



# THE HIDING PLACE (CHRISTIAN HOME MISSION) LTD

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED (31 DECEMBER 2021)

# CONTENT

1. About US
2. Overview of Charity
3. Message from the Executive Director
4. Leadership
5. Highlights of the Year
6. Programmed and Activities
7. Testimonies
8. Governance

# ABOUT US

The Hiding Place is a Christian Home for a new beginning setup for the rehabilitation of drug addicts, ex-prisoners, alcoholics, gambling addicts, homeless orphans, inhalant abusers, wayward teens, young offenders, troubled youths and those in need of help.

## HOME BACKGROUND

Established in 1973, students from the Singapore Bible College responded to the late Rev. Henry Khoo's call to do outreach work for drug addicts at the opium treatment centre in St John's Island. The regular visits to the Island led sis Christina Chan to start the first Christian Halfway House in Singapore which eventually was renamed, The Hiding Place.

For every person who enters our doors, we promise to mould them in the way our lord and saviour Jesus Christ would want us to.

## **FOUNDERS**

Mrs Christina Chan came in 1973 together with Pastor Philip in 1976, to respond to God's call to reach out to those in need. Both trained at the Singapore Bible College, they set up this Christian Home called the Hiding Place in 1978, with the motto, "As long as we live, we will open our door to any one who knocks." They initially reached out to drug addicts but has since opened their door to many others in need. They operate a 24/7 resident live-in ministry Christian Home, acting as parents to the residents in the Rehabilitation Programme.

### **HOME MISSION: -**

As a former heroin addict, Pastor Philip Chan was set free from the drugs by the power of the Gospel. He believes that Christianity has much to offer in the Rehabilitation of drug addicts and has since dedicated his life to this cause. Therefore, the mission objective of The Hiding Place is quoted from Colossians 1:28-29 "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ".

# OVERVIEW OF CHARITY

THE HIDING PLACE (CHRISTIAN HOME MISSION) LTD was registered as a company limited by guarantee in 15th April 1983

THE HIDING PLACE was registered as a charity under the Charities Act (chapter 37) Since 30th June 1987

THE HIDING PLACE has M&AA or Rules and Regulations as its governing instrument.

Unique Registration Number (UEN)	: 198301684W
Registration Address	: 5A Jalan Haji Salam, Singapore 468746
Bankers	: DBS
Auditor	: NLA DFK ASSURANCE PAC
Advisors	: Dr Han Meng Siew

# OVERVIEW OF CHARITY

We provide a 12-month residential rehabilitation programme which comes in three phases:

## **NURTURING / GROWTH / INTEGRATION**

Each stage takes up to four months. Our programmes will help you get balance in different aspects: living, spiritual, vocational, educational and recreational. Restoring life balance will always be our top priority.

## **SPIRITUAL**

Although our programme also emphasises other aspects, we recognise that the spiritual aspect must be given top priority. Our Ministry has helped and nurtured numerous over the years, many of which have concluded that religion plays a vital role in the rehabilitation of drug addicts. We are confident that when a resident repents and turns to God who has planned a way for them, they will have a success story to tell the world.

## **VOCATIONAL**

The preparation of the residents to face the competitive world when they leave, is the next importance through our Drug Rehabilitation Programme. The vocational emphasis seeks to train the residents in work skills, to shape their attitudes and to inculcate responsibility. Residents are taught skills such as carpentry, welding, picture framing, gardening and farming.

## **EDUCATIONAL**

Education is encouraged as far as possible. Young residents study under Home Tuition provided by volunteer tutors to allow them to attain their GCE 'N' or 'O' Levels certificates. Residents who have already completed their secondary education will be sent to public schools such as Polytechnics to be equipped with a diploma. Residents are also equipped with basic knowledge in computer and IT.

