



Because every girl has a dream.

Annual Report 2014



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Founder & Volunteer

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FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

Learning Always and Together

I believe the most successful people are the ones who can make Plan B work. The truth is, whatever we plan and prepare for, sometimes God has other plans, sometimes our judgement is faulty, sometimes things just don't work out. But how we respond to these situations is what differentiates the truly successful from the ones who get beaten down and embittered by the failure. The fact remains, we all get tired and disappointed at times.



It's unreasonable to expect a positive attitude when things don't go as well as planned, or go the opposite direction. But that is also the reason why we do not do anything alone. We are all here for one another, walking with each other with our fragile lives full of weaknesses and beauty. We walk with one another so that we can pick each other up, dust each other off, and offer a kind smile and word of comfort when things go awry. We keep each other strong because no one is strong alone.

Beautiful People enters it's ninth year this year. We are maturing as a family, still growing, learning and creating together. We are learning from experiments. We are changing where we have to and seeking to apply learnings of the past. This year witnessed the birth of new shoots and families with our overseas Batam project as well as the self-care and mentoring programme for the ladies at Changi Women's Prison. We are excited to see more dreams pursued, shared and owned. May we continue to learn and grow together for many years to come.

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa".

Melissa
Founder & Volunteer

AG HOME *(partner since 2006)*

Co Leaders:
Chan Siew Wai
Jane Lim
Jennifer Lim

NO OF GIRLS 14
NO OF VOLUNTEERS 12

When asked what was the most memorable and impactful event for AG Home in 2014 both Little Sisters and Big Sisters instantaneously replied, “Community Outreach at a Batam Orphanage!” We shared the following quotes from some participants about their experience.



Little Sisters:

“I love everything about it. It was fun and I enjoyed playing with the children”.

“The trip taught me to treasure the things I have”.

“I learned to be more empathic and compassionate after the trip”.

Big Sisters:

“I like the great bonding time I had with all, including the other big sisters. The trip allowed me to feel what it’s like to be part of the AG/BP Family”.

“The trip made us realize how fortunate we are. I was shocked to see how so many children could live in such a small space. I was amazed to see how the orphans took care of one another and being appreciative and thankful always”.



We asked the Big Sisters whether overseas community service trips help to engage or challenge the Little Sisters in becoming a better person and here is what some of them have to say:



“Personally I don’t think one trip will make them a better person but it definitely drives more engagement between the Little and Big Sisters”.

“I like the fact that the Little Sisters made a conscious effort to earn the money for the trip themselves. It was great to see them taking some ownership of the programme. We spent a great deal of time together preparing for this trip”.

“I would like the Little Sisters to pick up organizational skills to arrange future events so that they can be proud of their accomplishments after that’.

In summary, for most of the participants the key takeaways from the trip included bonding, gratitude, empathy, and empowerment.

GRACEHAVEN *(partner since 2012)*

Co Leaders:
Chen Jiaxin
Foo Wei Ling
Lala Wong
Priyanka Rajendran
Serene Koh

NO OF GIRLS 8
NO OF VOLUNTEERS 18

In the last quarter of 2014, we held our first camp with the girls, Big Sisters and two alumni members. The camp created a platform for bonding in a larger group context and allowed the Little Sisters to get to know other Big Sisters and vice versa. Also, staying together overnight meant that Big Sisters had more time to listen and share as a family beyond the formal structured programme.

The highlight of the camp was when we gathered to discuss “hot” issues like emotions, vulnerability and sex in a non-judgemental and safe environment. We asked each Little Sister and Big Sister to write down their burning question on a note and place it in a bowl anonymously. Each question was then read aloud and everyone took turns to share their opinion. This “intimate” experience caused a breakthrough in our relationship with each other.



PERTAPIS CENTRE FOR WOMEN & GIRLS

(partner since 2009)

This year we launched the Young Leaders training programme with the intention of grooming our previous batches of Little Sisters to take on leadership roles even after they have been discharged from the home.

