

# HONG KONG BLIND UNION 2018 – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## Index

1. [Our Mission](#)
2. [Message from the President](#)
3. [Executive Director's Report](#)
4. [Organisation Chart](#)
5. [List of Executive Committee Members](#)
6. [List of Sub-Committee & Working Group Members](#)
7. [Our Services](#)
8. [Service Snapshots](#)
9. [Service Statistics](#)
10. [Financial Highlights](#)
11. [Acknowledgements](#)

## **1. OUR MISSION**

Hong Kong Blind Union

Hong Kong Blind Union was established in 1964. It is the first self-help group organised and managed by people with visual impairment. It aims at promoting the spirit of self-help and mutual-help as well as striving for equality, opportunities and independence for visually impaired persons.

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## **2. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Mr Chong Chan-yau**

### **Communication - both within ourselves and with the outside world**

Communication within the team, contact with members, as well as communication with different organisations, including government departments, are important to Hong Kong Blind Union. Therefore, we have put a lot of efforts into these three areas in the past two years.

### **Strengthening communication amongst staff and listening to members' voices**

In the quarterly staff meeting, in addition to the work report and discussion items, in these two years, staff members have been arranged to share in a relaxed atmosphere. In this way, it is hoped that colleagues from different units can deepen their mutual understanding and exchange work experience so as to create synergy.

As for members, in addition to understanding their needs through the annual general meeting and seminar, Blind Union has held a number of tea gatherings over the past two years to encourage members to have face-to-face communication with Executive Committee members. I hope that in the future, there will be even more opportunities for the Executive Committee members to get in touch with members through district-based activities and member gatherings.

#### **Expressing our view on “Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan”**

In 2017, the government tasked the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee to formulate the Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP) in order to set out the strategic directions for various services for people with different disabilities.

As Blind Union attaches great importance to the review of RPP, our Executive Committee members and members have been actively involving in all stages of the review. We have voiced our opinions and submitted proposals, making sure that the voice of VIPs is heard.

#### **Facing the world and broadening our horizons**

As a member of the World Blind Union, Hong Kong Blind Union is well aware of the importance of connecting with the world. We have been actively participating in the work of the World Blind Union for many years. In May and July 2018, I attended the board meeting of World Blind Union Asia Pacific in Fuzhou, China, and the World Blind Union Employment Committee meeting in San Francisco, USA respectively. At the meeting, I exchanged ideas with representatives from all over the world on issues related to the visually impaired, and one of the issues was employment. We discussed how to establish an inclusive workplace where people with different disabilities can unleash their potentials and contribute themselves. This is in fact the focus of work of Blind Union in the future.

In addition, together with eight Executive Committee members and staff, we attended the World Blind Union Asia Pacific Mid-term Regional Assembly held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in September 2018. Our Financial Secretary, Ho Ka-leung, was elected as the Secretary-General of the Asia-Pacific Region of the World Blind Union at the meeting. I am very pleased to see the young committee members' enthusiasm in Blind Union's work as well as their efforts in establishing close cooperation with visually impaired organisations in other parts of the world. This not only enables Blind Union to achieve excellence in our work, but also to keep up with the latest developments in the world.

#### **A word of thanks**

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the whole team of Hong Kong Blind Union for your efforts in actualising the equality, opportunities and independence for people with visual impairment.

### **3. Executive Director's Report Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy**

#### **Inheriting The Past and Forging Into The Future**

An annual report is like the report card of an organisation. It allows us to evaluate on our work in the past year, realising our effort in developing new services with innovation as well as sustaining our existing ones.

#### **The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Services Centre**

2018 marked the 40th anniversary of Services Centre. It is indeed not easy for the Centre to provide a wide variety of social and recreational activities for visually impaired persons (VIPs). On top of these activities, in recent years, the Centre has developed new services such as “Community Support Service for VIPs and Their Families” serving the newly visually impaired, “Life and Environment Adaptation Programme” facilitating VIPs to familiarise themselves with new environment, and “Escort Service” offering help to VIPs who need to get to unfamiliar places. In the past 40 years, it is by maintaining the existing services and developing new ones that Services Centre has been catering to various needs of VIPs including the newly emerging ones.

#### **Digital technology**

In early 2019, our Executive Committee members and I attended California State University Northridge Assistive Technology Conference in the US. When we first attended this conference back in 2015, we were already amazed at how effectively information technology could be Applied to solve problems in the daily life of people with disabilities and were wondering how we could introduce such technology and experience to Hong Kong to benefit VIPs. It is encouraging that Blind Union has witnessed rapid development in the area of digital technology in the past several years, with significant progress made in the following two projects in the past year.

The first project is “Jockey Club E-learning For All” Project, which provides support for students with print disabilities (including those with visual impairment). It has been funded by “The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust” since 2013 and its effectiveness has been widely recognised. In early 2019, we were informed by The Trust that the project would receive funding under “The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant” starting from April 2019. Once the Project becomes a regular service of Blind Union, we are able to make long-term planning for this service. This shows Jockey Club's recognition of the effectiveness of this Project in the past few years.

Another project, on which Blind Union puts much emphasis, is the development of an indoor positioning and navigation mobile App called “Smart City Walk”, which assists VIPs and other people in need to get around the city independently. Now, the development of the App is almost complete and its trial version was available for VIPs to use and provide feedback. At the same time, we have invited indoor venues to participate in this project and to become our partners. It is our aim to set up the positioning and navigation system in at least 150 indoor venues by late 2021. As of March 2019, we contacted over 50 persons-in-charge of indoor venues and it is encouraging that most of them were supportive to the project.

#### **Embodying the spirit of inclusion**

Another key focus of the work of Blind Union is to promote social inclusion. The first step to achieve social inclusion is to help the public understand the needs and abilities of VIPs. Hong Kong Blind Union has been conducting public education for many years, getting in touch with over a thousand people every year, and it has always been effective. Last year, the event of White Cane Day, namely “VIABLE Impetus Sports Day” was held in an innovative way: With the theme of inclusive sport, participants with and without visual impairment engaged in various sports games. More than 200 participants with and without visual impairment took part in the blindfold “White Cane Charity Walk” at the end of the event. We can see that sport is popular with different people in our society. With more and more people doing sport these days, it is

hoped that Blind Union can launch more initiatives regarding inclusive sport in the future.

## Conclusion

In addition to maintaining the existing services, Hong Kong Blind Union always strives to develop innovative services to meet the emerging needs. Blind Union has made good progress in both area in the past year thanks to the concerted efforts of our president, our Executive Committee, our members and our staff. With such efforts, I believe that Hong Kong Blind Union can inherit the past and forge ahead into the future and scale new heights!

## 4. ORGANISATION CHART

### ASM/EGM

#### Executive Committee

- Personnel Committee
- Finance and Fundraising Strategy Committee
- SC Consultative Committee
- VERC Consultative Committee
- Information Technology Advisory Committee
- Equal Opportunities in Social Participation Committee
- Communication Committee
- Steering Committee for Jockey Club E-Learning For All Project
- Social Enterprise Development Steering Committee
- Jockey Club Smart City Walk Project Advisory Committee
- Education Fund for People with Visual Impairment in China Committee
- Li Chu Shuk-Kwan Education Fund & Lee Bing Vocal Music Development Fund

#### Executive Director

- Head Office
- Services Centre
- Jockey Club Vocational and Educational Resources Centre
- Accessible Digital Technology Centre
- Accessibility Services Office

## 5. LIST OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

An Executive Committee releasing the spirit of self-help and independence

Being a self-help group organised and managed by visually impaired people, we select our Executive Committee Members every two years at the Annual General Meeting through a democratic election. Our Executive Committee Members supervise, manage and promote the development of Blind Union. All Executive Committee members must be our full members, i.e. visually impaired persons. The list of the Executive Committee Members for the current year is as below:

### 2018 - 2019 Executive Committee Members

President	Mr Chong Chan-yau
Vice – President	Ms Leung Wai-chi, Maggie
Financial Secretary	Mr Ho Ka-leung, Jason
General Secretary	Ms Shek Kin-chong, Jess
Committee Members	Ms Chiu Chi-wun
	Mr Chow Kin-chun, Kevin
	Mr Ho Yui-chi, Merrick
	Mr Ng Ping-tung, Michael
	Mr Tam Sai-kit, Perry
	Mr Yuen Kin-ming
	Mr Zhu Min, Julian