## **RECREATIONAL**

Recreational activities are important for fitness and to help one remain mentally alert and active. It helps build character through discipline. In addition, we believe that if we can interest the residents and emphasise the importance and benefits of being involved in sports, it would divert their attention from drug-taking to a more healthy recreational activity.

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## PASTOR TAN HOCK SENG

The year 2021 has been one of many ups and downs for The Hiding Place. Covid-19 brought new challenges that required us to adjust home operations to ensure the safety of everybody in our home, as well as to contain the spread of the virus when several of our residents and staff became infected later on. This impacted the mission of the halfway house due to the importance of fostering communal relations not just within the home, but between residents and their families as well, so as to support our residents in their journey of change.

Nevertheless, we adapted to the best of our abilities by the grace of God. At the same time during this challenging season, the Hiding Place successfully shifted to its new premises and opened a social enterprise of its own – the Hiding Place Kitchen. We have many people to thank for their aid in helping to ease these major transitions. Looking ahead, The Hiding Place intends to further develop our social enterprise arm. We hope that the Hiding Place Kitchen may become an avenue for growth, training, and employment for our residents. We also desire to eventually make it financially profitable so as to help support halfway house operations.

Even as we hold onto these aspirations, the future remains undecided. As we continue on in our second year of the pandemic, incidences of businesses closing down have been increasingly reported. As I read these, I ask myself if our halfway house will be the next to shut its doors. As a faith-based Christian home however, we will pray in situations like these. All I can say is that God is faithful. We are grateful for all the well-wishers and supporters who have chipped in to keep the home afloat over the past year and continue to do so. Our sincere thanks goes out to all the churches, civil organizations, and generous individuals who have journeyed alongside us in this manner. Your partnership with us to minister to those who have been marginalized in society for their addictions is greatly appreciated.

# LEADERSHIP

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</b>	<b>OCCUPATION</b>
Tan Hock Seng	Executive Director	1/1/2021	Executive Director
Chua Wee Kiang Samuel	Board Chairman	2/1/2019	Manager
Toh Lai Hee Bob	Board Vice Chairman	21/6/2006	Manager
Toh Kim Hong	Board Treasurer	21/6/ 2006	Free Lance Accountant
Patrick Stephen	Board Secretary	11/2/2020	Accessor
Chua Kok Hiang Edmund	Board Member	20/6/2007	Evangelist
Liao Tian Shun Thomas	Board Member	11/8/2020	Social Worker
Tan Han Hoe Gary	Board Member	20/6/2007	Sole Proprietor



	<b>DATE 2021</b>	<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	<b>BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>BY INVITATION</b>
1	2 Feb	General Meeting	Samuel Chua, Bob Toh, Nancy Toh, Edmund Chua, Patrick Stephen, Gary Tan, Thomas Liao, Ex-Officio : Tan Hock Seng	Caleb Tan, Han Meng Siew
2	6 Apr	General Meeting	Samuel Chua, Bob Toh, Nancy Toh, Edmund Chua, Patrick Stephen, Gary Tan, Thomas Liao, Ex-Officio : Tan Hock Seng	Caleb Tan, Han Meng Siew
3	29 Jun	General Meeting	Samuel Chua, Bob Toh, Nancy Toh, Edmund Chua, Patrick Stephen, Gary Tan, Thomas Liao, Ex-Officio : Tan Hock Seng	Caleb Tan, Han Meng Siew
4	29 Jun	AGM	Samuel Chua, Bob Toh, Nancy Toh, Edmund Chua, Patrick Stephen, Gary Tan, Thomas Liao, Ex-Officio : Tan Hock Seng	Caleb Tan, Han Meng Siew
5	19 Aug	General Meeting	Samuel Chua, Bob Toh, Nancy Toh, Patrick Stephen, Gary Tan, Thomas Liao, Ex-Officio : Tan Hock Seng	Caleb Tan, Han Meng Siew
6	12 Oct	General Meeting	Samuel Chua, Bob Toh, Patrick Stephen, Gary Tan, Thomas Liao Ex-Officio : Tan Hock Seng	Caleb Tan
7	7 Dec	General Meeting	Samuel Chua, Bob Toh, Nancy Toh, Edmund Chua, Patrick Stephen, Gary Tan, Thomas Liao, Ex-Officio : Tan Hock Seng	Caleb Tan, Han Meng Siew

