



EVERY CHILD IN A LOVING FAMILY

# CHANGING LIFE STORIES

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IMPACT REPORT  
2020 - 2021



母親的抉擇  
Mother's Choice

VOLUME XXXIV

# About Mother's Choice

Mother's Choice is a local charity serving the many children without families and pregnant teenagers in Hong Kong. Since 1987, we have **joined hands with our community to give hope and change life stories**. Our vision is to see **every child in a loving family**. Mother's Choice has eight front-line services:



Baby Care Services



Wee Care Services



Early Intervention Services



Foster Care Services



Pregnant Girls Services



Pregnant Girls Service Hostel



Comprehensive Sexuality Education



Adoption Services

## Why Hong Kong needs us

When families do not have a strong support network, when they experience crisis their children may end up in the residential care system. These children often remain in the system for their entire childhoods without the love and security of a permanent family. Once they age out of the system or return to their struggling families, they are more likely to be incarcerated, have addiction issues, become homeless, and if they are a girl, face a crisis pregnancy. These young girls become parents who are not able to care for their own children, and while the community remains unaware or ill-informed about how to respond, the cycle begins again.

**Our vision is to see every child in a loving family.** We believe that when children and youth grow up in safe, permanent, and loving families – it changes their lives, the generations that come from them, and the whole community around them. From its founding, Mother's Choice has sought to go beyond meeting immediate needs and providing a safe space in crisis. We aim to address the underlying issues which caused the crisis and to bridge the divide between intervention and prevention. We aim to **break the vicious cycle**.

For our vision to be realized, we need to be a catalyst for positive social change across our whole community, as the issues that we tackle are complex. From teen pregnancy to children living in the residential care system, it will take many individuals and organizations from different sectors of society working together to bring lasting change. That is why **our mission is to join hands with the community** – from government to the corporate sector, schools and universities, faith communities, peer agencies and community partners – to **give hope** and **change life stories**. It will take all of us.

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# Message from Patron

Dear friends,

*"It's not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts." - Mother Teresa*

As the Patron of this wonderful organization, I have seen up close and personal how the work of Mother's Choice can change life stories. As a volunteer for more than three decades, it has been a privilege to care for and love so many of these "pumpkins" awaiting their forever family.

That's why this year's theme "**Changing Life Stories**" has such special meaning for me. When children have the unconditional love and support of being in a family, they are able to thrive and blossom and it changes their life trajectory. Today, many of the babies that I lovingly hugged and cradled in my arms are amazing young adults living in all corners of the world. Some are even becoming parents themselves!

I am proud of the Mother's Choice family of staff, volunteers and partners for their continued and generous support and in joining hands with us to make it our collective vision to see every child in a loving family.

Thank you for helping to keep the torch of serving vulnerable children burning brightly.

Warmly,

Purviz Rusy Shroff, MH  
Patron

“

*When children have the unconditional love and support of being in a family, they are able to thrive and blossom and it changes their life trajectory.*



## Message from Chairman

Dear friends,

During the pandemic I've spent a lot more time reading books. That's why this year's theme, "**Changing Life Stories**" resonates with me. While we are separated from one another, all in our separate "libraries," we can still marvel together at the amazing work of Mother's Choice and the life stories we're all changing.

This has been a challenging year for vulnerable children without families, and for young girls and their families who were already on the precipice. I am so proud of the team at Mother's Choice who have worked tirelessly to adapt and respond quickly in the midst of COVID to ensure that our services continue to operate without disruptions and to meet increasing social needs.

2020-21 also saw us continue to build on our legacy and strengths to ensure our systems, processes, standards and governance are better than ever. It's the year, despite the COVID19 challenge, we came together – stronger and more connected – across our programs, eight frontline services and family touchpoints.

As we review the many notable accomplishments of the past year, we believe it is essential to track and measure the life-changing impact of the dollars we spend as part of our accountability to you and to the community we serve. We are still in awe of the funds raised throughout the year's fundraising efforts. Of our \$78.3 million annual operating budget, less than 24% is funded through the government and other large grant-makers. I appreciate the faithful support of so many throughout the past tough year, your commitment and generosity makes our work possible.

When we work together as one "family", we can change the life stories of the next generation of children in Hong Kong. On behalf of the Mother's Choice Board of Directors, I would like to express our gratitude for your continuing support as we work towards seeing every child in a loving family.

