



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

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ABOUT IMPACTHK

By reaching out through kindness, ImpactHK seeks to transform the lives of the homeless - one life at a time.

Our journey started with a simple aim of doing one act of kindness per month for the homeless. We have grown significantly since then and many volunteers have joined us in our journey to support the less fortunate in a meaningful and measurable way. Together, we have evolved into a powerful humanitarian movement making a positive impact on the plight of the homeless in Hong Kong. ImpactHK has been a registered charity in Hong Kong since March 2017.

ImpactHK's goal is to earn trust and develop friendship with the homeless in Hong Kong. After which, we house and employ our homeless friends. They sign a formal contract and work part-time for ImpactHK, serving and supporting the homeless and elderly inside our centre, the Guestroom, and outside on the streets. Their job is showing love and kindness to individuals in need. This meaningful act further helps them on their road to recovery. A key difference between between ImpactHK and other charities supporting the homeless is in our understanding of how providing homes and/ or jobs is not enough. While employed part-time for ImpactHK, our beneficiaries take part in our other holistic programmes: counselling, mentorship, nutrition, sport, education and art therapy. However our key ingredient in everything we do is in our one on one friendships and community that we are building.

When our employed beneficiaries are healthy, happy and able to find independence, they graduate from our employment to work for other companies. However it is our top priority to remain in their lives as a community and friends.

Visit The Guestroom

Address: G/F, No.29 Oak Street, Cherry Mansion, Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon. Phone: 2448 0011 Website: <u>http://www.impacthk.org</u>

MESSAGE FROM JEFF ROTMEYER FOUNDER OF IMPACTHK

Dear friends and supporters,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I present to you ImpactHK's inaugural annual report. The period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 marks our very first year of operation as a fullyfledged operating charity in Hong Kong, and what a year it has been!

Our mission statement is simple: "By reaching out through kindness, ImpactHK seeks to transform the lives of the homeless - one life at a time". Our overriding objective to connect with the homeless in Hong Kong - offering them kindness and friendship. Through this relationship founded on trust, we aim to provide the homeless with a real and meaningful connection to friends and the wider society, while ultimately assisting them to attain financial independence and their own comfortable home. Our philosophy of kindness encompasses a rehabilitative support programme that is holistic in its approach. This means that we not only offer homeless individuals food and daily necessities, but also ancillary support such as counselling, mentorship, nutritional support, physical activity, language learning and a lot more.

Together, we have evolved into a powerful humanitarian movement with the opportunity to make a positive impact on the plight of the homeless in Hong Kong. Our greatest strength and ability to grow has been largely to our amazing volunteers, donors and other supporters. This movement which started from such a humble beginning is now serving the homeless multiple times per day in multiple location throughout Hong Kong.

In February 2018, we were able to take the scale of our operations to the next level with the opening of the Guestroom. The Guestroom is our day care centre and represents the heart and focal point of our work. The Guestroom is a safe place for the homeless to visit - here, meals are served throughout the day. They can get new clothing, wash their clothes, get haircuts or just relax. Located in Tai Kok Tsui, the Guestroom serves and shows kindness to the 400+ homeless people in the surrounding area. The Guestroom fosters a sense of pride in the local homeless community and helps their rehabilitation. We also have a Community Fridge at the Guestroom where the homeless or needy can help themselves to food and refreshments. This Community Fridge provides free food and beverages to the public supporting up to 100 individuals in need daily. It has grown into a thriving hub for the

surrounding community and its operations are run by our team of Community Helpers, individuals that we have helped to get off the street.

The opening of the Guestroom has been a significant milestone for ImpactHK, giving us a physical and permanent presence in the community. Just stepping into the Guestroom gives you a real sense of the far-reaching impact of our message of kindness.

Over the past year, we have significantly grown the frequency and geographic reach of our Kindness Walks, established the Guestroom and built a programme of holistic support for the homeless and helped 8 individuals off the streets into homes and employed as Community Helpers for ImpactHK. This means that we have been able to develop a trusting and loving relationship with these individuals, empowered them to make personal change and provided financial assistance to secure their own rented accommodation. This has been so truly rewarding.

Looking ahead, we aim to significantly expand our reach in order to support more individuals in need. We also strive to strengthen each of our holistic programmes to better support our beneficiaries on their next steps. We also plan to further progress our education programme, take our message of kindness and empathy to schools across Hong Kong, raising awareness for the plight of the homeless among the next generation.

During this first year we have come an incredibly long way in establishing a firm foundation for providing meaningful support to the homeless in Hong Kong. We thank all of our tireless volunteers and generous donors for their amazing support. We cannot wait for the next steps of our journey together.