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Total Income : \$1,292,597

Total Expenditure : \$1,003,682

Net surplus : \$ 288,915

## Analysis of 2021 and 2020 financials

	FY2021	FY2020	Analysis
Total income	\$1,292,597	\$1,700,726	Reduction in income \$408,129
Total expenditure	\$1,003,682	\$1,266,334	Reduction in exp \$262,652

Financial transaction for financial year 2021 to highlight:

1. Grants of \$63,839
2. Inter related party transactions:
  - a. Sale of cookies from Hiding Place Kitchen to The Hiding Place - \$63,971
  - b. Loan to Hiding Place Kitchen - \$50,000
  - c. Vehicle leasing income - \$12,600

**Remarks:** None of its paid staff receives more than \$100,000 each in annual remuneration

## PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES

In the year 2021, Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were many restrictions in place. Even our new intake of residents was put on hold.

As a Community Home, many of our programmes, activities and events were affected. Thus, religious and daily devotional classes (morning and evening) were screened through Zoom.

As mentioned, devotional class teachers, volunteers and intern counselors were allocated 1.5hrs of zoom time weekly.

Further in the day, the residents will be cutting, grating and cooking the grated pineapple to prepare the jam in making pineapple tarts. The rest of the day, they will be cleaning and doing land scaping within our premises. Our staff will monitor their daily activities and counselling will be meted out if it is due.

The welfare of the residents as in eg. lodging, food and daily necessities are closely monitored. Occurrences as in medical appointments, urine test, government departments and family issues are thoroughly monitored too.

As it is, all of us are looking forward for the measures to be eased as we can all go back to our normal lives.

## TESTIMONIES

THP Jan/Feb 2021 Newsletter

### **NEO TAY HOCK RICHARD**

I am thankful to God for giving me this opportunity to share how my faith in Him has changed my life. My life before coming to the Hiding Place four years ago has been like that of any drug addict - going in circles. When circumstances allowed, I would be intoxicated with drugs, living like a zombie. When circumstances were 'against' me, I had no choice but to try and quit drugs. But the resolve would not last long and I would be back to my old habits. Drugs then consumed my whole being. They sapped the life out of me and brought me into a pit of hopelessness and despair until a sister in Christ brought me to the Hiding Place.

Since coming to know the Lord at the Hiding Place, I have peace that comes from having my sins forgiven. I have accepted Jesus as my Saviour, trusting Him and submitting to Him. My life was changed little by little, becoming the person I am today. Through His guidance and deliverance, I have been free from drugs for four years. Jesus enabled me to overcome my weaknesses. If we look to Him, He will fill our lives with His grace.

## **MATTHEW CHEW SWEE SIONG**

Staff Helper Testimony - Matthew Chew My name is Matthew Chew and I am 41 this year. I was addicted to gambling for more than 20 years of my life. I started gambling from a very young age, beginning with the occasional poker game during Chinese New Year. I loved the thrill that gambling brought, but I never thought it would end up destroying my life.

My nightmare began when I was introduced to online gambling during my army days. I fell into a vicious cycle of trying to find money either to gamble or to pay back the bookie. I was under tremendous stress, but nothing compared to the hurt I brought to my family. They bore the brunt of my losses as I went to them for money using all kinds of lies. I even embezzled company funds to feed my gambling habit. I was caught and incarcerated for four and a half years. My family was crushed but they harboured the hope that prison could change me. It did not. I was trapped in the prison of addiction. I fell back into gambling immediately upon my release. At their wit's end, my family sent me to a halfway house where I got to know Jesus and accepted Him as my Lord and personal Saviour. However, I fell into temptation and went back to my old ways. By His grace God led me to Hiding Place on September 7, 2017.

