

A photograph of several orange gladiolus flowers with green leaves, arranged diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a light, textured surface.

Gladiolus Place

GLADIOLUS NEWSLETTER

**BI-ANNUAL
EVENTS & UPDATES**

JUL - DEC 2020

Gladiolus Place

EVERY GIRL LOVED, EVERY LIFE TRANSFORMED

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FOREWORD

As we end off 2020, we want to remember all of God's blessings amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic. The second half of the year was no doubt as tough as the first, as Gladiolus Place remains a 24/7 essential service to vulnerable teenage Girls. Nonetheless, the pandemic did not stop us from providing refuge, care, and a safe Home for our Girls because every Girl's life matters to us.

After the Circuit Breaker, our Girls returned to school regularly, and we are proud to see how far they have progressed in their studies, even winning awards, despite having to adjust to the precautionary measures and limit their interactions with others just so they may stay safe and healthy.

Even as the Nation enters Phase 3 and starts to open up, Gladiolus Place has had to continue implementing split teams and split zone measures for all Staff and Girls. Visitors and volunteers who were beginning to come back have had to adhere to strict health screening measures before they enter our premises as well. Towards the end of the year, our Girls were allowed to go out in groups of 5 for outdoor activities. They had the opportunity to acquire new skills such as scuba-diving and cycling! We are thankful to all the volunteers for bringing in such opportunities and being so accommodating to all the various requirements for the sake of protecting our Girls.

Gladiolus Place is also honoured to have various organisations partnering and supporting us in this difficult season. We were abundantly supported with meals, gifts, and necessities by donors, volunteers and supporters. Some of these groups also inspired us to further our efforts to go green in Gladiolus Place. We cannot thank you enough for blessing us in such tough times!

Finally, we are elated to share about our fundraising journey in 2020 because many of you have helped to spread the word about our work and our Home. Some even took the initiative to do online fundraisers for GP! These joint efforts have allowed us to continue running our Home and providing basic care, shelter, and therapeutic services to our Girls so that they may heal and grow. We are looking forward to a greater 2021 with all of you!



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends, Supporters, Partners of Gladiolus Place, warmest greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Welcome to our second bi-annual newsletter of Gladiolus Place for 2020!

In the last newsletter, I shared about how we, as a Home carried by the grace and unfailing love of our God, journeyed through the tough seasons of the Circuit Breaker, as well as the various ways Covid-19 had impacted us. In the second half of the year, with the assurance of His promise to us in Psalm 36, we continued to persevere through unprecedented territory and push through new frontiers. We launched our new website that captures the vibrancy and vivacity of our Home. We began a “Go Green” campaign in GP, and adopted the use of more technology to increase Staff productivity and to free up their time for it to be invested in where it matters the most — the lives of the young Girls we care for at GP.

We are also glad that despite the challenges of team segregation and rotating teams on the ground, we have been able to continue the effective work that we have been doing with our Girls. In 2020 alone, we witnessed the transformation of many lives, and restored many Girls back to their families and their communities! We are happy to share some of their stories in this edition of our newsletter.

All this work that we do would not be possible without the support of all our donors, supporters, friends, partners and volunteers, who have been so unwavering in your support for us. Throughout the year, you have poured out much-needed support, resources, love and care for us, and for our Girls. These have kept us going despite the trying times, because we know that we have a greater extended Gladiolus Place Family whom we can count on when times are hard. Thank you all for being here for GP, for being Family to us. In 2020, we are so glad that our extended GP Family has grown, as so many of you came forward to journey alongside us. We look forward to an exciting year ahead in 2021 with all of you!

As many know by now, Gladiolus Place is sitting on sinking ground. Gladiolus Place is housed in a disused primary school, a classic four-storey building shaped like the letter “H” which was typical of the era the building was built in. There are not many of these buildings left in Singapore.

Unfortunately, the land on which our building sits on is soft, and is sinking slowly. The sinking ground has caused us much inconvenience, from cracked floors and staircases to sunken room floors. While the supporting structures are assessed to be safe and the building is assessed to be viable, we have had to cordon off many areas in the Home for safety's sake.

