

REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH

# MERCY & JUSTICE



Photo by Nick Lin @skyscapist

*A glimpse into what God is doing in our community to help you consider what he wants to do through you.*



# MERCY & JUSTICE

What does the LORD  
require of you but to  
do justice, and to love  
kindness, and to walk  
humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

Photo by Nick Lim @skyscapist





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# OUR VISION

# OVERVIEW





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**VISION  
STATEMENT**

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To seek the renewal of our local communities by being present with Christ's love.

Through our on-the-ground efforts, we contribute to RHC's broader vision for Asia to be renewed by people, churches, and cities transformed by the gospel.





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## OUR MODEL

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We partner with select and trusted organisations, coming alongside their good works with committed volunteer support.

Rather than orienting ourselves around a formal mandate, our aim is simply to reflect Christ's pursuing love for our neighbours—especially those who may fall through the cracks of formal support systems.



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## OUR MINISTRY STRATEGY

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Volunteers and leaders are developed<sup>1</sup>, in turn developing the community.

We aim to be a supportive and invested partner, empowering the organisations we work with to achieve their missions.

We focus on prayer, with the conviction that it is God who is actively redeeming our neighbouring communities and graciously inviting us to join him.

Check out our ventures on pg 17.

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<sup>1</sup> To learn more about our volunteer development model, please see Appendix pg 45



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## OUR VALUES

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- 1. We are remade by the gospel.**  
We will never be content with the state of society alone (we are called to get involved).
- 2. We do mercy and justice as a team effort.**  
We should never work alone as we seek to renew our community.
- 3. We focus on being present and building enduring relationships.**  
Our neighbours should never feel alone in their need.
- 4. We engage the multifaceted needs of our neighbours.**  
Renewing our community means addressing more than just one need alone.
- 5. We aim to infuse the hope of the gospel into all that we do.**  
We are not concerned with renewing the physical world alone (but also the spiritual!)

\*Learn more about our values in the Appendix



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## HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN OUR COMMUNITY IS RENEWED?

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When development occurs in the following areas:

- Basic needs are met
- Whole relationships exist among families, friends & neighbours
- Individual dignity & worth are realised
- Better futures are made possible through increased empowerment & agency
- Opportunities are created to know the living Christ



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## WHAT CONSTITUTES OUR 'LOCAL COMMUNITIES'?

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All neighbours we engage could be considered socially / economically vulnerable, and most are children and families. They are distinguished geographically between those in Chinatown and those outside of Chinatown.



# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

From a survey conducted among a subsection of Mercy & Justice beneficiaries in 2020, this word cloud represents responses to an optional question: What are three words to describe the impact the RHC volunteer(s) have had on your life?

FRIENDLY  
 KINDHEARTED HELPFUL RESPECTFUL  
 HOSPITABLE I NEED YOU LOVE FOR THE  
 CARING PROVIDED BROKEN HEART  
 COMFORTING **THANKFUL** HOPEFUL  
 HUMBLE  
 LISTEN TO MY PRAY FOR ME BLESSED  
 PROBLEMS RESPECTFUL FAMILY HERE  
 MOTIVATED LOVING IN SINGAPORE  
 LEARNING FROM THEM WILL VISIT ME  
 GLAD FOR SURE





VOLUNTEER  
EXPERIENCE



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## QUALITIES WE LOOK FOR IN A VOLUNTEER:

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- Desire to tune into God’s heart for the vulnerable
- Willingness to be personally changed & impacted by His grace in the process of joining His renewing work in the community
- Eagerness to build relationships across the lines of culture, race, religion, background and socioeconomic status
- Ambition to join a broader community of volunteers—supporting and inspiring one another while serving together



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## **WHAT WE PROVIDE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:**

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- a. A basic orientation is conducted for new volunteers, in preparation for joining any of our serving initiatives.
- b. Training is held at least once per year for all volunteers to learn skills relevant to real-life serving experiences.
- c. Community-building opportunities are facilitated amongst volunteers involved in similar activities.
- d. Personal check-ins are made to help ensure each volunteer is supported and able to link their serving experiences back to their personal faith development.

