

LOVE OUR CITY



ADOPT A DORM

LOVE OUR

As a community, we believe that acts of justice and mercy are expressions of "doing the works of Jesus".

When Ps. Andre Tan called the church to love our city in practical ways during this time where many lives are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the church board sensed that we should allocate a sizeable portion of our reserves to serve specific felt needs in Singapore. Jesus said, "Where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also."

We know the Lord's heart is with the poor and the marginalised, and we want to be a people after His heart. In other words, our hearts follow where we put our resources.

The church board decided to portion \$100,000 to the Love Our City Fund and the first ground to sow into was the Adopt A Dorm initiative.

CITY FUND

ADOPT A DORM

Our nation's guest workers were the most heavily hit with COVID-19. To curb the spread, they have been confined to their living quarters or dormitories since 21 April 2020. This measure has surfaced challenges, with the most urgent being that many workers were not being provided with meals.

The Alliance of Guest Workers Outreach (AGWO) – an initiative of the Hope Initiative Alliance (HIA), stepped in to fill this gap. To continue better meeting this need, AGWO came up with a programme, **Adopt A Dorm**, to provide holistic care, meals and other essentials to workers housed in factory-converted dormitories.

From 15 May 2020, The City officially adopted a dormitory in Tuas that provides housing for 60 South Indian brothers living in Singapore.

Through the AAD initiative, we hope to learn to love our guest worker brothers better by caring for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.



PHYSICAL EMOTIONAL SPIRITUAL

VISION

Guest workers leave their homes and families behind to seek better opportunities in Singapore. They play a significant role in our nation's economic development through building our infrastructure and contributing to industries where there is a labour shortage.

Yet, these blue-collar guest workers often experience many difficulties in navigating their new and unfamiliar lives.

God has made it clear that He loves the foreigner and desires that we love our neighbours as ourselves. COVID-19 has hit all of us very hard, but guest workers have been especially vulnerable. This made us ask: **How can we love these neighbours of ours better?**

33 "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34 The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:33-34

31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:31





CARE THROUGH *FOOD*

MEALS

With the focus of meeting the brothers' basic needs first, we took over the provision of lunch and dinner, and started including breakfast shortly with regular supply of fresh fruits, snacks and essential items.

Lunches and dinners were ordered through a caterer while we sought to support local small businesses and hawkers through the breakfast orders. We were heartened to find many store owners wanting to contribute after hearing what we were doing. They gave discounts and made special arrangements so that our brothers received quality food and had a taste of home.

Volunteers within The City quickly rose to the occasion to be drivers to help with collection and delivery of daily breakfasts to our brothers. We currently have a team of 12 volunteer drivers.



BLESS OUR DORM

Through the 'Bless Our Dorm' project, we hope to close in on the connection between our church community and our brothers in the dorm.

Families and LifeGroups rallied to contribute food, snacks and even home bakes as additional blessings to their daily meals. Many took time to write and draw cards of encouragement and blessing.

Whether it is catered meals, store-bought snacks and drinks, or homemade muffins and cakes, these gifts of food and love have not only physically nourished, but also brought much joy and comfort to our brothers.





8,307

**MEALS
PROVIDED**
EXCL. FRESH FRUITS,
SNACKS & BEVERAGES

\$19,434.55

TOTAL SPEND (EXCL. SPONSORSHIPS)

\$1,754.00

TOTAL SPONSORSHIP

101

**DELIVERIES BY
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**
MAY - JULY 2020

When we were sourcing for breakfast options for our brothers, the Love Our City committee had the idea to support local and small businesses. We are so thankful that God's hand was truly with us from start to end.

The two main places that we were getting our brothers' breakfast was from Heavens, a South Indian food stall at Ghim Moh market (thosai, dhals, curries), and from Jie Traditional Bakery (old school breads).

Out of the generosity of their hearts, both vendors intentionally charged us less than they would for the orders placed.

Particularly, Mr Daniel, the owner of Heavens shared with us that he felt God speak to him and say, "If the church is doing this, why don't you do something about it too since I am blessing your business."

He did not want to profit off this, and sensed this was a push from the Lord for him to go the extra mile. He has since been putting in extra thosai, eggs, potatoes at no additional cost.

Read the full testimony and other stories on www.thecity.sg/adopt-a-dorm.

TESTIMONY



A GOOD STEP FORWARD

Under the advisement of the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), we have transitioned the provision of meals for our brothers to their employer from 1 July 2020. Their employer has also dutifully stepped in with the necessary arrangements to ensure continuity.

The feeding programme may have ended but we remain committed to our brothers and The City's 'Bless Our Dorm' project will continue as an expression of our church's care for them. Families and LifeGroups can continue to contribute food, snacks and even home bakes through this project.

Our team of volunteer drivers have been such a vital part of our connection with our brothers and a literal "driving force" for the Adopt A Dorm programme. They will be carrying on with providing deliveries for the 'Bless Our Dorm' project.





PHYSICAL EMOTIONAL SPIRITUAL

CARE THROUGH *FRIENDSHIP*

As we move forward, we hope to care for our brothers' emotional and spiritual needs through friendship.

Many guest workers experience emotional troubles in Singapore. They may be stressed about finances or family back home, anxious about work issues, or simply homesick or lonely. Many of them do not have people to talk to about their worries.

Some also hope to make Singaporean friends and learn about their new home and culture. We hope that we can be good friends to our brothers by lending a listening ear or just having a fun time together.

We also want to care for their spiritual needs. We hope that through our care and conversations with them, our brothers will be able to experience the transformative love of Jesus.

MOVING FORWARD

LOVE OUR CITY COMMITTEE

CHRISTINE INDRALI
CLARISSA TOH
DEBORAH NG
HANNAH TAM
IVAN TAN
JOY CHUA
TIANA MILLER-JACKSON
VIVIAN TOH