More recently, however, the sinking ground has begun to pose urgent safety concerns. Some columns in the Home have dislocated as the sinking ground has pulled them away from the ceiling. We have had to erect supporting structures for some of the areas in the Home to ensure everyone's safety. As our last comprehensive maintenance works were done 7-8 years ago, we will be renovating our premises this year (2021), to rectify the effects of the sinking ground, and to provide a safe and comfortable healing space for our Girls, while retaining the charm of this heritage building we have been blessed with for the past 13 years.

Hence, we are appealing for funds to carry out these extensive renovation works under the campaign “Build our Home, Build their Lives”. Would you consider being a part of this campaign, so that our Girls may have a safe and comfortable Home to live in as we journey with them in the process of healing, renewal and transformation? Please find out more at the end of this newsletter.

Our building woes however, have been a strong and vivid visual reminder to all of us at GP, and I shared this with the GP Family at the closing of 2020, and the beginning of 2021 — That on Christ the Solid Rock we stand, all other ground is sinking sand. With Jesus as our firm foundation, our solid ground, we know we can stand secure.

As we venture into 2021, we remember God's commandment to Joshua to “be strong and courageous”. Please pray with us and for us, and I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you in the days ahead. May our Lord be glorified always.

Shalom,



Michelle

Events and Updates

Gladiolus Place x Rotary Club of Mount Sophia



Our Management Committee member, Mr Shaun Ho, with Mr Tan at the signing of the MOU.

The Rotary Club of Mount Sophia (RCMS) has adopted Gladiolus Place as one of its beneficiaries! Following the MOU signing on 27 July 2020, RCMS further donated face masks and notebooks for our Girls. Published by the President of RCMS, Mr Tan Peng Ann, these notebooks entitled “My Story” seek to encourage one and all to capture their life stories through writing.

We are honoured to have RCMS champion our cause and support the community of vulnerable youths whom Gladiolus Place reaches out to. We look forward to upcoming projects together with RCMS as we grow in our partnership!



Public speaking workshop with Miss Belinda Sunshine



Bonding Session with NYGH Volunteers at our GP Annual Camp!



The President of RCMS gifting our GP Residents with face masks and journals



September Holidays

During the September school holidays, the Girls had their Annual In-house GP camp with Ms Natalie Teng and our fellow Nanyang Girls' High (NYGH) volunteers! Our Girls also had a public speaking workshop with Ms Belinda Sunshine and had fun giving speeches to our Director and Staff members! What a skill to pick up during their short one-week holiday!



BBQ time!

National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) Sculpture Painting for Covid Heroes

Concept Alliance Asia Pte Ltd worked with GP to bring about a Sculpture Painting and Glazing workshop in collaboration with The National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC). Our Girls unleashed their inner Picasso in a free-style sculpture painting session, designing one-of-a-kind trophies.

The trophies (on the right) are dedicated to awardees of NVPC's President's Volunteerism and Philanthropy Awards — those who contributed to the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope this project allowed our Girls to stay connected and inspired them to contribute to society for the better Good!



Our Residents painting the heart-shaped sculptures

Our Website Revamped!

After months of working on our Website, Gladiolus Place is pleased to present the updated look of our website! It went live on 28 December 2020 and we're glad that it is much easier for users to get updated content on our Home, donate via various methods with ease, and sign up to volunteer on our page.

www.gladiolusplace.org.sg



Completed Sculptures



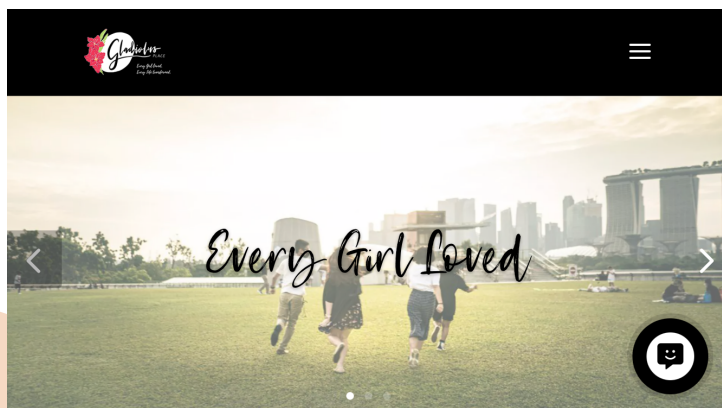
GP Goes Green!

