

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

We can inspire great change when we show others how far both we and they have already come, how far we as one people have grown. Through the works we have done in our service of the poor, needy and the excluded, when we help others reflect on the progress they have made and the ground they have already covered, the challenges ahead seem less daunting.

For us Vincentians, the practice of looking back to look forward affords us an opportunity to gain a better understanding of connections between our past and present missions. Remembering why we started on this journey of service and hope, and how we can continue to build collective love and confidence about the future.

In this edition of our newsletter, we have yet another opportunity to look back at what we have accomplished together, as we move through time, age and experience. And we realise that each generation of Vincentians builds upon the last and this lays the foundation for the next generation of Vincentians. Growth is change; change will lead us to a new place as a society and growth occurs that we might not only know more, but that we might do more.

<mark>"Be great in l</mark>ittle things"

St Francis Xavier

This issue:

A WORD OF THANKS
PAGE 02

RPX @ THE BATIK BOUTIQUE PAGE 04

CHRISTMAS CHEER
PAGE 06

A YOUNG SAMARITAN
PAGE 08

MOBILE FOOD BANK
PAGE 09

ORANG ASLI EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

PAGE 11

PAGE 12

C4C GARDEN
PAGE 14

A WORD OF THANKS

FROM COLLEGE STUDENTS



"I would like to thank the Society of St Vincent de Paul me the chance to giving express appreciation here. all know, the COVID-19 As we pandemic has impacted many people from all walks of life, and my family was not spared. During that time, I had just finished my STPM and I was unable to get a good offer from a local university with my results (straight Bs). They only offered me a course related to 'Ijazah Pertanian' in the East Coast, which was not what I wanted as I was an accounting and economic major.

The only way to pursue my dream of being an accountant was to register in a private college, which was a huge burden to my family. I have a little brother who was also going to kindergarten at that time and my parents were already struggling to make ends meet. SSVP resolved my problems by assisting me to find sponsors to pay for my 1st Semester fees at TAR College while I applied for my PTPTN loan. On top of that, SSVP also managed to source for a sponsor for my education allowance.

I am now in my 2nd year and I achieved a CGPA 3.5 for my last semester. I would like to thank SSVP and all my sponsors for helping me to pursue my tertiary studies. I will work hard to ensure I pass all my exams and will be able to provide comfortably for my parents when I graduate."

~ Lelly~





"SSVP has been an invaluable resource in my academic journey. I am grateful for their help in assisting me financially in my education even during my younger days. When I was in high school, SSVP paid for our transport charges to school and also supported my tuition fees during my SPM, which alleviated the hardship of my mother who is a single mother with 7 kids. With the support of SSVP, I enrolled into Politeknik Sultan Idris Shah to pursue my diploma in Digital Technology after my SPM.

They also gave me a laptop which was a necessity for my studies. I completed my diploma last December and received the Department Head's award for all my semesters due to excellence in my academic results with CGPA exceeding 3.5. I will be doing my internship in Pejabat Tenaga Kerja Teluk Intan, a government department in March 2023 for 20 weeks.

Apart from supporting my studies, SSVP's monthly food aid and financial support to my family throughout the years, especially during the Movement Control Order (MCO), have been a blessing and a great help to my family. Thank you so much."

~ Nanthini~



We would like to thank SFX parishioners, members of Mother Teresa BEC from SIC, as well as our SSVP Partners for joining hands with us to sponsor these college students. It is through your support that they are able to pursue their higher education and to break the cycle of poverty.

RPX @ THE BATIK BOUTIQUE

"A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might," - Proverbs 24:5

Trying new things can be hard and involves uncertainty and the unknown but trying something new is also exciting and stimulating. It can be seen as an opportunity, not just a challenge. And it helps us grow.

That's what the boys from Rumah Pengajian Xavier (RPX) experienced recently when they stepped into the world of batik where they had a chance to get a sneak peek and unleash their inner batik artists. Sponsored by The Batik Boutique*, the boys explored the process of Batik canting, using a pen-like tool to apply liquid hot wax, with the varied brushes and copper stamps, and made their own creative patterns and designs in the class.

