



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT US

In the spirit of giving back to society, the EtonHouse International Education Group started EtonHouse Community Fund Limited (ECF) as a separate entity when it celebrated its 20th anniversary. It was launched at a charity dinner on 22 October 2015. ECF is a registered charity committed to helping children from underprivileged backgrounds.

Founder Mrs. Ng Gim Choo said,



I have always believed that education and charity are two sides of the same coin. How can you build character without teaching generosity to help the less fortunate? I also believe that the gift of education is the best possible charity we can give because we are investing in a child's future. So we launch ECF to help children from underprivileged backgrounds to advance their educational goals. Through the power of education, we hope to improve the lives of these children and their families.



Our vision: Empower every child to inspire the next.

Our mission: Improve lives of vulnerable children by enhancing emotional wellness, cognitive development and fitness.

ECF is recognised as an Institution of a Public Character by the Commissioner of Charities in Singapore.

To find out more, visit our website www.ehcommunityfund.org.sg

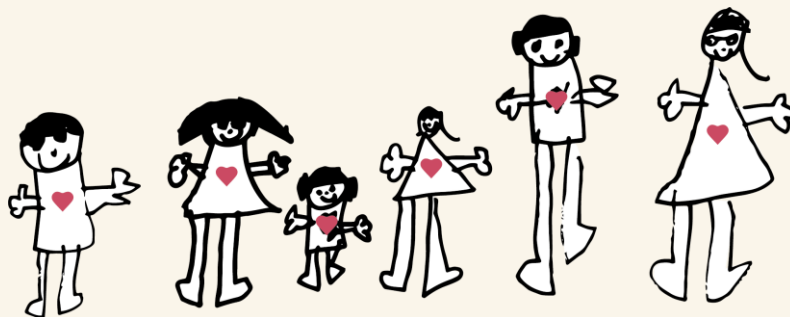


ABOUT US

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the Charity are as follows:

- a) To advance the cause of education, whether general, professional or technical by providing scholarships, grants, aids and financial assistance to all and in particular the poor, needy and underprivileged.
- b) To improve the accessibility of affordable, high quality early childhood education and to contribute to enhancing the standards of pre-school curriculum, pedagogy and the teaching profession.
- c) To advance causes contributing to the learning and holistic development of children and youths, recognizing and enhancing their abilities, promoting respect and empowerment, providing multi-lingual and multi-cultural exposures for the young and preparing them for the challenges of global citizenship.
- d) To promote and foster community spirit, participation and development.
- e) To aid, assist and give relief in any manner and to any extent to any charitable institution whose object or objects are similar to or comparable with the objects of the Community Fund.





OVERVIEW OF CHARITY

The EtonHouse Community Fund "ECF" was set up as a company limited by guarantee in 06 May 2013.

ECF was registered as a Charity under the Charities Act (Chapter 37) since 24 April 2015.

Unique Entity Number (UEN): 201312095N

Registered Address: 178 Clemenceau Avenue #06-00
Haw Par Glass Tower Singapore 239926

Banker: Bank of East Asia &
Development Bank of Singapore (DBS)

Auditor: Crowe Horwath First Trust LLP





CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



What an extraordinary year. The EtonHouse Community Fund (ECF) closed 2019 on a high note. We reached out to more than 3,000 children through our ten programmes and initiatives like our Mindfulness Movement Programme, Literacy Project, and a deeper partnership with ECDA's KidSTART, just to name a few. I would like to extend my appreciation to my fellow Board Members for their invaluable contributions. In 2019, we are pleased to welcome four new board members Mr. Ng Zee Howe Alex, Ms. Jagdeesh Kaur Sekhon, Mr. Navin Amarasuriya, and Mr. Ng Chong Khim. While they have diverse experiences and expertise, they all share ECF's passion – to create a

better life for children from all backgrounds. We have greatly benefitted from their injection of energy, ideas, and perspectives.

We ended the year receiving the Community Cares Award at the Volunteer & Partner Awards 2019 held by Singapore's Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). Hosted by Minister Desmond Lee, the award recognised partners and volunteers behind countless inspiring stories of hope and restoration. We are honoured to be a recipient of this award and want to share it with our volunteers and donors who have generously contributed their time and expertise to serve the community with us.