Thank you.

**Ronald Lee**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors



*While we are separated from one another, all in our separate "libraries," we can still marvel together at the amazing work of Mother's Choice and the life stories we're all changing.*

## Message from CEO

Dear friends and family of Mother's Choice,

On my bookshelf, I have a collection of books that I treasure. These are books that have deeply impacted my life. This is my hope for the work of Mother's Choice. That each and every one of our programs and services will not just touch, but ultimately change a child or young girl's life story.

This year's theme "**Changing Life Stories**" is based on our core value of authentic relationship. We always say that lives are transformed in the context of authentic relationship. We are all created to be connected in relationship with family, and family is the most powerful agent of change. This is where we reach our fullest potential.

At Mother's Choice, we believe that family is defined by love and commitment, not just blood. We also believe that parenting is a lifelong journey and no family can do it on their own.

Your love and commitment to the work of Mother's Choice throughout the year exemplifies the truest definition of family. We take great comfort in knowing that we do not walk alone in the challenging and complex work that we do.

Thank you for your extraordinary commitment to our work at Mother's Choice. Your generosity is helping to change the life stories of the many girls and babies who come to Mother's Choice for help.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

**Alia Eyres**

Chief Executive Officer

“

*We always say that lives are transformed in the context of authentic relationship. We are all created to be connected in relationship with family, and family is the most powerful agent of change. This is where we reach our fullest potential.*



# Board of Directors



**Ronald Lee**  
Chairman



**Andrew Gardener**  
Director



**Gretchen Ryan**  
Director



**Jason Brown**  
Director



**Joseph Wan**  
Director



**Matthew Ginsburg\***  
Director



**Millie Tong Lau**  
Director



**Patricia Chu**  
Director



**Patrick Sherrington**  
Director



**Phyllis Marwah**  
Director



**Ronna Chao**  
Director



**Sunita Makhija**  
Director



**Tim Wannemacher**  
Director



**Vinit Bhatia**  
Director

*\*Retired during fiscal year 2020-21.*

# Ambassadors



**Purviz Rusy Shroff, MH**  
Patron



**Rosanna Wong, DBE, JP**  
Vice Patron



**Cass Phang**  
Celebrity Ambassador

# Standing Committees



## Adoption Committee

Andrew Gardener  
Caran Wong  
Erica Liu Wollin  
Gretchen Ryan+  
Joseph Wan  
Pamela Tseng  
Yann Cudennec



## Buildings Committee

Justin Wai  
Phyllis Marwah  
Sunita Makhija  
Rita Chan+  
Rod Tong  
Wendy Chiu



## Finance Committee

Anna Cheung  
Deepak Rao  
Hung Kit Lui  
Jason Brown  
Joel James  
Julie Wang  
Matthew Ginsburg\*  
Niklas Rowold  
Paul Kennedy+  
Vikram Chavali



## Fundraising Committee

Camellia Tan Duncan  
Joseph Wan+  
Phyllis Marwah  
Sandy Wan  
Tim Wannemacher+



## Marketing & Communications Committee

Andrew Gardener+  
Charlotte Felix O'Connor  
Ed Tam  
Kaye Dong  
Lauren Chung  
Peter Cheung  
Tim Waldron



## Operations Committee

C.Y. Chan  
Darryl Parrant  
Helen Kim\*\*  
Simon Tyrrell  
Weiwei Xing+



## Services Committee

Andrew Gardener\*  
Caran Wong  
Christine Ma-Lau  
Erica Liu Wollin  
Grace Ho  
Gretchen Ryan+  
Joseph Wan  
Joyce Tam  
Millie Tong Lau  
Natalie Kam

+ Denotes Chairperson(s).

\* Retired during fiscal year 2020-21.

\*\* Appointed during fiscal year 2020-21.



# COVID Impact

Our past fiscal year of 2020-21 was one of unprecedented challenge as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our clients, staff and volunteers. We saw the needs of vulnerable children and girls increase, and access to support and resources became more difficult. Mother's Choice continued to admit clients in need and facilitated all services leading to the timely permanency of children, including visitations. As a result, 2020-21 saw us care for more children, youth and families. A summary is presented as stats highlights in this feature.