We know that involvement in creative arts like Batik designing allows children to express themselves—tapping into their inventiveness and creativity—and is a fun outlet that helps positively stimulate and motivate students. We hope that filling our teens' minds with artistic expression helps them develop many important skills that are valuable to a successful adulthood. The idea of using this workshop as a platform to also engage our young people in a process of self-reflection and a way to kind of share with them about the concept of beauty and hope.











*The Batik Boutique is a social enterprise which promotes the ancient art form of batik, while partnering with local communities in Southeast Asia to bring about holistic transformation. The Batik Boutique's social impact reaches women living in urban poor settings. The company works alongside them to set goals and provide childcare and a convenient workplace that enables them to provide for their families.



CHRISTMAS CHEER

Christmas — a time for giving, sharing love, and building community, and through charity, donating and volunteering time, we can all help to create a better spirit for those in need. For Christmas 2022, that was just what we Vincentians did. Thanks to individual donors, volunteers, and community partners, SSVP SFX was able to provide holiday cheer to the children of our Friends-In-Need (FINS), RPX, the Orang Asli and SFX migrant community.

Following the theme, Christmas Cheer, we reached out to our families, friends, and other SFX Ministries for pre-loved toys. The response was overwhelming with mountains of soft toys, Lego sets, Barbie dolls, badminton racquets, board games, books and many other toys collected. The SSVP team with our volunteers, spent an entire day selecting the toys for the children and wrapping them up.





The distribution of toys to the children of our FINs was carried out last December during the food basket rounds. And for the RPX boys, they had a chance to participate in the "Make A Wish" programme organised by our corporate sponsor, Maybank. All wishes were granted which included sports shoes, games, smart watches, art supplies etc.





We were blessed that the Religious Education (RE) Ministry joined us this year. The RE children packed 200 personalised goodie bags containing candies, cookies, snacks, and notes for the children. They also joined us in the distribution of the toys and caroling with the migrant community children. This was a joint activity with the Migrant Ministry. Christmas Carols were sung as well. All was glad and happy that we were able to spread Christmas cheer to these communities we serve.





A YOUNG SAMARITAN



Eleven year old Stella Yap is a self-giving child who loves to undertake charitable projects. A few months ago, SSVP is again a lucky recipient of her generosity when we received 8 packets of children's milk powder for distribution. To raise money for her project, Stella makes trinkets to sell to her schoolmates. The trinkets are one of each kind and if there is more than one interested buyer, Stella will get them to bid for it.

With her savvy business acumen and fund raising ability, Stella has supported the Society on 2 occasions, notwithstanding her tender age.

We thank you Stella and we wish you every success as you grow to be a future leader of Malaysia.







MOBILE FOOD BANK

This is SFX Mobile Food Bank's 4th year in operations. We started in December 2019 just before the Covid-19 pandemic. More than 200 household benefited from our food bank during the Movement Control Order. Now we are supporting 80+ families which comprised mainly of the poor, single mother, senior citizens and invalids. We also assist the Orang Asli, and the homeless in partnership with Ben from DOC (Disciple of Christ) Street Feeding and Samaritan Hope Home. We praise God for His providence throughout these years through the BECs and parishioners.

"The food rations given by SSVP/SFX tremendously helped to reduce my burden in providing for my family.

The protein milk is a blessing for my daughter who is unable to take solids." Buva





"My grandma and I are very grateful to SFX Food Bank for helping us. The provisions and cash aid given to my grand-mama helps us a lot." Velan



"As I have 9 children and my husband is a lorry driver, the food items are a great help to our family." Lechumy



"Thank you so much to SSVP and those who are helping to deliver the food items. These items help to feed my sibling who is bedridden during these trying times. God bless you always." Douglas





"These foods are like manna from heaven. Always providing the Orang Asli communities at the right moment of their needs during the time of flood and hunger."