As we stepped into the beginning of a new decade which marks our fifth year, we were faced with the Covid-19 pandemic. The crisis has disrupted lives at lightning speed and highlighted the disparities that have made this pandemic so much worse for some communities than for others. It has also been an extremely busy and fulfilling time for us at ECF. We sent laptops and internet devices to enable children from low-income families to access home-based learning. Our children's publications 'A New Virus Has Arrived', 'The Language of Kindness', and 'Contact Tracing Super Sleuths', learning kits as well as 'Germ Buster' board games were distributed to our beneficiaries, hospitals, clinics, libraries, bookstores and many more places. Other initiatives included a school fees financial assistance scheme to help families whose incomes have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of you have come forward to offer help and assistance. Your compassion and kindness amidst this crisis is a heartwarming reminder that our community is full of hope and support.

As we mark our fifth year amid the Covid-19 pandemic, we embark on a journey of deep reflection. While we look back on the work that has been done and dive deep into how we might better serve the community, we will remain dedicated and true to our purpose. Children are at the heart of what we do, and we will stay guided by our commitment to improve the lives of vulnerable children who need our help. We will strengthen our efforts to support our beneficiaries in meaningful ways and continue laying a strong foundation for our organisation to thrive in the years ahead; so that we are well-positioned to do more for our community.

Lastly, my heartfelt appreciation goes out to our staff, partner organisations, government agencies, volunteers, and donors. Thank you for being a part of our journey. Thank you for empowering us to carry out our mission of helping children and youth. I look forward to another year of partnership, collaboration, and friendship. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.

Mr. Tan Cher Liang
Chairman
EtonHouse Community Fund



OUR LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

ECF is governed by a Board of Directors, which is a governing body responsible for overseeing and managing the charity.

Governing Board Members:

Name	Designation	Date of Appointment
Oh Choo Ai @ Oh Gim Choo Mrs Ng Gim Choo	Director	06 May 2013
Oh Chin Hai	Director	06 May 2013
Lee Teck Leng Robson	Director	01 October 2014
Tan Cher Liang	Director	01 October 2014
Ng Zee Howe, Alex	Director	16 January 2019
Ng Chong Khim	Director	16 January 2019
Jagdeesh Kaur Sekhon	Director	31 May 2019
Navin Amarasuriya	Director	31 May 2019

Staffing

Between 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, 2 full-time staff were employed by the Charity.



OUR LEADERSHIP

TAN CHER LIANG

Chairman

Mr. Tan Cher Liang was appointed as Director of ECF on 30 April 2015. He also serves on the Boards of various public and private companies, and charitable organisations. He was conferred the Public Service Medal (PBM) in 1996.

NG ZEE HOWE, ALEX

Director

Mr. Ng Zee Howe, Alex manages the HouDe foundation, which is committed to supporting needy children in Southeast Asia by collaborating on various donor led social projects. He has deep experience in corporate governance and has served on boards of commercial enterprises since 2008. He has an MBA from CEIBS Shanghai.

JAGDEESH KAUR SEKHON

Director

Ms. Jagdeesh Kaur Sekhon currently serves on the Executive Committee of the PAP Community Foundation (Cashew Branch) that sees her involved in pre-school development at the grassroots level. She holds a BSc (Hons) in Accounting & Finance from Warwick University and an MBA from Nottingham University.

OH CHIN HAI

Director

Mr. Oh Chin Hai has over 40 years of experience in international business. As the Director of the EtonHouse Group, he looks after business development in Singapore and overseas as well as financial and property management for the EtonHouse Group.

LEE TECK LENG ROBSON

Director

Mr. Lee Teck Leng Robson is a global equity partner and a member of Gibson Dunn's Mergers & Acquisitions and Capital Markets Practice Groups. With more than 25 years of experience, Mr. Lee focuses his practice on M&A, corporate finance and capital markets.

NAVIN AMARASURIYA

Director

Mr. Navin Amarasuriya represents the fifth-generation ownership at the B.P. de Silva Group, established in Singapore in 1872. After 7 years of running operations for the luxury goods brand Risis, he has decided to explore the world of education to understand how deeper learning can address the challenges that humanity faces.

