



**COMPASSION FUND LTD  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FY2019 - 2020**

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## 1. CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

In this financial year, 143 families were managed by our caseworkers, provided financial assistance in cash-and-kind, and were also referred to other agencies for assistance where necessary.

In 2015, School Assistance Fund (SAF) was initiated for clients who failed to extend aid from the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund (SPMF) after 2 years and whose families met the criteria for this assistance. For the financial year, 65 students from 30 families qualified for the School Assistance Fund: 9, 27 and 29 from primary, secondary and tertiary schools respectively.

The continued generous donations from Lum Chang Holdings Limited and Mr David Lum gave us the impetus to continue the Silver Lining Fund which helps families struggling to make ends meet with meagre income from work and/or financial aid from voluntary or government organisations. Typically, these families are single parent, have very young children, special needs parent/children or family members who require care because of chronic medical/mental conditions.

We had four major fund-raising events in the year, namely Charity Golf 2019, Festive Giving 2019, Gala of Light 2019 and the annual "Share-A-Meal" (SAM) event which culminated in Counting Day on 16 Apr 2019. Charity Golf 2019 raised a total of \$268K net of expenses, Festive Giving 2019 had proceeds of \$104K, Gala of Light 2019 - a partnership with Beyond Social Services - had total net proceeds of \$512K (Compassion Fund's 50% share being \$256K) and SAM 2019 raised a total of \$269K, net of expenses apart from its other objective of creating awareness about Compassion Fund.

A big Thank You to all the schools and community partners for referring students who are in crisis to us and for partnering us in fund-raising events.

To all our volunteers and members of our Board, thank you for your time, effort and valuable input in fund-raising and operation of Compassion Fund.

To our donors, thank you for your compassion.



Mrs Kay Iswaran  
Chairman

## 2. COMPASSION FUND

Compassion Fund was established in April 2006 as a programme under MILK (Mainly I Love Kids) Fund. It was subsequently set up as an independent charity organisation in March 2009.

**Compassion Fund** is a crisis response fund that helps students from low-income families in crisis. The crisis may be a result of the death, sudden major illness or accident of a family member.

Without assistance and support, such families in crisis are at risk of declining into poverty and developing chronic family problems, with a detrimental impact on the lives of the children. As a result, we aim to give early and timely assistance to these families before situations spiral out-of-hand.

### Our Vision

Compassion Fund supports and uplifts vulnerable children and their families in crisis, to avert family disintegration and a decline into poverty.

### Our Mission

Working through schools and community partners, Compassion Fund responds promptly to vulnerable children whose families are in crisis due to death, illness or accident. We provide interim financial assistance and support while linking them to resources in the community.

We also engage schools to create a caring, compassionate community that believes in 'students helping students'.

### Our Values and Principles

We believe that:

- To make a difference in the life of a child faced with a family crisis, we have to help the family remain together and stay afloat at this critical juncture in their lives. Assistance must therefore be prompt and timely.
- By educating students about helping other students, it encourages them to develop a sense of compassion for the less fortunate amongst them.
- By empowering teachers, counsellors, and social workers, they can identify and render immediate assistance to students facing a sudden family crisis, through access to a ready source of support.

### Who Compassion Fund helps

We give support to students from kindergartens and schools – primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions. In particular, students and families who are currently not receiving any support from other agencies.

### How Compassion Fund helps

- We give early and timely assistance to students whose families are in crisis, to prevent the crisis from causing them to spiral into poverty or develop other chronic family problems.
- We co-ordinate help efforts and support by linking them to other community resources to help students and their families ride over the crisis.
- We empower school teachers, principals and counsellors to identify and help students facing family crises through access to a ready source of support.
- We encourage students to help fellow students, helping them understand that every small act of giving makes a difference.

### How Compassion Fund is funded

Compassion Fund is funded by donations from the public, individuals and organisations, matching government grants and fund-raising events like Share-A-Meal.

### How Compassion Fund functions

Schools and community partners apply on behalf of:

- Students who are Singaporeans or Permanent Residents; and
- Students in primary, secondary and tertiary levels in mainstream schools and kindergartens; and
- Students or family members who are in any of the following crises – death, accident, sudden illness etc. Retrenchment and imprisonment in the family is not a criterion for consideration for financial assistance

Compassion Fund caseworkers will then conduct home visits for needs assessment for financial and other support recommendations.

