

Hong Kong Blind Union
2022-2023 Annual Report

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ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

Hong Kong Blind Union was established in 1964. It is the first self-help group organised and managed by people with visual impairment (VIPs). 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT By Wong Chun-hang, Billy

During 2022/23, Hong Kong has started to make its way out of Covid-19's shadow and Hong Kong Blind Union has restored its operations to normal. This has been a year of change and as we approach our 60th anniversary, we have to remain agile and resilient to embark on a new stage of development.

By the end of this year, we bade farewell to two key members of our core team, Mr Chong Chan-yau and Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy, whose leadership and commitment have played a crucial role in our success. Mr Chong, our former president, held various positions over half a century at Hong Kong Blind Union serving the visually impaired and decided to step down from all positions after the expiration of the 2021 to 2023 term of the Executive Committee. Peggy, our former Executive Director for more than a decade, resigned from Blind Union to turn a new page in her life, taking effect at the end of April 2023. On behalf of Hong Kong Blind Union, I thank them for their invaluable insights and contributions and wish them the best in their future endeavours.

Bringing in new blood is the key to drive continuous growth and transformation. Across our Executive Committee, various committees and working groups, we welcome many young, energetic and responsible visually impaired members to take up different roles. Amid talent shortage in Hong Kong, we are glad to have Ms Kwan Cheuk-yin, Jackie, who brings a wealth of experience and expertise in the rehabilitation field, joining us as Executive Director. I encourage the new generation of core members to further collaborate with all members, co-workers, volunteers and partners from different sectors and to effectively use Hong Kong Blind Union as a platform to support the local visually impaired community. We look to work together towards a more equal and inclusive society, enabling people with visual impairments to contribute to the society across various sectors.

Through our diversified services, we empower visually impaired people with different aspirations, capabilities and interests to find their own ways to shine. With the support of the community, generations of those with visual impairments have coped with daily life, gained access to education and open employment opportunities, moved into the digital age harnessing the power of information technology, and strived for an increasingly barrier-free society. We sincerely thank the public for their care and help that allow for the provision of different meaningful services, and more importantly, giving hope and offering opportunities to the entire visually impaired community in Hong Kong to propel forward in life.

We hope everyone who supports Hong Kong Blind Union along the way is proud of the efforts we make and continues to back our work going forward. As we take huge strides towards our 60th anniversary, we look forward to joining hands with you and the visually impaired community to navigate opportunities and challenges ahead.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT By Kwan Cheuk-yin , Jackie

While the impact of the pandemic gradually abated in the year of 2022/23, we equipped ourselves to better embrace the future development of Hong Kong Blind Union. As the newly appointed Executive Director, I also took the time to look back at the exciting growth journey of Blind Union. I express my sincere gratitude to my predecessor, Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy, for her innovative spirit, exceptional leadership and collaborative mindset to work closely with committee members and members of Blind Union to uphold our core values: Equality, Opportunities, Independence.

Adjust to life changes and participate in community activities

It is never easy for the newly blind and their caregivers to adjust to life changes. In response to this, Hong Kong Blind Union has launched a series of new services in recent years supporting them through the transition period. The services were becoming more well developed and filling the service gaps in community.

To promote equal opportunities for people with visual impairments to engage in community activities, different units continue to develop various online and offline services. Funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Sports Programmes with Audio-description Service has been extended for three years. In addition, we have organised a number of sports activities, bringing new and comprehensive experiences to members.

Enhance training programmes and create opportunities

Despite the economic uncertainties leaving the visually impaired a difficult employment situation, we were determined to buck the trend and rolled out the second phase of the "Empathy, Empowerment & Employment" project sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, mentorship programmes, orientation programs for emerging industries, care ambassadors training and the opening of Yau CAFE, further enhancing the employment competitiveness of the visually impaired. We have also created more job placement and employment opportunities through collaborating with different corporations, social enterprises and stakeholders to expand our employer network, preparing the visually impaired to rejoin the workplace and the open employment market.

Demonstrate capabilities and promote inclusiveness

Though visual impairment compromises one's vision, it can unlock the many capabilities of the visually impaired. Through training in Chinese music, vocal and musical instruments, coupled with the development of braille music scores, we empowered members across various age groups to unleash their potentials. Their public performances were well-received, showcasing positivity and vitality.

In the past year, Blind Union pushed forward the building of a digitally inclusive and barrier-free smart city and monitored its progress. Marking the 60th anniversary milestone in the coming year, Blind Union will carry forward the spirit as Hong Kong's first self-help organisation. We will build on past successes and open up new dimensions for the future, working with members and people from various sectors to nurture a community that embraces "Equality, Opportunities, Independence".

OUR TEAM

Over half of the staff members of Hong Kong Blind Union are visually impaired persons. We have adopted a preferential recruitment policy for people with visual impairment, enabling them to develop to their full potential. Visually impaired candidates who meet the basic entry requirements for a post will automatically be invited to attend the selection interview and test. Candidates with visual impairment found suitable for employment will be given preference for an appointment over other applicants.

As at 31 March 2023

Total number of staff (Full time and part time):	94
Number of disabled staff (Full time and part time):	49

Remark: The number of employees in the above already includes the full-time and part-time staff of Blind Union as well as the social enterprises under the association.

OUR SERVICES

HEAD OFFICE

1. Promoting proper concepts of visual impairment through publications, seminars and exhibitions;
2. Participating in advisory committees of the government and other concerned organisations;
3. Gatekeeping social policies, promoting equal opportunities and social inclusion;
4. Collaborating with international and Mainland organisations to learn about the latest service development;
5. Liaising with the public and organizing resource development projects; and
6. Publishing newsletters and audio magazines to report on the lives of visually impaired persons (VIPs) and the work of Blind Union.

SERVICES CENTRE

1. Organising different kinds of social and recreational activities;
2. Providing support services to VIPs 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 keeping periodical contact by caring calls and home visits; and
4. Providing daily living support services, such as case referrals, 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 pre-job, on-the-job training and adult education courses to enhance the workability of VIPs;
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 and formulating career plans with 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 VIPs;
2. Providing VIPs with technical support and training in using digital devices;
3. Promoting accessible digital technology design and application; and
4. Providing related advisory services to individuals, schools, employers and organisations.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES OFFICE

1. Implementing projects related to e-learning, sports and music development as well as providing various kinds of supportive services for people in need;
2. 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;
3. Providing professional audio descriptions for sports programmes for VIPs; and
4. Developing professional music training for VIPs to fully develop their talents.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

1. Promote an inclusive community, as well as creating training and employment opportunities for VIPs;
2. Promoting accessible environments and facilities to acquire equal opportunities for information and services in a bid to avail the visually impaired of the information and services to sighted persons; and
3. Providing one-stop consultation and support services for all sectors in the aspects of digital technology, facilities and products.