## 6. LIST OF SUB - COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

As at 31 March 2019

### Personnel Committee

Mr Chong Chan-yau (Chairperson)
Mr Ho Ka-leung, Jason
Ms Leung Wai-chi, Maggie
Ms Shek Kin-chong, Jess
Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)

### Finance and Fundraising Strategy Committee

Mr Ho Ka-leung, Jason (Chairperson)
Mr Chong Chan-yau
Mr Chow Kin-chun, Kevin
Mr Ho Yui-chi, Merrick
Ms Shek Kin-chong, Jess

Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)  
Ms Choi Tsui-ping, Bessie (Senior Accounting Officer)

#### **Services Centre Consultative Committee**

Mr Yuen Kin-ming (Chairperson)  
Mr Zhu Min, Julian (Vice Chairperson)  
Ms Fung Po-wah  
Ms Lee Yuen-sai  
Mr Leung Sau-hing  
Ms Lee Tak-yuk  
Mr Chow Siu-man (Centre Manager)

#### **Jockey Club Vocational & Educational Resources Centre Consultative Committee**

Ms Chiu Chi-wun (Chairperson)  
Mr Ho Ka-leung, Jason (Vice Chairperson)  
Mr Cheung Chun-kit  
Mr Chung Chi-ming  
Mr Ho Ho-yuen  
Mr Ng Ping-tung  
Ms Ma Wing-man  
Ms Wong Tsz-sin  
Mr Lau Shing-kwan (Project Coordinator)

#### **Information Technology Advisory Committee**

Mr Chow Kin-chun, Kevin (Chairperson)  
Mr Yuen Kin-ming (Vice Chairperson)  
Mr Cheung-yau, Joe  
Mr Lau Chung-wai  
Mr Leung Tsau-tin, Fred  
Mr Wong Sung-keung  
Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)  
Mr Wong Sze-fung, Terry (Project Manager)

#### **Equal Opportunities in Social Participation Committee**

Mr Chong Chan-yau (Chairperson)  
Mr Wong Chun-hang, Billy (Vice Chairperson)  
Mr Chan Chi-kong, Alex  
Mr Chung Chi-ming  
Mr Ho Ka-leung, Jason  
Mr Sung Tat-wah  
Mr Tam Sai-kit, Perry  
Ms Leung Wai-chi, Maggie  
Ms Chiu Chi-wun  
Mr Ho Yui-chi, Merrick  
Mr Au Ka-tsun, Tommy  
Mr Chou Chun-cheong, Daniel  
Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)  
Ms Fan Kai-in, Toby (Project Officer)

#### **Communication Committee**

Ms Shek Kin-chong, Jess (Chairperson)  
Mr Ho Yui-chi, Merrick (Vice Chairperson)  
Mr Chong Chan-yau  
Mr Ho Ka-leung, Jason  
Mr Ng Ping-tung, Michael  
Mr Lau Chung-wai  
Ms Lee Yuen-sai  
Mr Tam Sai-kit, Perry  
Mr Tsui Kai-ming  
Ms Wu Pui-sze, Soso (Communications Officer)

#### **Steering Committee for Jockey Club E-Learning For All Project**

Mr Chong Chan-yau (Chairperson)  
Ms Chiu Chi-wun  
Mr Chow Kin-chun, Kevin  
Mr Choy Shu-kay, Arthur  
Mr Fong Po-kiu, Francis  
Mr Ho Chi-kuen, Raymond  
Dr Catherine Lam  
Hon Charles Mok  
Mr Remy Wong  
Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)

Ms Ho Lai-shan, Lisa (Project Manager)

#### **Social Enterprise Development Steering Committee**

Mr Chong Chan-yau (Chairperson)  
Mr Cheung Kin-yeung  
Mr Chow Kin-chun, Kevin  
Mr Ho Ka-leung, Jason  
Mr Leung Tsau-tin, Fred  
Mr Ling Ho-wan, Howard  
Ms Wong Ming-wai, Jennifer  
Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)  
Ms Cheuk Ming-wai, Adelaide (Senior Project Officer)

#### **Education Fund for People with Visual Impairment in China Committee**

Ms Chiu Chi-wun (Chairperson)  
Ms Ho Man-wai, Amy  
Ms Lee Yuen-sai  
Mr Peter Wong  
Mr Zhu Min, Julian  
Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)  
Mr Lau Shing-kwan (Project Coordinator)

#### **Li Chu Shuk-Kwan Education Fund & Lee Bing Vocal Music Development Fund Committee**

Ms Chiu Chi-wun (Chairperson)  
Mr Chung Chi-ming  
Mr Ho Ka-leung, Jason  
Ms Li Sze-lai  
Mr Eric Yip  
Dr Alice Yuk  
Mr Lau Shing-kwan (Project Coordinator)

## **7. OUR SERVICES**

### **Head Office**

1. Promoting correct concepts of visual impairment through publications, seminars, exhibition, and so on;
2. Participating in advisory committees of the government and other concerned organisations;
3. Following up on social policies, promoting equal opportunities and social inclusion;
4. Keeping in touch with relevant international and Mainland organisations to learn about the latest service development;
5. Building relationship with the public and organising fundraising projects; and
6. Publishing newsletters and audio magazines to report on the lives of visually impaired persons and the work of Blind Union.

### **Services Centre**

1. Organising different kinds of social and recreational activities;
2. Providing support services to persons with visual impairment and the newly blind as well as their families, including counselling, life adaptation training and service referrals, so as to help them overcome obstacles arising from visual impairment;
3. Organising activities for visually impaired elderly, and contacting them regularly by phone calls and home visits; and
4. Providing daily living support services, such as case referral, purchasing of aids, and helping to build district support network among our members.

### **Jockey Club Vocational and Educational Resources Centre**

1. Striving for equal opportunities in education by advocating for proper implementation of integrated education;
2. Supporting visually impaired students studying in mainstream schools by providing aids and support services to them;
3. Organising adult education courses;
4. Arranging services, such as recording, text-reading, Braille transcription and tutoring for members;
5. Organising personal development and leadership training programmes;
6. Providing supported employment services for visually impaired job seekers; and
7. Arranging freelance jobs to provide working opportunities for those members who are unemployed.

### **Accessible Digital Technology Centre**

1. Conducting research and development of assistive aids suitable for visually impaired persons;
2. Providing visually impaired persons with technical support and training in using digital devices;
3. Promoting the adoption of accessible digital technology design and application; and
4. Providing related advisory services to individuals, schools, employers and organisations.

## **Accessibility Services Office**

Implementing social enterprise services and the Jockey Club E-Learning For All project to improve community accessibilities as well as provide various kinds of supportive services for people in need;

2. Promoting barrier-free community facilities, as well as creating employment opportunities for visually impaired persons; and

3. Providing various kinds of supportive services for print disabled students so that they can make the best use of e-learning and break down barriers to learning.

## **8. SERVICE SNAPSHOTS**

### **8.1 Head Office**

The work of the Head Office includes members' affairs, rights advocacy, human resources, financial management, external relations and communications. Its aim is to carry out the mission of Hong Kong Blind Union and strive for the rights of visually impaired persons (VIPs).

#### **8.1.1 Member affairs**

Any Hong Kong resident with visual impairment is eligible to become our Full Member. Any VIP living outside Hong Kong or anyone who supports our mission can apply to be an Associate Member. 78 Full Members and 21 Associate Members joined Blind Union in 2018/19. As at 31 March 2019, we had a total of 1,656 Full Members and 373 Associate Members. The 54th Annual General Meeting was held on 22 July 2018. 233 members participated.

Three member gathering activities were held to encourage members to come together and give their views on our work, and the number of attendance was 211 in total. 10 orientation activities were held and the number of attendance was 88 in total.

#### **8.1.2. Rights advocacy**

Fighting for equal opportunities and basic rights of VIPs is the aim that Blind Union has been striving for.