### 3. STATUTORY INFORMATION

**Compassion Fund Limited:**

UEN. 200904371Z

Incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 11 March 2009

Registered as Charity since 28 August 2009

Registered as IPC since 28 August 2009 (IPC registration number: IPC000676)

Full member of National Council of Social Services since 2015

**Registered office and Principal place of office:**

80 Robinson Road #02-00, Singapore 068898

**Operational office:**

11 Leng Kee Road, Singapore 159091

**Banker:**

Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited, Ubi Branch

Blk 302 Ubi Ave 1 #01-59/63 Singapore 400302

**Independent Auditor:**

Baker Tilly TFW LLP

600 North Bridge Road #05-01 Parkview Square, Singapore 188778

**Office Bearers:**

Taylor Kay Mary	Chairman	(from Sep 2017 to current)
Chia Chiu Leng	Vice-Chairman	(from Sep 2017 to current)
Low Aik Meng	Treasurer	(from Sep 2017 to current)
Ng Ming Loo	Company Secretary	(from Sep 2020)

**Directors:**

Yeo Hui Hong	(since 11 Mar 2009)
Ranganayaki d/o K. Thangavelu	(since 1 Apr 2009)
Kay Mary Taylor	(since 11 Mar 2010)
Chan Wai Ming	(since 19 Apr 2011)
Chia Chiu Leng	(since 9 Nov 2012)
Chitty Ramanathan Parvathi	(since 12 Mar 2014)
Low Aik Meng	(since 12 Mar 2014)
Sheryn-Kaye von Senden	(31 Mar 2009 – 7 Jan 2019)
Tan Shau En	(2 Apr 2013 – 1 May 2016)
Ng Wee Chew	(9 Nov 2012 – 12 Aug 2015)
Peng Hai Ying	(12 Mar 2014 - 16 Mar 2015)
Lim Kam Ming	(20 Sep 2014 - 2 Mar 2015)

#### **4. REVIEW OF YEAR APRIL 2019 - MARCH 2020**

We continue to receive most of our referrals from schools, hospitals and community agencies.

##### **Staffing**

We have two full-time and a part-time Caseworker as of March 2020. Financial and administrative services were outsourced to an external accounting firm on a contractual basis.

##### **Fundraising Event 1 – Share-A-Meal 2019**

For this financial year, Compassion Fund held our annual Share-A-Meal (SAM) event on 16 Apr 2019. During SAM month, everyone is encouraged to “share a meal” with the less privileged, by donating a small sum equivalent to what they would spend on a meal into the Share-A-Meal tins.

##### **\*School participation in Share-A-Meal:**

- **2006:** 92 schools
- **2007:** 112 schools
- **2008:** 78 schools
- **2009:** 59 schools
- **2010:** 62 schools
- **2011:** 51 schools
- **2012:** 72 schools
- **2013:** 44 schools
- **2014:** 46 schools
- **2015:** 46 schools
- **2016:** 29 schools
- **2017:** 40 schools
- **2018:** 45 schools
- **2019:** 39 schools

##### **Fundraising Event 2 – Charity Golf 2019**

We held Charity Golf 2019 on 12 Jul 2019. Charity Golf, which held its inaugural event in 2018, is now an annual event in our fund-raising calendar.

##### **Fundraising Event 3 – Festive Giving 2019**

Festive Giving is another inaugural event in 2019 which is now an annual charity event where Compassion Fund approaches Corporations and Individuals known to the staff or Board of Compassion Fund for a donation to our cause. The funds raised were channelled to our main programmes but the highlight of this campaign is the distribution of gifts or hampers to more than 100 beneficiary families during Festive Seasons.

## **Fundraising Event 4 – Gala of Light 2019**

We held an inaugural Charity Dinner event, Gala of Light 2019, on 4 Oct 2019 which was a great success. Encouraged by the enthusiastic response from donors, we have decided to continue Gala of Light as an annual event in the coming years.

## **Financial Status**

Compassion Fund Ltd recorded a surplus of \$157K for the financial year ended 31 March 2020. Income of \$1.16M consisted of donation-in-cash and sponsorship-in-kind. Total expenditure amounted to \$1.00M where 88% was for charitable activities. See enclosed audited financial statements FY2019-2020.

## **Disbursement Policy**

The duration of assistance is for up to twelve months per review. Compassion Fund case workers work with volunteers, schools and families to develop a more holistic support. We also refer clients to other voluntary and government agencies for additional financial assistance. Compassion Fund is responsible for the expedient disbursement of money to beneficiaries which will be deposited into their respective bank accounts.