Guided by our five core values --- hope, courage, authentic relationship, catalyst, community --- we moved quickly to adapt our operations to continue to care for clients at the very highest standards whilst keeping the health and safety of all staff and volunteers at the forefront. We designed and implemented a four-tiered crisis response system including policies, procedures, training and tools (such as Team A/B splits), communication channels, protective gear sourcing, cross-office work, work-from-home arrangements as well as scalable volunteering rosters. The alert system also helped communicate across the agency on critical decisions and rapid responses, which included protocols to continue to admit clients and deliver essential services and programs 365 days in 2020.

Also worth noting are:

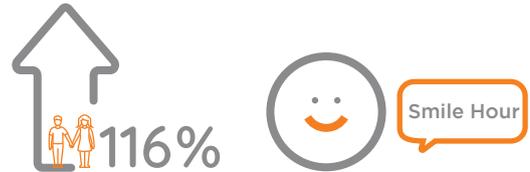
- The Pregnant Girls Services Hostel, a 24/7 residential care service, worked exceptionally hard to keep our girls healthy and safe under COVID-19. We upgraded the IT system so girls could join online sessions and access online media more smoothly.
- We launched a foster family recruitment social media campaign, reaching more than 80,000 people, allowing us to raise awareness on the needs of waiting children in the residential care system.
- We continued to pursue best practises and embedded Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths ("CANS") program into the comprehensive case management processes for both our children and youth services.

Scan QR code for story in video



## Throughout the pandemic, we never closed our doors.....

### Children Services



We admitted 116% more children than the previous year. With all staff and volunteers wearing masks, we created Smile Hour so that the children could see our unmasked faces through a glass pane to strengthen attachment.



When group therapy sessions were no longer possible, we shifted to one-on-one care and found creative ways to deliver 1,018 hours of individual therapy to children, a 225% increase on the previous year.



Our desperate need for foster families led us to pivot our foster care recruitment and training sessions to Zoom. This resulted in the recruitment of 38 new foster families, a 36% increase on the previous year.



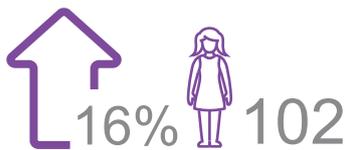
Thank you to the 232 families joining our 13 online information sessions on foster care, giving a chance to vulnerable children in need of a safe, loving and nurturing home.

We stayed open 24/7,  
365 days during the year.....

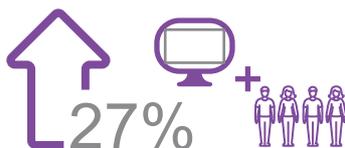
## Youth Services



In the first months when COVID-19 hit, calls to our hotline increased by 80%.



We provided direct case management to 102 girls, 16% more than the previous year.



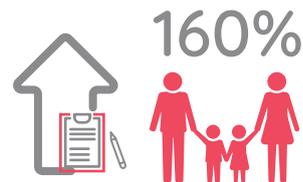
Isolated young parents needed even more support so we provided both online and small groups programs to deliver 27% more sessions than last year.



With schools shut for most of the year, we pivoted to deliver our Comprehensive Sexuality Education program online reaching 4,303 students.

Because no one in  
crisis should be alone.....

## Family Services



Worked tirelessly to approve 160% more homes for adoption.



Working under stringent COVID-19 guidelines, we saw 22 children go home to their adoptive parents including 3 overseas families who traveled to Hong Kong.

## Community Services



Thank you to the serving hearts of the 679 participants joining our 26 online info sessions of "Getting to Know Mother's Choice" expressing a keen interest to volunteer. You can make a difference!



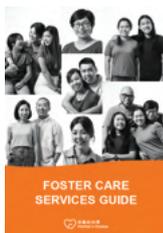
We maintained our commitment to the highest level of care even with 50% the number of volunteers in Child Care Home to meet social distancing requirements.

# Our gratitude for your generous support.....

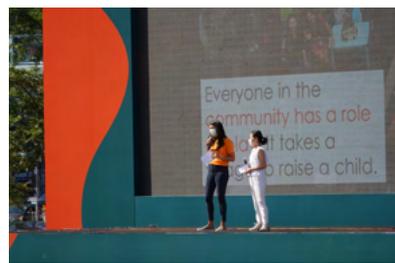
## Community Highlights



We were so grateful for the overwhelming response from our community at large, by the sharing of our news of **urgent appeal for diapers and wet wipes** as the expected donation had fallen through for our babies at our Child Care Home. Your kindness helped to keep our babies in diapers for **two years!**



We rolled out our pilot social media **foster family recruitment** campaign to reach a new audience, allowing us to raise awareness for the foster care community, especially relating to the needs of children in Hong Kong residential care system.