### **Showing concern about the review of the Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme**

In 2017, the Government tasked the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee to formulate the Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP), with an aim to formulate the strategic directions of the needs of people with disabilities of various services as well as the short-, medium- and longer-term measures. As the RPP is closely related to the welfare of persons with visual impairment (VIPs), Hong Kong Blind Union has shown our concern to its review by actively getting involved in the focus groups and public engagement events at different stages of the review, expressing our views in such events and submitting proposals to the government for the stage one and stage two of the review respectively.

### **Expressing concern about the rights of the workers at Factory for the Blind**

The Hong Kong Society for the Blind has applied to the Government for the "Special Project on Private Land for Welfare Use" to redevelop its Factory for the Blind into an integrated rehabilitation service building.

The transitional arrangements and transparency of consultations amidst the redevelopment of the Factory attracted the attention of the visually impaired workers, trainees and the community in the past year. In view of this, Blind Union organised members to support the visually impaired workers with the employers and arrange for representatives to attend multi-party meetings among the employers, employees and other interested parties to help establish a long-term communication platform between the employers and employees and monitor the process in order to protect the rights of the visually impaired workers and trainees.

### **Promoting public awareness of barrier-free facilities and inclusive environments**

To enhance public awareness of the visually impaired and accessible facilities, Blind Union was funded by the Equal Opportunities Commission to implement the "Community Accessibility Inspection Scheme". Under the Scheme, training workshops on the visually impaired and barrier-free facilities were organised for the participating secondary schools. Members of the Equal Opportunities in Social Participation Committee served as mentors. After completing the workshops, the students formed an "inspection team" to conduct inspections in different districts, compile reports and make oral presentations. The participating teams came from seven secondary schools and one community centre, and the number of participants of the workshops exceeded 100.

### **Enhancing members' awareness of rights advocacy**

Hong Kong Blind Union has always been encouraging members to understand the basic rights of people with disabilities and fostering their awareness of rights advocacy. To serve this purpose, an exchange roundtable was held with the Kowloon Motor Bus Company on 30 August 2018 to establish a communication platform for members and public transport operators. A total of 15 members attended. On 23 August and 6 September 2018, we arranged for members to test samples of the new intelligent traffic lights, with five and six members attending respectively. We also arranged a member's on-the-spot surprise inspection on the newly completed Xiqu Centre on 18 February 2019 to reveal the inadequacies of its barrier-free facilities. A total of five members participated.

In addition, funded by the Labour and Welfare Bureau, we organised an adult education course on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from January to March 2019 to broaden the horizons of our members and a total of 13 members took the course. On the review of the RPP, we held a consultation meeting on 7 March 2019 to collect members' opinions and a total of 20 members attended.

### **Attending external meetings**

Representatives from Blind Union attended meetings at Transport Department, MTR Corporation Limited (MTRC), Housing Department and Network on Services for Persons with Visual Impairment of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service and inspected various facilities. In the meetings, they followed up on a number of facilities and services closely related to VIPs. These include the newly completed public facilities such as barrier-free facilities in the West Kowloon Xiqu Centre, the announcement systems on buses and the MTR, the audible reminders installed at the escalators of multi-storey platforms of the MTR and audible traffic lights. Moreover, we attended meetings with the Intellectual Property Department on the government's amendment of the Copyright Ordinance.

We met with the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority on the design of barrier-free facilities in the Xiqu Centre. Meetings were also called with Hong Kong Banking Association on accessible banking services and with Hospital Authority on the Reading Pen Scheme.

### **Eradicating the barriers to living an inclusive life in the community**

This year, we handled a total of 79 cases where members were not able to live independently in their communities. These included 24 cases of inadequate barrier-free facilities in the community, 22 cases related to transport services, 11 cases on public services such as medical services and housing, one disability discrimination case, six cases regarding the use of accessible information technology, and 15 cases concerning the service quality of private organisations, personal affairs and other matters.

### **8.1.3. Public education and communications**

We believe that increasing public awareness and acceptance of VIPs is very important for our full integration into the community. Therefore, Blind Union has always endeavoured to promote public education so that the public can have a correct understanding of the life and ability of VIPs and become aware of our needs, making Hong Kong an inclusive society.

#### **Public education seminars and activities**

The public education group consisting of visually impaired members organised public education seminars and training sessions for 40 schools and organisations during the year. Target groups included frontline civil servants, access co-ordinators and access officers of the government, frontline staff from the private sector and teachers and students from a number of universities, primary schools and secondary schools. A total of around 1,600 people took part.

#### **Social media, online information and publications**

Blind Union communicates with the public through various channels about the issues related to VIPs and promotes the spirit of self-help and mutual help amongst VIPs.

In addition to the online platform, we publish different publications periodically. This year, a total of three issues of our newsletter "Better Tomorrow For All" were published, and 59 programmes for our audio magazine "The Blind Union Voice" were produced.

### **8.1.4 Fundraising activities**

About 50% of the funding for our service development comes from public donations each year. The remaining less than 50% is from the government's annual recurrent grant. The donations received are mainly used to support VIPs in education, employment, welfare, social participation and accessible information technology services and to encourage their full integration into society.

#### **Flag Day 2018**

This year's Flag Day was held in the Hong Kong Island on 4 August 2018. Around 750 volunteers were involved, raising about HK\$600,000 in total.

#### **International White Cane Day**

To celebrate International White Cane Day, to convey to the public the message that VIPs can integrate into society, participate equally and live independently, and to raise funds for Blind Union, VIABLE Impetus Sports Day was held in Wu Kai Sha Youth Village on 28 October 2018. For the first time, Blind Union adopted inclusive sport as the theme of the event. The sighted and visually impaired participants took part in a number of sports such as relays, football and Bocce, embodying the spirit of inclusion. About 400 people from more than 10 companies and schools participated in the event.

The blindfolded charity cane-a-thon, the highlight of the event, was attended by a total of 225 visually impaired people and sighted people. The event raised about \$140,000 for Hong Kong Blind Union.

#### **Other fundraising activities**

Charitable members of the community have been holding different types of fundraising activities for Blind Union. On 11 August 2018, we received a donation of about \$20,000 as a beneficiary of the charity concert "Music in the light".

### **8.1.5 Exchanges in Mainland China and overseas**

#### **Attending conferences and exchanges overseas**

Blind Union highly values the opportunity to connect and exchange with organisations of and for VIPs in Mainland China and overseas. In the past year, we attended various conferences and events including Asia Pacific Council Meeting of the World Blind Union held in Fuzhou, China in May 2018, the World Blind Union's Employment Committee meeting held in San Francisco, USA, in July 2018, and the World Blind Union Asia Pacific Mid-term Regional Assembly, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in September 2018. Our Financial Secretary, Ho Ka-leung, was elected as the Secretary-General of the Asia-Pacific Region of the World Blind Union at the meeting and will serve until the 2020 World Blind Union General Assembly.

In addition, in order to understand the latest developments of information technology in the world, especially indoor navigation technology, Blind Union conducted two overseas exchanges from November 2018 to March 2019. The delegate visited the Royal National Institute for the Blind in the UK to learn about the information technology for VIPs. They also attended the QAC Sight Village Exhibition in Manchester, UK and the International Conference on Technology and Disability in the US.

#### **Receiving visitors from Mainland China and overseas organisations**

We received a number of visitors from overseas and China's organisations, including the directors of Guangdong Blind Association and directors of all levels of Blind Associations in Guangdong Province, members of Shenzhen Blind Association, volunteers from Shenzhen Lions Club and so on.

### **8.2 Services Centre**

The scope of work of the Services Centre (the Centre) is closely related to the life of visually impaired persons (VIPs), including recreational, sports and cultural activities, life adaptation and services for the newly blind. The objectives are to help them live independently and enable them to integrate into the community.

#### **The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Services Centre**

As 2018 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Services Centre, a series of celebration activities were organised. These activities included "Leisure music concert cum Services Centre 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Carnival", "2018 Christmas cum Service Centre 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner" and "Service Centre's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Singing Contest".

During the celebration dinner, we invited members who participated in the activities at the centre in the early years and the president of the time to come and share their memories about the Centre. Mr. Chan Kai-ming, the first centre-in-charge of Services Centre with professional social work qualifications, was also invited to share with us the development of the Centre.