## MEET SOME OF RHC'S MERCY & JUSTICE VOLUNTEERS



Rui Bing, RHC volunteer with the Yong-en food distribution, pictured in white above.

“ I believe that the Lord gives to us unique gifts, capacities, and burdens in our hearts and for me, that was the elderly who are marginalised in society. After attending a talk organised by RHC two years ago, I was reminded of the main motivation that should shape our desire to serve His people: to display Christ’s heart - His mercy and grace that we have first received - to those around us. What I enjoy most is being able to mutually journey through life with the lovely aunties and getting to know each other as friends beyond a volunteer-beneficiary relationship, which I am truly grateful for.





Rui Fen, RHC volunteer at ReadAble, pictured in white

“I was not a Christian when I first started volunteering at ReadAble, and had not found out about it through RHC. Subsequently, coming to faith gave me a new perspective and purpose with my time at ReadAble—mainly that I was appreciative to God for the blessings that he had given to me, and I wanted to give back to him through serving others. The facts that I have also coincidentally bumped into fellow volunteers in church, and RHC’s support for ReadAble, has definitely helped to make me feel more comfortable in both the communities in RHC and ReadAble. What I have most enjoyed about ReadAble is learning new things about myself and life from the kids.”

# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

From a survey conducted among a representative sample of Mercy & Justice volunteers in 2020, this word cloud represents all relevant responses to an optional question: **Three words that describe the personal impact on my life of serving in RHC Mercy & Justice are...**







# SERVING OPPORTUNITIES



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# SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

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I am interested in serving:

Low-income adults



Children



Teenagers



New & Expectant Mothers



Elderly

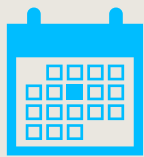


Guest Workers



I am available to serve:

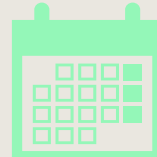
Weekdays



Weekday Nights



Weekends



I would like to serve as:

An Individual



A Family



A Community Group





# BE OUR GUEST



“TODAY I MEET YOU SO I VERY HAPPY”

-Mr A, guest worker (pictured on previous page with RHC volunteer Nathan)



**INVOLVES:**

Guest workers | Weekends



**SIGN UP AS:**

Individuals | Family | CG

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**WHAT:**

Reaching out to guest workers in the dorms whom RHC connected with through our 2020 Adopt-a-Dorm initiative.

**HOW:**

- Plan and/or participate in deliveries or other ways to connect with and show hospitality to the guest workers.

**WHEN:**

Sundays & Public Holidays

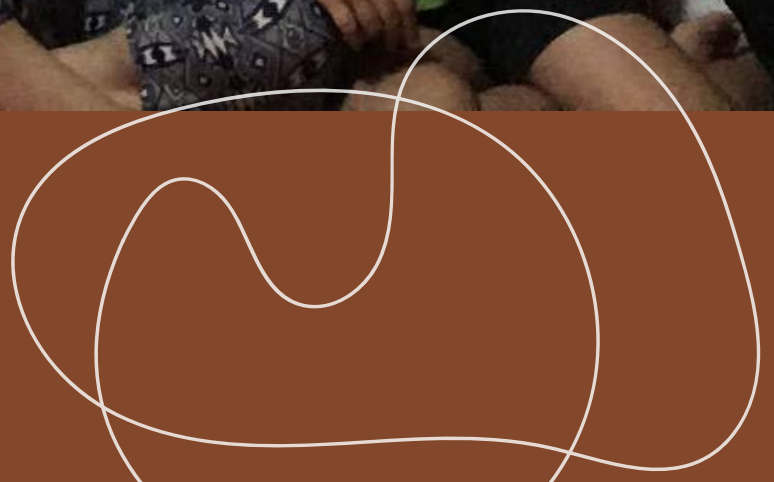
For more information or to sign up, please visit [bit.ly/mjvolunteer](https://bit.ly/mjvolunteer)





# FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

(IN PARTNERSHIP WITH METHODIST WELFARE SERVICES)



“

IT'S BEEN GREAT TO SEE A'S SAVINGS GROW AS A RESULT OF HER DISCIPLINED SAVINGS APPROACH. SHE SEEMS HOPEFUL AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HOW THIS GROWING SUM WILL HELP HER / HER DAUGHTER'S EDUCATION IN THE FUTURE.”