Our **adoptive families and the local community** joined in to celebrate **Adoption Awareness Month** --- enjoying a movie that involved an adoptive family from the comfort and safety at their own private pods, while raised funds and awareness of the many children who are waiting for forever families in Hong Kong.



Throughout the year, many of Hong Kong's biggest hearts gathered at appropriately socially distanced events to raise funds for Mother's Choice with our major **fundraising event** cancelled due to COVID. We launched our first ever "digital appeal", and were met with overwhelming response.

## Our aim to diversify funding.....

### Preparing for Sustainable Growth

As part of our "Vision 2025" 5-year strategic plan, Mother's Choice aims to increase the organization's financial sustainability, so that we can expand existing programs to meet the growing needs of our clients.

#### Strategic planning for sustainability

Mother's Choice is majority funded by one-off private donations. In the past, this has led to significant swings in our income based on market conditions, market sentiment or the attendance of specific donors at Mother's Choice events. This uncertainty underscores the need to create more margin in our fundraising strategy, so our vulnerable clients are not at the mercy of an unpredictable funding base that can disrupt service planning.

In the past, our fundraising efforts have been mainly focused on securing funds for our services and programs in that current fiscal year, and not on long-term needs. With the onset of the global pandemic, Mother's Choice witnessed simultaneously client needs increase, and our ability to fundraise constrained. With complexity increasing, we recognized that our existing services needed to be augmented and expanded.



#### Expansion of programs

- **Safe Families**, a family strengthening program supporting the increasing number of vulnerable teen mothers choosing parenting, based on a globally recognized program which leverages volunteers in order to make sure young parents are supported by community as well as provide practical help;
- **Outreach to Pregnant Girls Service clients**, a campaign focused on ensuring that teenagers in our target client group know how to access our services and supports for young people facing a crisis pregnancy, as they have become more vulnerable during the pandemic, and
- **Early Intervention Services** for all the vulnerable children served by Mother's Choice, as we have seen children staying for longer in the residential care system and having experienced greater exposure to child abuse and neglect since the pandemic began.

#### Gratitude amidst challenges

Despite the inherent insecurity of our fundraising model, we were able to raise record-breaking funds. As a result of our increased fundraising efforts to increase sustainability and your incredible generosity, we were able to raise more money than ever before including increases in the following areas:

- \$9.6 million (24.3%) from major donors;
- \$8 million (20.3%) from corporate grants;
- \$5.1 million (12.9%) from the Government Employment Support Scheme for COVID-19 (which we do not expect to be a repeated source);
- \$2.4 million (6%) from individual donors; and
- \$1.7 million (4.3%) from Adoption Awareness Month events.

#### Long-term changes

Mother's Choice will continue to aim to diversify funding sources and raise funds to enhance and expand existing programs and launch new programs as part of our "Vision 2025" 5-year strategic plan.

Mother's Choice continued to receive grants from government and public organizations in 2020/21, totalling \$24.5 million. This was an increase of 4.7% or \$1.1 million when compared to the previous year. The increase was based on the expansion of funding in our sub-vented Wee Care service in our Child Care Home, which allowed us to hire additional staff including nursing staff and therapists. This \$24.5 million comprised of:

- \$17.0 million (69.4%) from the Social Welfare Department, allocated towards the cost of providing residential care service for special needs children, foster care replenishment of furniture, equipment and minor works, and training and development of staff.
- \$4.2 million (17.1%) from The Community Chest of Hong Kong for our new-born and infant residential care service.
- \$3.3 million (13.5%) from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust towards our Pregnant Girls Services and Community Education.



# Case Study: Early Intervention Services

The quality of a child's experience in the first few years of life – positive or negative – helps shape how the brain develops. Children in the residential care system are especially vulnerable reaching developmental milestones, it can impact a child's chance for birth family reunion or adoption. Yet, many wait up to three years for assessment in the public health care system that is already stretched.

