



STUDENT ADVISORY CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2014

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MESSAGE BY CHAIRMAN - MR PETER DOUGLAS

Student Advisory Centre (SAC) was founded in 2003. 2014 was a year of change, and of looking forward to our next decade.

Our Director and founder, Mr. Trevor Xie, stepped down. The Board thanks Trevor for his energy and vision, and not least his consistent and untiring efforts through the years. It is a simple statement of fact that SAC would not exist without Trevor. His approach to third sector entrepreneurialism has been ahead of its time, with his focus on delivering innovative services to our clients, CSR solutions to our corporate donors, and greater efficiency to our social service efforts. His unconventional, results-driven, version of social service has without a doubt reinforced and reinvigorated the sector in Singapore. We wish him well in his new endeavours.

We welcomed Ms. Georgie Chong as General Manager at the end of the year. Georgie has a long and international business career spanning several industry sectors. Her experience both in business administration and business development will maintain SAC's momentum and develop its services and sources of funding, over the coming years.

SAC works with youths at risk, and our broad range of programmes and services touch on the lives of young Singaporeans at the margin of our society. We try to put in place a holistic package of services to ensure that all our clients participate in the opportunities that Singapore has to offer them.

In 2014 we continued to reduce our involvement in the Enhanced Step-Up programme of in-school counselling, in response to falling funding levels, but still delivered almost 400 sessions. Reduced funding since 2012 has also resulted in a scaling back of our lunch box programme, that provides lunch in schools to lower income students; however we still disbursed slightly more than the previous year, at \$53,000.

Children's Wishing Well, an online portal, continued to be popular both with donors and clients, and we matched over 200 specific requests, with \$43,000. Our newest programme, Food for Families, providing packages of foodstuffs to poorer families, assisted over 100 families through 2014.

In 2014 we reduced our expenditure slightly, while raising significantly more funds than in 2013, thereby rebuilding our reserves from 2013 when we had dipped into them to maintain our service delivery. We have over \$760,000 of reserves now, putting SAC into a strong position to develop long term projects.

We are touched by the unstinting contribution of our core volunteers. Each of our key programs namely Food for Families, Children's Wishing Well and Hot Meals is managed by distinct teams. Structured and empowered to run all operational aspects, our core volunteers meet at least once a month for committee discussions and additionally for event execution. Some of our core members have been with SAC for more than 2 years, providing stability and continuity. The programs' success is attributed in no small part to their commitment and dedication to a worthy cause.

We are deeply grateful to our various corporate partners, not only for their cash funding but also the enthusiasm and fellowship of their staff.

I have been very lucky to have such a talented Board of Directors; I am immensely grateful for their support and dedication through the year. We look forward to the continued support and patronage of our volunteers, donors and community partners as we work closely to support our clients and their families in Singapore.

Peter Douglas
Signed

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Peter Paul Douglas
Chairman
Student Advisory Centre



Sandra Seah Gek Huang
Secretary
Student Advisory Centre



Ng How Yue
Board member
Student Advisory Centre



Maurice Nhan
(appointed end 2012)
Treasurer
Student Advisory Centre

EXECUTIVE STAFF TEAM

The staff employed as at 31 December 2014 are:

General Manager	Georgie Chong
Office Manager	Janice Lee Su Ann
Counsellor	Charis Chenxu Lingen
Counsellor	Azzah Mahmud
Counsellor	K Kavitha
Counsellor	Juriah Ismail

SCHOOL BASED SERVICES



School based services include camps, workshops and counselling to students at risk of dropping out, under the Enhanced Step Up Program. The number of students reached out to, over the years, are as follows:

Year	Number of students
2006	115

2007	370
2008	1077
2009	1422
2010	2136
2011	1412
2012	875
2013	844
2014	384

The charity regularly reviews and assess its programs with a view of achieving optimal efficiency and outcomes for its beneficiaries. In 2012, we shifted our focus away from larger camps and workshops where the impact hits a larger pool of students but its effect are short term in nature.

From 2013, we embarked on one-on-one counselling to at-risk students, as part of the Enhanced Step Up program offered by the Ministry of Social and Family Development. The program aims to support students at risk of dropping out of school. Our counsellors work one-on-one with these students, providing casework, counselling, family intervention and group work. Stretching over a period of 12 months, the program aims to improve their attendance in school.