- Chris, RHC volunteer with MWS FDP (pictured on previous page)

**INVOLVES:**

Low-income adults

Weekends | Weekdays | Weekday nights

**SIGN UP AS:**

Individuals | Family | CG

**WHAT:**

Helping low-income families increase their net worth, buffer for crises, and reduce toxic stress & anxiety through debt and savings matching.

**HOW:**

- Befriend participating families, providing support, encouragement & accountability
- Assist with monthly monitoring and documentation

**WHEN:**

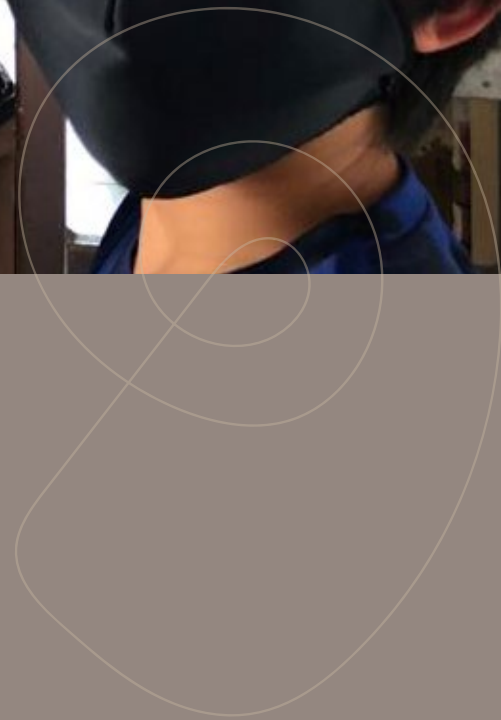
Flexible timings

For more information or to sign up, please visit [bit.ly/mjvolunteer](https://bit.ly/mjvolunteer)

Methodist Welfare Services is an independently run organisation. Find out more about their work at [mws.sg](https://mws.sg).



# FRESH FOOD ITEM DELIVERY





“  
...A HEARTFELT ‘THANK YOU’! I  
AM TOUCHED BEYOND WORDS.  
MY KIDS ENJOYED SO MUCH  
THE FRUITS AS IT REALLY TASTED  
FABULOUS”

- D, fresh food item recipient

**INVOLVES:**

Low-income adults | Children |  
Teenagers | Elderly

**SIGN UP AS:**

Individuals | Family | CG

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**WHAT:** \*separate from ongoing evening food distribution (see page 34)

Meeting practical needs by delivering healthy, fresh food and extending a hand of friendship to low-income neighbours.

**HOW:**

- Distribute monthly food rations
- Befriend families, providing deeper support where possible

**WHEN:**

Once/month

For more information or to sign up, please visit [bit.ly/mjvolunteer](https://bit.ly/mjvolunteer)

# GLADIOLUS PLACE



“MY TIME AT GP HAS SHOWN ME ABOUT GOD’S GRACE, MERCY AND THE WAY THAT HE ACTS. SOMETIMES WHEN YOU WITNESS THINGS WITH A FRONT ROW SEAT TO IT, YOU CANNOT DENY THAT HE’S REAL AND HE’S MOVING - AND IT GREW MY FAITH SO MUCH MORE.”