SERVICE SNAPSHOTS

There are six units in Blind Union to provide comprehensive services to visually impaired persons (VIPs) in Hong Kong. They are the Head Office, Services Centre, Jockey Club Vocational and Educational Resources Centre, Accessible Digital Technology Centre, Accessible Service Office and Social Enterprise.

HEAD OFFICE

The work of the Head Office includes member affairs, advocacy, human resources, financial management, and corporate communications. It aims to carry out the mission of Hong Kong Blind Union and strive for the rights of VIPs.

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.

86 Full Members and 27 Associate Members joined Blind Union in 2022/23. As at 31 March 2023, we had a total of 1,818 Full Members and 395 Associate Members. The 58th Annual General Meeting was held on 14 August 2022. 213 members participated and 1 member was elected as the Executive Committee Member of 2021/23 in the by-election.

Blind Union held two consultative meetings to consult members and collect opinions on the authorisation mechanism of annual general meetings and other member affairs, with 203 members participating. 4 orientation activities for new members were held with a total of 19 participants.

Covid-19 related initiatives

Through the hotline system, email and WhatsApp, Blind Union kept members up to date with the latest information concerning the pandemic from temporary suspension of bus routes to the government's anti-epidemic measures during Covid-19. We also assisted our members in need to register for different services, including the government's outreach service for Covid-19 mass testing, the door-to-door vaccination programme operated by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the reporting of persons tested positive through the "Online Self-reporting for Covid-19 patient" system. Escort services for medical appointments and Covid-19 vaccination have not been suspended.

Between February and August 2022, Blind Union distributed oral rapid antigen test kits to 1,200 members in need. In addition, Blind Union received a grant from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for launching the "Visually Impaired People's Anti-epidemic Support Programme" between March and June 2022. It included the setting up of the anti-epidemic hotline, the production of 50 anti-epidemic programmes sharing the latest Covid-related information and the provision of supply packs to 200 members who were under home quarantine.

As the pandemic eased, Hong Kong Blind Union restored the operations to normal on 25th April 2022 with physical group meetings and activities resumed.

Advocacy

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

Urge for the establishment of a Commission on Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)
Blind Union and other disability groups joined hands to urge the government to establish a Commission on PWDs, shaping Hong Kong's development as a city that respects and protects the rights, interests and well-being of all PWDs. Blind Union believes that the Commission on PWDs should protect PWDs of all ages, genders and ethnicities. As it takes more than medical treatment and rehabilitation to assist PWDs to live in the community, there is a need for the government to establish such a commission to help disabled people deal with challenges in their lives promptly and appropriately.

Urgent need to launch Health Care Voucher Scheme for the PWDs

Owing to personal financial reasons and an overburdened public healthcare system, many PWDs are unable to receive timely treatment when they become ill. Blind Union recommended the government establish a health care voucher system for them, and thus develop towards the goal of prevention-oriented healthcare and "treat mild diseases in the community" as proposed in the Primary Healthcare Blueprint. The sick PWDs may then receive private medical treatment when they cannot receive timely public healthcare services. This can help enhance the health of PWDs and ease the burden on our public healthcare system.

Legislation on artificial sound alerting system should take environmental noise into account. Electric vehicles are relatively quieter than conventional diesel cars but the visually impaired can hardly notice the approaching of electrical vehicles. While the European Union, the United States of America and Japan have already introduced legislations and guidance for the installation of artificial sound alerting system for electrical vehicles, Hong Kong's Transport Department invited Blind Union and various associations for the blind to attend field tests on warning sounds of electrical vehicles in accordance with the European Union standard between 50 to 75 decibels. Those visually impaired who attended the testing session unanimously considered the volume and frequency too low to alert them for approaching electrical vehicles. If the government introduces legislation based on such standards, the road safety of the visually impaired cannot be ensured. Hence, Blind Union opines that the government should develop our localised standard of sound alerting.

Accessible technology in smart city

Blind Union's representatives attended the public hearing of the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to the Development of Smart City of the Legislative Council and submitted our proposals. Blind Union suggested the government increase funding and set up policies to promote indoor positioning and navigation technology, which enable VIPs to get around easier. In developing technology for building Hong Kong as a smart city, PWDs should be invited to participate in the design of software and hardware at an early stage for them to provide feedback. This can ensure the related technology and products adopt universal design and offer barrier-free access to suit the needs of the disabled.

Attend external meetings

Blind Union's representatives regularly attended meetings and facility inspections organised by the Transport Department, MTR Corporation Ltd, Housing Department, and Network on Services for VIPs under The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, following up on many projects concerning the visually impaired. Examples include the legislation on artificial sound alerting systems for electrical vehicles, the installation of new electronic audible traffic signals and the escalator audible signals in MTR stations. On top of these, Blind Union participated in meetings with government departments or organisations concerned, including Transport Department and The Hong Kong Association of Banks to express our views on various issues.

Remove barriers to build inclusive communities

We continued to follow up on incidents of inequality and barriers relating to visual impairments raised by members and reflected to the departments concerned. We handled a total of 42 cases, including 11 cases of inadequate barrier-free facilities in the community, 9 cases related to public services, 8 cases related to transport services, 3 cases related to accessible information technology, 3 cases related to the quality of services provided by corporates, 2 cases related to disability discrimination and 6 cases on other matters.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

We believe that increasing public awareness and acceptance of VIPs is crucial for our full integration into the community. Therefore, Blind Union has always endeavored to conduct public education programmes so that the public can have a proper understanding of the lives and abilities of VIPs and become aware of their needs with the ultimate goal of creating an inclusive community.

Public education seminars and activities

Formed by our visually impaired members, our Public Education Team was invited by different organisations and individuals, including kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, universities, elderly services units and volunteer organisations, to deliver 115 public education seminars in the year with 3,000 participants. We also collaborated with the Labour and Welfare Bureau to provide training to various government departments to enhance their understanding of VIPs.

The public education academy

With funding support from the Labour and Welfare Bureau this year, the Public Education Academy was launched and a series of different theme-specific seminars, video production and experiential activities were held to enhance the public understanding about VIPs. 3 members were recruited in the videos shooting and the videos were uploaded on Facebook, IG and YouTube.

Click the following links to view the videos

VI Caregiver: <https://youtu.be/lwroA7t9t28?si=3VHBV4DDLWxLvtVa>

Dream Chaser: <https://youtu.be/vQOepWg4AzQ?si=a7Xu1GDY130LYpsY>

Challenger: https://youtu.be/-BPIf9dIK6M?si=WspvYDO1Z_qWII6I

Corporate communication

Blind Union communicates with the public through various channels on topics relating to the visually impaired and promotes self-help and mutual help spirit to fulfil our mission.

To provide our members and the public with the latest updates on Blind Union, we upload relevant information and news regularly to our official Facebook page and Instagram. We have also shared more videos via our YouTube channel for more interaction with our members and the public.