NG CHONG KHIM

Director

Mr. Ng Chong Khim is currently a Board member of Casino Regulatory Authority of Singapore and a Director of Accuron Technologies Ltd, Singapore Storage and Warehouse Pte Ltd, SSW Logistics Pte Ltd, E-Bridge Pre-School Pte Ltd and ITE Education Services Pte Ltd.

NG GIM CHOO

Director

Mrs. Ng Gim Choo is the founder of The EtonHouse International Education Group that has more than 120 schools in 12 countries. In 2009, she became the first Singaporean woman to receive the Freedom of the City of London, one of the oldest surviving awards in the UK for her contribution to international education. She has received numerous other awards including the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Award (Education) in 2019.



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

POLICIES

Bank Account Operating Mandate

For the year ending 2019, the Charity's operating signing mandate is shown below:

Group	Signatories
A	Tan Cher Liang Lee Teck Leng Robson
B	Oh Choo Ai @ Oh Gim Choo Bipasha Chanda Minocha Ang Poh Seng

Reserves

The Charity maintains sufficient operating funding needs as reserves.

Funding Sources

The Charity is financially supported by the following forms of donation:

1. Fundraising activities - Charity Walk and EtonHouse campuses' fund-raising events
2. CSR donations from E-Bridge Pre-School Pte Ltd

Memberships

The Charity is open to the public for participation in its charitable activities.

BOARD MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

The Board of Directors had met 4 times during the financial year ending 2019, as shown in the table below.

S/N	Month	Location
1	January	178 Clemenceau Ave #06-00 Haw Par Glass Tower Singapore 239926
2	April	
3	July	
4	October	

At least 5 Directors were present during each of the board meetings, which is the quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Directors.

DISCLOSURE OF REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS RECEIVED BY BOARD MEMBERS

No Board members were remunerated for their Board services in the financial year.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATE & EXPLANATION OF MAJOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

ECF has an operating surplus of S\$267,412 (2018: S\$283,070) for the year made up of proceeds from donations, administrative and compliance expenses. The operating surplus was transferred to the unrestricted funds. During the year, ECF has expended S\$343,352 (2018: S\$27,469) of donations to various non-profit and welfare organizations designed to advance the cause of education for underprivileged children and youth. A breakdown is listed below:

S/N	Name of Programme	FY 2019 Project Expenditure (S\$)
1	Mindfulness Movement Programme	1 8, 4 1 3
2	Box of Joy	1, 5 1 7
3	Sponsorship of Beneficiaries year end events	1 4, 5 6 0
4	ECDA KidStart Collaboration	7 6, 7 5 0
5	Literacy Programme	6, 1 7 7
6	Play Library	1 5 5
7	Bursary	3 0, 6 1 1
8	CDA Top Ups	4 4, 5 0 0
9	KKH Children with Diabetes Project	1 1 2, 5 0 0
10	Charity Walk 2019	3 8, 1 6 9
	TOTAL	3 4 3, 3 5 2

As of 31 December 2019
ECF holds cash of S\$611,427.60.

EXPLANATION OF THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE CHARITY'S ASSETS ARE HELD

The only assets of the Charity are cash balances placed with the Bank of East Asia Limited and Development Bank of Singapore (DBS).



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

MSF COMMUNITY CARES AWARD



On 3 November 2019, ECF received the Community Cares Award at the Volunteer & Partner Awards 2019 held by Singapore's Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF).

Hosted by Minister Desmond Lee, the award recognised individuals, partners and volunteers behind countless inspiring stories of hope and restoration.

ECF was presented the Award for our efforts and dedication towards supporting children and youth from less privileged families in Singapore. ECF has shown its support through initiatives like providing resources for children in the KidSTART programme, an internship programme for vulnerable youth, as well as Mindfulness programmes for 135 at-risk youths across 8 Homes under the care of MSF.

CHARITY WALK AND FUN FAIR

More than
S\$300,000
raised

About
2,000
sign-ups

Over 100
sponsors

On 13 April 2019, ECF held a major fund-raising event - EtonHouse Community Fund Charity Walk and Fun Fair 2019 - at East Coast Park, Angsana Green. About 2,000 families signed up for the family-friendly 3km walk. The fun fair included a range of exciting experiences including Archery, Reverse Bungee as well as other games and activities. Expenditure was about S\$38,000, and more than S\$300,000 was raised.