- Shermaine, RHC volunteer at Gladiolus Place

**INVOLVES:**

Teenagers | Weekday Nights

**SIGN UP AS:**

Individuals

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**WHAT:**

A Christian residential refuge for teenage girls

**HOW:**

- Build relationships with the girls over dinner & conversation
- Study the Bible together and apply it to life
- CGs & families can serve by providing meals for the monthly sessions! (Visit: <http://bit.ly/gpfoodsignups>)

**WHEN:**

Once/month on Monday evenings for female volunteers only

For more information or to sign up, please visit [bit.ly/mjvolunteer](http://bit.ly/mjvolunteer)

Gladiolus Place is an independently run organisation. Find out more about their work at [gladiolusplace.org.sg](http://gladiolusplace.org.sg)





# KUKOH CAREERS



“ I DO THINK THAT GOD WANTS TO SEE HOW WE STEWARD OUR ‘MINAS’ (I.E. GIFTS & TALENTS) AND HOW WE STEWARD WHAT WE’VE BEEN GIVEN FOR HIS KINGDOM.”

- Samantha, an RHC volunteer behind Project Cookoh (pictured on previous page)



#### INVOLVES:

Low-income adults

Weekends | Weekdays | Weekday nights



#### SIGN UP AS:

Individuals

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#### WHAT:

Walking alongside low-income neighbours to develop aspirations, improve livelihoods, and secure sustainable employment.

#### HOW:

- This programme is under development. Please indicate your interest at the link below if you would like to play a role in ideation & planning, or if you would like to volunteer when the opportunity arises!

#### WHEN:

Flexible timings

For more on Project Cookoh, please visit: [projectcookoh4.wordpress.com](http://projectcookoh4.wordpress.com)

For more information or to sign up, please visit [bit.ly/mjvolunteer](http://bit.ly/mjvolunteer)

# READABLE



See page 38 for a sharing from Amanda Chong, RHC member and ReadAble Co-founder





# SAFE PLACE



“WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT SERVING AT SAFE PLACE IS WHEN A BABY IS SLEEPING PEACEFULLY IN MY ARMS, BUT ALSO GETTING TO KNOW WOMEN FROM VERY DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS THAN ME, WOMEN I USUALLY WOULDN'T GET TO MEET.

-Paula, RHC volunteer at Safe Place (pictured previous page)



#### INVOLVES:

New & expectant mothers  
Weekends | Weekdays | Weekday nights



#### SIGN UP AS:

Individuals | Family

#### WHAT:

Empowers women and families with unsupported pregnancies to make life-giving choices.

#### HOW:

- Provide basic baby care support at the Safe Place residence; or
- Help with transport or other specialised support for the new mums

#### WHEN:

Flexible timings dependent on need

For more information or to sign up, please visit [bit.ly/mjvolunteer](https://bit.ly/mjvolunteer)

Safe Place is an independently run organisation. Find out more about their work at [safeplace.org.sg](https://safeplace.org.sg)



# YONG-EN CARE CENTER

FOOD DISTRIBUTION & DEMENTIA DAY CARE



“WHEN WE TALK TO THE VOLUNTEERS, AND THEY SAY TOMORROW WE ARE COMING. I FEEL HAPPY BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE MY FRIEND IS COMING.

-Y a Jalan Kukoh Resident



#### INVOLVES:

Low income adults | Children | Teenagers | Elderly | Weekdays | Weekday nights



#### SIGN UP AS:

Individuals | Family | CG

#### WHAT:

Provides community services for disadvantaged individuals and families in Chinatown.

#### HOW:

- Distribute regular food rations; and befriend families, providing deeper support where possible
- Volunteer at the Dementia Day Care Centre

#### WHEN:

Food distribution - second Thursday evening of each month

Dementia Day Care Centre - fortnightly on Monday mornings (9:45am-11:15am)

For more information or to sign up, please visit [bit.ly/mjvolunteer](http://bit.ly/mjvolunteer)

Yong-en Care Centre is an independently run organisation. Find out more about their work at [yong-en.org.sg](http://yong-en.org.sg)

# INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION (IJM)







IJM is a global organisation that protects people in poverty from violence. They partner with local authorities to combat slavery, violence against women and children and police abuse of power against people who are poor. IJM works to rescue and restore victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and help strengthen public justice systems.