On top of online platforms, Blind Union also makes use of periodical publications to share our updates. Two issues of the newsletter "Better Tomorrow for All" (<https://www.hkbu.org.hk/tc/publication/tomorrow/index>) were published and 76 episodes of "The Voice" (<https://www.hkbu.org.hk/tc/publication/voice/index>) were produced.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

More than 70% of the funding for our service development comes from donations and funding foundation each year and less than 30% is from the recurrent government subvention. 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 2022

The Flag Day of Hong Kong Blind Union was held on 28 January 2023 on the Hong Kong Island. Donation online platform was also launched to booster the Gold Flage selling HK\$550,000 in total was raised with more than 300 volunteers joining, among which 110 were our visually impaired members.

International White Cane Day 2022

In celebration of the International White Cane Day, Hong Kong Blind Union promoted equal opportunities for VIPs to participate in the community and showcased their independent mobility with white canes. This year, 10 members serving as White Cane Day Ambassadors walked 10.15 kilometres with 100 participants from several enterprises, Blind Union's members, members of the public and colleagues. With the support of 12 sponsoring organisations, we raised about HK\$130,000 .

Pop Idols' Fans-initiated Philanthropic Events

Not only showing support for their idols, but fans also organised charity activities. In August 2022, we worked in partnership with the fan club of pop singer Keung To selling about 3,000 burlap bags with HK\$320,000 raised. The fan club of singer-songwriter Ian Chan also arranged a birthday charity sale at Yau Café, where customers bought braille cards and other limited-edition handiwork under a free-pricing model that raised about HK\$20,000.

EXCHANGE IN MAINLAND CHINA AND OVERSEAS

Attending conferences and exchanges overseas

Though the pandemic started to ease from mid-2022, border control measures were still imposed in different countries. Last year, we were invited to attend an online seminar on inclusive education jointly organised by the Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong and other law faculties sharing local experience.

SERVICES CENTRE

The services of Services Centre (SC) is closely related to the lives of visually impaired persons (VIPs), including recreational, sports and cultural activities, life adaptation, life adjustment programmes for the newly blind and caregiver support services. SC aims to help them live independently, enable them to integrate into the community and relieve the caring distress of the families.

Social and recreational activities

After the pandemic slowed down, SC gradually resumed social and recreational activities. At the same time, it also held activities online to broaden the social circle of members. The SC organised 115 social and recreational activities throughout the year. They included exhibition visits, recreational and sports programmes, music and show appreciation, dinner gatherings, handicraft workshops, member gatherings, mass programmes, health talks and community networking programmes, etc. The total attendance of VIPs and sighted persons were 4,463 and 1,491 respectively.

SC continued to carry out online activities. Members gradually mastered the techniques of online activities participation via mobile apps or landline. This year, more diversified online activities, including festival celebrations, mass programmes, and health talks, were held. A total of 42 online activities were organised, attracting 2,541 visually impaired and 231 sighted persons. The above new activities successfully attracted some members who rarely joined us in the past.

Continuing learning courses

A variety of continuing learning courses were held, including Cantonese Opera classes, Spiritual Healing Classes (Aromatherapy class, singing bowl class, pottery class, coffee class), Meridian Dredging Classes, Yoga classes, Hiking team, and Chinese dance, Hydro fitness and stretching course jointly organised with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. There were 80 sessions, and the total attendance of VIPs and sighted persons was 542 and 312 respectively.

Group activities and volunteer training

Interest groups included Chinese music, Karaoke, card game and a pop band "The Jumpers" were regular held in SC. The groups had a total of 34 gatherings throughout the year with a VIP attendance of 327. No community services or performances were organised due to the pandemic. On training for volunteers, SC conducted 12 training sessions with 165 participants, including students and members of the public.

Locality-based activities

To enhance interaction among members and strengthen their community support network, SC promotes community-based service. We organised activities in five designated districts, namely the New Territories East, the New Territories West, The Kowloon East, the Kowloon West and the Hong Kong Island. During the year, 37 activities were held in the five districts, ranging from dining, shopping, community tours, and so on. There were 744 VIPs and 489 sighted persons attendance respectively. This year, cross-district activities were held to facilitate communication and interaction among the members.

Services for the elderly

SC reached out to the visually impaired elderly, in particular those who are relatively socially withdrawn and seldom join activities. To provide continuous support amid Covid-19, we have been keeping periodic caring contacts and visits to assess the visually impaired elderly psychosocial conditions. Service referrals and mapping were delivered. This year, our elderly services included telecare calls, visits and case follow-ups. 27 calls were made by our support group to ensure the living condition and wellbeing of the visually impaired elderly. Although the services were affected by the pandemic, our support group and social workers still provided 114 home visits throughout the year.

Support service for caregivers

With the new funding from the Social Welfare Department (SWD), we provided caregiver support services since November 2020. Stepping into the third year of operation in 2022/2023, we offered holistic support services for the VIPs and their caregivers in order to promote harmonious family relationships. To relieve the stress of the caregivers, we rendered counselling services and organised different group and social recreational activities. Throughout the year, there were 28 visually impaired or caregivers caseloads. 69 home visits, plus 24 sessions of social recreational activities with 168 persons participating were delivered. Besides, 24 sessions of therapeutic groups with 252 attendance and 36 sessions of mutual help groups for the VIPs and caregivers with 353 attendances were organised.

Individual funding programmes

Community Support Service for VIPs and their Families

The programme funded by the SWD again for three years starting from 1 January 2021. Apart from counselling services for the newly blind and their carers, personalised living skills training and district support services were provided for them. In the Living Environment Adaptation Services with the goal to enable the newly blind to reintegrate into community, counselling, personal or small group training, escort services for medical appointments and personal matters as well as community education were included.

The programme followed up 30 newly blind and caregivers between January and December 2022 assisting them to cope with life challenges. During the period, a total of 410 caring calls and 167 home visits were arranged. A total of 452 VIPs received the escort services.

The Living Environment Adaptation Programme mainly assists VIPs, who face challenges caused by neighbourhood redevelopment, relocation and changes in job, to adapt to new travelling routes or community orientation. 27 VIPs were intensively followed up in the year by providing basic mobile phone or computer skills courses, white cane training and orientation and mobility training to support their activities of daily living.

Counselling and support service

With the support from The Community Chest of Hong Kong, a total of 20 cases were handled during the year. Workers catered to the needs of individual members by means of emotional support and resource referrals.

Training Classes of Chinese Opera

With funding from the Arts Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities of SWD, the "Training Classes of Chinese Opera" was launched in April 2022 for a period of 18 months. However, the implementation period of this project has been postponed to July 2022 due to the pandemic.

Small training classes for five Chinese musical instruments, including erhu, yangqin, pipa, dizi and gongs and drums were implemented. The professional instructors guided the VIPs to master the skills of playing five Chinese musical instruments and enhance their interest in Chinese musical accompaniment and playing techniques, eventually reaching the performance level. Public performances were arranged to showcase their talents. A total of 22 VIPs participated in this project.