### **8.2.1 Social and recreational activities**

To broaden the social circle of our members, the Centre organised 73 cultural and recreational activities throughout the year. They included local and Mainland tours, sports and recreational activities, dining, cultural and art activities as well as community familiarisation visits. The total attendance of VIPs and sighted companions were 2,436 and 1,564 respectively. In addition, 23 activities were organised by various groups under the Centre. 373 and 109 VIPs and sighted companions took part in these activities respectively.

### **8.2.2 Continuing learning courses**

A variety of continuing learning courses were held, including Cantonese Opera classes, hiking and fitness classes, and swimming courses and water fitness courses for youths and adults jointly organised with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. There were 58 classes, and the total number of visually impaired and sighted participants was 658 and 334 respectively. For some courses, public performances were arranged at the end of the course to showcase the talents of participants.

### **8.2.3 Group activities and volunteer training**

We regularly held interest groups, including Chinese music group, Karaoke group, card game group and the Leisure Band. The groups had 129 gatherings in total for the past year with 1,679 attendance of visually impaired members. Some of the groups also organised community services and performances to enhance the public's understanding of VIPs. In addition, a total of nine volunteer training sessions were held throughout the year with 168 participants in total.

### **8.2.4 District-based activities**

To enhance interaction amongst members and strengthen their community support network, the Centre promotes a community-based service concept that brings services into the community. We organise activities in our five designated districts, namely the New Territories West, the New Territories East, the Kowloon West, the Kowloon East and the Hong Kong Island. During the year, 56 activities took place in the five districts, ranging from dining, shopping, community familiarisation tours, visits, cooking and so on. There were 1,107 VIPs and 665 sighted companions taking part in the activities respectively.

This year, some districts jointly hosted activities so that members from different districts could have more chances to communicate with each other.

### **8.2.5 Services for the elderly**

Our Centre reaches out to the elderly members especially those who seldom participate in activities with multiple approaches so as to better understand their conditions and support network and introduce to them services of our Centre and available resources in the community, ensuring that they can receive the support needed.

The focuses of services for the elderly this year are showing care through phone calls, visits and case follow-ups. The Centre collaborated with the Hong Kong Red Cross, Hong Kong Chinese YMCA and Rover Scout 1<sup>st</sup> East Kowloon Group to train up volunteers to pay regular visits to elderly members who seldom participated in our activities.

We visited 204 elderly persons throughout the year. Also, our caring group met regularly and made follow-up phone calls to show our concern to our elderly members. 229 phone calls were made throughout the year. Furthermore, with the sponsorship from Zonta Club Hong Kong East, our Centre regularly organised activities to enrich the lives of the elderly members. The activities included outings during festivals, tea gatherings, tours of the community and talks. The attendances of visually impaired elderly and sighted companions were 415 and 169 respectively. Through the six group gatherings of "Wonderful Elderly", our elderly members exchanged information about their daily lives and planned services related to the elderly, thus strengthening their support network.

### **8.2.6 Individual funding programmes**

#### **Community Support Service for VIPs and their Families**

The funding from Social Welfare Department for this programme was renewed for three years from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020. In addition to the counselling for the newly blind and their caregivers, tailor-made life skills training and district support services for VIPs, the Living Environment Adaptation Service has also been included in the plan. This shows that the importance of the service for VIPs has been recognised by Social Welfare Department.

The new programme is characterised by the introduction of a peer support model to provide support to the families and caregivers of the visually impaired through case and group work to enhance the care and communication skills of the carers.

We assisted a total of 40 cases of newly blind and caregivers in the period from January to December 2018 to cope with difficulties in their lives. Eleven support and mutual help groups and nine activities were held to enable them and their family members to build up support networks.

In the same period, 185 people used the Adaptation Services for the Newly Blind. It is hoped that, through various interventions such as case counseling, individual or group training, escort services for medical appointments and personal business as well as community education, our Centre can enable newly-blind persons to re-integrate into their communities and live independently.

Living Environment Adaptation Programme mainly assists VIPs who experience challenges due to estate redevelopment, decantation, shifting jobs or changes in family or eyesight conditions.

During the year, the Centre followed up on 34 cases, enabling them to adapt to new travelling routes, to familiarise themselves with the new neighbourhood and thus to live independently.

In order to let the public learn more about this service, the Centre produced a short video this year. Apart from introducing the basic services, the video highlights the difficulties faced by the newly blind and enables their caregivers and the public who are interested in providing volunteer services to understand their needs.



## **Counselling and support services**

With the support from The Community Chest of Hong Kong, a total of 31 cases were handled during the year. Workers catered to the needs of individual members by means of emotional support and resource referrals. During the year, a total of six activities were rolled out, with the total attendance of 49 and 18 VIPs and their sighted companions respectively.

## **8.3 Jockey Club Vocational and Educational Resources Centre**

The scope of work of the Jockey Club Vocational and Educational Resources Centre (VERC) includes advocating equal opportunities in education and employment for VIPs, helping them cope with problems in study and work, and enhancing their personal growth and development.

### **8.3.1. Supportive Services for Visually Impaired Students**

With funding from The Community Chest of Hong Kong, we continued to run the Supportive Services for Visually Impaired Students. A total of 437 sessions of services were provided, with more than 1,887 participants. The services provided are as follows:

#### **Counselling and support services**

This year, VERC handled over 53 counselling and support cases. With the use of casework approach, our staff had an in-depth understanding of the needs of individual visually impaired students and provided services for them, including support for their learning, emotional support and resource referrals.

#### **One-on-one district-based homework tutoring support services**

This year, a total of three phases of "district-based" homework tutoring support services for visually impaired students were organised. We arranged volunteer tutors to have one-on-one homework tutoring for visually impaired students based on their districts of residence and learning needs. 18 tutors served 18 visually impaired students from 10 schools, providing a total of 335 hours of services.

#### **Personal growth experiential activities**

A total of 37 personal growth experiential activities were held this year. 386 VIPs and sighted persons participated in the 79 sessions of these activities and among them, 195 were visually impaired students and their parents.

Activities ranged from music, sports, arts, culture, volunteering, craftsmanship, community services and so on. Through these activities, we hoped to facilitate visually impaired students' personal growth.

#### **Talks on "Inclusive Campus" / online radio programme about integrated education**

The VERC regularly imparts the message of equality and inclusion in schools. During the year, we visited 15 secondary schools and held 17 talks on "Inclusive Campus" for 1,200 teachers and students. In addition, we produced 12 episodes of the online radio programme "Integrators' Zone" for the year, which enabled the public to know more about the situation of inclusive education for students with visual impairment. Close to 1,000 people listened to the programmes online from April 2018 to March 2019 while about 1,300 people accessed the programmes through the hotline system. The programme allows the public to understand the inclusive education of visually impaired students.

#### **Support for parents**

This year, we continued to promote the work to support parents and parent-child relationship. With the support from The Community Chest, we organised 13 activities related to family education, parenting and parent-child relationship. We also held regular parent gatherings and cared about the needs of parents and their visually impaired children through interviews and group meetings.

#### **Other education-related activities**

##### **Group work**

This year the VERC formed four groups: namely "Board Games for Visually Impaired Students", "History Study Group", "Communication Workshops" and "Girls' Talks". 17 sessions of activities were held, attracting a total of 44 participants. The total attendance of the group was 144, and the average attendance rate per session was 72%.

##### **Continuing education**

The VERC organised four adult education courses funded by the Labour and Welfare Bureau during the school year 2017/18 (i.e. September 2017 to August 2018).

These courses included an introductory course on financial management for VIPs, a course on life and death education for VIPs, a course on the use of smartphone and mobile apps, and a course on the application of assistive tools for study and work.

Two of these courses were already completed this year with an average attendance rate of 70%. During the year, the Centre also organised a course on Wing Chun martial arts to encourage the all-round development of members. In addition, with K.B. Tam Fund for Multimedia Production and Training, a total of three sessions were held to teach the application of the software Pro Tool, and two students enrolled.

##### **DSE Summer Internship Programme**

Our Centre has held the DSE internship programme for the third year. Three young members who just completed DSE participated in the internship for more than 100 hours in about two months. What was special about this year's programme was that, in addition to organising activities as in the last two years, they were involved more in the work of Blind Union and our Centre including education, employment and advocacy work. All three students shared that after participating in the programme, they had deeper understand of Blind Union and our Centre as well as the working environment of the social welfare sector.