I am thankful to God for his mercy and the leaders in Hiding Place for accepting me. There is only one word to describe Hiding Place - family. From the first day till now, what I have received is undeserved love and acceptance. There is not a hint of condemnation or judgement from any of the brothers here. The staff encouraged me to trust God again and pray to him to deliver me from my gambling addiction. I cried out to God, begging him to release me from this bondage. I vividly remember November 26, 2017, while I was taking an afternoon nap, I was awakened by a clear voice telling me, "Abide in me, and I will give you hope." Immediately I knew it was from God because peace filled my heart. I am no longer afraid of the flashbacks of gambling. God began to renew my mind and change my thought patterns. I began to view the flashbacks as a reminder to stop gambling.

I really thank God for this encounter. By God's grace, I have managed to stay clean for more than 3 years since I came to Hiding Place. I am grateful to be allowed to serve in the Hiding Place as a helper and work in the Hiding Place Kitchen. I am also doing a part-time degree in Social Work at SUSS. God has also restored my relationship with my family, and I treasure the time I have with them during my home leave. I know all these blessings that I have now is because of God's goodness upon my life, and I am really grateful and thankful.

THP May/Jun2021 Newsletter

LESTER YEO CHIN ANN

I accepted Jesus's invitation to follow Him on 7th September 2020.

For the past 20 years, I have destroyed a lot of relationships, trust and my career. I have broken many promises. I became a bankrupt. I borrowed money from people with no intention to repay. I scammed and I stole.

Gambling became a way of life. Everything was central to it. I woke up every morning thinking of ways to get funds to feed the addiction. Looking back, I was extremely selfish and as my family used to say, "No one can help you except yourself. You are very selfish, you always come up with excuses but the truth is, you do it for self-gratification. You don't care about others."

They were right. My life became a total mess and everyone around me parted ways with me. I was disgusted with myself. Hitting rock bottom, I confessed to my boss that I had stolen the company's hardware. The police came, took statement and I have been out on bail since.

I really regret not coming to my senses earlier. But thank God I have this chance now, here at the Hiding Place. I thank God for showing me that I do have a problem and that I cannot overcome it alone. It is indeed quite miraculous how I come to be at the Hiding Place. I believe that God led me here through His people. My relatives, whom I have not met for over 30 years, brought me here through their church pastor. I had sought them out through social media to attempt to borrow money but instead the door to Jesus was opened for me.

For most of my life, I have stayed alone in rented rooms. But now at Hiding Place, I have a lot of peace and joy in my heart. I am surrounded by loving and caring brothers. There are many positive examples of transformed lives here which deeply encourage me. I am also excited when I hear from God, when He speaks to me through the Bible. Once I was reading the book of Ephesians and this verse called out to me. "Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need." It really hit me in the heart. I know I have to listen to Him and live a righteous life.

As I await my judgement for the theft and scam cases, I am learning to walk in His ways. I am reading His words. I am training and preparing myself for the challenges ahead. I have a purpose in life now. I am thankful and grateful for where I am now.

RYAN

My name is Ryan. I am 52 years old, and I battled with drugs for the most part of my life. My first puff of heroin at the age of 13 caused me to spend more than 20 years of my life in and out of prison. I never spent more than 6 months outside of prison. I was a nightmare for my family and caused them much pain, but my mom never gave up on me. Whenever I was locked up, I would always tell myself and my family members that I will mend my ways. Upon my release, however, I would go back to my old friends and habits. I chose to satisfy my craving for drugs and forgot all the promises I made in prison.