## **5. FUTURE PLANS AND COMMITMENTS**

### **Two-Year Activity Plan (Apr 2020 – Mar 2022)**

- With an increase in the number of families that we strive to support, focused partnership with new schools and community agencies to increase awareness of Compassion Fund is the impetus to concurrently step up fund-raising efforts and reach out to students whose families are in crisis.
- To strengthen partnerships with other community resources to increase outreach and support to clients in need via an extended range of schemes through systemic help process.
- Enhance services to support clients through partnerships with VWOs (E.g. volunteers and befriending services) and new networking structure.

## **6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We are thankful to each and every supporter/donor, whose contributions in terms of their time, skill and dollars, go a long way in helping students of families-in-crisis. We convey our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your faith in Compassion Fund's work.

## 7. CHARITY COUNCIL – GOVERNANCE EVALUATION CHECKLIST FY2019-2020

Compassion Fund complied with 23 out of 23 applicable guidelines of the Code of Governance for Charities and Institutions of a Public Character (2011). The governance evaluation checklist is printed below:

No.	Code Description	Code ID	Compliance	Explanation (if the Code guideline is not complied to or not applicable)
	<b>BOARD GOVERNANCE</b>			
A	Are there Board members holding staff appointments? (Skip items 1 and 2 if "No")		No	
1	If the governing instrument permits staff to become Board members, they should comprise not more than one-third of the Board.	1.1.2		
2	Staff does not chair the Board.	1.1.2		
3	There is a maximum limit of four consecutive years for the Treasurer position (or equivalent, e.g. Finance Committee Chairman).	1.1.6	Complied	
4	The Board has an audit committee (or designated Board members) with documented terms of reference.	1.2.1	Complied	
5	The Board meets regularly with a quorum of at least one-third or at least three members, whichever is greater (or as required by the governing instrument).	1.3.1	Complied	
	<b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST</b>			
6	There are documented procedures for Board members and staff to declare actual or potential conflicts of interest to the Board.	2.1	Complied	
7	Board members do not vote or participate in decision-making on matters where they have a conflict of interest.	2.4	Complied	
	<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING</b>			
8	The Board reviews and approves the vision and mission of the charity. They are documented and communicated to its members and the public.	3.1.1	Complied	
9	The Board approves and reviews a strategic plan for the charity to ensure that the activities are in line with its objectives.	3.2.2	Complied	



No.	Code Description	Code ID	Compliance	Explanation (if the Code guideline is not complied to or not applicable)
	<b>HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>			
10	The Board approves documented human resource policies for staff.	5.1	Complied	
11	There are systems for regular supervision, appraisal and professional development of staff.	5.6	Complied	
	<b>FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROLS</b>			
12	The Board ensures internal control systems for financial matters are in place with documented procedures.	6.1.2	Complied	
13	The Board ensures reviews on the charity's controls, processes, key programmes and events.	6.1.3	Complied	
14	The Board approves an annual budget for the charity's plans and regularly monitors its expenditure.	6.2.1	Complied	
15	The charity discloses its reserves policy in the annual report.	6.4.1	Complied	
B	Does the charity invest its reserves? (Skip item 16 if "No")		No	
16	The charity invests its reserves in accordance with an investment policy approved by the Board. It obtains advice from qualified professional advisors, if deemed necessary by the Board.	6.4.3		
	<b>FUNDRAISING PRACTICES</b>			
17	Donations collected are properly recorded and promptly deposited by the charity.	7.2.2	Complied	
	<b>DISCLOSURE AND TRANSPARENCY</b>			
18	The charity makes available to its stakeholders an annual report that includes information on its programmes, activities, audited financial statements, Board members and executive management.	8.1	Complied	
C	Are Board members remunerated for their Board services? (Skip items 19 and 20 if "No")		No	

19	No Board member is involved in setting his or her own remuneration.	2.2		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Code Description</b>	<b>Code ID</b>	<b>Compliance</b>	<b>Explanation (if the Code guideline is not complied to or not applicable)</b>
20	The charity discloses the exact remuneration and benefits received by each Board member in the annual report.	8.2		
D	Does the charity employ paid staff? (Skip items 21 and 22 if "No")		Yes	
21	No staff is involved in setting his or her own remuneration.	2.2	Complied	
22	The charity discloses in its annual report the annual remuneration of its three highest paid staff who each receives remuneration exceeding \$100,000, in bands of \$100,000. If none of its top three highest paid staff receives more than \$100,000 in annual remuneration each, the charity discloses this fact.	8.3	Complied	In FY2019-2020, none of the staff received more than \$100k each in annual remuneration.
	<b>PUBLIC IMAGE</b>			
23	The charity accurately portrays its image to its members, donors and the public.	9.1	Complied	