Here are elements from our “Changing Life Stories” video of the many special members of our in-house team of medical professionals, volunteers and staff, joining hands to change the life trajectory of a child's life story --- Ling Ling, a child who joined Wee Care, our special needs unit, in 2020.

Scan QR code  
for story in video



## Early Intervention Can Change A Child Life Trajectory

### Charmaine, Head of Child Development and Clinical Programs, Mother's Choice

At Mother's Choice, our professional team provides an assessment within one month of admission. We always emphasize putting the child's needs ahead of everything. The child is the center of it all.

### Millie, Physiotherapist, Mother's Choice

When a child with special needs is living with their family, it is their parent's responsibility to educate themselves about that child's medical condition or disability so that they are in a position to advocate for their child. When a child doesn't have a family it becomes no one's responsibility. Here at Mother's Choice, we are the family. It is our responsibility to advocate, support, represent and speak up for our children like Ling Ling.

### Jacqueline, Speech Therapist, Mother's Choice

We had to find new ways to teach Ling Ling how to communicate with us. So we taught her sign language and she's since learned how to sign language “more”.

### Dr Liu, Pediatric Neurologist and Volunteer, Mother's Choice

The early years are the important years when the development, everything counts. Their brains are still developing so when you do something at that stage they are just like a sponge. They absorb and they remember and they practice and they improve.



**Pui, Senior Child Care Worker, Mother's Choice**

The team of child care workers work closely with the in-house therapy team to provide observations for each child. This helps to guide the therapists to design an individualized plan for each child.

For Ling Ling, her legs had no muscle strength and she could not eat on her own. So she was given special plates and utensils to help her eat and now she can eat and drink on her own and hold a cup.

**Adwina, Volunteer, Mother's Choice**

Children like Ling Ling really need our love and our care. She really loves hugs.

It's like a chain that is all linked together. Link by link. Very strong. When we're all aligned, that's when we are the strongest.

My dream for Ling Ling is that she will be in a great adoptive family and to have a family that love her as much as we love her here.

**Helene, Deputy COO and Head of Services, Mother's Choice**

In the public health system, it can take a child up to two or three years to be assessed by a medical professional. But when we work together, we not only change that one life story --- we impact our own life stories and in turn we change our community and the generations that follow

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*By working together, we not only change one life story – we impact our own stories and in turn, we change our community and the generations that follow from them.*



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*To be part of these children's life stories to love them, support them and to advocate for them and to get them to the final destination of a forever loving home is the biggest privilege.*



# Case Study: Adoption Services

Adoption is a great act of giving love, and at Mother's Choice, we have the privilege of helping to build families through adoption. Adoption positively impacts all those involved with the process. It gives birth parents the assurance that their children will be raised in safe, loving, and permanent families; gives adoptive parents the joy of parenting; and gives children the opportunity to join a permanent family and grow up in a loving home.

Here are excerpts from our "Changing Life Stories" video of three special members of the Mother's Choice family whose lives have been touched by adoption.

Scan QR code  
for story in video



## The Impact of Mother's Choice Last For Generations

### Yann, Adoptee and Adoption Committee Member of Mother's Choice

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I was born in Hong Kong in 1993. Mother's Choice was my home for the first three months of my life before being adopted by my French dad and my Malaysian mother. I have an older sister who is biological to my parents.

Growing up, it was very obvious to people that I was adopted if they knew my parents. My parents had always shared with me that I was adopted, but it wasn't something I brought up or talked about, even to my best friends whom I'd known since I was ten. I looked different, and I had to deal with that in many different ways. It was a struggle for me.

When I turned 18, right before I was about to go abroad for university, my parents gave a letter to me from my birth mom whom I've never met. The letter explained why she chose adoption for me. She was 16 and unmarried. She wrote: 'I'm very sorry, I really do not want to leave you. It's because I wish you can have a happier and more stable family life.' I remember weeping for hours after reading that my birth mom loved and wanted the best for me.

When I moved back to Hong Kong in 2017, I had a friend who wanted to volunteer at Mother's Choice and that prompted me to tell her that I'm actually from Mother's Choice. I think subconsciously I always wanted to explore my adoption but I never had the outlet or courage to do it. I wish that in high school or before, that there was a group something informal where I would feel comfortable to talk about my experience.