I knew about God through Sunday School, but I was never serious with God, choosing to live my life my way. My last imprisonment for 6.5 years was in 2009 for drug offences. I was released and given a 6-month work programme in a halfway house in 2013. I began to get serious with God as I was sick of my life. I cleaned myself up and performed well during the programme, I was offered a supervisor position. I experienced God's goodness in my life, He provided for all my needs, but I did not treasure it and again fell back to my old ways.

Eventually, I left the halfway house. Within a year, I was hospitalized twice for drug overdose, but God in His mercy sustained me. In 2018, my church pastor, Pastor Ivan Lim, brought me to Hiding Place. They opened the door for me even though there was no vacancy, living up to its motto: As long as we live, we will open our door to anyone who knocks.

Before entering the Hiding Place gate, I asked myself, "What is my purpose of coming here? To give up my addiction or surrender my life to God?" At that moment, I decided to surrender my life entirely to God. God began to mould my character and I grew spiritually through daily devotions, Bible reading and prayer. The staff showed me love and care and acted as role models for me. There are ups and downs living in a community, rubbing shoulders with one another. I have learnt to deal with conflicts in a godly way by choosing to forgive and love others as we are one family in Christ.

God has blessed me. I am reconciled back to my family and treasure my time with them. I have peace and joy in my heart and no longer need to play hide-and-seek with God.

After completing my one-year programme, I decided to stay on and serve as a helper. I am now a kitchen staff in the Hiding Place Kitchen. I am thankful and grateful for this opportunity, and I will treasure this second chance in life. I thank God and Hiding Place for injecting hope into my life again.

THP Sept/Oct2021 Newsletter

NG HOE LYE VICTOR

My name is Victor. I am 65 years old. I come from a poor Buddhist family with 8 children. I quitted school in 1969 without completing my first term of secondary 1 at New Town Secondary School. I started taking drugs even before I left school and was caught by the drug squad and sent to drug rehabilitation centre in 1977. Ever since then, my life has been a misery – one that was being in and out of drug centres and prison for 40 years.

I came to know God in prison from the Christian counselors at the Sunday chapel services. I heard and saw many drug addicts and prisoners being saved and transformed by God who were living testimonies outside the prison doors. I wanted the hope that they had. To find out more about the Christian faith, I read the books that were available in the prison library.

My last release from the prison was in November 2017 when I was 62 years old. My sister, a Buddhist, brought me to The Hiding Place to seek God for help for my drug addiction. My family was so weary of my life of addiction that they were willing for me, to believe in any God that could save me from it. I thank God for opening a door for me through His faithful servant Pastor Philip. Through the Hiding Place programme, I experienced God's love and care through the concern of all the brothers and sisters had for me. As a believer, I know that this is the goodness of God's blessing on me as my faith in God has grown through my stay at The Hiding Place over these two years.

Now, God has graciously opened another door for me through The Hiding Place Kitchen to serve as a kitchen staff. I am thankful and grateful for God's goodness to me and I seek to walk faithfully in this journey of faith.



THP Nov/Dec2021 Newsletter

Joshua Cheong Kin Soon

My name is Joshua Cheong and I am 39 years old. I came to The Hiding Place in Mar 2017 because of my gambling addiction. It all started with what was seemingly harmless and occasional - betting 20 cents per game playing cards during CNY. As I grew older, the need to satisfy the excitement and an insatiable desire to overcome the odds overtook my sense of responsibility to my family and work. Even though I was drawing a good salary back then in the financial industry, I eventually landed myself in huge debt and even resorted to stealing money at home.

It was in my third month at The Hiding Place when I truly experienced the presence of God. On the night that I received news that my wife was intending to serve divorce notice the following day, I was devastated and could not sleep. I was drawn into the empty worship hall as I walked past it and knelt down before the cross. At that moment, tears just started to flow down my cheeks and I poured out everything to God - all my questions, my struggles and my surrender. I did not hear anything from God that night, but I remember very distinctly I felt as if someone had embraced me from behind. I experienced a sense of peace I had never felt before in my life. It was then that I realised that God is real. He had been with me all this while and would always be.