John Chin

"Shalom. All glory to God for His blessing towards reaching out to the poor and needy through His children. We the DOC (Disciple of Christ) Street Feeding have been reaching <mark>out to the street peo</mark>ple for the past number of years. We <mark>need everyone suppo</mark>rt as we can do only this much on our <mark>own. Howev</mark>er, when we work together, we can touch more lives. SFX Mobile Food Bank team have been great would like to support. We thank the team for their and kindness generosity their continuous support for years. past three Bless & Jesus loves you." Ben



ORANG ASLI EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Nestled in a quiet corner of Kg Petoh, Rompin lives a small community of Orang Asli (OA) families who eke out a living doing small subsistence farming. As with most OA, they are a forgotten lot with no stable source of income and they live from hand to mouth.

In an attempt to assist this vulnerable group with some additional source of income, SSVP members who visited the OA community on 11 and 12 October 2022, noticed they have a small community hut which is not fully utilized. The hut can be rented out to families / interested groups who wish to experience the simple lives of the OA and learn how to live with just the basic necessities. As the proposed home stay hut lacks kitchen facility, a small kitchen was quickly constructed, thanks to the generosity of various donors. A community farming project was also set up to assist the OA to generate surplus produce for sale; thanks again to kind benefactors who provided funds to purchase seedlings, fencing and other farming needs.



For those who are keen on the home stay program, please contact our members:

Bro Francis Lai - 016 6829330 Bro Anto Joseph - 019 3146635

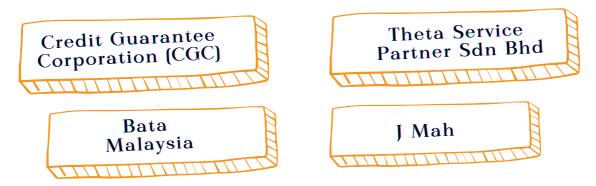




BACK TO SCHOOL

The cost of back-to-school shopping has become a heavy and pricey burden. To that end, SSVP curated some back-to-school giveaway ideas that hoped to help children of the community step into the back-to-school season with eagerness and a positive outlook.

With the support of our corporate sponsors:



We were able to help the Indigenous Community children, our Friends-In-Need (FINs) and SSVP Homes i.e. Rumah Pengajian Xavier, Rumah Ozanam PJ, Rumah Kanak-kanak Impian, Rumah SVP Klang and Rumah Ozanam Klang St Bernardette's to purchase basic school supplies including uniforms, shoes, stationery items, and pay the school registration fees etc. A big thank you to our sponsors in helping us do good together. And we wish all the children a productive and blessed school year ahead.





C4C GARDEN

Care for Our Common Home, is part of the theme of Laudato Si' which is an encyclical of Pope Francis published in May 2015.

Church of SFX has adopted this as part of the Universal Apostolic Preferences and established the **Care for Creation Ministry** to bring awareness to the SFX Parishioners. **C4C Garden (formerly known as CFC hydroponics)** was established in 2019 and SSVP members have been leading the project in collaboration with BECs.

One of the projects under this Ministry was the establishment of the mini hydroponics garden on the roof of the church patio. This was relocated before Christmas to the area in front of Bilik Ozanam. Nearby, a small patch of land was also made available to establish planting on soil. This has now grown into a garden comprising hydroponic farming, vegetable planting as well as growing of flowering plants.

The team has been coming twice weekly to maintain the garden and expand the facilities. Currently Brazilian Spinach, Pak Choy and Mint are being grown using the Hydroponic System while cherry tomatoes, and brinjal and other vegetables are being grown on soil. The flowering plants have brought some colour to the area.

Once the garden has matured, the produce will be sold to the parishioners and the revenue can be used to sustain the garden expenses and fund some of the activities for the poor under SSVP. Further, it is hoped that it will spur the church members especially the young to "Care for our Common Home".

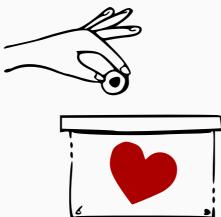












If you would like to support and make a contribution towards SSVP, please transfer to:



National Society of St Vincent De Paul CIMB Bank Bhd A/C No: 8003390564

WhatsApp the bank transfer receipt to +6017-2961213.

Tax exempt receipt will be issued upon request for donations above RM50.