Through IJM's Partner with a Field Office programme, RHC has provided financial support and prayed specifically over field work in Asia for many years. Our partnership has helped combat sex trafficking in South Asia as well as the online sexual exploitation of children in the Philippines.

While it is currently not possible to volunteer in person with IJM Singapore, please let us know if you are interested in the work at [bit.ly/mjvolunteer](https://bit.ly/mjvolunteer). We will keep you updated on the partnership including any organisational needs, events, and opportunities to lift up IJM's work in prayer!





# TESTIMONY

BY AMANDA CHONG  
OF READABLE

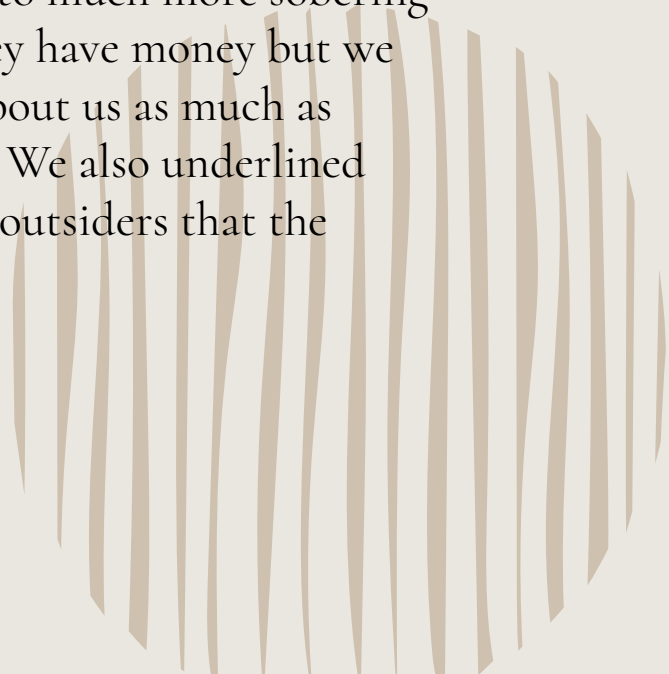


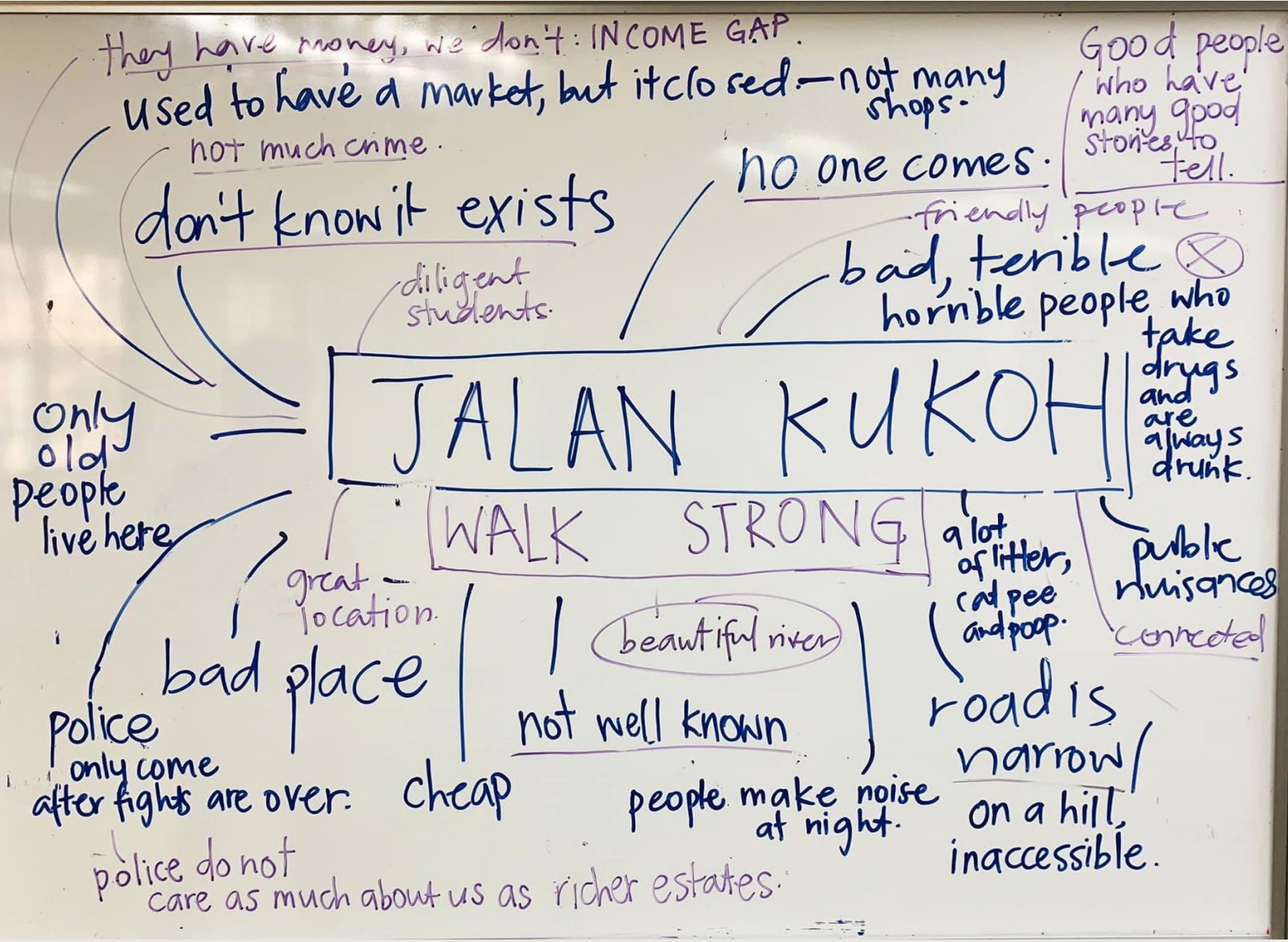




All of the words in the mind map are from our children aged 11-14. The words in blue represent what they have heard outsiders say about Jalan Kukoh. There was a sense of invisibility—“no one in my school knows it exists”, isolation—“no one comes up this narrow road on a hill” and downright disparaging stereotypes that punch right at the gut—“bad, terrible, horrible people who take drugs and are always drunk” said a 14-year-old girl in a single breath.

I know nothing of the pain the children carry from internalising these words. I can only bear witness and hope to give them the writing skills they need to speak against these injustices. I told them, Jalan Kukoh also means “Walk Strong” in Malay and we began to populate the mind map with words in purple that represented the children’s own experiences of living in this estate. These ranged from the uplifting —“diligent students”; “beautiful river”; “good people with many good