After completing my programme, I stayed on to serve as a project helper for 6 months. After that, I was allowed to be a working resident, working outside to clear my debts and fulfil my alimony duties. I am really grateful that I was granted this chance to work and yet stay close to God and His community of people. By God's grace, I was able to clear most of my gambling debts in the two years I was with Mediacorp. I am now working as a volunteer executive in Care Community Services Society.

All I can say is - God is good. There are still struggles and temptations. My divorce was finalised in Nov 2017. However, I know that as long as I have Jesus in my life, I have all that I need. I am able to spend every weekend with my children, guiding them on this journey of faith with our Lord; serving in the community to create a city of good and getting paid for doing what I enjoy; living in harmony with my band of brothers at The Hiding Place, encouraging and spurring each other on. Praise the Lord!

## **BOARD GOVERNANCE**

- ❖ Induction and orientation are provided to incoming governing board members upon joining the Board.
- ❖ There is no governing board member holding staff\* appointments
- ❖ There is no staff chair the Board
- ❖ The Finance governing board member responsible for overseeing the finances of the charity will can only serve a maximum of 4 consecutive years.
- ❖ All governing board members must submit themselves for re-nomination and re-appointment, at least once every 3 years.
- ❖ There are documented terms of reference for the Board and each of its committees.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- ❖ There are documented procedures for governing board members and staff to declare actual or potential conflicts of interest to the Board at the earliest opportunity.
- ❖ Governing board members do not vote or participate in decision making on matters where they have a conflict of interest.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

- ❖ The Board periodically reviews and approves the strategic plan for the charity to ensure that the charity's activities are in line with the charity's objectives.

## **HUMAN RESOURCE AND VOLUNTEER\* MANAGEMENT**

- ❖ The Board approves documented human resource policies for staff.
- ❖ There is a documented Code of Conduct for governing board members, staff and volunteers (where applicable) which is approved by the Board.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS**

- ❖ There is a documented policy to seek the Board's approval for any loans, donations, grants or financial assistance provided by the charity which are not part of the charity's core charitable programmes.
- ❖ The Board ensures that internal controls for financial matters in key areas are in place with documented procedures.
- ❖ The Board ensures that reviews on the charity's internal controls, processes, key programmes and events are regularly conducted.
- ❖ The Board ensures that there is a process to identify, and regularly monitor and review the charity's key risks
- ❖ The Board approves an annual budget for the charity's plans and regularly monitors the charity's expenditure.
- ❖ The charity invest its reserves in fixed deposits only
- ❖ The charity has a documented investment policy approved by the Board.

## **FUNDRAISING PRACTICES**

- ❖ The charity receive cash donations (solicited or unsolicited) during the financial year
- ❖ All collections received (solicited or unsolicited) are properly accounted for and promptly deposited by the charity.
- ❖ All donations in kind received are properly recorded and accounted for by the charity.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS**

- ❖ There is a documented policy to seek the Board's approval for any loans, donations, grants or financial assistance provided by the charity which are not part of the charity's core charitable programmes.
- ❖ The Board ensures that internal controls for financial matters in key areas are in place with documented procedures.
- ❖ The Board ensures that reviews on the charity's internal controls, processes, key programmes and events are regularly conducted.
- ❖ The Board ensures that there is a process to identify, and regularly monitor and review the charity's key risks
- ❖ The Board approves an annual budget for the charity's plans and regularly monitors the charity's expenditure.
- ❖ The charity invest its reserves (e.g. in fixed deposits only)?
- ❖ The charity has a documented investment policy approved by the Board.

## **FUNDRAISING PRACTICES**

- ❖ The charity receive cash donations (solicited or unsolicited) during the financial year?
- ❖ All collections received (solicited or unsolicited) are properly accounted for and promptly deposited by the charity.
- ❖ All donations in kind received are properly recorded and accounted for by the charity.

END OF REPORT