

MILK ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

1. MEDICAL

1.1 Hope Fund

We support needy children who suffer from treatable illnesses such as thalassaemia, diabetes, epilepsy, turner's syndrome and hormonal disorders and with treatment will be able to live as normal a life as possible. Presently, we work closely with KK Women's and Children's Hospital to assist these children.

Total number served in KKH for 2004	55
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Breakdown

Diagnoses	Number
1. Diabetes	17
2. Thalassaemia Major	15
3. Turner's Syndrome	6
4. Growth Hormone	10
5. Haem/Oncology	5
6. Genetics	1
7. Epilepsy	1
Total	55

The Hope Fund practices a very comprehensive model of assistance. Funds disbursement is but the first step. With the help of Social Workers, it also ensures the sick child gets continuous support and integrates successfully back to normal life after medical treatment. The child's family and siblings are also assessed and given the necessary support that is needed

2. EDUCATIONAL and GENERAL ASSISTANCE

2.1 Beyond Social Services

Our partner, Beyond Social Services provides guidance, care, protection and resources that keep young people in school and out of trouble.

2.1.1 Healthy Start

Before compulsory schooling, each year 3% or approximately 1200 children were not registered for school. Children from low-income, disadvantaged households make up a majority of this figure. Healthy Start provides access to early childhood education and prepares children for school success. This helps them break out of the poverty cycle. The programme also trains the parents and caregivers in family and child management. The number of children we have reached so far is **328**. We are currently initiating the same

programme in 2 new outposts in KKH and Ghim Moh. By later this year, we will also be operating the Healthy Start Child Development Centre which will cater to 15 infants and 50 children aged 2 to 6 years from low-income at-risk backgrounds.

2004	
Children and youths in ongoing programme	1034
Preventive one-off programmes in schools	1825
Total	2859

Projected 2005		Remarks
Children and youths in ongoing programme	1000	
Beyond Primary 6	2000	
Campland Beyond	800	New
Healthy Start Outposts	300	New
Total	4100	

2.2 Singapore Association for the Deaf [SADeaf]

MILK works mainly with the Itinerant Support Service [ISS] arm of SADeaf. ISS was established to take care of the social upbringing of mainstream deaf children.

2.2.1 MILK's funding of the Frequency Modular (FM) System Loan Service

In the process of providing support to children in mainstream schools, ISS discovered a gap in service provision for children in pre-schools (K1/K2 and below). This is the most crucial level of development in young children and without the aid of the FM system to supplement their hearing aids, the children's voicing ability is then limited. Hence, the loan service is very critical for needy hearing-impaired preschoolers as well as other children during the interim pending the outcome of their ATF applications or while their own sets are under servicing or repair. MILK has disbursed funds for the purchase of the first 5 loan sets.

2.2.2 Special Cases

MILK has agreed to SADeaf's request for financial help for special and urgent cases where the potential beneficiary can find no other support.

2.3 The Pathlight School

MILK provides supplementary support for needy students at the Pathlight School. Pathlight caters to the needs of ASD students (aged between 6-16 years) who are cognitively able to access mainstream academic curriculum but require additional support to be carried out in a safe, autism-friendly and caring environment. Funds have been disbursed to **52** students to date.

2.4 Collaboration with NCSS – co-funding needy Assistive Technology Fund [ATF] applicants

The ATF provides persons with disabilities with financial assistance in purchasing assistive technology [AT] devices, to pursue mainstream education or gain open employment. Applicants who qualify can receive a subsidy of a maximum of 90% of the cost of the device or \$10,000 whichever is lower. The amount of subsidy will be determined based on applicant's household income.

Despite the ATF funding, some applicants (about 7.1% or about 300 applicants) still find difficulty raising the remaining amount to afford the devices. Hence, NCSS has requested for MILK's assistance in these cases. To date, we have funded **6** cases.

2.5 Friend's Clubs

3. FIGHTING DELINQUENCY

3.1 Beyond Social Services

Our partner, Beyond Social Services is dedicated to reducing delinquency among children and youths from less privileged backgrounds.

3.1.1 Kids United

This is a care and guidance programme that operates everyday from 9am to 10pm for latchkey children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are prone to delinquency, truancy and premature school leaving. There were **35** children on this programme in the year 2004.

3.1.2 Streetwise Programme

Youths who have been identified as gang members by the Criminal Investigation Department are given a chance to turn around through this programme. Some youths are also sent by the Juvenile Court as a condition of the Probation Order supervised by MCYS. Streetwise is an intensive 6-month rehabilitative programme that includes casework, life skill training, academic and career guidance and sporting activities. We were referred 60% of all youths on the Streetwise programme. In the year 2004, **68** youths were referred by the authorities for this programme whilst another **25** at-risk youths were identified through our outreach work.