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 visually impaired people (VIPs), helping them cope with problems in study and work, and enhancing their personal growth and development. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the VERC, we organised various events and activities themed around its development and achievements.

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 345 sessions of services were provided, with more than 2,082 participants. The services provided are as follows:

Counselling and support services

This year, VERC provided 428 counseling sessions for 30 VIPs. Our staff had an in-depth understanding of the 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

Three-phased district-based homework tutoring services for visually impaired students were launched. We arranged volunteer tutors to provide one-on-one homework tutoring for them based on their learning needs. This year, 9 tutors served 10 visually impaired students with 156 attendance and 250 hours of services.

Personal growth experiential activities

48 personal growth activities with a total of 56 sessions were held to serve 538 VIPs and their parents attendance in this year. Activities ranged from music, sports, arts, culture, craftsmanship to community services and so on. We aimed to widen the horizon and experience for the visually impaired students.

Celebration of the VERC's 50th anniversary

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the VERC, we organised an array of activities themed around its development. VERC Open Day - Memory Store was held on the 3rd and 4th of December. Members shared their memorable experiences and looked ahead to the future. Before the event, members were invited to write letters to the VERC and 47 members wrote letters to share the development of the VERC, the services they joined and their feelings towards the VERC. Highlights of the open day included milestone gallery, photos exhibition, coffee tasting, balloon twisting and various games. These activities demonstrated the capabilities of the VIPs, and 560 visitors joined. Community partners were also engaged.

Talks on “Inclusive Campus” / online radio programme “Integrators’ Zone”

The mission of VERC is to promote equality and inclusion in schools. During the year, we visited 21 secondary schools and held 47 talks on “Inclusive Campus” for 1,358 teachers, students and staff.

In addition, we produced 12 online radio programmes “Integrators’ Zone”, which enabled the public to know more about inclusive education for students with visual impairment. Approximately 4,044 people listened to the programmes while about 3,236 people accessed the programmes through the hotline system. The programme facilitates the public to understand the inclusive education of visually impaired students.

Support for parents

This year, we continued to promote parents and parent-child work with the support of The Community Chest of Hong Kong. 13 groups, workshops and a series of summer programmes were organised for visually impaired students and parents. In addition, 40 families were closely connected by disseminating useful information and building support network through messaging apps or face-to-face activities.

Other education-related activities

Group work

10 groups, including reading club, VIPs civil society concern group, DSE special examination arrangement concern group, autumn-winter blind photography with mobile phone group, acupressure for parents, meteorology group, reading club on practical ethics and the tactile Chinese characters workshop for adults with a total of 40 sessions and 193 attendances were held. 69 participants joined and the average attendance rate was 92%.

Continuing education

To promote lifelong learning, we continued to conduct a variety of adult education courses, including The Application of Smartphone for Work and Assistive Tools for Study (advanced class for Apple mobile phones on iOS), Use of Smartphone and Mobile Apps for the Visually Impaired, Basic Application of Computer for the Visually Impaired and Acupressure and Massage Therapy for Beginners.

International Exchange

Due to the pandemic, we arranged various online exchange activities. For example, we invited families with visually impaired children to share their experiences of living and studying abroad.

Scholarships

5 and 3 visually impaired young people were awarded the Lee Bing Vocal Music Development Fund with a total grant of \$60,000 and the Li Chu Shuk-kwan Education Fund with a total grant of \$13,000 respectively. Marking the 10th anniversary in 2022/23, Lee Bing Vocal Music Development Fund organised a charity concert cum award ceremony in late 2023.

Vocational development Services Supported Employment Services

The VERC continued to offer Supported Employment Services funded by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), serving over 40 users a month and a total of 65 service users throughout the year. Among them, 13 service users secured employment (i.e. being employed continuously for six months with a monthly salary of more than HK\$1,500) and 2 members participated in job attachment programmes. Other than the above, we assisted 3 members in the application for the Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities run by the SWD and the Central Fund for Personal Computers for procuring assistive tools and computers.

The second phase of Hong Kong Jockey Club “Empathy, Empowerment & Employment” project

Blind Union launched the Hong Kong Jockey Club “Empathy, Empowerment & Employment” project with funding granted by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, offering internship programmes twice a year to enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities. A total of 8 members participated in the second phase of the project and took up internships at different social enterprises. Positions included gardening packers, smart glasses testers, shop assistants, baristas and social enterprise assistants. A total of 3 members were hired upon completion of the programmes.

Blind Union Care Ambassadors

With funding from the Shih Wing Ching Foundation, we employed 4 members as Blind Union Care Ambassadors from March to June 2022 during the pandemic. The ambassadors interviewed our members to explore the impacts and needs brought by the pandemic, employment status and views on supported employment services. Telecare calls were also delivered.

450 members were interviewed. Nearly 50% of them who were working part-time or self-employed mentioned that their income was negatively affected during pandemic and approximately 70% faced lay-offs and pay cuts; or were forced to suspend work or cease operations (for businesses such as massage parlours and hotels) due to Covid-19 social distancing rules. The expenses of rental and anti-pandemic materials imposed additional financial burden on them. Nearly 20% looked for a change in the work environment or career. They expressed their interests in clerical work, barista, social welfare or service industries. About 20% of our members intended to discuss their career plans with our colleagues; and 30% suggested Blind Union conduct vocational training courses including food and beverage, customer service and clerical work.

Based on the survey results, various supported employment services were implemented to respond to our members’ needs. Baking, coffee tasting and acupuncture courses were arranged to enable the VIPs to equip themselves with different basic job skills. Internship opportunities would also be offered to outstanding trainees to optimise their employability.

One-on-one mentorship programme

With the fund raised by the charity event organised by fans of pop singer Keung To, the VERC launched a one-year mentorship programme in April 2022, pairing 6 mentors with 6 VIPs to offer one-on-one career guidance. The mentors shared their life experiences with

the mentees and helped them understand their strengths and areas for improvement to set personal goals in line with their career plans. Blind Union secured internship opportunities for three mentees at a gardening company and a rehab shop respectively. The internships offered hands-on experience in the actual work environment and fostered positive work attitudes. Upon completion, job offers were extended to 2 mentees.

Briefing session on emerging industries amid pandemic in 2022

Blind Union held an employment briefing themed around 4 emerging industries in April 2022, including online shop owner, KOL, YouTuber and slasher. The briefing session introduced the job natures, the required qualifications, job requirements and income range. The 12 participants learnt the entry paths directly.

Baking course for the visually impaired

To help our members explore new jobs and industries, nurture relevant work interests and skills and enhance self-confidence, Blind Union and the New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association jointly organised baking and dessert making courses. A total of 6 members completed the training courses, of which 2 outstanding members were invited to join the internships at the café.

Coffee tasting course for the visually impaired

Last year, positive responses to the barista courses for VIPs were received. Funded by the Labour and Welfare Bureau, we organised coffee tasting courses from December 2022 to January 2023 again. 9 participants were equipped with coffee knowledge, coffee machine operations and latte art skills during the course. They were prepared to pursue a career in the coffee or food and beverage industry.