Adoption on one hand is definitely a very happy event. It's a family forming and new bonds being formed. But with those new bonds, on the other side, there's also loss that needs to be accepted. There's a loss from the birth mother and the birth son or daughter.

The adult adoptee gathering is a group Gretchen, Phyllis and one of my best friends, Doreen, and I started in 2019. It started as a very, very small group of mainly adoptees meeting casually for dinner. Now we have over 30 people, spread in Hong Kong and all over the world. And that gathering is a space for adoptees to fully express themselves to feel safe in a space to feel heard and understood. It's a beautiful group!

Mother's Choice was my home for the first three months of my life. For me, it's really come full circle. Mother's Choice took care of me as a child and I want to give back as much as I can to Mother's Choice and the community.

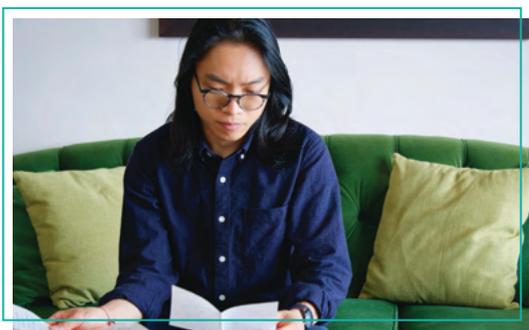
## Gretchen, Board Director of Mother's Choice and Co-founder of Adoptive Families of Hong Kong

Yann is actually the same age as one of my kids. His parents and I are good friends. Actually, his mom reached out to me and said Yann has come back to Hong Kong. He finished university and is living and working in Hong Kong, and he would like to reconnect with Mother's Choice.

Phyllis at that time was looking for anyone who could share about adoption, who had the personal experience, and so we met together and worked on the idea of starting this small group of adoptees gathering.

Today, Yann is now serving on the Adoption Committee at Mother's Choice and he's speaking in and he's representing each and every one of these children who are waiting for an adoptive family. It is an incredible honor and privilege to know him at this stage of his life.

That is what the gift of Mother's Choice is - that we're not alone, that we're walking together. It's a lifelong journey but we're doing this together, and I have people that will walk alongside me. And now I have the opportunity to walk alongside Yann, and that group brings me great joy!



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*Mother's Choice was my home for the first three months of my life. For me, it's really come full circle. Mother's Choice took care of me as a child and I want to give back as much as I can to Mother's Choice and the community.*

## Phyllis, Co-founder and Board Director of Mother's Choice

One of our staff was adopted and didn't even know that she had been adopted until after she was married. It took many years for her to share her story with me. And when I realized that she had such a powerful story, I asked her if she would be willing for me to interview her at one of the Mother's Choice events.

She talked about how she felt -- how she felt about her birth mother, how she felt about her adoptive family ... everybody wants to know the answers to those questions.

Today, working with adoptees is the most important thing I have done in my life. I feel like I have grown as a person. I think my life has been worthwhile. I feel such love and it's such a privilege to walk alongside adoptees.



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*That is what the gift of Mother's Choice is - that we're not alone, that we're walking together. It's a lifelong journey but we're doing this together, and I have people that will walk alongside me.*



# Case Study: Foster Care Services

Children need foster care for all kinds of reasons such as family domestic violence, parental drug use, mental illness, or abuse and neglect. All of these impact a family's capacity to care for their child who can range in age from newborn to 18 years old. Yet, all children have a common need for a suitable home for them to thrive in whilst they are in care. Fostering provides these children with a safe home and a loving supportive environment whilst they await reunion with their birth family or to join an adoptive family when that is not possible.

Here are excerpts from our "Changing Life Stories" video of three special stories from foster moms and their foster care journey.

Scan QR code  
for story in video



## Being Involved In Foster Care Is Like A Message Of Hope Into Humanity

### Kaye, foster mom since 2016

In 2015, I saw a news clip which mentioned about a child who, without having access to governmental residential care, passed away at home. I was really shocked as I could not imagine how such a thing could happen in a prosperous place like Hong Kong.

Ever since becoming a foster mom, every day is very fulfilling for me. I'm a mom of two children, and I run my own business. People always ask me, "Wow, you're so busy, how can you care for more children?"

Sometimes, I ask myself that same question too. But I remind myself that the most important thing is that I'm not alone. I have a lot of people around me, supporting me and cheering me on.