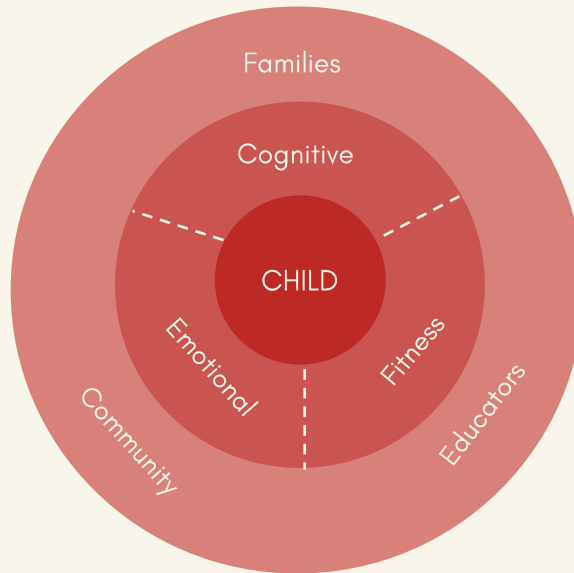




OUR PROGRAMMES

PROGRAMMES OVERVIEW

To fulfil our mission of **improving lives of vulnerable children by enhancing Emotional Wellness, Cognitive Development and Fitness**, our programmes are designed to fall under 3 key pillars while engaging families, educators as well as the wider community.



EMOTIONAL

Developing self-awareness and emotional intelligence



Mindfulness Programme

Box of Joy

COGNITIVE

Nurturing intellectual development through knowledge and creativity



Pre-School Bursary, CDA Top-ups

Partnership with KidSTART

Enrichment, Literacy Project

Play Library

Internship Programme

FITNESS

Building resilience through healthy body and mind



Partnership with KKH to support children with diabetes



OUR PROGRAMMES

MINDFULNESS MOVEMENT PROGRAMME

Studies have shown that mindfulness-based movement programmes can help decrease stress and depression and help one cope with difficult situations better.

The ECF Mindfulness Movement Programme was first successfully piloted in the Singapore Girls Home in 2018 to help reduce stress and enhance emotional well-being. A survey conducted with the participants showed that 80% of the girls felt more positive about themselves after the programme.

With its success, ECF expanded the programme to other youth and children's homes in 2019. These include the Marymount Centre residential home (Good Shepherd), The Salvation Army (Grace Haven), Singapore Boys' Hostel (SBHL), and Singapore Girls Home.

A total of 8 Homes, 135 beneficiaries, and 120 mindfulness training hours were clocked in 2019.

“During the first few sessions, there wasn't much confidence, because I felt that my body image wasn't suited for any physical activity. But over time, I just had the strength to do what the instructor could do.”

A participant, Kelly (not her real name), whose age cannot be revealed



8 Homes benefitted



120 Hours of mindfulness training



135 Beneficiaries attended the programme



9 Mindfulness Instructors employed





OUR PROGRAMMES

BOX OF JOY

'Box of Joy' is ECF's annual year-end initiative to bring joy to underprivileged children during the festive season. In 2019, 2,000 children and youth from 15 organisations benefitted from this initiative. The children were between newborn to 13 years of age. They are mainly from Tasek Jurong, Children Wishing Well, Henderson Well Centre, Prison Fellowship Care Club, Jamiyah Children's Home etc.



PRE-SCHOOL BURSARY

In 2019, a total of 10 children benefitted from the ECF Pre-School Bursary. These children were from E-Bridge Pre-School and PCF SparkleTots. The Bursary scheme is committed to assisting eligible students through school fees and school uniforms. This will support more children in having a good early childhood education regardless of their financial backgrounds.

CDA TOP-UPS

This scheme is a community initiative to provide financial aid to children from less privileged backgrounds. Disbursing funds to the children's Child Development Accounts (CDAs) will help them defray educational and healthcare expenses. It will also enable families to benefit from the Government's dollar-for-dollar Government matching scheme. In 2019, ECF had topped up the CDA accounts of 89 children from Tasek Jurong.