Inclusive coffee workshop 2023

We were invited by Inclusive Coffee Academy of New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association to arrange a coffee workshop at its café so330. A total of 27 members participated in 3 tailor-made coffee brewing workshops. Beginners learnt more about the barista profession, and the experienced participants could refresh their skills and knowledge, getting them ready to further develop their career.

Hand treatment and massage workshop at Yau CAFE

To expand the massage business of Yau CAFE, Blind Union collaborated with an American hand treatment brand HEIDI's to hold a hand treatment and massage workshop in August 2022. A total of 9 participants were equipped with new skills, knowledge of different products and hand massage techniques.

Advocacy and research

Advocacy on education policies

Support for DSE students

After collecting opinions from candidates of the last Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination from June to July 2022, we expressed our opinions on the adjustment, use of assisting equipment and the examination room environment to the Ebenezer School. The School forwarded the opinions to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority for follow-up.

Advocacy on employment policies

Concerns on the arrangements of the redevelopment of Factory for the Blind, founded by The Hong Kong Society for the Blind

Blind Union expressed concern over the transition arrangements for the relocation of Factory for the Blind and the retirement age of its workers. The factory was moved to the transitional site in Ping Shek Estate at the end of 2022. The overall operations and meal arrangement became smooth.

Research on the current employment situation

In May 2022, the Department of Social Work and Social Administration of the University of Hong Kong rolled out a research with Blind Union on the employment of the visually impaired in Hong Kong. The objectives focused on the impact of meaningful work and self-labelling on VIPs. Ways of fostering a meaningful work environment that help reduce self-labelling would also be explored.

Education of VIPs in China

Support for visually impaired students in China

As of 31 March, 2023, financial assistance with amount of RMB70,240 under the Education Fund was granted to 19 visually impaired students in Meizhou Special Education School and Zhenjiang Special Education School of China.

ACCESSIBLE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

The Accessible Digital Technology Centre aims to improve the daily lives of visually impaired persons (VIPs) using 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 individuals.

Smart Living with Smartphone project

Sponsored by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC), we launched the “Smartphone Subsidy Scheme for the Visually Impaired”, subsidising 101 members to purchase smartphones and conducting 120 training sessions on the use of smartphone. In addition, the HSBC staff assisted the instructors in teaching a total of 412 members in the training sessions.

Promoting accessible information technology

Blind Union is committed to promoting and supporting accessible information technology application. We participated in the Hong Kong Social Service Expo 2023 to promote our services among different sectors. We also assisted the Development Bureau with the promotion of “Walking Assistant”, offering indoor and outdoor positioning and seamless navigation. We also advocated social inclusiveness by sharing our experience on the use of spatial data. HSBC also invited us to share how accessible digital technology creates better lives for VIPs in the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Organising IT interest groups

Online and offline activities, including iOS Smartphone Group and IT sharing sessions, would be conducted periodically to foster mutual help among members. 33 sessions of activities with total 234 attendance were held in this year.

IT training and support

The Centre provided members with a Helpdesk service for handling enquiries on computer software and hardware and assistive tools, receiving 1,861 phone-in enquiries and 220 face-to-face enquiries over the year. We archived more than 13 audio files related to information technology and uploaded them to Blind Union’s website for members to access information easily. Members may go to our website and listen to the related content anytime.

Furthermore, Blind Union published 11 issues of the Accessible Digital Technology Newsletter, including 6 issues of E-Learning for All Newsletter, with a total of 444 subscribers.

Development of an internal IT management system

With grants from the Social Welfare Development Fund by the SWD, our new hotline system for members was officially launched in December 2022. Also subsidised by the SWD under the Wi-Fi pilot scheme, SC and VERC have improved the coverage and quality of wireless network services, allowing us to make better use of digital devices and online resources. To enhance the IT capability and security awareness of our employees, we set out guidelines for cloud data management and organised relevant training.

Accessibility Services Office

The scope of work of the Accessibility Services Office (ASO) includes implementing social enterprise and projects related to e-learning, sports and music development; improving community accessibilities as well as providing various kinds of supportive services for people in need.

Jockey Club E-Learning for All Project (ELFA)

Funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the project continued to provide supportive service to students with print disabilities from primary to tertiary level. The service coverage has been extended to non-students from 2019. As at March 2023, a total of 388 students, 370 adults (non-students) and 157 schools (6,775 students with print disabilities) enrolled as service users. This year, 1,861 sets of electronic training materials, textbooks and examination papers (44,186 pages) were transcribed, and 279 sets of tactile materials were produced for students in need. The training workshops had 308 attendances and 1,148 complimentary copies of software and mobile apps developed by Blind Union were distributed.

As part of the project, an online platform was set up to provide a variety of services such as free online optical character recognition (OCR) service, accessible e-book library, tactile material library and regular bi-monthly e-learning newsletter among others. To promote e-learning and reading, a batch of books were collected and converted into electronic versions for users to borrow, in addition to conversion of text to braille of books for personal use.

This year, we have added a Self-Learning Platform on our website, compiling various learning materials for reprinting or creating accessible versions. The categories include health, diet, education, employment, and first aid knowledge, with over 200 materials available. This platform allows people with reading disabilities to easily access different information or educational materials. For details, please visit:
<https://elfa.hkbu.org.hk/learning.php>

Finally, we have also invited service users, staff, and volunteers to shoot 10 videos, sharing their user experiences, success stories, and the process of creating accessible books or materials. These videos have been uploaded to our project website and YouTube channel.

Jockey Club Sports Programmes with Audio-description Service (SPA)

Upon completion of the programme with a three-year duration, SPA was extended till 2025 with funding from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. Pairing sighted volunteers with the visually impaired, the sports buddy programme was introduced to encourage members to participate in sports and to cultivate a healthy lifestyle.

Face-to-face activities

Various international and other sporting events resumed after pandemic. During the year, we provided on-site audio-description service for 25 sports events, with an attendance of 266 for the visually impaired and a total attendance of 455 including volunteers and sighted persons. We provide audio-description services not only for football and basketball games, but also for rugby sevens, tennis and baseball as well. 8 sport experiential activities, including indoor rock climbing, yoga, pickleball and floor curling, were held during the year with a total of 87 VIPs participating.

Live broadcast

The internet radio station and YouTube channel operated under the SPA serve the visually impaired and the public alike, offering access to live sports with audio-description and producing sports related programmes. We collaborated with Now TV again this year to provide audio-description services for the Qatar World Cup. The total number of viewers and subscribers of the internet radio station and YouTube channel saw substantial growth. As of 31st March 2023, we live broadcasted or re-broadcasted 62 sporting events and produced 74 sports-related programmes, with a total of 358,881 viewers and 2,573 subscribers.

