

BRIGHTENING LIVES

MARINA BAY
SINGAPORE
COUNTDOWN
2024

THE
Majority
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Stories of Featured Majority Grantee Partners

These groupings, nonprofits and charities work tirelessly all year to alleviate the struggles and brighten the lives of vulnerable individuals and families among us who often struggle on their own.

Vulnerable individuals and
families with limited resources
or are on their own



KampungKakis

Vulnerable individuals and families with limited resources or are on their own.

Supporting isolated and frail seniors by connecting them with resident volunteers through a neighbourhood buddy system

About KampungKakis

KampungKakis is a neighbourhood buddy system aimed at supporting isolated and frail seniors, by connecting resident volunteers with their neighbours-in-need based on proximity, assistance type and spoken language.

A ground-up initiative founded during the Covid-19 crisis in Singapore, KampungKakis provide psychosocial support to over 500 isolated/frail seniors who were even more vulnerable, isolated and confused at the height of the pandemic.



Media Feature

#KampungKakis:
Reigniting the Neighbourly Spirit to Support the Vulnerable - What Are You Doing SG?

Example

Bringing back the Kampung Spirit to support vulnerable elderly in need.

Kampung Kakis provides a safe and inclusive platform for longer-term friendships to blossom between seniors and their neighbour volunteers, who help by befriending the seniors and becoming their pillar of support. Low-income seniors also receive support in the form of personalised grocery packs, medical escort services.

Today, KampungKakis is a registered non-profit with the same goal - to reduce social isolation amongst seniors by reigniting the kampung spirit of neighbours-helping-neighbours.

Feature Story

“Kampung” means village in Malay, and “Kakis” is the local term for buddies. So the #KampungKakis platform taps on help from those within the neighbourhood.

To minimise travelling, Kakis are paired with a kaki-in-need who lives within a walking distance of 20 minutes. Depending on the needs of the beneficiaries, Kakis may help in various ways, like buying groceries or checking-in on a neighbour. The flexibility allows more volunteers to chip-in within their capabilities and around their busy schedules.

For the elderly living alone, their interaction with neighbours and volunteers is essential to their daily lives. For some, this interaction is their only form of contact with the outside world.

“The human touch is irreplaceable,” said Ms Lau, a medical social worker in a hospice and the chairperson for Hong Kah North Zone 7 Residents’ Committee. “Neighbours and community assets are often untapped strengths in the social environment that we live in,” she added.

Even as the country has eased its restrictions from the Circuit Breaker, many routines and activities for these elderly have not resumed as they are encouraged to stay home and away from crowds. For others, the disruption to their lives in recent months may have been overwhelming, and not all know where to seek help.

Life, Interrupted

During the Circuit Breaker, a man from a low income family had lost his job and needed to care for his children, as well as his sick, elderly parents. He did not know where to turn.

When #KampungKakis heard about his plight, they matched him to a Kaki, who offered to cook meals for his family. This was done for a month until #KampungKakis found another organisation able to provide him and his family with meals.

The family also received a laptop for their children’s home-based learning classes. Eventually, the family was put in touch with other organisations that could help him in the longer term.

Apart from pairing volunteers to beneficiaries, #KampungKakis also puts beneficiaries in touch with the right agencies for help.

The group has partnered many other organisations to meet the needs of their beneficiaries. This includes student tuition support from NTU undergraduates, daily meals by Willing Hearts and additional financial assistance from the Mind the Gap Fund through A Good Space and the Cassia Resettlement Team.

The group has been surprised by the amount of help and volunteers they have. Barely three months old, #KampungKakis currently has more than 700 volunteers and 110 beneficiaries.

“We thought many people would be hesitant to lend a helping hand due to the pandemic,” they said. “Turns out that Singaporeans are much more selfless and giving.”

However, in mature estates like Redhill and Jalan Kukoh, volunteers are still in need. In these neighbourhoods, some Kakis have had to take on helping more than two beneficiaries.



Vulnerable individuals and families with limited resources or are on their own.

Giving hope to vulnerable individuals and families who fall the cracks through short-term financial assistance and community support

About Ray of Hope

Ray of Hope is a registered charity and Institution of Public Character (IPC) that connects donors, clients, partners and volunteers to build a stronger, more inclusive community.

As Singapore's first and only crowdfunding charity, they are able to mobilise the community's resources and support for those who need short-term financial assistance.

Through enabling and facilitating these connections, Ray of Hope strives to build a stronger, more tight-knit community where everyone is valued and empowered.

Example

Enabling everyone to chip in to support people in need through crowdfunding donations of any amount and volunteering opportunities.

Ray of Hope commits to serving the needs of low-income and vulnerable individuals and families from all backgrounds, including persons with disabilities, desistors, single parents, migrant workers, isolated seniors, and the unhoused.

With funds from donors, Ray of Hope provides beneficiaries some relief, from worrying about the next meal or electricity bill. Often this break can enable them to get back on their feet and move forward.