##### **Scholarships**

The award presentation ceremony of Lee Bing Vocal Music Development Fund and Li Chu Shuk-kwan Education Fund of 2018-2019 took place on 31 March 2019.

Under Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, was invited as the officiating guest. The Scholarship for Li Chu Shuk-kwan Education Fund was presented to six students while the Scholarship for Li Bing Vocal Music Development was awarded to eight students.

Also, six visually impaired students nominated 12 teachers and classmates for the awards of Good Mentor Commendation Scheme. This year, a

non-academic scholarship of Li Chu Suk-kwan Education Fund was introduced to encourage visually impaired students with outstanding performance beyond academic achievement and to promote whole-person development.

### **International Exchange Programmes – “Around the World in the Dark”**

Supported by different funds, the Centre conducted various international exchange activities during the year. One of such programmes was “Leadership Training Guangzhou Exchange Programme for Visually Impaired Youth” in April funded by the Dialogue in the Dark Foundation. 19 members and volunteers visited the Guangzhou Blind Association, the Guangzhou Library and a service centre established by the visually impaired locals. During the exchange programme, participants were engaged in experiential workshops designed by VIPs from Hong Kong, which helped VIPs and the staff concerned there to make breakthroughs and at the same time enabled participants from Hong Kong to understand more about the education and employment of VIPs there.

At the same time, funded by the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council, the Centre held a four-day tour of “Taiwan Exchange for Visually Impaired Youth”. A total of 22 VIPs and nine companions participated. Unlike other exchange tours, this tour gave participants more autonomy - they were divided into five groups. Each group made their own itinerary based on the four major themes, including visiting Taiwan's institutions of VIPs and sharing with local VIPs.

The "Music Exchange Tour to England for Visually Impaired Youth" was held from October to November 2018. Four visually impaired vocal students were engaged in learning vocal music, performances and exchanges in London and Manchester, England. Activities included taking courses by vocal masters and visiting local music academies and the institution for VIPs, RNIB, to learn about how VIPs learn music. A number of performances were arranged, including performances at St. Martin-in-the-field and Southwark Cathedral. The official performance at Southwark Cathedral was not only watched by about 50 audience but was also broadcast live on Facebook, attracting more than 10,000 hits.

### **8.3.2 Career development services**

#### **Supported Employment Services**

We continued to provide Supported Employment Services funded by the Social Welfare Department. Services were provided to 38 VIPs every month on average. Throughout the year, services were provided to 59 service users. Among them, 12 persons were successfully employed (i.e. being employed for more than six months and receiving a minimum monthly salary of HK\$1,500). In addition, we assisted four visually impaired employees and one member to apply for the Social Welfare Department's Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities and Jockey Club IT Scheme for People with Visual Impairment respectively to purchase assistive tools and computers.

#### **Employment-related programmes and activities**

##### **e-Connect Employment Network**

Hong Kong Blind Union continued to be involved in the work of the Network, including the "Building a Friendly Workplace" Symposium on 3 May 2018, the "Inclusive Workplace Photography Exhibition" and the press conference on "Research on the Relationship between Local Employees and Disabled Employees" on 17 January 2019. In addition, through the Network, we also participated in and held job fairs, including the career exchange and job fair held on the afternoon of 30 August 2018, which provided multiple job vacancies. A member was invited to share interview and work experience. A total of 42 participants attended the event, and 25 of them were job applicants, including members of Blind Union and members of other organisations of the Network.

##### **Introduction of "e-Connect Employment Network"**

e-Connect Employment Network was set up with seven social service organisations (namely Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service, Hong Kong Blind Union, The Hong Kong Society for the Deaf, Hong Kong PHAB Association, The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong, and Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong) In line with the concept of "sharing", the Network provides comprehensive employment support for people with disabilities and at the same time, offers advice and assistance to employers to hire people with disabilities, thus promoting the employment of people with disabilities.

##### **Visually impaired magician training programme**

The visually impaired magician training programme was held from November to December 2018. It was taught by professional magicians from MAGIC 3. There were six participants and they performed at the Christmas party of Blind Union. Participants were very satisfied with the training as it enhanced their understanding of the magician's work. We will contact other instructors or groups to discuss future cooperation opportunities.

##### **Training courses**

We participated the Employee Retraining Course "Introduction to Retail Basic Certificate (Part-time)" held by Rehabilitation Power. The course enabled participants to understand the basic requirements of the retail industry and the importance of retail services and to know how to receive guests. It was held from February to March 2019 with three members participating.

##### **A seminar on employment quota system**

Our Centre held a seminar on employment quota system on 24 March 2019.

A representative from Alliance of Quota System for Disabled Persons was invited to brief us on the content of the system. Participants were then asked to discuss the pros and cons of the policy in the hope that a consensus could be reached amongst our members to inform the formulation of our stance on this issue in the future. 15 members participated in the event.

#### **Advocacy and research**

##### **Advocacy on education policies**

The Centre continued to advocate on education policies, including meeting with the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) annually. In July 2018, we met with HKEAA to follow up on the recommendations made this year and in the past. HKEAA responded positively and most of the suggestions put forward were considered and accepted, so that visually impaired candidates could have an even fairer examination arrangement in the future.

As for the use of public library services by VIPs, we met with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LSCD) in June 2018 to discuss public library services. Topics included: the frontline staff's inadequate understanding of the needs of VIPs, the lack of up-to-date version of assistive tools and the lack of electronic resources or accessible versions of books. In this regard, we provided some suggestions to the Department to improve their services.

Blind Union is very concerned about the introduction of the senior secondary school curriculum at Ebenezer School starting from the 2019-2020 school year. It is worrying that this arrangement may affect the implementation of integrated education in Hong Kong and delay the admission of visually impaired students to mainstream schools, preventing them from adapting to the mainstream environment as soon as possible. Blind Union will actively seek to discuss and follow up on the matter with representatives from Ebenezer School and Education Bureau.

#### Advocacy on employment policies

This year, the Centre continued to be engaged in the advocacy work regarding employment. On 20 April and 10 August 2018, we met with the Chief of the Selective Placement Division of the Labour Department to discuss the arrangements for the use of services by VIPs and successfully urged the Department to improve the services.

In addition, representatives from our Centre continued to get involved in the work of the Alliance of Quota System for Disabled Persons. On 19 June 2018, they met with the Labour and Welfare Bureau to express our stance on the Hong Kong Rehabilitation Plan. They also attended regular meetings of the Alliance and the seminars on employment quota system organised by the Alliance.

#### Research on the current employment situation

The research on the current employment situation of VIPs, conducted in collaboration with Prof Wong King-shui of the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Social Work Department, was completed during the year. The research found that high academic qualifications do not necessarily bring corresponding job opportunities to VIPs. It also covered the difficulties faced by VIPs in job hunting and at work, as well as the self-image of working and unemployed VIPs. The research report was completed in March 2019 and uploaded to the website of Blind Union. It was also submitted as part of Blind Union's opinion on Rehabilitation Programme Plan and was presented at the World Blind Union Asia Pacific Mid-term Regional Assembly in September 2018 and "Mainland China-Hong Kong-Macao Forum on Integrated Education for the Visually Impaired" in October.

#### 8.3.3 Education of VIPs in China

##### Mainland China-Hong Kong-Macao Forum on Integrated Education for the Visually Impaired

Hong Kong Blind Union organised this forum in cooperation with the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Its purpose was to enable decision-makers from higher education institutions in China to understand the experience of integrated education in Hong Kong and to promote it in China. The forum was successfully held from 25 to 27 October 2018. As a starting point, the forum attracted representatives from eight institutions, including six universities from China and representatives from various institutions in Hong Kong. The institutions and VTCs sent representatives to serve as guest speakers and participate in the forum. The total number of participants in the forum was about 100, including representatives from China and Hong Kong, and about 50 people participated in each session of the forum.