Gladiolus Place is getting into the Green Scene! Surrounded by greenery, we hope to create an environmentally friendly Home, and to raise awareness about sustainability. To set a good example for the Girls, the Staff Team has already onboarded a Trash for Cash recycling programme in the Home.

We seek to encourage everyone to (re)think about our daily waste management systems as we sort the rubbish into 3 basic categories (Plastic, Paper and Glass). By introducing more Environmental Awareness Programmes to our Home and our Girls, we hope our Girls will grow and learn to be responsible and take care of the Earth.



One of our Residents who wrote 'Save (the) Earth' in the sand!



New Website Homepage

Festive Seasons at GP - Mid Autumn Festival & Christmas



Festive seasons are important to us at Gladiolus Place! We celebrated Mid-Autumn Festival with the Girls by creating our own lanterns from scratch, munching on mooncakes, and playing with sparklers! Even though we had to divide the Girls into two groups due to Covid-19 precautionary measures, it was a great night where both Staff and Girls got to bond together.

Besides the Mid-Autumn Festival, we also celebrated Christmas together on Christmas Eve! We could gather together physically at our Home in 2019 but we had to adapt to the safe distancing measures to make this party come true in 2020! With the help of a few Staff, we successfully planned an online Christmas party that included a gift exchange segment and a Christmas Tree decoration competition, where both zones competed to decorate a Tree made of recycled paper! The Christmas Tree materials and gift prizes were kindly donated by Ranpak Singapore. Food was also pre-ordered and delivered to those who had to Zoom from their own homes.

Despite the necessary measures we had to take, it was still a fruitful time celebrating festive events this year as one big GP Family.



Handmade Lanterns by our Residents

Zone 1 Residents with their Christmas Tree!



Zone 2 Residents with their Christmas Tree!

Thank you Shaw Contract Asia!

Shaw Contract Asia reached out to us in November with regards to carpet installation. Supporters from Shaw Contract Asia brought down carpet tiles, and dedicated one full morning to do a carpet makeover for various rooms in our Home. We are encouraged by their sweat and hard work to continue providing a safe and cosy Home and environment for our Girls.



Shaw Contract Asia volunteers



Zoom Christmas with GP Family

Girls decorating their Christmas Trees



New carpet in Conference Room & Donor's Corner



New carpet in Visitor's Room



Staff Welfare x Bonding

Due to COVID-19, GP has implemented Zoning and Split Team measures for the safety of our Girls and Staff. We are relieved that these measures did not impede crucial opportunities for our Staff to learn, bond and recharge from work!

In July 2020, GP organised a series of Tea Appreciation Events for the Staff as part of GP's Staff welfare initiatives. With safety and hygiene measures in place at the various sessions led by Kah Man, a Tea Enthusiast and Connoisseur, our Staff team could recharge at ease.

During the sessions, Kah Mun exposed us to some of his finest selections of teas, refined our taste buds, and enlightened us on the philosophy and history of tea. We would like to thank Kah Mun for Filling our Cups during this challenging period and Refreshing our Minds with this fascinating experience.



Tea Connoisseur - Kah Mun

Staff Welfare x Bonding (cont.)

Our GP Staff team also began having quarterly team bonding sessions organised by the various departments in GP! It is a time for us to take our minds off work and gather together for breakfast (online) and games! These online Zoom sessions helped us to know one another better even though our face-to-face communication was limited.

Later on, at the end of December, our Staff went out on team bonding days with their respective split teams! From cycling, bowling, and even going to the hot springs, our teams were glad that we could take the day off to reward ourselves with a well-deserved break for all the work we had done together the past year.