Beyond crowdfunding, Ray of Hope also engages with their community and social impact partners to explore collaborative approaches that provide community support and opportunities for their beneficiaries to become more self-reliant.



Media Feature

\$2.4m for a chance to live: 3-month-old baby with rare condition requires 'world's most expensive medicine'



Vulnerable individuals and families with limited resources or are on their own.

Supporting and advocating for adults with intellectual disability and their caregivers through community-based, integrated healthcare

About Happee Hearts Movement

Happee Hearts Movement was founded to advocate for the healthcare needs of a very invisible and forgotten group of people amongst us - People with intellectual disability.

People with intellectual disability have poorer health and lower access to healthcare services compared to the general population. This is made even more challenging as they and their caregivers age.

Example

Providing comprehensive and affordable care service and support to adults with intellectual disabilities and their family caregivers.

By reducing the barriers to access and improving the awareness of appropriate healthcare amongst medical practitioners, the team enables people with intellectual disability and their families to live with dignity.

On top of moving into their specialised ID Health clinic to provide holistic yet subsidised care for their patients, the team provides counselling and house visits services.

The wish of all parents; for their children to be happy, healthy and safe. Something so simple, and yet so difficult to achieve for some families amongst us. The parents of persons with intellectual disability (PWID) contend with a complex mix of emotions from the day their special child is born. Shock, denial, grief, heartache, uncertainty. But also joy, pride and a heart full of love for their very precious child.


All these emotional roller coasters, with its accompanying ups and downs, persist throughout their lives. And intensify as these parents and lifelong caregivers age and face their biggest fear of all; what life would hold for their child once they are no longer around.

There is a growing population of adults with intellectual disabilities (ID), and their unique healthcare and social needs presents their families with complex challenges. When these individuals grow older, so do their caregivers, which makes it even more difficult to care for them. Happee Hearts Movement was started to address this gap - to advocate for the needs of adults with intellectual disabilities and their caregivers, and provide a holistic health service to their families in Singapore.



Media Feature

Clinic set up for adults with intellectual disability and their caregivers | The Straits Times



Championing the learning and livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities (PwDs) in and through the arts

About Art:Dis

ART:DIS aims to create learning and livelihood opportunities for people with disabilities through the arts.

Founded in 1993, ART:DIS has been running successful art programmes, workshops, competitions and art exhibitions for the special needs community, creating awareness among members of the public of their immense talent and resilience.

It is estimated that there are about 518,585 persons with disabilities in Singapore. This means that roughly 1 out of every 7 individuals identifies as having a physical disability, a sensory disability, an intellectual disability and/or a developmental disability.

Beyond using art as a form of discovery and healing, Art:Dis supports their students to become artists by providing them with a structured pathway to upskill towards professionalism.

Example

Empowering Persons with Disabilities through the art of ceramic making.

Art:Dis' Ceramic Art Programme trains Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in ceramic artwork. The training provides opportunities to improve the participant's social and artistic skills while generating income with commission earnings through the sale of the ceramic artworks created.

Teachers have reported increases to participants' social skills e.g. the development of appropriate eye contact and the ability to initiate and comfortably share about their day.

29 of the participating artists have since received commissions for their artwork.

Feature Story

“I enrolled Timothy into Art:Dis to improve his art skills. As time passed, I not only noticed his improvements in his speech but also his potential to be a full fledged artist. I hope he can make a successful career for himself as an artist.”

– Mother of a beneficiary of Art:Dis



Media Feature

New arts space for people with disabilities to open in Bukit Merah next year



Vulnerable individuals and families with limited resources or are on their own.



Building stronger communities that empower and uplift children and youth from challenging backgrounds

About 3Pumpkins

3Pumpkins is a socially-engaged arts organisation set up as a non-profit (CLG) entity in 2019.

They specialise in relational work, creating opportunities to strengthen human connections, especially for vulnerable communities.

For children and youth who may lack consistent guidance and a stable family environment, strong community relationships and support can have a transformative effect - nurturing them into confident and resilient individuals.

Example

Engaging vulnerable children in rental flat communities through participatory activities spanning across the arts, freestyle play, reading, sports, cooking and permaculture.

3Pumpkins' Tak Takut Kids Club, is a community space that engages vulnerable children and youth aged 7 to 14, especially those living in rental flat communities. Their aspiration is to build stronger communities that empower and uplift children and youth from challenging backgrounds.

Occupying a ground-floor shophouse in Boon Lay Drive, Tak Takut Kids Club welcomes any child who walks in. Participatory activities that span across the arts, freestyle play, reading, sports, cooking and permaculture are curated to meet the interests and needs of the community.

This creates an inclusive and safe space where children can express and discover themselves as well as connect and learn from one another.

"I believe that the arts allow the children to express themselves as well as listen to others."

– Lin Shiyun, Founder, 3Pumpkins



Media Feature

A space where vulnerable youngsters learn not to be afraid | The Straits Times