##### Experiential Learning Programme for China's visually impaired college students

The programme was jointly organised by Blind Union and the Chinese University of Hong Kong in October 2018. Three students from Binzhou Medical College participated in it. Apart from studying at the Chinese University, the students were arranged to visit places including organisations for VIPs in Hong Kong, Legislative Council and Equal Opportunities Commission. They joined the Mainland China-Hong Kong-Macao Forum on Integrated Education for the Visually Impaired as well.

##### Support for visually impaired students in China

This year, we continued to provide assistance to students in Meizhou, Zhanjiang and Binzhou Medical College, supporting their studies with financial aid. Our representatives paid a visit to Meizhou Special Education School and Zhanjiang Special Education School in February and March 2019 respectively and visited the sponsored families. At the same time, the sponsored students, graduates and principals were invited to shoot a short film for the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Education Fund for People with Visual Impairment in China in order to raise funds.

#### 8.4 Accessible Digital Technology Centre

The Accessible Digital Technology Centre aims at improving daily lives of visually impaired persons (VIPs) with the use of technology. Our work scope includes the development of assistive aids, technical support and training, promotion of accessible technology design and application, and provision of support and consultancy services to organisations and needy individuals.

##### 8.4.1 Jockey Club Smart City Walk project

Hong Kong Blind Union has always been endeavouring to improve the lives of VIPs with information technology. Recommended by "HKSAR Chief Executive's Community Project List" and funded by Jockey Club Charities Trust, we launched the four-year Jockey Club Smart City Walk project in October 2017. With the rapid development of technology, mobile apps strengthen VIPs' and the elderly's connection with the world and enable them to live independently. In the Jockey Club Smart City Walk project, we developed an indoor navigation mobile app "Smart City Walk" with the combination of different navigation technologies. The app will guide users to their destinations with text and audio outputs, enabling VIPs and other people in need such as the elderly to walk around independently with ease. This project will provide training to VIPs and the elderly on the use of information technology so that they can better integrate into society. At the same time, talks and sharing sessions will be held to raise public's concern about VIPs.

In order to ensure the smooth development of the project, we have set up a planning advisory committee. The members include Mr Chong Chan-yau, president of Hong Kong Blind Union, Mr Chow Kin-chun, executive committee member, and Mr Wong Sung-keung, member of the Information Technology Advisory Committee. Also invited to join the committee were Mr Fred Sheu, National Technology Officer of Microsoft Hong Kong Limited, Mr Francis Fong, Honorary Chairman of Hong Kong Information Technology Federation, Mr Charles Mok, Legislative Councilor (Information Technology Functional Constituency), and Dr Alice Yuk, Chief Executive of Ebenezer School for the Visually Impaired.

Funded by the project, Blind Union visited the United Kingdom and the United States respectively from November 2018 to March 2019 to learn about the latest indoor navigation technology in the world. For details, please refer to the section on "Exchanges in Mainland China and overseas" about the work of Head Office.

Regarding support from indoor venues, 13 indoor venues have been installed with the positioning and navigating system by March 2019. These include the Jockey Club Vocational and Educational Resources Centre, Ebenezer School, Guide Dog Association, Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres of Immigration Department, and the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The installation work at the performance venues of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), museums, hospitals, public transport and shopping malls are also

under discussion. The app Smart City Walk is expected to be available in mid-2019 in both iOS and Android versions.

In addition, under the project, we provided a total of 49 smart phone training courses for VIPs in need, with 164 participants. A public education event was also organised to brief the staff of the LCSD on VIPs' use of computers and mobile phones and the basic concepts of accessibility. The total number of participants was 102.

#### **8.4.2 Promotion of accessible information technology**

Hong Kong Blind Union has been committed to promoting the design and application of accessible digital technology. This year, in order to understand the accessibility of Hong Kong's websites in general, with the funding from Equal Opportunities Commission, we conducted a survey with 198 websites including websites of public organisations, listed companies and Legislative Council members. The results of the survey were released during a press conference held on 16 July 2018, and

Dr Wong Yu-cheung, associate professor of the Department of Social Work at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, was invited as the speaker to explain the details of the survey.

In order to enhance the understanding and skills of the community in accessible design, Blind Union held the "Web Accessibility Seminar: The Latest Development of WCAG 2.1" on 17 September 2018. Mr Shadi Abou-zahra, the Accessibility Strategy and Technology Specialist of World Wide Web Accessibility Program (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), was invited to share the latest WCAG 2.1 standards.

Apart from this, this year Blind Union has also been invited by various organisations, including the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, the LCSD, the Macau Social Welfare Bureau and Microsoft Hong Kong Limited to introduce to participants how VIPs use mobile phones in their daily lives and what the requirements are for the accessible design of mobile apps.

#### **8.4.3 Organising IT interest groups**

IT interest groups of various themes including smartphone application and IT skills and knowledge enhancement were regularly organised for members during the year. To embrace better skills and the latest trends, members shared with each other in the gatherings their experience and information about new products. Each group met 26 times during the year, and the number of participants was about 162.

#### **8.4.4 IT training and support**

We conducted 51 lessons of courses on smart phone and IT application with a total of 174 participants. The helpdesk service was provided to support members' enquires on software and assistive aids. 2,029 phone-in and 258 face-to-face enquiries were handled during the year.

An issue of "Accessible Digital Technology Newsletter" was published every month to help subscribers keep abreast with the latest technology. There were 434 subscribers and about 45,100 webpage hits.

#### **8.4.5 Development and enhancement of assistive software and mobile apps**

With funding from The Jockey Club E-Learning for All Project (ELFA), we continued with the development and enhancement of various software and mobile apps. Our tasks included strengthening the updated version of EasyDots Chinese Input Method (Windows Version) to support Windows 10 and launching the updated version of the Braille translation software Brite with a new English format UEB and an improved interface. In addition, we continued to upgrade the NVDA add-on to strengthen support for Windows 10 and above, and to improve the mobile app "iEasyDots" on both Apple iOS and Android platforms in order to provide better support for the new models of mobile phones.

#### **8.4.6 Development of internal IT management system**

Funded by the Social Welfare Development Fund of the Social Welfare Department, Blind Union continued to develop a new information dissemination system by improving the existing telephone hotline system and by making our information available through a mobile app or on our website so as to make it easier for VIPs to access our information.

### **8.5 Accessibility Services Office**

#### **8.5.1 Jockey Club E-Learning for All Project (ELFA)**

Funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Project provides supportive services for primary and secondary print disabled students. As at March 2019, a total of 353 individual students and 107 schools with 3,669 print disabled students signed up as service users. From August 2016 to March 2019, a total of 2,708 e-materials or e-textbooks (127,626 pages in total) were transcribed and 454 tactile materials were produced for students in need. Training workshops and psychosocial support activities were organised with the number of attendance of 1,100. About 2,880 copies of software and mobile apps developed by Blind Union were distributed for free.

Under the project, an online platform was set up to provide a variety of services such as free online OCR (Optical Character Recognition) service, accessible e-book bank and bi-monthly e-learning newsletters. This year, we continued to take part in the Learning and Teaching Expo and collaborated with the University of Hong Kong to conduct a study to explore the impact of the use of e-learning tools and resources on people with print disabilities.

The project has received positive comments in the past few years. We were glad to be informed by Jockey Club in early 2019 that the project would receive funding under "The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant" starting from April 2019. With this, the project has become a regular service of Blind Union, making more long-term planning for the service possible.

#### **8.5.2 Social enterprise services**

Operating on a social enterprise model, Blind Union strives to promote barrier-free community facilities, acquire suitable daily commodities, as well as create employment opportunities for visually impaired persons. Our social enterprise business responds to the HKSAR Government's target of promoting barrier-free facilities and services, playing a leading role in building an inclusive society.

#### **Web Accessibility For All (WAFA)**

Funded by the Home Affairs Department's "Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme (ESR Programme)", the social enterprise Web Accessibility for All (WAFA) was set up in 2013 to promote accessible digital technology. As of this year, WAFA provided testing

and consultancy services to more than 500 web pages and mobile apps.

**Production of tactile maps and consultancy for audio systems**

In response to the government's policy of promoting accessibility, the enterprise continued to produce and provide consultancy services for tactile maps and audio systems as well as engage in the production and sales of tactile signage. To cater for the needs of different people, our services were provided with references to the standard in the Buildings Department's "Design Manual: Barrier-free Access 2008", and also views given by our staff and members with different levels of visual impairment.