Aristar* was one promising Little Sister chosen for this programme among others. Her Big Sister was assigned to be her 'supervisor' setting expectations, briefing her and fellow young leaders before each training session on their role as facilitators or logistics helpers and guiding them.

Co Leaders:
Karyn Choo
Liang Peiyun
Shah Noentil
Quek Jing Yan

NO OF GIRLS 11
NO OF YOUNG LEADERS 4
NO OF VOLUNTEERS 16



Our young leaders took a while to get used to this role reversal from their Big-Little Sister mentoring relationship because they are used to being led. Eventually, they saw the benefits and became more confident in leading and sharing with the group. They successfully helped to organize a MBL Bonding Camp, co-ordinated outdoor activities such as outdoor yoga, visit to Bollywood Veggies and a community service project at Jamiyah Home where the group did a makeover for the elderly residents there!

Arista* and her Big Sister's mentoring relationship was just one of the fruits of the Young Leaders Training. Next year Arista* will be assisting her Big Sister in training at one of the other Homes we partner with. With the successful first run of our Young Leaders Programme, we are motivated to groom new batches so that they too can become great role models for a new generation of little sisters.



“Being a young leader has impacted me in many ways to grow beyond my comfort zone. It has allowed me to think out of the box and has made me a more confident communicator”

-ARISTA* (LITTLE SISTER)

THE TENT *(partner since 2010)*

Co Leaders:
Tang Xin Hui
Ye Yin Yi
Veronica Pang

NO OF GIRLS 16
NO OF VOLUNTEERS 14

We share here a story about the mentoring journey told from both a Big Sister's and Little Sister's point of view. We can see that a mentoring relationship needs time to nurture and is based on trust which takes time to build.



Big Sister:

“My relationship with my little sister, started some 5 years back but it got more intentional only two years ago. When she was allowed to spend her home leave with me, I invited her for weekend stays and she joined me for special occasions such as birthdays, my family reunion parties or my friends' get-togethers.

The time spent together allowed us to develop a strong understanding and patience - we learned to acknowledge our differences, our likes and dislikes and to respect each other's space. Now we can share many things, from schoolwork and friends, to talking about her family

and some intimate discussions of her girl-boy relationship. As a Big Sister, I benefitted from her company, which taught me to be more patient and thoughtful and to be a good listener through our sharing”.

Little Sister:

“My Big Sister is a nice, caring and spontaneous person. She gives her best in whatever she does. She helps me in my schoolwork and brought me home to stay with her during home leave. I got to know her family and was exposed to things that I wouldn't have the opportunity to do on my own”.



BP FAMILY

Co Leaders:
Allison Phua
Ashley Wong
Dora Yeo
Serene Koh

Serving as a Family



The **BP Family** is a platform for us to continue the relationship between discharged Little Sisters and Big Sisters in a larger community setting.



BP Family Day in the first quarter of the year was attended by about **85** people.



BLESSED to
be a
BLESSING



**Community
Work @ BEO
CRESCENT**



Our Little Sisters and Big Sisters visited **80** elderly beneficiaries on different occasions.



They also distributed dried provisions, cookies and NTUC Vouchers.

GLOW

GROWING LOVE ALL OVER THE WORLD

Co Leaders:
Phyllis Ng

NO OF CHILDREN 26
NO OF VOLUNTEERS 23

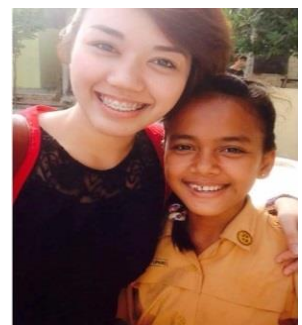
Sharing by Little Sister Turned Volunteer



Since 2011 Beautiful People started to engage our Little Sisters in overseas community service trips to Mae Sot, Northern Thailand near the Myanmar border. It was an opportunity for the Big and Little Sisters to bond and for them to invite their families along. During these trips we would run a Children's Camp, host a Christmas Party for hundreds of children and help their parents to learn new skills in order to find employment. We hope with this involvement that our Little Sisters would have a chance to pay it forward.