LUNCH BOX FUND



With the increased requirement for students to attend compulsory co-curricular activities, students now remain in school until mid afternoons. For those from low income families, this is an added burden and many cannot afford the extra pocket money to buy lunch. As such, Lunch Box Fund provides a valuable service in ensuring that students do not go hungry. We therefore support both their health and educational needs.

Targeted at those on financial assistance and nominated by the schools, each primary school student receives S\$1 a day whilst secondary school students receive S\$1.50 a day. These funds are disbursed to the schools directly. In turn, schools will issue lunch vouchers that can only be used in the school canteens.

In recent years, the amount of funds decreased from 2012, owing to the cessation of a 4-year partnership with the Northeast CDC.

Year	Amount Disbursed To Schools
2007	\$23,100
2008	\$103,740
2009	\$308,652
2010	\$469,613
2011	\$547,804
2012	\$36,437
2013	\$44,932
2014	\$53,178

CHILDREN'S WISHING WELL



Children's Wishing Well is an online portal. It allows students who are faced with financial difficulty to post their wishes on the website through their teachers. Students will write about themselves, their situation and difficulties faced and amount of assistance required. Donors looking through our website will select the particular students whom they wish to assist, either for the entire sum or, where the amount are large, in smaller quantum to be pooled together amongst various sponsors.

Thus far, we have provided for needs in the areas of education, health and basic living. Items donated include laptops, sports shoes, spectacles, hearing aids, mattresses and cupboards.

Since its launch in 2010, it has supported the following number of cases:

Year	Number of Cases	Value of Donations
2010	198	\$28,527
2011	122	\$32,768
2012	122	\$28,065
2013	225	\$64,401
2014	210	\$42,839

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

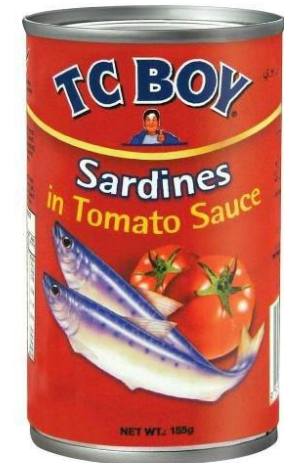


Food for Families was launched in July 2013. Due to the increased costs of living, many low income families struggle to pay for the myriad necessities of life. The Food for Families program is aimed at providing monthly groceries to alleviate some of their financial burdens and enable a family to prepare a meal at home.

Beneficiaries are nominated by schools and must meet the financial eligibility criteria spelt out by the Ministry of Education for its Financial Assistance Scheme. Presently, this means that the beneficiaries' total household income must not exceed S\$2,500 a month. For larger families, per capita income shall not be more than S\$625 per month.

More than 100 families across Singapore benefit from this important program. Each grocery bag, worth S\$50, contains staples such as:

- Rice
- Noodles
- Cooking oil
- Canned food (mackerel, sardines, tuna and vegetables)
- Biscuits
- Beverage
- Milk
- Cereal



We have been fortunate to gain the support of both corporate and individual sponsors who not only contribute food staples but also engage in the packing and distribution of these items. For corporate, this is seen as a good CSR (corporate social responsibility) program that involves staff and even family members as they distribute the grocery bags to various parts of Singapore. We are also thankful for the many individuals who stepped up to donate food or help us with deliveries. Packing occurs on the 2nd Friday of each month at our office in Clementi from 7.30pm to 9.30 pm. Delivery takes place from 9 to 12 noon.

FUNDRAISING



In 2014, our Bookmark Day raised S\$27,709.

Students are given bookmarks and cash donation tins to raise funds in support of our charity. They are assigned to various public places such as the MRT vicinity, shopping malls and markets.

We are grateful to schools that have supported the fund raising drive by sending their students in this meaningful activity to support the less-fortunate families in Singapore.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Our audited financial results for the past 5 years are as follows:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total income	1,109,677	705,949	1,116,908	645,747	937,350
Total expenditure	880,727	686,362	750,131	871,965	762,764
Net surplus/(deficit)	228,950	19,586	366,777	(226,219)	174,586
Bank balance	444,979	324,020	800,850	474,732	754,915