**EasyBuy**

To ensure the products selected met more of our members' needs and to tap the self-help spirit, we invited several members to form a group to help source more suitable products and widen the choices of economical and quality goods for other members. Since 2016, we have also started adopting group-purchase so that members could acquire high quality products with a low price tag.

**Braille / text transcription services**

Our social enterprise provides the service of adding names, phone numbers and other information in Braille on ordinary name cards. Our services also include converting printed materials, Braille and audio files (such as interview recordings) into text or Braille format. Target customers include government departments, private companies, social welfare agencies and tertiary institutions. Our business not only provides job opportunities for visually impaired people but also makes information accessible among the visually impaired, the public and related organisations.

**9. SERVICES STATISTICS**

**9.1 MEMBERS**

**Full Members (1,656 Members)**

Gender	Percentage
Male	53.03%
Female	46.97%

Age	Percentage
17 years old or below	2.41%
18 - 59 years old	51.73%
60 years old or above	45.86%

**Associate Members (373 Members)**

Gender	Percentage
Male	37.05%
Female	62.95%

Age	Percentage
17 years old or below	0.30%
18 - 59 years old	51.51%
60 years old or above	48.19%

**9.2 Rights advocacy**

This year, we handled a total of 79 cases where members were not able to live independently in their communities. These include:

Case Category	No. of Case
Inadequate barrier-free facilities in the communities	24
Transportation and transport services	22
Public services e.g. medical treatment and housing	11
Disability discrimination	1
The use of accessible information technology	6
Service quality of private organisations, personal and other affairs	15
Total	79

**9.3 Public Education**

Target	No. of Participant (No. of School/ Organisation)
School	1,066(26)
Organisation	556 (17)
Total	1,622 (43)

## 9.4 SERVICES CENTRE

### 9.4.1 Social & recreational activities

Activity Category	No. of Session	No. of Attendance (VI / S)
Local and mainland tour	12	519/340
Arts & culture/ community programme	13	303/161
Recreation & sports programme	9	109/61
IT sharing	12	76/12
Dinner gathering	7	831/417
Member Gathering	9	291/85
Large-scale programmes, seminars	6	253/414
Others	5	54/74
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2,436/1,564</b>

\* There were 23 activities which were organised by various groups. The number of visually impaired and sighted participants were 373 and 109 respectively.

### 9.4.2 Continuous learning courses

Course Category	No. of Session	No. of Attendance (VI/S)
Cantonese opera class	31	345/56
Cantonese opera experience class	2	13/2
Fitness class	10	161/96
Hiking team	7	100/148
Youth and adult swimming course	4	8/12
Water fitness course	4	31/20
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>658/334</b>

### 9.4.3 Group activities

Activity Category	No. of Session	No. of Attendance (VI)
Chinese music group	46	809
Karaoke group	32	277
Leisure band	27	276
Card games group	24	317
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>1,679</b>

### 9.4.4 District-based activities

District	No. of Session	No. of Attendance (VI / S)
Kowloon East	13	377/257
Kowloon West	12	203/114
HK Island	10	136/75
NT East	8	121/80
NT West	9	131/52
co-organised by different districts	4	139/87
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1,107/665</b>

### 9.4.5 Elderly services

Service Category	No. of Session	No. of Attendance (VI / S)
Caring group gathering	8	40/ N/A
Elderly gathering	6	57/ N/A
Caring group telephone caring condolences	N/A	229/ N/A
Regular visits	15	204/174
Recreational activity (tea gathering and outings)	12	415/169
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>945/343</b>

VI: visually impaired persons S: sighted persons

N/A : Not Applicable

## 9.5 JOCKEY CLUB VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES CENTRE

### 9.5.1 Education & development programmes

Programme category	No. of Session / hr.	No. of Attendance (VI)
Support & development group	17	144
Personal growth activity	79	386
Continuing education	41	360
One-on-one district-	335(hrs.)	189

Programme category	No. of Session / hr.	No. of Attendance (VI)
based homework tutoring support service		

### 9.5.2 Inclusive talks

Programme category	No. of Session	No. of Attendance (S)
Inclusive campus talk	17	1,200
“Get to know the visually impaired” workshop	6	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,312</b>

### 9.5.3 Profile of supported employment services users

(Total number of services users : 59 )

Gender	No. of people
Male	38
Female	21

Education level	No. of people
Primary	0
Secondary	31
Tertiary or above	28

Age	No. of people
15 -35 years old	32
36 - 50 years old	19
50 years old or above	8

## 9.6 ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES OFFICE

### 9.6.1 Jockey Club E-Learning For All Project (ELFA)

#### Profile of services users

Profile of services users

353 students (16 students graduated this year and have withdrawn from the programme) and 107 schools (3,669 print disabled students)

Type of disability	學生人數 No. of Student (graduated)
Visually impaired	82 (9)
Physical challenged	22 (0)
Dyslexia	188 (0)
Multiple disabilities	61 (7)
Total	353 (16)

Type of School / Institute	No.
Primary school	17
Secondary school	55
Primary school and Secondary school	3
Tertiary institute	8

Type of School / Institute	No.
Special school	19
NGO	5
Total	107

### 9.6.2 Services Numbers

Service	Statistics
E-books production	1,229 e-books & 1,479 e-notes, 127,626 printed pages in total
Tactile teaching material	454 copies
Software distribution	2,378 software & 492 App
E-Learning For All e-newsletter	615 subscribers

Activity Category	No. of Session	No. of Attendance
Training workshop	58	391
Psychological support activity	25	435
Seminar	1	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1,126</b>

\* The cumulative figures since August 2016

### 9.6.3 Social Enterprise Services

Total number of part-time assistant(VI) : 26

Gender	No. of people
Male	18
Female	8

Age	No. of people
15-35 years old	16
36-50 years old	7
50 years old	3

## 9.7 ACCESSIBLE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

### 9.7.1 IT groups

Event & groups Category	No. of Session	No. of Attendance (VI)
Apple Products Application Group	20	118
Knowledge Exchange Group	6	44
Total	28	162

### 9.7.2 IT training and support

Service	Statistics
Hotline Service	2,029
Face-to-face consultation	258
Total	2,287

Group	No. of Session	No. of Attendance (VI)
IT application workshop	2	10
Smartphone application course	49	164
Total	51	174



## 10. Financial Highlights

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019 (ALL AMOUNTS IN HONG KONG DOLLARS)

	2019 HK\$	2018 HK\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donation and fund raising income	1,504,554.33	1,779,556.45
Project income	1,927,195.95	1,590,973.49
Program income	1,629,848.77	1,720,579.00
Flag day income	601,589.63	617,216.85
Social Welfare Department subvention	4,459,944.00	4,052,899.00
Social Welfare Development Fund grant	248,565.00	619,320.00
Block Grant from Lotteries Fund	61,000.00	60,000.00
Labour and Welfare Bureau subvention	41,674.55	40,587.25
Community Chest Allocations	589,100.00	571,900.00
Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust grant	5,673,731.63	4,341,662.32
Bank interest income	159,734.17	87,256.87
Other income	55,639.28	92,355.40
	<b>16,952,577.31</b>	<b>15,574,306.63</b>
<b>LESS: EXPENDITURE</b>		
Personal emoluments	1,240,432.20	906,257.68
Programme and project expenses	14,650,886.47	13,290,285.79
Flag day expenses	51,512.50	58,604.93
Administrative expenses	197,688.79	363,146.31
Rent and rates	365,460.00	364,900.00
Audit fee	15,000.00	15,000.00
Utilities	155,726.83	145,404.20
Depreciation	3,104.00	6,443.60
	<b>16,679,810.79</b>	<b>15,150,042.51</b>
	<b>272,766.52</b>	<b>424,264.12</b>
Net transfer from Project funds not yet utilized	<b>120,448.72</b>	<b>521,304.54</b>
	<b>393,215.24</b>	<b>945,568.66</b>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Transfer to Labour and Welfare Bureau Surplus Account	-	(13,985.70)
Transfer to Li Chu Shuk-kwan Education Fund	-	(219,073.95)
Transfer to Lee Bing Vocal Music Development Fund	-	(220,319.25)
Transfer to Social Welfare Subvention Surpluses Account	(5,489.00)	(7,212.38)
Transfer to Lump Sum Grant Reserve	(47,054.65)	(177,446.46)
Transfer to Provident Fund Reserve	(39,647.56)	(39,703.90)
Transfer from Block Grant Reserve	1,530.00	11,948.00
Transfer from Social Welfare Department Community-based Support Projects for Persons with Disabilities and their Families Grant	104,888.52	75,088.32
Transfer to Social Welfare Development Fund	(58,431.74)	(272,722.25)
Transfer to Social Enterprise Development Fund	(129,603.00)	(7,307.00)
	<b>(173,807.43)</b>	<b>(870,734.57)</b>
	<b>219,407.81</b>	<b>74,834.09</b>
Surplus for the year	<b>219,407.81</b>	<b>74,834.09</b>

