

# Beautiful People

Because our dreams matter



Dear <<First Name>>

“ A Message  
from Melissa ”

*Dear Beautiful People family,*

With this new year comes many new and good things! One very meaningful one to me is our new board and leadership team led by my dear friend and sister Yoek. In our journey towards being the kind of family and community we all would have wanted – we take turns to express our dreams and support one another's. One of those dreams for me is to see the next generation lead into the next lap of the future and to do so with great joy, passion and conviction that though the road may be difficult, it is still worth taking. I believe Yoek and the new leadership team embodies this and will invite us all to find our own areas of contribution and growth as we journey together.

Leadership at Beautiful People is not about control, gaining recognition or exerting power. It is an invitation for each of us to **step up into our higher selves** and **journey humbly with one another** as we love and serve those amongst us who may hurt or struggle a little more. It is the process by which each of us becomes better with and through our relationships with one another. Sometimes we are strong, sometimes we are weak. But at all times, we are loved and at all times, we can grow through our experiences.

So I invite you all to grow together and support Yoek and the new team with your own passion, dreams and skills. Together, we can create a more beautiful future that is already becoming so because of you.

*Blessings,*

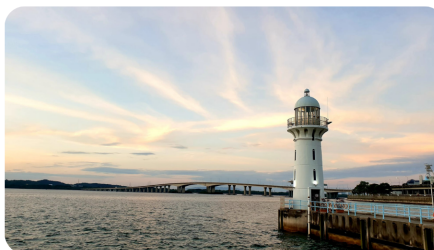


Photo taken by Young Leader mentor, *Chong Siew*.

“ A message  
from Yoek ”

**To my sisters and friends in the Beautiful People family,**

Hello, I am Yoek and I am a fellow volunteer who has grown with the Beautiful People community over more than 10 years.

My journey with Beautiful People started with showing up at a Meet and Greet one Saturday morning of 2008, and connecting with strangers over questions people normally do not ask when you meet them for the first time (e.g. hi, what is your dream?). Going to a “My Beautiful Life” mentoring session, I listened to the story of the wooden puppets, and felt the relief at being part of a circle that did not judge others and yourself, based on your black dots and shining stars.

It is my hope that these are some rituals and highlights that we share across the years, even if we have yet to meet! Everyone has their own Beautiful People stories, and what brings us together are these stories: **of the times we hold on to hope amidst challenge and disappointment, of the times we celebrate life together.**

In the past year, Beautiful People turns 15. Fifteen is a number that represents renewal and rejuvenation. I think this means a quest to live out even more fully, that which we already are.



Through the Strategic Review exercise started by the last Board in 2020, we engaged with batches of mentors and leaders, old and new, and re-anchored on what makes Beautiful People distinct: the belief that the power to change lives lies not in programmes and services, but in *purposeful relationships with people who care*.

The conversations also sparked off new energies and a fresh direction that will see us working out the idea of distributed leadership where we have one mission, but many leaders. Volunteers expressed a dream to be not just ‘consumers’ of the mentoring programmes; but to be co-creators and leaders. Our teams at Little Giant Steps and Pertapis have already started the journey. There will be much experimentation as we figure out new ways of working together, but we believe there are no bad experiences, only the opportunity to learn together.

Our volunteers truly stepped up to the plate, with our recent Peer-to-Peer fundraiser **#ChoosetoChange**. Together, our mini-campaigns raised more than **\$90,000** that will be matched dollar for dollar. This too, is an expression of shared ownership and co-creation, a labour of love!

I was reminded of a comment a teacher of mine once made. Often, we ask too little, not too much of our people. People are moved to say yes because they believe in the significance of the work, not because the ask is small. And in saying yes to what we believe in, we become more of who we aspire to be.

I say **YES** to carrying on the good work started by our dear mentors and friends, especially Melissa, Dora, and Phyllis, who have been the head, heart and hands that built Beautiful People (and there are many more, who have shared in this legacy work and heartbeat). I share this ‘yes’ with an competent and committed team: Chloe Liew, Karyn Choo and Sudi who are joining the leadership team at the Board level for the first time, as well as Geri, Meena, Lai Har and Priyanka, who join me in the commitment to build up the next cohort of leaders whom we know will take this work even further. We could not do this without our staff team: Mellisa Chong, Pei Rong (Chloe Ng) and Maryam and most importantly, **you**, the volunteers and leaders who are the engine of hope.

**Thank you for saying yes, to our collective dream of generational impact, one mentoring relationship at a time.**

With Love,  
Yoek

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