For example, in the case of my younger daughter, she's kind of a tomboy. Yet it makes me so happy because I see how she interacts with the children. With the babies around, I've seen another side of her. I see how caring she is and a gentleness and thoughtfulness. I knew she always had it in her but it got overlooked.

Being a foster family and having babies in our home has really helped everyone in our family express the many different qualities within each of us.



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*The children may not remember me, but I know that the seeds that I once planted, will be with them for the rest of their lives. So all the heartbreak, all the hard work, all the sleepless nights, it's really worth it. Why? Because we have helped change the life story of a child.*

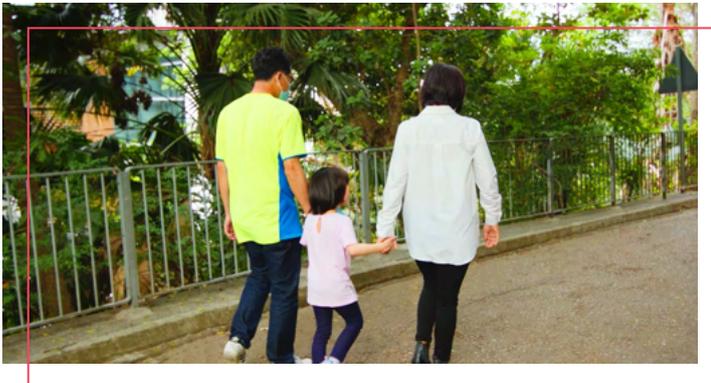
### Cora, foster mom since 2019

When I attended a foster care info session, I learnt that in Hong Kong, there are hundreds of children without a home to go back to. I thought to myself: I don't have kids myself and I really love children.

In the past, I didn't have to overthink being around kids and felt that just playing with them was enough. But now, I discovered that being a foster mom, you really have to consider and care for the child's development.

There was a time when I went out to run errands and accidentally fell down. I injured my knee which caused a lot of bleeding. When I went home, my foster child opened the door and saw that I was hurt. She was really concerned and showing so much care and love and asking me, "What happened? Does it hurt a lot?" My pain just disappeared from there! I can now see how living in a family-live environment has really created this positive change in her.

It dawned on me that the way we treat and care for children, they truly do understand a parents' love for them. They in turn know how to express their love in return as well.



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*It dawned on me that the way we treat and care for children, they truly do understand a parents' love for them.*

### Claudia, foster mom since 2018

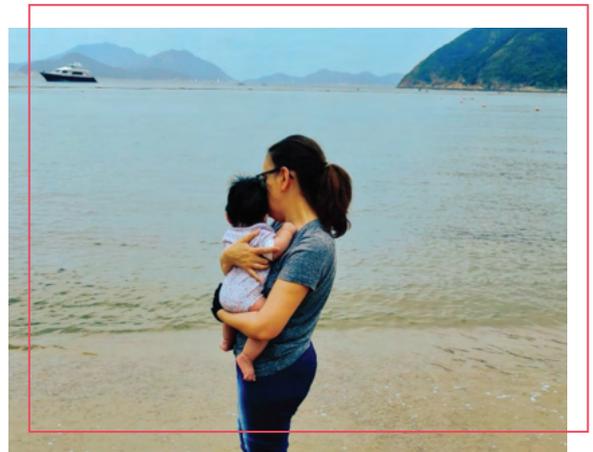
When I actually started looking into volunteering, I had no idea about fostering. I just felt like I want to give back to the community, and especially here in Hong Kong which I feel is my second home.

I didn't think I was eligible for foster care because I am single and I work as well. Until one day, I decided to join one of the info sessions where I got a lot of answers as well as inspiring moments from the sharing of other foster families.

With the first baby that I fostered, I vividly recall bringing her home from the hospital and how she would cry without making any sound. Lying there with big tears rolling down her cheeks and not making any sound. Most of all, she kept her fists tightly closed all the time. It took several days until her voice came back ... and then it never left!

But most of all, the fists started to open up slowly and then finally, she reached out to my thumb and held it. That was the moment when I really felt the power of love, and how love can be transformative.

It really feels to me that fostering is like a message of hope into humanity. No matter which walk of life you come from, at the end of the day, it's making sure that you can be there for someone else even at the toughest moments of your life, knowing that you can count on someone else. I have one regret: I wish I had done fostering earlier.