In August 2014, we extended the programme to an orphanage EL Zion Grace Home in Batam, which has 26 children aged 1 to 17 years old. Volunteer teams run English lessons for the children on a weekly rotational schedule. With better education, we hope the children would be able to find employment when they leave the home and have the means to live independently. We also help EL-Zion Grace Home to explore different income sources to support their expenses.

Lindsay Ambrosio, our Little Sister at The TENT was discharged at the end of 2013. She is our first Little Sister to become a GLOW volunteer. Lindsay hopes to keep an open mind in everything that she is going to learn and experience while volunteering. She enjoys building relationships with the children as it reminded her of how she benefitted from the relationship with her Big Sisters. She also hopes to teach the children to approach challenges in life positively. Lindsay currently works as a F&B Service Staff and has applied for the Beautiful People Scholarship to continue her study in hospitality.



GLOW also recruited our very first two male volunteers. As majority of children in the orphanage are boys, they play a very important Big Brother role.

FREE FOR GOOD

Co Leaders:
Jennifer Lim
Susie Lim
Yap Hwee Hoon

NO OF GIRLS 13
NO OF VOLUNTEERS 12

Exploring Freedom at Changi Women's Prison

In August 2014 we launched a four-month pre-release mentoring programme called Free For Good with a group of inmates in Changi Women's Prison. Twelve adventurous big sisters took a leap of faith and became outmates to the inmates!

Together they explored what it means to live a life that is truly free, inside and outside because physical freedom is just one aspect to living a good, true and beautiful life. One important component of the programme is Self-care because freedom starts with the intentional practice of taking care of ourselves in a healthy way. The first batch of inmates in the programme were discharged between December 2014 and January 2015. The journey to true freedom continues



“It is only when you can name your prison that you can do the terrifying, but life affirming and necessary work of setting yourself free”

-Katie Ford

BABY READER

Co Leaders:
Melissa Kwee
Meena Mylvaganam

NO OF FAMILIES 9
NO OF VOLUNTEERS 8

Confident Parenting for Young Mums



Launched in April 2014, Baby Reader is a community of young mothers and mentor mamas who champion the potential of each child to grow up healthy, loved and loving learning. A pilot run was launched where we met weekly on Saturdays for two months and then for the mothers to form their groups on their own, keeping in touch with the Mentor Mamas through a WhatsApp group.

What was so heartfelt was seeing our Little Sisters, who have become mums, joining us. One of them was Ayu who was among our first batch of Little Sisters and is now a mother of two. Together with her husband and children she participates actively in the

sessions learning tips on parenting alongside other young parents. As an example, simple tips shared by mentor mum Stephanie Kwee-Ng helped a young mum deprived of sleep to keep to a predictable feeding and napping schedule.

At the end of the pilot, the young families requested for a year-long programme, parenting skills and socialization for the kids among other things.

We plan to incorporate the feedbacks in our second session reaching out to current eight mentee families with nine volunteers. Moving forward, we would like to include Little Sisters as soon as they get pregnant to help prepare them for parenthood. The Little Sisters will also be able to learn from the young Mamas who are part of the group. We hope to launch a weekday Baby Reader programme once we have the new volunteers and young families lined up.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING & ENGAGEMENT

Trainers:
Irene Teo
Susie Lim
Ting Sue Yee
Tu-Vi Nguyen

Highlights of Key Activities

51 new volunteers joined the Beautiful People family in 2014. For the first time we had the pleasure of welcoming and training two male volunteers who had signed up for GLOW, our community service project in Batam.

Growing leaders is a key priority for Volunteer Training and we ran our annual full day Leadership Development Retreat for all co-leaders in May. As a team we explored what leadership is about, what leaders do and what the BP Vision means to each of us. Some key takeaways about raising leaders is that it is about inspiring a shared vision, modelling the way and encouraging the heart.



