marathon. Our amazing runners managed to raise over HK\$850,000. We are excited to announce that we were able to equally distribute the funds to each of



our four programmes, and we can testify to the positive impact it had on the people we journey with at STOP. Once again, a massive thank you to all our amazing runners who decided to run for STOP in Cambodia under the scorching tropical sun.



NUMBERS AT A GLANCE IN 2017:



12

Strategic partnership built



48

Outreach visits conducted



260

Migrant domestic workers reached



10

Clients served



8,000

Social media followers



150

Sex workers reached



19

Training workshops

OUR TEAM



Thomas Franz
Chief Executive Officer



John Macpherson
Ambassador



Tony Read
Justice Advocate



Lolly Law
Relationship and Development Manager



Roy Njuabe
Refugee and Asylum Seeker Ministry Lead Pastor



Lilian Warui
Refugee and Asylum Seeker Ministry Pastoral Assistant



Flora Chu
Refugee and Asylum Seeker Ministry Administrator



Cherry Chan
Refugee and Asylum Seeker Ministry Caseworker



Tina Chan
STOP Programme Manager



Vivian Ng
STOP Programme Assistant



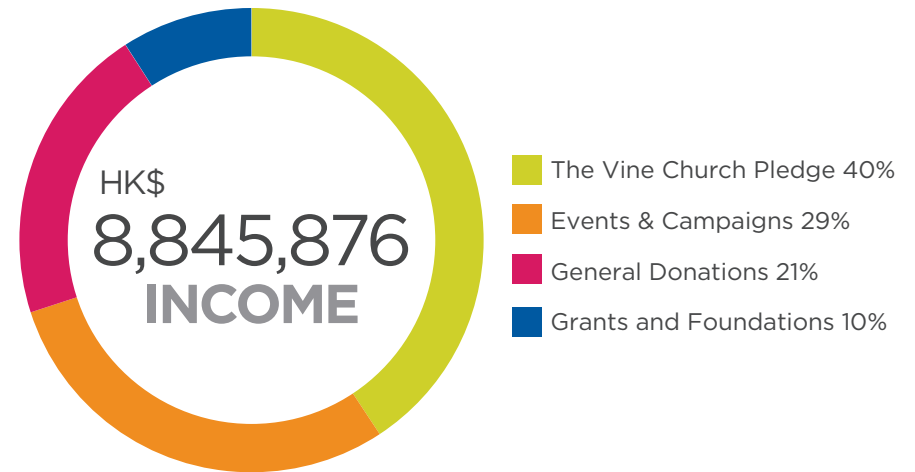
Lynette Coyne
Education Support



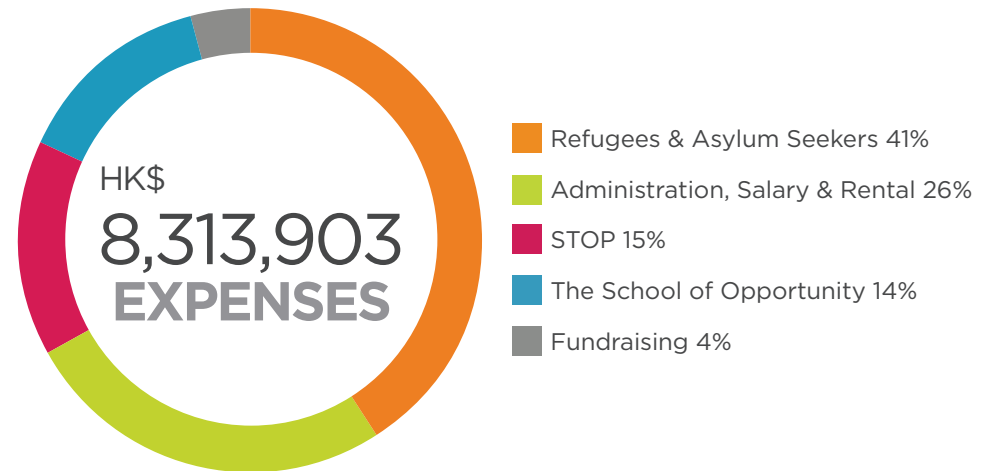
Aline Ruzzon
Education Administrator

FINANCIAL UPDATE

OCT 2016 - SEP 2017



All of VCSL's administration costs are covered by The Vine Church. 100% of all other donations go directly to our clients and project costs.



Note: All figures shown on this page are estimated. Official audit report will be available on website between May and Oct 2018.

OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



THANK YOU!

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

Special thanks to:

Ma Wan Easter Egg Hunt Committee
 Karen Cheng and Cherry Chu (Graphic designer)
 Ron Tse (Photographer)
 Katherine Chiu (Videographer and Bikeathon support crew)
 Ernest Chan, Ken Lung, and Emmanuella Bonga (Editor)

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

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



29 Burrows Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: +852 3527 6000 | Email: info@vcsl.org

www.vcsl.org