Promoting audio descriptions

The second round of audio-description training course was held during the year, providing a total of more than 40 hours of training. 25 trainees completed the course and started to offer audio-description services. In order to increase the public awareness of audio-description services, an “Inclusive Sports Experience Day” was organised in early December 2022 with 350 members of the public joining. We also released the “Sports Audio Description Service Guidelines” on the same day. Going forward, we will formulate the protocol to elevate our services to a professional standard.

In addition, the SPA continued to provide audio-description services for some live sporting events to the television division of RTHK. The service was provided by commentators trained under the programme, broadcasting through its second audio channel for sports fans to enjoy the game.

Seeing Joy in Music – The one-stop support service for music development for the visually impaired

The programme was supported by the Arts Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities of the SWD, arranging professional music training, performances and music exchange events for the visually impaired, as well as promoting the application of Braille music score.

Music training

Supplemented by a series of themed small group classes; the third round of one-to-one classroom training has commenced. Each of the 12 students was paired with a professional vocal or piano teacher, receiving a total of 162 training hours in 20 themed classes including masterclasses, foreign language pronunciation classes and body movement classes.

Performance opportunities

During the year, a total of two online and offline community concerts were organised under the Seeing Joy in Music programme for students to gain valuable performance opportunities. The number of views for the online concerts was over 1,600 and the offline Christmas concert with on-site audio description services welcomed 155 audiences. In addition to the vocal and piano performances by the participants of the programme, the DictionLab Ensemble choir was invited as guests.

Braille music scores promotion and production

During the year, we transcribed 232 braille scores covering a range of instruments from piano, vocal, violin to erhu, alongside examination repertoire of the Royal Academy of Music and textbooks for university courses.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SERVICES

Our social enterprises strive to promote barrier-free community facilities, acquire suitable daily necessities, as well as create employment opportunities for VIPs. Aligning with the government's bid to develop barrier-free facilities and services, we lead in building an inclusive society.

Digital accessibility consultation service

We advocate for better digital accessibility and offer professional services for accessibility assessment on web pages, mobile applications and electronic documents, creating more employment opportunities for the visually impaired. As public and private organisations emphasise more accessible design, we have tested over 200 web pages, mobile applications and electronic documents during the year and provided related consultation services.

Digital maps and positioning consultation services

This year, the Jockey Club Smart City Walk project was operated as a social enterprise to produce accurate and user-friendly indoor digital maps for shopping malls and government departments among other indoor venues. These digital maps could be used with Wi-Fi fingerprint positioning technology, using audio and text instructions to provide indoor navigation services and search results for shops or facilities. The system can also suggest barrier-free routes according to the needs of different venues as an additional function.

Currently, we continue to provide indoor positioning or navigation services for about 150 indoor venues, including Leisure and Cultural Services Department venues, large shopping malls, tertiary institutions and transport facilities, through the Smart City Walk app developed by Blind Union. We aim to facilitate the visually impaired and other people in need to go out independently and reach their destinations easily.

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, corporates, non-government organisations and tertiary institutions. Our business not only provides job opportunities for VIPs but also makes information accessible among the visually impaired, the public and related organisations.

Yau CAFE

With the funding of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) under the “Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise” project, Yau CAFE now provides professional hand care aromatherapy for ladies, on top of the existing head, shoulder and neck massage services. Yau CAFE continued to collaborate with various organisations, enterprises, schools and fan clubs and to take part in media interviews to raise public awareness.

Two employees of Yau CAFE were awarded the Best Progress Award and Team Spirit Award respectively at the Hong Kong Social Enterprises Employee Recognition Scheme celebrating inclusive employment.

Providing job opportunities for the visually impaired

To push forward the employment of the visually impaired, our social enterprises arranged various job accommodations and employed VIPs. Professional services were delivered with their full potential realised.

YAU CAFE currently employs 3 visually impaired baristas and 14 visually impaired masseurs providing both on-site and outreach head, shoulder and neck massages to customers.

This year, GATE employed 20 VIPs in delivering digital accessibility consultation service, braille transcription as well as public education among others.

Brand building for the business

GATE Facebook page and Instagram account went live in May 2022. We collaborated with different stakeholders to organize various activities to promote businesses.

SERVICE STATISTICS

Number of Members and Service Users

MEMBERS

Full Members (1,818 Members)

Gender

Male 52.3%

Female 47.7%

Age

17 years old or below 1.6%

18-59 years old 43.2%

60 years old or above 55.2%

Associate Members (395 Members)

Gender

Male 37.9%

Female 62.1%

Age

17 years old or below 0%

18-59 years old 36.5%

60 years old or above 63.5%

CASES

Rights Advocacy 42 cases

Counselling cases funded by Community Chest of Hong Kong 68 cases

Carers support service 28 families

Newly blind cases 30 cases

Life environment adaptation 27 cases

SERVICE CENTRE

Social & recreational activities

Activity Category / No. of Sessions / No. of Attendance (VI / S)

Exhibition visit 15 sessions 256 / 170

Recreation & sport programme 18 sessions 150 / 79

Music / show appreciation 9 sessions 175 / 124

Member gathering 14 sessions 220 / 102

Mass programme 13 sessions 2,973 / 482

Community networking programme 20 sessions 202 / 387

Online programme 37 sessions 572 / 10

Others including Health Talk 14 sessions 487 / 147

Total 140 sessions 4,463 / 1,501

Carers Support Service

Service Category No. of Service

Case counselling 28 families

Home visit 69 families

Therapeutic group 24 sessions (168 attendance)

Social and recreational activity 24 sessions (252 attendance)

Mutual help group 36 sessions (353 attendance)

Community Support Service for VIPs and Their Families

Service Category No. of Service

Case counselling 30 newly blind cases

Caring call 410 attendance

Home visit 167 attendance

Escort service 452 attendance

Life environment adaptation programme 27 cases

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Profile of supported employment services users
(Total number of services users : 65)

Gender

No. of people

Male 36

Female 29

Education level No. of people

Primary 1

Secondary 30

Tertiary or above 34

Age No. of people

15 -35 years old 30

36 - 50 years old 20

50 years old or above 15

ACCESSIBLE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

IT groups

Event & groups Category No. of Session No. of Attendance (VI)

Apple Products Application Group 11 sessions 104

IT Knowledge Exchange Group 12 sessions 130

Smart Living with Smartphone project 120 sessions 412

Total 143 sessions 646

IT training and support

Service Total

Hotline Service 1,861

Face-to-face consultation 220

Total 2,081

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES OFFICE

Jockey Club E-LEARNING FOR ALL PROJECT (ELFA)

Profile of services users

388 students, 157schools (6,775 print disabled students) and 370 adult users.

Type of disability No. of Student

Visually impaired 118

Physical disability 72

Dyslexia 240

Multiple disabilities 42

Total 388

Adult user No. of user

Visually impaired 342

Type of School / Institute No.