4. TEENAGE CRISIS MANAGEMENT

4.1 Beyond Social Services

4.1.1 BABES

A new initiative in 2004 was the launch of BABES, a programme to curb the abandonment of unwanted babies and to provide an alternative to pregnant teenage girls. We are working with other partner VWOs to offer practical help including a place of refuge and counselling. The initial contact is through SMS. We received 3791 SMSes for the period from March till July 2005 and we are currently helping **46** girls.

4.1.2 Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice is justice within the community, using the strengths and mobilising supportive resources within the youth offender's extended family group, school, community agencies and other professionals in a collaborative partnership, fostering more inclusive families, schools, communities and society. Instead of sending the offending youths to penal institutions where they often become more hardened in their delinquent behaviours, the Restorative Justice holds the youths directly responsible for righting the wrong.

The aim of Restorative Justice is to hold youth offenders directly accountable (for their behaviour) to their victim/s, family group, community and Society. Since initiation, the Restorative Justice Programme has handled **7** internal cases, and is working closely with the schools, the police, business associations and the MCYS for referrals.

5. MILK OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN WORK

5.1 TIMOR-LESTE

A visit was made to Timor in June 2005. Rapti from Beyond, along with Mrs Mah, Stanley, Dr Jacobson from KKH, and Ms Jackie Khoo visited Clinic Café Timor(CCT), and met up with representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Alola Foundation, and CCT to discuss various issues pertaining to maternal and child health.

5.1.1 Alola Foundation

The Alola Foundation, headed by the First Lady, Kirsty Sword Gusmão, was established in 2001 to raise awareness of and campaign against the sexual and gender-based violence inflicted on women in East Timor.

MILK is working actively with Alola on promoting maternal & child health, as well as developing and supporting mother and children programs especially in health and education. MILK will also be helping with textbooks for the children.

So far, there had been 2 shipments to East Timor. The first on 15 March 2005 contained medical and dental equipments, assorted adult and baby garments, bedsheets and blankets. The 2nd shipment was in 29 June 2005, which contained dental chairs and medical equipment. These will be used by the Alola Foundation and the CCT.

MILK is also planning to send the following to East Timor:

1. 400 cartons of baby cloths and baby blankets to Alola
2. 100 sets of sewing machines to Alola
3. Office Furniture, baby cots and patient beds for Alola and CCT.

5.1.2 Clinic Café Timor (CCT)

Clinic Café Timor (CCT) is a free primary health programme within the coffee farmers' cooperative, the Cooperativa Café Timor (CCT), and exists to offer health services to coffee growers and their families in remote mountainous areas, who otherwise, might remain poorly serviced. In 2004, CCT had treated a total of 185,195 patients using their network of 9 fixed clinics and 4 mobile clinics.

MILK has signed a MOU with CCT which will enable the Development of a Joint Government / MILK / CCT Primary Health Service

MILK will fund this project for 12 months. We support the development of a joint government CCT Clinic in Vatuboro, Liquica district. At the moment, the population

of 8,926 have no access to a fixed health clinic; there is a mobile clinic that visits the area once a week and sees about 380 – 400 patients per visit. The proposed clinic will see patients at no charge [in the areas of child health, antenatal care and birthing and neonatal care](#). After the pilot programme, the clinic's operation costs will be covered by CCT and the Ministry of Health.

Professional Support for Primary Dental Care Service

The CCT has also commencing on a primary dental care service in September 2005, where the programmes will include oral health education and personal care. The services will be based in the Ermera and Maubisse districts and the Dili Hospital.

2 dental chairs have been sent over to CCT, and further support is sought for professional support for programme development, training and quality management of the dental programme, including funding for consultation fees to engage a qualified dentist from the Bali University Dental School to provide the necessary ongoing professional support.

5.2 PHILIPPINES

5.2.1. Tuloy Foundation

Since 1997, Tuloy has provided free education and training to hundreds of poor kids who could not afford to study elsewhere, producing 245 graduates in Vocational Technology in the last six years.

We are currently in partnership with Tuloy to fund vocational technology training to their street children/youths and out-of-school youths from poor communities. The training would equip about 100 kids aged 17 – 20 years old with basic skills for life and healthy values. These kids will undergo in-centre classroom and workshops learning, as well as on-the-job training with partner firms. Our funds go to support children in the Tuloy sa Don Bosco School for Street Children which covers tuition fees and voc-tech workshop and laboratory fees, school supplies, uniforms.

5.3 CHINA

MILK will be working with a Fujian local NGO to implement a scholarship program for children of poor farmers in the Luoyuan province (population approx 250,000). The scholarships will be for secondary, pre-university and university education.

MILK will provide RMB450,000 annually, while the local NGO will contribute another RMB50,000,100,000 as well as manpower and youth programming support. This program will run for 3 years and the effectiveness will be assessed thereafter. The scholarships will be awarded by a committee including Stanley and Tan Li Diang (a Singaporean base in Luoyuan). [We are exploring with potential partners if additional support is needed for student and youth activities.](#)

5.4 CAMBODIA AND THAILAND

We are also exploring work with needy children for shelter and education in Thailand and Cambodia.