

Project Beyond 2.0 (07-18)

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Multi-year

Section I: Overview

A. Area of concern

Juvenile crime is a pertinent problem in Singapore. In 2015, an announcement was made by the Minister of Social and Family Development about the Government's stand to intervene in juvenile crimes. The issue was highlighted after the publication of a report by the Home Team, revealing that the crime among youths have increased by 2.1%. The government allotted \$2 million dollars to aid 900 at-risk youth. Nonetheless, many juveniles remain unaided, considering the 1,369 juveniles were arrested and those who may potentially commit crime.

Why do juvenile crime occur? It is largely attributed to the juvenile's disadvantaged background. There is overwhelming evidence for the notion that juvenile from underprivileged families are predisposed to participating in illicit activities. A research conducted by the Christchurch School of Medicine theorised that there was a correlation between a youth's family and his likelihood of resorting to crime.

Though there are several factors which influence a juvenile's probability of committing a crime, with the proliferation of the internet and the increase of dual-income families, a predominant factor is emotional neglect and lack of positive engagement.

Beyond Social Service has wide outreach efforts but currently, there is little connection with the children at Redhill Close rental flats¹. During our door knocking session at Redhill Close rental flats where we handed out surveys to the children, it is noted that most of them are home alone, and even if their parents are home, they are busy with chores or napping. The children hence lack role models and people to talk to, leading them to possibly turn to cliques and gangs.

¹ Areas Beyond reached out to. Note that Redhill Close is not one of them.
<http://www.beyond.org.sg/organisationmilestone/>

The issue resonated with us personally as we understand that life as a student is tough if you want to succeed or excel. Such difficulties are exacerbated in the absence of sufficient support in financial, emotional and academic means. As individuals whom have not experienced as many obstacles, we feel obliged to help these underprivileged children. Hence, we are satisfied that we have chosen to embark on this project so as to give back to the society.

B. Challenges identified

Problems faced by children

1. The lack of positive engagement lies in the foreground of the problem.
2. The juveniles are neglected emotionally, leading them to turn to gangs and cliques for support
3. The lack of outreach efforts and bond between children and beneficiary in the Redhill rental flats area
4. There is a lack of awareness on the issue of juvenile delinquency in Singapore

Problems faced by Beyond Social Services

1. Lack of manpower to extend their outreach to Redhill Close
2. Lack of funds to hold more resources extensive activities (Mentioned by the staff at Beyond)

C. Underlying problem

Given that there is a general lack of positive engagement for children from underprivileged families that heavily contributes to the prevalence of youth crime, how might we curate meaningful activities to engage the children living in rental flat units at Redhill Close in the year of 2019 so that we can engage them in positive activities for them to develop a positive mindset?

D. Plan of Action

Date	Action	Objective
January-February (Completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Liaising with Beyond Social Services to discuss our plan of action ● Door-knocking @Redhill Close ● Setting up of <i>Instagram</i> account 	
March-August (ongoing)	<p><u>'Meet-and-play' sessions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct activities with the children@Redhill Close every Tuesday 5-6:30pm ● 17 sessions conducted this year ● Activities: Badminton, Kite making, Pastel Art etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage them with positive activities to improve their creativity - Forge bonds between the children@Redhill Close - Provide support and guidance
May (Completed)	<p><u>Open House</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Showcased our project to the public ● Educated public about rental flat units in Singapore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raised awareness
14th June (Completed)	<p><u>YFC Social Bazaar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Showcased project to the public ● Sold merchandise (Raised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raised awareness - Inspire public to devote to this cause

	approximately <u>\$100</u>)	- Raised funds
21st June (Completed)	<u>Sentosa Trip</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaboration with <i>Project Reveles</i> ● Educated children on the unique biodiversity of Singapore ● Conducted fun competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in charge of meaningful and fun-filled activities for the children - Inculcate a passion for learning within the children
June (Completed)	<u>Street Sales</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducted at Bukit Panjang, Harbourfront and City Hall ● Recruited 7 volunteers ● Raised <u>\$1684</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raised funds for future events - Raised awareness about Beyond Social Services and our cause
6th August (Completed)	<u>National Day Party</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organise a party @Redhill Close ● Fun games and competition (Singapore trivia, <i>Treasure Hunt</i> etc.) ● Provided children with snacks and drinks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Celebrate National Day - Educate the children about Singapore