Quarterly Staff Bonding over zoom

Staff Team A, B, and C at their outings on three different days!



Team A at East Coast Park



Team C at Hot Spring



Team B at Bowling Alley

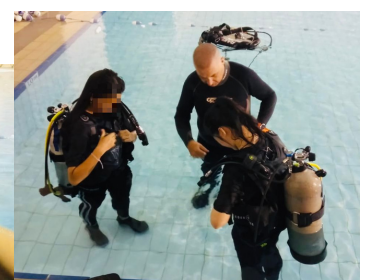


REACH SG Programs - Dragon Boating, Cycling, and Calligraphy

Visit to an Art exhibition with Caseworkers



Shoe painting! One of the program sessions sponsored by Tan Chin Tuan Foundation



Sponsored Diving Session with DiveNut & RAID SG



Year-end Holidays (Nov/Dec)

During our Girls' year-end school holidays, GP worked collaboratively with our regular volunteers and external organisations to line up a series of programmes for our Girls!

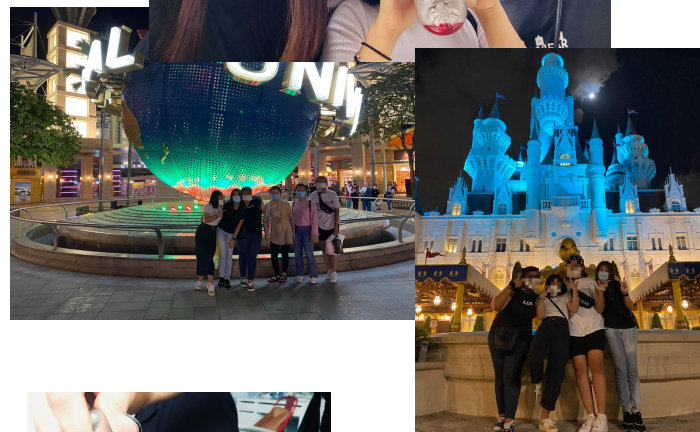
With the easing of safe distancing measures, we were excited to resume external programmes for our Girls. We curated a diverse range of activities — a TryDive programme by DiveNut and RAID SG, a trip to Universal Studios Singapore (USS) sponsored by PPCOC, cycling at Pulau Ubin with our Nanyang Girls' High (NYGH) volunteers, dragon boating, and enjoying the beach at East Coast Park, and a Beach cleanup with ALittleChange Singapore.

While the Girls were in the Home, they participated in our in-house activities that enabled them to pick up new skills. We introduced embroidery, solid perfume making, calligraphy, lemongrass drink making, and much more!

Year-end Holidays at Gladiolus Place is always a good time for our Girls to hone a variety of skills. This could not have been possible without the help of like-minded volunteers coming in to introduce all-rounded knowledge and skill sets to our Girls. Not forgetting the time and effort taken to reach out to these vulnerable teenage Girls that we're proud to call our Family!



Our Girls at Beach Clean Up!



Sponsored USS outing by/with PPCOC Volunteers



Floral arrangement workshop with volunteer Hui Ling



Solid perfume making workshop with volunteer Seoen



THANK YOU DONORS AND SUPPORTERS



Anti-Bacterial Cleaners from
Contribute SG



Bookmarks as Children's Day Presents
from Chevron SG



Sponsored Christmas lunch and gift
exchange session by RSVP Singapore's
Corporate Partner - Amano Italian Ristorante



Disposable Face Masks from Mapletree

Ingredients
sponsored by
Wesley
Methodist
Church for 25
meals, &
cooked by
Volunteer
Maylynn



Online Bake Sale by Bakers' Dozen SG
IG: @bakersdozensg



Christmas gifts from Dr Kajen



Jenny sewed and sold face masks to raise funds for GP



Christmas gifts from Ms Mirimba and 528 Olive Tree



Christmas gifts packaged by Ms Frances, Maris Stella Kindy Kids and their Families



Christmas gifts from Ms Karla and her Church



Online Bake Sale by Ada & Co.
Instagram: @bakeitbreadr

As a result of Covid-19, we had to cancel the charity golf event that we were planning and explore online fundraising methods for the year. It was new for us to explore and adapt to various ways of fundraising on social media platforms, and we couldn't have done it without everyone who shared our cause to friends and families.