stories to tell” to much more sobering perceptions of inequality—“They have money but we don’t”; “The Police don’t care about us as much as the richer estates like Punggol”. We also underlined in purple the impressions from outsiders that the children agreed with.





Mindmap with words from Jalan Kukoh children aged 11-14.



After the mind mapping exercise, the kids sat down to write their first drafts of essays titled “How living in Jalan Kukoh has shaped me”. I encouraged them to reclaim the negative stereotypes that outsiders have projected on their estate, how was their experience living here different? A boy raised his hand and asked me, “Is it ok if I only have negative things to say?”

Later this teen boy showed me his piece, it began starkly: “If my mom didn’t choose to live here, I think I will be a better person than I am now. Jalan Kukoh has many bad influences, for example, when my friends start smoking, it makes me feel like joining them. Many of my friends have started smoking for years and it makes me feel left out.” He continued, “I have learnt a lot of bad things from my neighbourhood: swearing, getting into a relationship, feeling like smoking, harming myself. This place gets the new generation involved with bad influences.”





I was so glad to have my friend, the experienced arts educator with me. She pulled the boy aside after class, and spoke to him tenderly in Malay, his heart language. “Have you started smoking?” she asked. He shook his head—he hadn’t, even in the face of enormous peer pressure. “Kukoh doesn’t just mean strong. It’s an inner strength; it means to persevere. Your story is Kukoh and you are still writing that story.”