Section II: Implementation of Action Plan

A. Actions and outcomes up to date

- 'Meet-and-play' sessions
 - Every Tuesday 5-6:30pm
 - 17 sessions (2019)
 - Aim: developing children's creativity or creating bonds among them
 - Provide guidance and support as and when they need
 - Activities conducted: Badminton, Kite making, slime making, etc
- Sentosa Trip
 - organised by Four secondary threes from Project Reveles
 - We reached out to the children, arranged logistics and organised the children for the trip
 - 21st June 2019
 - Children learned about Singapore's unique biodiversity
 - Forged stronger bonds between the children
- Open House and YFC *Social Bazaar*
 - Showcased project to the public
 - Inspire the public to learn more about this issue and devote to this cause
- Street Sales
 - 7 volunteers recruited, raised awareness in at least 421 members of the public
 - Raised awareness about Beyond Social Services and our cause
 - Sold pens and bookmarks
 - Raised \$1684 for future events,
- National Day Party
 - Party in line with upcoming National Day
 - Invited children from Henderson
 - Provided drinks and snacks
- Website and Instagram outreach

- Instagram page has 103 followers as of 04/08/2019

Section III: Project Outcomes

A. Accomplishments

Through our street sales, we have raised **\$1684** for Beyond Social Services and raised awareness among at least **421** members of the public. Up to **50** members of the public was reached out through the social bazaar and open house. We have held **17** 'Meet-and-play' sessions, with each being 1 or 1.5 hours. Our Instagram page has **103** followers as of 06/08/2019. We have held a **field trip to Sentosa** and a **National Day Party**. **11** members of our school opt to assist us in exchange for CIP hours, raising awareness in them as well.

B. Reflection on Outcomes

After completing several project events, we have learnt that patience and an open attitude is imperative when interacting with our beneficiary and that not all children of rental units are rowdy and lack respect for others. With patience, the children began to trust us more by sharing the details of their life, such as their school life and family businesses. Not only that, throughout the course of our project, the 'Meet-and-play' sessions shaped our self-confidence and encouraged us to open up to others. However, there are certainly some improvements that could have been made to the activities. Through our various sessions, we have learnt that the children will easily get bored and not cooperate if we cannot keep their attention. This helps us to adapt our activity to make sure that they are more appealing to the children by understanding their feedback at the end of each session, such as asking them what are some activities they would love to have. In conclusion, in spite of the challenges that we faced, we overcame them and gained valuable insights into some of the challenges these children faced on a daily basis and we are heartened that we have organised some meaningful activities to engage them in their idle time.

C. Scope of Project

Community impact: Members of the public learned about Beyond Social Services and the daily challenges that children living in rental flat units face. We hope that the public is more informed on the relation between the lack of positive engagements and the prevalence of youth delinquency, and would hence be inspired to devote to this cause.

Community involvement: We worked with 7 volunteers for our street sales, and collaborated with a group of 4 students to organise the Sentosa Trip. During the YFC Social Bazaar, we managed to inspire a few members of the public to volunteer for Beyond Social Services.

Resolution of AoC/UP: Given that there is a general lack of positive engagement for underprivileged children, we conducted weekly 'Meet-and-Play' sessions to develop their creativity. We built trust between us and the children through our project, which allowed them to share their problems with us. More importantly, the children living at Redhill Close have forged inseparable bonds with one another, enabling them to support each other in times of need, providing a long-term solution to the lack of emotional support they face. We also showcased our project during Open House and YFC Social Bazaar, thereby educating the public about this issue.

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