Not only did many of you help to raise online awareness which garnered donations beyond our expectations, many of you also took up the initiative to run your own online fundraisers with Gladiolus Place as your beneficiary.

We are grateful for the abundance of donations — disposable facemasks, school necessities for our Girls, anti-bacterial cleaners, detergents, etc. These kept our Home safe and clean, and enabled our Girls to continue focusing on their school work without worrying about their Home environment!

We definitely have not forgotten those who blessed us with gifts and meals during Christmas! Our hearts and tummies were definitely full. We will never forget your kindness and generosity to help us pull through, and enter 2021 feeling supported. Thank you once again!

Every Girl Loved, Every Life Transformed



by Presbyterian Community Services



\$101,429

raised from 166 donors

100% of \$100,000

Expired

Testimonies of Life



JANE

Jane (not her real name) arrived at Gladiolus Place in April 2019. Then, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) was concerned that Jane was not receiving adequate or appropriate care from her mother.

Being suddenly placed in a structured environment where there were rules and regulations to follow, coupled with having to adjust to communal living, was difficult for Jane to accept. She was not only scared and fearful, but also upset that she had to be placed out of home through no fault of hers. With the constant love, care and nurturance our Staff showered upon her, Jane began to accept and cherish her new Family at GP, and began to settle down to work towards new goals in her life, such as growing in her character, honing new skill sets, and focusing on academia.

At GP, Jane undergoes specialised counselling to help her heal from her emotional wounds. GP's therapeutic interventions include Family Therapy, and Art Therapy. Noticing both mother and daughter's interest in and ability to communicate through art, GP's therapist used art therapy to build positive bonds between Jane and her mother so as to heal their relationship, and prepare Jane for reintegration back to her family. Through intensive support for the mother, GP was also able to help her mother walk out of her addictions, secure a stable job, and learn to provide a nurturing, secure and healthy living environment for her daughter.

GP also opened up many doors for Jane to explore her interests and skill sets. She was able to channel her boundless energy and talents through indoor and outdoor activities and has notable talent in music and sports. When GP formed our very own homegrown band, performing at carnivals and festivals, Jane was one of our leading performers, taking centre stage as lead singer and musician. She not only plays the guitar well, but performs well on the piano too. Jane even achieved a double promotion during her Taekwondo grading session after a series of Taekwondo lessons in GP! Jane's mother shared many proud moments with her daughter when she witnessed Jane's display of talents in so many areas.

Recently, in November 2020, GP was happy to restore Jane fully back to her mother's care. We have been privileged to witness so much growth in Jane's personality, confidence, and self-worth. We are glad to be Jane's Home away from her home when her home was going through a challenging season. To us at GP, we believe Jane will continue to blossom into a beautiful young lady, and warm the hearts of many.

Transformation



YVONNE

Yvonne (not her real name) came to us at Gladiolus Place in May 2019. Her mother had laid a Beyond Parental Control (BPC) complaint against her at the Youth Court, and she was to serve out her 18-month order at GP. She was 16 years old and was due to take her GCE 'O' levels that year. Her story broke our heart.

After her parents divorced when she was 3 years old, Yvonne spent the next 12 years moving from home to home. Her father was not able to provide care to her, her mother punished her physically, often harshly. She ended up at a foster home. By the time she was 15 years old, she was very traumatised by the multiple moves, and her relationship with her mother was very damaged. She smoked, drank, stayed out late every day, and even stopped going to school, just to make her mother upset.

To prepare Yvonne for her 'O' levels, Gladiolus Place (GP) immediately provided intensive tuition between May and October 2019. She achieved results good enough to earn her a place in a local polytechnic, an amazing feat for a girl who had missed out half a year of school during the most crucial period!