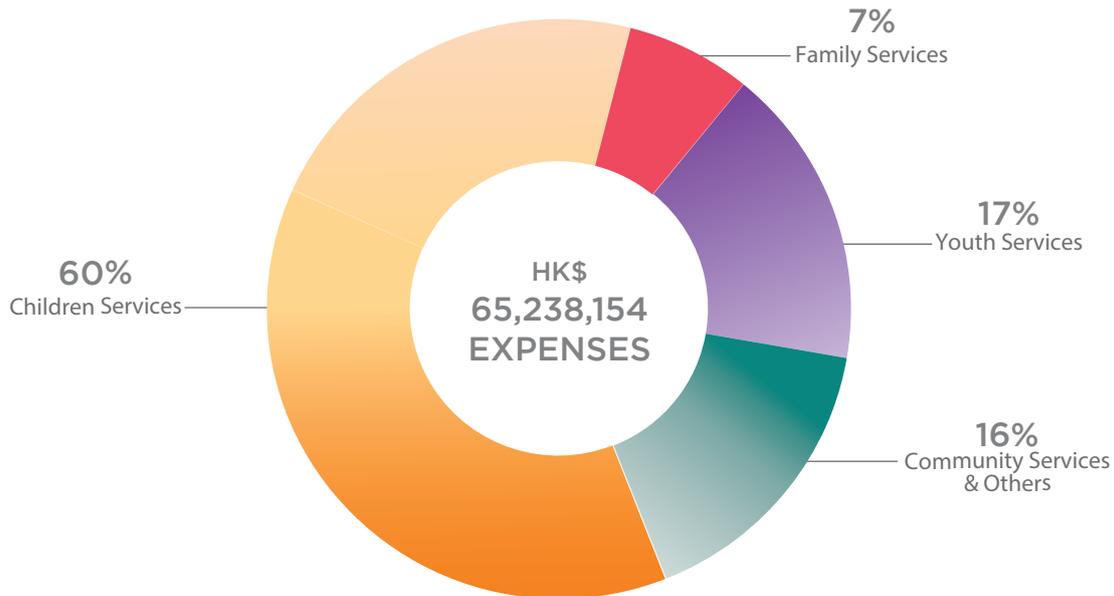
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*I have one regret:  
I wish I had done fostering earlier.*

# Our Financials

We take great care to use and steward our financial resources wisely. In addition to the funds spend in this fiscal year, Mother's Choice maintains a conservative reserve fund policy.

As we are the home for many children without families and vulnerable girls, we must remain open even with fluctuations in donations. Therefore Mother's Choice aims to maintain 150% of annual non-subsidized annual expenses in emergency reserves so that we could continue to operate in the most dire of situations. Any surplus in a given year, goes first to ensure that the minimum amount of reserves is maintained and grown alongside our cost base. After meeting the minimum amount of emergency reserves, surplus funds are allocated to capital projects such as building improvements or systems upgrades, and investing in potential new projects and services which serve our clients.



## Children Services

**\$ 39,449,059 (60%)**

- Baby Care  
\$ 14,505,269 (22%)
- Wee Care – for special needs children  
\$ 10,208,634 (16%)
- Foster Care Services  
\$ 13,071,354 (20%)
- Project Bridge  
\$ 1,663,802 (2%)

## Family Services

**\$ 4,657,534 (7%)**

- Adoption Services  
\$ 4,657,534 (7%)

## Youth Services

**\$ 10,772,770 (17%)**

- Pregnant Girls Services  
\$ 7,032,587 (11%)
- Youth Programs  
\$ 3,740,183 (6%)

## Community Services & Others

**\$ 10,358,791 (16%)**

- Community Education  
\$ 1,948,365 (3%)
- Volunteer Engagement  
\$ 422,507 (1%)
- Fundraising & Marketing Communication  
\$ 5,011,563 (8%)
- Facilities & Administration  
\$ 2,976,356 (4%)

Our Audited Financial Statements, audited by KPMG, are available to view at [www.motherschoice.org](http://www.motherschoice.org).

Mother's Choice has had Hong Kong IRD s88 charitable status since 1987.

## PARTNERS

Mother's Choice is grateful for the faithful support by these respected organizations.