"With EtonHouse Community Fund's CDA Top-Up Scheme, 89 of our beneficiaries received a \$500 top up to their child development accounts, which also allowed for them to benefit from the Governments dollar-to-dollar matching. With these funds, our beneficiaries will get better access to early childhood education as they are able to fund their school fees and enrichment classes. Tasek Jurong Limited is very thankful for EtonHouse Community Fund's Support."

Tasek Jurong Limited



OUR PROGRAMMES

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S KidSTART PROGRAMME

KidSTART is a programme led by the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) to enable children from low-income families to have a good start in life. ECF is involved in the provision of learning resources within the learning sites set up by ECDA. In 2019, ECF supported the set up of 9 KidSTART learning sites.



In addition, ECF sponsored 900 Resource Kits for KidSTART Supported Playgroups and Home Visitation Programme. These Resource Kits included essential educational materials to reinforce their learning at home.

To encourage family bonding and learning, ECF also sponsored KidSTART families on Learning Journeys to Singapore Science Centre's KidSTOP, the S.E.A. Aquarium, and the Singapore Zoo.

In total, more than 500 children have benefitted from this collaboration.





OUR PROGRAMMES

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

ECF provided enrichment sponsorship to over 70 children from lower-income families to attend Abacus and Robotics classes. These after-school enrichment programmes were aimed at supporting children's holistic development and were well-received by children and their families.

LITERACY PROJECT

In 2019, about 20 teachers from EtonHouse International Education Group volunteered their time to provide English Appreciation classes to 3-5-year-old children at Henderson WeLL Centre on Saturdays. A total of 40 children have benefitted from this programme by learning English through music and arts. This improved their English language proficiency and boosted their confidence.



PLAY LIBRARY

Play is important in promoting healthy child development and maintaining strong connections between parents and children. With a wide range of carefully curated educational toys and a safe and nurturing space for children to play and learn, the Play Library encourages quality bonding between parent and child. It also aims to strengthen children's literacy skills through meaningful play-based experiences.

In 2019, the Play Library was moved from Circuit Road to Henderson WeLL Centre. It is open daily for classes conducted by volunteers.



OUR PROGRAMMES

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH-AT-RISK

ECF and the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) partnered to launch an internship programme for at-risk youths in 4 EtonHouse campuses.

It started out as a pilot project for young adults who expressed an interest in the early years' profession. The interns recommended by MSF were attached to the schools for 3 months in various roles such as in administration and as assistants in classrooms. The objective was eventually for them to find gainful employment by providing them the opportunity to engage in a working environment of their interest.

The programme had a 50% success rate. The successful interns not only went on to pursue a career in early childhood, but this opportunity also enabled them to build self-confidence and expand their worldview.

“Sharon (not her real name) developed greater self-confidence after her stint at EtonHouse and now wants to pursue higher education in early childhood. This is because she was inspired by the dedication and passion of Ms. Natalie Loh, the Principal as well as fellow teachers. Partners like EtonHouse are crucial in helping our youth realise their talents, discover hope and be supported through their rehabilitative journey.”

*Ms Zoe Tee,
MSF caseworker*

PARTNERSHIP WITH KKH HEALTH FUND TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH DIABETES

ECF partnered with the KKH Health Fund (KKHMF) to improve the care of less privileged children with diabetes through the use of technology such as a Glucose Monitoring System (GMS) and educational and outreach initiatives such as diabetes camps for patients and their caregivers. With a sponsorship sum of more than S\$200,000 over a span of 2 years, the sponsorship will be able to support 60 children.



“We would like to thank EtonHouse Community Fund for their generous support, which will allow us to continue to provide holistic care for our paediatric and adolescent patients with diabetes.”

*Professor Alex Sia,
Chief Executive Officer,
KK Women's and Children's Hospital*



THE YEAR AHEAD

FUTURE PLANS & COMMITMENTS

In the following year 2020, ECF will strengthen efforts to support beneficiaries in meaningful ways. To do this, it will:

- Expand existing programmes which have been impactful to beneficiaries. These include the Mindfulness Movement Programme for youths and the literacy project for preschoolers.
- Develop new programmes and initiatives to support children's holistic development, and to meet their evolving needs.
- Reach out to more partners, as well as children and youth from low-income families, so that more families will benefit from ECF's programmes.

ECF will continue fund-raising for its programmes on www.giving.sg.





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