At GP, Yvonne undergoes a carefully tailored programme with her needs in mind, targeting academia, socio-emotional life skills and character/holistic development. Through these programmes, Yvonne learns to cope with and regulate the tumultuous emotions of a teenage girl who had undergone multiple traumas. She also learns to consider the consequences of her actions and decisions more carefully, so that she does not engage in activities that bring about harm to herself. The Therapy Team at GP also employs intensive family therapy to mend Yvonne's relationship with her family, particularly with her mother. For the first time in many years, Yvonne and her mother are beginning to enjoy each other's company once again.

Early this year, GP secured an internship for Yvonne at a top regional law firm. The internship was intensive, there were days she had to work overtime, but Yvonne enjoyed every aspect of it. Says Yvonne, "This internship has motivated me to excel academically, so that I can achieve my dream of becoming a lawyer! Thank you GP!"

In November 2020, GP was happy to restore Yvonne fully back to her mother's care. We have been privileged to witness so much growth in Yvonne's personality, confidence and self-worth. We are glad to be Yvonne's Home away from her home when her home was going through a challenging season. To us at GP, we believe Yvonne will continue to shine bright in her future endeavours, and warm the hearts of many.



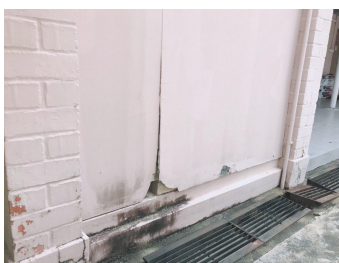
Build our Home, Build Their Lives

Gladiolus Place last underwent comprehensive maintenance works on the building in 2013. Since then, many parts of our facility have fallen into disarray. Parts of the ground have sunken, leaving the ground uneven at many places, and causing cracks to several structures of the Home. Last year, we even had to build supporting structures for some dislocated beams and pillars in GP. These areas of the Home are now out of bounds to both Girls and Staff due to safety issues.

Many original window panes are broken, the paint has aged and is falling off the walls and ceilings. All these pose a safety hazard to our Girls. During rainy seasons such as now, GP is flooding almost everyday, the electrical wiring system is old and trips frequently, resulting in blackouts across the Home, false fire alarms, and security concerns when the electrical gates and the CCTVs are out of order.

These are just some examples of the urgent repair and replacement works needed to be done across the Home. There are much more works to be done in order to create a safe and comfortable living space for the Girls we shelter. Not only do we want to provide a place of refuge for our de facto homeless teenage Girls, we also aim to be a comfortable abode and a place where our Girls can call Home and find healing, while we work hard to provide quality care, and effective therapeutic services to both child and family. **For this endeavor, we aim to raise \$400,000.**

Would you help them Build their Lives as you support our drive to Build our Home?



ABOUT US



Gladiolus Place is a Christian residential refuge for teenage girls. Here, we strive to develop each resident holistically, in her body, mind, soul and spirit, in a safe and loving family environment.

Our therapeutic interventions are specifically designed for this purpose, in the core areas of academic, vocational, physical and character development. We envision for each girl, under our care and nurturing, to bloom like the Gladiolus flower, clothed in strength and honour, empowered to be women of dignity and confidence, so that they may live their lives to the fullest, as intended by Christ.

DONATE



If you wish to make a donation today, please write your cheque in favour of **"PCS - Gladiolus Place"**, and mail it to **6A Mattar Road Singapore 387715**.

Please do indicate your name and NRIC number as these are required for tax exemption from IRAS. All outright donations will be entitled to a tax deduction of 2.5 times the amount received. To find out more, write to Ming Shiang at:

mingshiang@gladiolusplace.org.sg

Alternatively, **scan our QR code** to donate through other ways such as credit/debit card, giving.sg, bank transfer/GIRO, or PayNow.



VOLUNTEER




If you are interested to partner with us, **scan our QR code** or write to us and we will get in touch with you shortly!


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*Every Girl Loved,
Every Life Transformed.*

JULY - DECEMBER 2020