I am thinking of the stories each of these precious children are writing. I am thinking of how we can help them write hope into each story. Seven years of serving here and the answers still slip away from me. I sift through these stories, and find them heavy with complexity, a balance of pride and rejection—“This neighbourhood is dirty but it’s so easy to make friends here.” “I would not let other people come to this place, but I stay here.” wrote another child.

At the end of class, I asked a 13-year-old girl to stand up to read her piece. She read tentatively at first, then stridently—“My neighbourhood is like a hide out—no one knows about this place, except those who live here. Outsiders might think of this place as dirty and quite full of nonsense. But it does not mean we are not the same, we are still humans...I would be a different person if I did not live here, because my friends are the people who have made me who I am today and I thank them with all my heart.”

This girl helped me to grasp a thread of hope—Community, the people who form our hearts. Beneath the disparaging stereotypes is a community with deep bonds that defiantly writes its own story. The story isn't done yet. The story is Kukoh. All we can do is make our ReadAble classroom a safe place for these children to write their own stories. All we can do is to persevere in community, in giving our love. Hope then, I believe, will find its own quiet way in.





# APPENDIX





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## OUR MINISTRY STRATEGY

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New volunteers begin serving  
& receive basic training.



As relationships develop with  
neighbours in our community,  
volunteers also develop and receive  
advanced training to offer deeper  
support.



Volunteers are guided in discerning the  
Lord's strategic purposes for developing the  
community, and empowered to respond  
according to their unique abilities and what is  
placed on their hearts.

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## OUR VALUES

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*How do we go about ‘being present with Christ’s love’?*

### **1. We are remade by the gospel**

*We will never be content with the state of society alone (we are called to get involved).*

Our mercy & justice efforts stem from a deep understanding of the gospel of grace and our own spiritual poverty. This leads us to perpetually seek renewal and shalom in our city. We serve because we see our own wellbeing as inextricably linked to that of greater society—including those on the bottom rungs—and we are called to give deeply of ourselves for others, as Jesus did on the cross for us.

## **2. We do mercy and justice as a team effort**

*We should never work alone as we seek to renew our community.*

We believe every person plays a role in seeking renewal and shalom, although it is a fluid arrangement with varying skills and capacities being offered in different seasons. As a collective, we reflect the multi-coloured wisdom of God and aim to leave no one person or segment with less. Doing mercy and justice is an intimate aspect of what it means to live as God's children on earth and as a body of believers.



### **3. We focus on being present and building enduring relationships**

*Our neighbours should never feel alone in their need.*

We have learned that time is a commodity of the highest value. This is why our ministry has developed a special emphasis on building relationships and journeying with our neighbours through the ups and downs of life. We know we will not be able to fix every problem of those in need (although we are surely active in helping where we can). But we do promise to be present - modeling God's own heart to be with us and move towards brokenness rather than away from it.

#### **4. We engage the multifaceted needs of our neighbours**

*Renewing our community means addressing more than just one need alone.*

Although we have delineated initiatives and volunteer roles, we often identify needs on the ground which require organic responses. We do not wish to position ourselves as those who will only consider helping when a need fits squarely into a certain mandate. While we recognise our limitations and may refer and defer to those with expertise, we do not hand off. Instead, we consider the poor (Psalm 41) by “giving careful thought to this person’s situation, rather than perfunctory help”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Tim Keller, *Ministries of Mercy*, pg 72

**5. We aim to infuse the hope of the gospel into all that we do**

*We are not concerned with renewing the physical world alone (but also the spiritual!)*

In addition to being motivated by the gospel to serve, we also pray and long for appropriate opportunities to share the reason for the hope that we have. Even so, our efforts reflect God's mercy which is given freely. On another level, we recognise that God wants to renew our own hearts through these efforts, pressing in gospel truths. We remember that he is more than capable of renewing our community on his own, and yet chooses to partner with us in this pursuit for the sake of our transformation & fellowship.