Primary school 25

Secondary school 82

Tertiary institute 24

Special school 15

NGO 11

Total 157

JOCKEY CLUB SPORTS PROGRAMMES WITH AUDIO-DESCRIPTION SERVICES

No. of Participants

Audio describer training 25

Inclusive Sports Day 350

Subscribers of project online platform & YouTube channels 2,573

SEEING JOY IN MUSIC

No. of Participants

VIPs receiving professional training in music 12 (8 vocal / 4 piano)

Volunteers assisting in braille music scores production 25

Number of VIPs employed by the social enterprises under Blind Union

No. of people

GATE VIPs SE staff and assistants 20

YAU CAFE VI shop assistant 1

YAU CAFE VI baristas 3

YAU CAFE VI masseurs 14

APPENDIX

ORGANISATION CHART

Hong Kong Blind Union

AGM / EGM

Executive committee

Executive Director

Sub committees under Executive committee

Personnel Committee

Finance and Fundraising Strategy Committee

SC Consultative Committee

VERC Consultative Committee

Employment Committee

Information Technology Advisory Committee

Equal Opportunities in Social Participation Committee

Communication Committee

Social Enterprise Development Steering Committee

Music Service Advisory Committee

Jockey Club Sports Programmes with Audio-description Service Advisory Committee

Education Fund for People with Visual Impairment in China Committee

Li Chu Shuk-kwan Education Fund & Lee Bing Vocal Music Development Fund Committee

Executive Director and service units

Head Office

Services Centre

Jockey Club Vocational and Educational Resources Centre

Accessible Digital Technology Centre

Accessibility Services Office

Social Enterprise

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:

2021-2023 Executive Committee Member

President

Mr Wong Chun-hang, Billy

Vice President

Mr Chan Chi-kong, Alex

Financial Secretary

Mr Ho Yui-chi, Merrick

General Secretary

Mr Ng Ping-tung, Michael

Executive Committee Member

Mr Chong Chan-yau

Mr Fan Chun-hung, Carter

Ms Tang Yuen-mei, May

Mr Tse Yun-hang, Tigris

Mr Yam Pok-fai (From 14 August 2022)

Mr Yim Chun-on, Peter

Mr Yuen Kin-ming

LIST OF SUB-COMMITTEE (至 2023 年 3 月 31 日在任者 As at 31 March 2023)

Personnel Committee

Mr Wong Chun-hang, Billy (Chairperson)

Mr Chan Chi-kong, Alex

Mr Chong Chan-yau

Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)

Financial and Fund Raising Strategy Committee

Mr Ho Yui-chi, Merrick (Chairperson)

Mr Wong Chun-hang, Billy

Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)

Ms Choi Tsui-ping, Bessie (Finance Manager)

Services Centre Consultative Committee

Mr Yuen Kin-ming (Chairperson)

Mr TANG Yuen-mei, May (Vice Chairperson)

Mr Cheung Fat-yeung

Ms Fung Po-wah

Mr Leung Sau-hing, Peter

Ms Lui Yeuk-ping

Mr Li Ting-hong (Centre Manager)

Jockey Club Vocational & Educational Resources Centre Consultative Committee

Mr Tse Yun-hang, Tigris (Chairperson)

Mr Yim Chun-on, Peter (Vice Chairperson)

Ms Choi Lok-sze

Mr Chung Chi-ming

Mr Ho Ho-yuen

Mr Kong Chi-kwan, Ken

Mr Lam Wing Fai

Ms Lui Yeuk-ping

Ms Kwong Man-yi, Mandy (Centre Manager)

Information Technology Advisory Committee

Mr Fan Chun-hung, Carter (Chairperson)

Mr Lau Chung-wai (Vice Chairperson)

Mr Chong Chan-yau

Mr Kong Chi-kwan, Ken

Mr Wong Sung-keung, Leo

Mr Yuen Kin-ming

Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)

Mr Wong Sze-fung, Terry [General Manager (Social Enterprise)]

Equal Opportunities in Social Participation Committee

Mr Chan Chi-kong, Alex (Chairperson)

Mr Sze Yan-kit, Jacky (Vice Chairperson)

Mr Chung Chi-ming

Mr Ho Yui-chi, Merrick

Mr Lau Man-fai, Michael

Mr Tam Sai-kit, Perry

Mr Wong Chun-hang, Billy

Ms Wong Tsz-yan

Mr Yam Pok-fai

Mr Yim Chun-on, Peter

Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)

Ms Chan Siu-ping, Ivy (Senior Communications Officer)

Communication Committee

Mr Ng Ping-tung, Michael (Chairperson)

Ms Leung Wai-chi, Maggie (Vice Chairperson)

Mr Chan Chi-kong, Alex

Ms Choi Lok-sze

Mr Chou Chun-cheong, Daniel

Mr Ho Ho-yuen

Mr Ho Yui-chi, Merrick

Mr Lee Chi-wai

Mr Liu Kwai-yuen, Raymond

Ms Chan Siu-ping, Ivy (Senior Communications Officer)

Employment Committee

Mr Chong Chan-yau (Chairperson)

Mr Tse Yun-hang, Tigris

Ms Chan Yuen-mui, Monica

Ms Chiu Chi-wun

Prof Wong King-shui, Phyllis

Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)

Ms Kwong Man-yi, Mandy (Centre Manager)

Social Enterprise Development Steering Committee

Mr Wong Chun-hang, Billy (Chairperson)

Mr Chan Chi-kong, Alex

Mr Chow Kin-chun, Kevin

Mr Ho Yui-chi, Merrick

Mr Leung Tsau-tin, Fred

Mr Ling Ho-wan, Howard

Ms Wong Ming-wai, Jennifer

Mr Yim Chun-on, Peter

Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)

Ms Yeung Ching (Project Officer)

Jockey Club Sports Programmes with Audio-description Service Advisory Committee

Mr Ng Ping-tung, Michael (Chairperson)

Mr Chan Chi-kong, Alex

Mr Yam Pok-fai

Mr Li Tak-nang

Mr Keyman Ma

Dr Louie Hung-tak, Lobo

Mr Lau Shing-kwan (Project Manager)

Music Service Consultative Committee

Ms Tang Yuen-mei, May (Chairperson)

Mr Chan Chi-kong, Alex

Mr Leung Tsau-tin, Fred

Mr Lee Hin

Ms Lun Mei-ling

Ms Li Si-lai

Mr Stanley Wong

Mr Tong Ching-hang, Tim (Project Officer)

Mr Lau Shing-kwan (Project Manager)

Education Fund for People with Visual Impairment in China Committee

Mr Tse Yun-hang, Tigris (Chairperson)

Mr Ho Ka-leung, Jason

Ms Ho Man-wai, Amy

Mr Zhu Min, Julian

Ms Ko Pik-kei, Peggy (Executive Director)

Mr Lau Shing-kwan (Project Manager)

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

Mr Tse Yun-hang Tigris (Chairperson)