**Expenditure Analysis**

EXPENDITURE	%
Program and Project Expenses	87.7%
Personal Emoluments	6.0%
Flag Day Expenses	0.4%
Administrative Expenses	2.5%
Rent and Rates	2.4%
Utilities	1.0%
	100.00%

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2019**  
**(ALL AMOUNTS IN HONG KONG DOLLARS)**

	2019	2018
	HK\$	HK\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	3,509.00	6,613.00
Investment in securities	183,313.31	-
	186,822.31	6,613.00
Current assets		
Stocks	21,874.55	53,344.51
Accounts receivable	2,627,329.93	2,064,727.12
Deposits and prepayments	151,517.86	90,016.00
Fixed deposits	9,081,038.34	8,384,906.41
Cash and bank balances	1,449,968.32	3,094,410.59
	13,331,729.00	13,687,404.63
Less: Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	455,164.14	270,700.01
Project funds not yet utilized	855,228.89	975,677.61
Deposits repayable and receipts in advance	740,665.26	732,753.14

	2,051,058.29	1,979,130.76
Net current assets	11,280,670.71	11,708,273.87
Net assets	11,467,493.02	11,714,886.87
 <b>RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES</b>		
General Fund	2,391,486.56	2,172,078.75
 Other Funds and Reserves		
Development Fund	5,695,105.91	5,871,252.98
Sister Moira Education Fund	151,122.07	151,122.07
Education Fund for People with Visual Impairment in China	718,770.99	942,190.20
Li Chu Shuk-kwan Education Fund	357,414.41	380,461.01
Lee Bing Vocal Music Development Fund	175,985.36	246,203.25
Labour and Welfare Bureau Surplus Account	28,508.30	28,508.30
Social Welfare Subvention Surpluses Account	66,739.00	140,756.00
Lump Sum Grant Reserve	607,756.54	556,891.19
Provident Fund Reserve	455,488.13	415,840.57
Block Grant Reserve	491.43	2,021.43
Social Welfare Department Community-based Support Projects for Persons with Disabilities and their Families Grant	83,671.34	188,559.86

Social Welfare Development Fund	339,997.87	353,649.15
Social Enterprise Development Fund	394,955.11	265,352.11
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,467,493.02	11,714,886.87
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## 11.ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### 政府部門及法定機構 Government Departments & Statutory Bodies

公司註冊處 Companies Registry

教育局 Education Bureau

平等機會委員會 Equal Opportunities Commission

民政事務總署 Home Affairs Department

香港考試及評核局 Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

香港房屋委員會 Hong Kong Housing Authority

入境事務處 Immigration Department

勞工及福利局 Labour and Welfare Bureau

地政總署 Lands Department

康樂及文化事務處 Leisure and Cultural Services Department

政府資訊科技總監辦公室 Office of Government Chief Information Officer

勞工處展能就業科 Selective Placement Division of the about Department

社會福利署 Social Welfare Department

## **基金 Funds**

陳楊福和基金有限公司      Chen Yang Foo Oi Foundation Limited

黑暗中對話基金會      Dialogue in The Dark Foundation

Hop Wai Foundation Inc.

信願榮景慈善基金有限公司      Invision Charity Foundation Limited

紀恩基金有限公司      Remad Foundation Limited

渣打香港 150 週年慈善基金      Standard Chartered Hong Kong 150th Anniversary Community Foundation

香港賽馬會慈善信託基金      The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

## **學校 Schools**

車路士足球學校(香港) ChelseaFC Soccer School (Hong Kong)

宣道會鄭榮之中學      Christian Alliance Cheng Wing Gee College

心光盲人院暨學校      Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired

福建中學      Fukien Secondary School

香港浸會大學      Hong Kong Baptist University

香港中文大學學術交流處（國內事務）      Office of Academic Links (China), The Chinese University of Hong Kong

官立嘉道理爵士中學（西九龍）      Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon)

聖保祿中學      St. Paul's Secondary School

香港理工大學生物醫學工程學系      The Hong Kong Polytechnic University - Department of Biomedical Engineering

香港大學圖書館      The University of Hong Kong Libraries

## **非牟利團體 Non-profit Organisations**

香港展能藝術會 Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong

亞洲婦女協進會油麻地頤老中心 Asia Women's League Limited - Yau Ma Tei Neighbourhood Elderly

香海正覺蓮社佛教何李寬德耆英康樂中心 Buddhist Ho Lee Foon Tak Elderly Social Centre

明愛賽馬會石塘咀青少年綜合服務 Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Service for Young People - Shek Tong Tsui

香港中華基督教青年會 - 藍田會所 Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong - Lam Tin Centre

基督教家庭服務中心 Christian Family Service Centre

黑暗中對話體驗館 Dialogue Experience

香港導盲犬協會 Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association

香港紅十字會支心行動 Hong Kong Red Cross Act of Care Project

香港導盲犬服務中心 Hong Kong Seeing Eye Dog Services

高壹分愛心工程有限公司 Go Fun Care Project Limited

香港海事青年團 Hong Kong Sea Cadet Corps

MCCC Sale Bible Study Group and Friends

利民會 - 新翠實業社 Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong - New Jade Manufacturing Centre

東九龍第一旅樂行童軍團 Scout Association of Hong Kong - 1st East Kowloon Group Rover Scout Crew

香港童軍總會大埔南區童軍 Scout Association of Hong Kong - Tai Po South District

中國香港巧固球總會 Tchoukball Association of Hong Kong, China

香港小童群益會 The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong

港台經濟文化合作協進會 The Hong Kong - Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council

香港基督教青年會 YMCA of Hong Kong

香港東區崇德社 Zonta Club of Hong Kong East

## **義工團體 Volunteer Groups**

珀麗灣義工團 Park Island Volunteer Team

上山下海在香港 - 山海義工群組 SSHH - Volunteer Group

庫務署義工隊 Treasury Voluntary Service Team

## **企業 Corporates**

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雅集出版社有限公司 Aristo Education Press Limited

亞洲萬盛有限公司 Asia Million Technology Limited

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經濟一週 Economic Digest

教育出版社有限公司 Educational Publishing House



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香港教育圖書公司 Hong Kong Educational Publishing Company

香港電燈 Hong Kong Electric

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躍思教育出版社 JumpStart Publishers

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利太有限公司 Lead Pacific Limited

齡記出版有限公司 Ling Kee Publishing Company Limited

萬達髮品製造有限公司 Man Tat Wigs Manufacturing Limited

牛魔王 Maxpower

香港 MG 戶外軍事用品店 MG Military Store

微軟香港有限公司 Microsoft Hong Kong Limited

現代教育研究社有限公司 Modern Educational Research Society Limited

香港鐵路有限公司 MTR Corporation Limited

牛津大學出版社 Oxford University Press (China) Limited  
樂思教育出版有限公司 Pan Lloyds Publishers Limited  
訊通展覽公司 Paper Communication Exhibition Services  
培生教育出版亞洲有限公司 Pearson Education Asia Limited  
導師出版社有限公司 Pilot Publishing Company Limited  
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泓都會所 The Merton  
香港強韌有限公司 Tough Jeans Limited  
視障領域 VI Horizon  
新假期週刊 Weekend Weekly  
傲科實業有限公司 Wintech Manufacturing

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蔡之慧

譚溥源

全體義工 ALL VOLUNTEERS