In May and June we also ran a series of Coaching Conversations with Big Sisters in all our partner homes. These conversations are meant to be a forum to share and discuss challenges so that we can learn and grow together as a community. The discussion revolved around three key points - revisiting their role as big sisters, are they clear on the do's and don'ts and boundaries, are they fully equipped with skills to support their mentoring of Little Sisters and what did they learn about themselves in the process. Some areas for improvement included a better management of the discharge process, more interactions with new big sisters rather than focussing on activities, and customizing skills training for Big Sisters dealing with Little Sisters who are in the homes for different reasons ie. child protection, BPC, shelter.

We introduced the concept of Self-care to our big sisters in 2013 during the annual R&R in Kukup. As a follow-up we ran a Body & Well Being Workshop in October 2014. The workshop is to train participants to be aware of the range of emotional alternatives we show in our relationship with the people in our life and what is not working. Oftentimes we are not conscious of our emotions and the way we carry them in our body and how our history and culture also impact our body. The twelve big sisters who attended the workshop had fun in exploring a range of body movements and emotions that can help them to have a more fulfilling life.

BP STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING

Beautiful People Talking about Beautiful People

On 18 October, a Saturday afternoon our Beautiful People family came together to reflect on our past 8 years and to dream for the next lap! Everyone left feeling invigorated and re-energised with love aplenty to go the distance.



We started with a gallery walk through Beautiful People's history, and it served as a wonderful introduction. Old-timers enthralled the fresh-eyed new volunteers with stories of the past, when our first batch of gungho women warriors walked into Beyond Social Services with no plan other than a commitment to serve and love. The session provided a common history, and left us with much excitement for the future that we will create together.

This was followed by an introspective session on what BP means to us. What stood out most for people was the feeling of inclusiveness and respect, much like the way we hope a family would feel!



Then it was time for dreaming about our future. The dynamic teams came up with many new ideas for where we saw BP going in the next lap, crossing many boundaries, whether gender (what if we worked with boys too?), national borders (what if BP could be a model for working with women overseas?) or age (how about if we started with younger girls in schools, what about families?)



We left holding not just many possibilities of the things to come, but also a meaningful gift that challenged us with a simple task that would bring the love back to our families and friends. Just another day with beautiful people. =)

FUNDRAISING



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

artistry

Live Your Dream!

Celebrating Beautiful Lives

Beautiful People is once again having a special evening in August!

In 2014, the Fundraising Team organised one 'Live Your Dream!' event in August at partner venue Artistry.



The evening featured performances by Little Sisters Phoebe and Nina (Picture above, from left to right, Nina and Phoebe)



*Little Sister Azura took the stage to thank the donors for her film project. Azura had the room in silence as she related her life experiences and why she wanted to make her film - **Saying No to Abuse!***



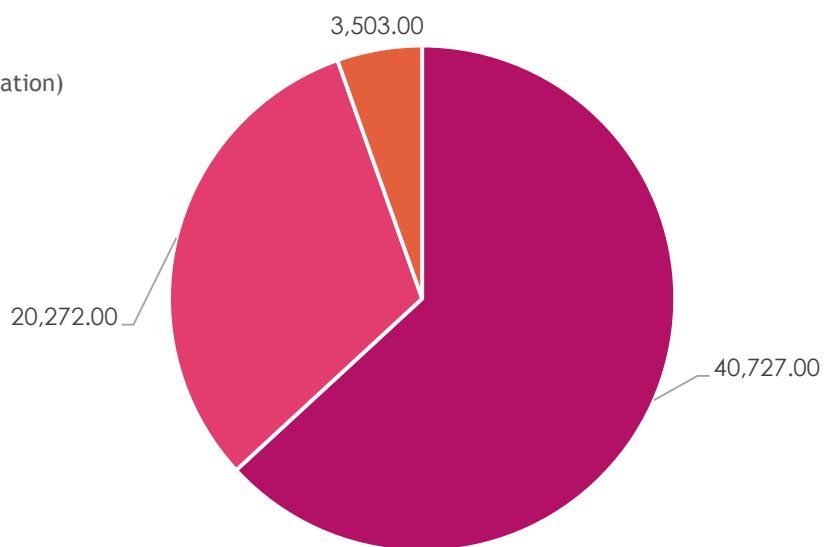
Award-winning group SASS entertaining the crowd



FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014

Total Income: 64,502.00

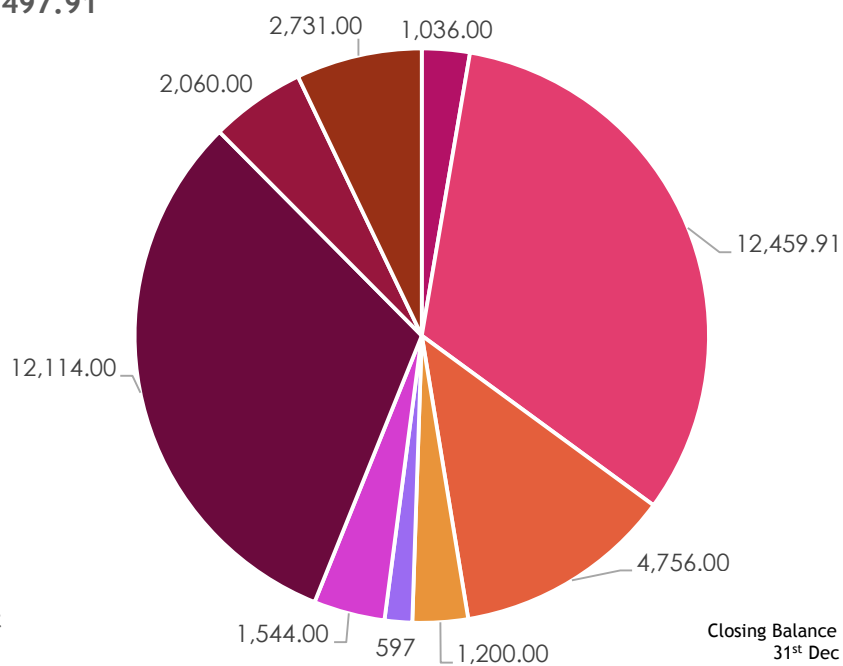
- Donations (Corporate/Foundation)
- Donations (Individuals)
- Others & Fund-raise



Opening Balance of funds **235,723.00**

Total expenses : 38,497.91

- Administration
- Home Programme
- BP Family
- Baby Reader
- Free For Good
- GLOW
- Good Work
- Sponsorship for Girls
- Volunteer Management



Closing Balance as at 31st Dec 2014 **261,727.09**

STATISTICS

8

FAMILY
MENTORS

Community
Outreach

80

ELDERLY
SERVED

97%

FUND RAISED
GO TO
BENEFICIARIES

117

ACTIVE
VOLUNTEERS

165

ATTENDED
BP FAMILY
ACTIVITIES

MORE THAN

450

GIRLS
MENTORED

SINCE 2006

26

ORPHANS
SERVED IN BATAM

PARTNER
WITH

4

HOMES

\$64,500 RAISED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support

Artistry Café LLP
British Theatre Playhouse Pte Ltd
Club 21
COMO Foundation
MasterCard International
PT Cross Plus Indonesia
SASS Group
Shambhala Yoga Centre Pte Ltd
Temasek Foundation
The Seed Basket
Toa Payoh Central Community Club Game On

Partners

AG Home
Beyond Social Services
El-Zion Grace Home
Gracehaven
Pertapis Centre for Women & Girls
The Tent

**And all the individuals who have helped us in one way or another.
We would not be what we are today without you !**