Mr Ronald Cheung

Mr Joanna Leung

Ms Li Si-lai

Mr Yim Chun-on, Peter

Mr Eric Yip

Dr Alice Yuk

Mr Lau Shing-kwan (Project Manager)

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

HONG KONG BLIND UNION STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (ALL AMOUNTS IN HONG KONG DOLLARS)

INCOME	2023	2022
Donation and fund raising income	2,349,978.75	2,251,985.38
Project income	3,232,546.64	2,103,479.95
Program income	145,110.00	59,217.30
Social enterprise income	5,748,044.42	6,216,205.37
Flag day income	547,971.30	657,549.40
Social Welfare Department subvention	6,656,261.00	6,474,440.00
Social Welfare Department grant for cafe shop project	522,986.00	2,190,616.00
Social Welfare Development Fund grant	4,670.00	41,160.00
Block Grant from Lotteries Fund	970,000.00	98,000.00
Labour and Welfare Bureau subvention	53,350.50	53,564.88
Community Chest Allocations	625,100.00	625,100.00
Community Chest Capital Projects	698,820.00	-
Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust grant	4,322,134.94	11,389,873.39
Other income	427,452.83	439,672.75
	25,431,426.38	32,597,864.42

LESS: EXPENDITURE	2023	2022
Personal emoluments	976,824.19	2,251,985.38
Programme and project expenses	16,388,105.47	21,363,966.74
Social enterprise expenses	6,646,711.47	6,040,883.85
Flag day expenses	49,975.00	55,701.39
Administrative expenses	721,319.40	607,771.04
Rent and rates	414,444.00	365,808.00
Audit fee	19,000.00	18,000.00
Utilities	198,172.09	196,295.78
Depreciation	9,658.00	4,782.00
	25,424,209.62	29,422,718.52

	2023	2022
Income minus Expenditure	7,216.76	3,175,145.92
Net transfer to Project funds not yet utilized/	269,479.30	(39,462.56)
Surplus for the year before appropriations	276,696.06	3,135,683.34

APPROPRIATIONS	-	(3,150.85)
Transfer to Labour and Welfare Bureau Surplus Account	15,000.00	25,433.30
Transfer from Li Chu Shuk-kwan Education Fund	65,020.00	68,954.80
Transfer from Lee Bing Vocal Music Development Fund	(8,512.00)	(9,512.00)
Transfer to Social Welfare Subvention Surpluses Account	-	159,483.14
Transfer from/(to) Lump Sum Grant Reserve/	(13,318.11)	(74,810.16)
Transfer to Provident Fund Reserve	4,660.43	2,106.00
Transfer from/(to) Block Grant Reserve		
Transfer to Social Welfare Department Community-based Support Projects for Persons with Disabilities and their Families Grant	26,418.83	(111,345.64)
Transfer (to)/from Social Welfare Development Fund	(4,670.00)	(17,051.20)
Transfer to Social Enterprise Development Fund	(28,758.00)	(808,316.92)

	2023	2022
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	332,537.21	2,367,473.81

HONG KONG BLIND UNION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

(ALL AMOUNTS IN HONG KONG DOLLARS)

ASSETS	2023	2022
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	29,789.00	15,067.00
Investment in securities/	917,175.79	614,500.12
Subtotal	946,964.79	629,567.12
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	9,705.00	28,978.88
Accounts receivable	1,340,530.52	5,017,315.53
Deposits and prepayments	478,391.92	505,309.59
Fixed deposits	13,904,185.28	10,803,493.06
Cash and bank balances	1,903,318.54	3,808,637.84

LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES	2023	2022
Accounts payable and accrued charges	221,289.52	903,938.23
Project funds not yet utilized	763,960.86	1,033,440.16
Deposits received and receipts in advance	1,240,458.53	2,047,930.28
	2,225,708.91	3,985,308.67

	2023	2022
NET CURRENT ASSETS	15,410,422.35	16,178,426.22
NET ASSETS	16,357,387.14	16,807,993.34

RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES	2023	2022
General Fund	6,952,253.36	6,619,716.15
Other Funds and Reserves		
Development Fund	5,216,498.66	5,663,868.75
Sister Moira Education Fund	145,933.62	147,833.62
Education Fund for People with Visual Impairment in China	195,138.17	415,796.44
Li Chu Shuk-kwan Education Fund	174,273.81	189,273.81
Lee Bing Vocal Music Development Fund	67,857.52	132,877.52
Labour and Welfare Bureau Surplus Account	23,676.81	35,003.20
Social Welfare Subvention Surpluses Account	69,762.00	69,762.00
*Lump Sum Grant Reserve	1,040,658.62	1,028,387.93
**Provident Fund Reserve	640,308.92	626,990.81
Block Grant Reserve	-	4,660.43
Social Welfare Department Community-based Support Projects for Persons with Disabilities and their Families Grant	84,926.81	111,345.64
Social Welfare Development Fund	193,988.81	198,125.01
Social Enterprise Development Fund	1,552,110.03	1,523,352.03
One-off Subsidy for Organising Social Activities for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities	-	50,000.00
	16,357,387.14	16,807,993.34

*lump sum grant reserve will be used for improving our service and organize social and recreational activities.

**provident fund reserve will be used for improving staff benefits relating to MPF.

The above accounts are not specified financial statements in relation to the company. The specified financial statements for the financial year with which those accounts purport to deal will be delivered to the Companies Registrar after the Annual General Meeting. An auditor's report has been prepared on the specified financial statements for the financial year. The auditor's report i) was neither qualified nor modified; ii) did not refer to any matter to which the auditor drew

attention by way of emphasis without qualifying the report; iii) did not contain a statement under section 406(2) or 407(2) or (3).

EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

EXPENSES

Programme and project expenses 64.5%

Social enterprise expenses 26.1%

Personal emoluments 3.9%

Administrative expenses 2.8

Rent and rates 1.6

Utilities 0.8

Flag day expenses 0.2%

Audit fee 0.1%

=100.0%

SOURCE OF INCOME

Income NCOME

Social Welfare Department subvention 22.8

Programme income 22.8%

Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust grant 16.8%

Donation and fund raising income 9.1\$

Community Chest Allocations 5.2

Flag day income 3.1%

Social Welfare Department grant for cafe shop project 2.0%

Other income 1.7

Block Grant from Lotteries Fund 0.4%

Labour and Welfare Bureau subvention 0.2%

=100.0%

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Government Departments & Statutory Bodies

Development Bureau, Fire Services Department, Health Bureau, Elderly Health Service, Health Department, Centre for Health Protection, Health Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Labour and Welfare Bureau, Labour Department (Selective Placement Division), Lands Department, Office of Government Chief Information Officer, Radio Television Hong Kong, Social Welfare Department.

Funds

The Community Chest of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, Shih Wing Ching Foundation.

Schools

Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired, Maryknoll Convent School Secondary Section, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong, Wu Yee Sun College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Non-profit Organisations

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Remarks: Operation until 7th March 2024