We look to increase the number of Kindness Walks to 2 or 3 each day and hope to add new locations to ensure that homeless individuals in great need know of ImpactHK and the support we can give.

Thank you so much!

#kindnessmatters

Jeff Rotmeyer, Founder 2018

OUR WORK

Highlights

The only commonality amongst all homeless individuals in Hong Kong is that they are all in need of a great friend

8

Areas served every week: Fortress Hill, North Point, Sai Wan Ho, Happy Valley, Sham Shui Po, Tai Kok Tsui, Yau Ma Tei, and Mongkok

176

Number of Kindness Walks taken in 2017/18



Number of individuals who are now financially independent and off the street



Number of homeless individuals served by ImpactHK on the streets each week ImpactHK has expanded significantly since our establishment in 2017. Through the success of our extensive fundraising initiatives, we are able to fund and promote a growing range of programmes and services to serve the homeless in Hong Kong.

Kindness Walks

Our Kindness Walks form the bedrock of ImpactHK's charitable platform. Kindness Walks are how our journey began and are an intrinsic part of our daily outreach. Through our regular walks, we build trust and friendship with the homeless in the hope of creating opportunities for change. Along the way, we also support others in need, such as the elderly, cleaners and the poor. On our walks, as well as building connections with the homeless community, we provide and distribute necessities including food, drink, toiletries and clothing.

Leveraging on the popularity of our Kindness Walks, we have also started offering Private Kindness Walks to companies and organizations, further raising awareness and becoming a valuable source of funding.

Since March 2018, we have partnered with HandsOn Hong Kong to extend the reach of our Kindness Walks. Members of the public wishing to join our Kindness Walks can register via the HandsOn Hong Kong website.

We have dedicated Kindness Walk Leaders that enable our Kindness Walks to be run every single day in the following locations:

- Fortress Hill
- North Point
- Sai Wan Ho
- Happy Valley
- Shum Shui Po
- Tai Kok Tsui
- Yau Ma Tai
- Mong Kok



Guestroom

Building on our charitable platform, the opening of the Guestroom in February 2018 represented a major milestone for ImpactHK and enabled us to establish a permanent physical presence in the community. Thanks to your support, we have been able to take a significant leap in opening a new day centre for the homeless.

The overriding objective of the Guestroom is to provide a safe place for the homeless to visit and establish a hub for all of ImpactHK's programmes and activities. Located in Tai Kok Tsui, the Guestroom serves and shows kindness to the 400+ homeless people in the surrounding area.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served at the Guestroom everyday. Visitors can get all necessities including toiletries, sleeping bag, clothing and more. Laundry facilities are pro vided and our guests can even enjoy billiards.

Our Community Helpers

Our Community Helpers are a vital part of the Guestroom's activities. As part of their rehabilitation programme, our homeless friends are offered part-time employment at the Guestroom. This provides a stepping stone to full-time employment, helping them to acquire valuable work skills. Since our Guestroom was opened in February 2018, we have employed 8 individuals over the past 2 months.



Lounge Space

The Guestroom provides a hub for our homeless friends, giving them a place to go for comfort and a place to socialize or seek assistance.



Meals

Meals are served throughout the day at the Guestroom. Nutritional advice is also provided.

Sports and Learning

As part of our holistic approach to rehabilitation, we offer a variety of sports activities and learning opportunities - such as languages - for our homeless friends.



Services

We provide a number of ancillary services, including laundry and haircuts



Counselling and Mentorship

At the Guestroom, we provide counselling and mentorship to homeless individuals.

Housing

ImpactHK is committed to helping our homeless friends gain independence and homes of their own. For those that have shown commitment and capability to take responsibility for themselves, we offer financial assistance for their housing deposit and first month's rent. Thereafter, these individuals will have to manage their own finances and pay their own rent. Since our Guestroom was opened in February 2018, we have housed 8 individuals over the past two months.

We are also able to offer temporary housing relief to those in desperate need. We hope to prevent homelessness when our friends need help and on a few occasions we have stepped forward to ensure the safety of individuals in dire need.



SUCCESS STORY: BONG

ImpactHK's clear understanding and mission of empowering people through friendship first came from learning with the homeless on the streets and being out there every day.

ImpactHK Founder Jeff Rotmeyer's greatest lesson came from his friendship with a homeless husband and his wife from the Philippines who were sleeping on a footbridge in North Point.

Bong's health issues led to them having no choice but to live on the streets, resulting in the extremely difficult situation of having their son taken from them. Although their five-year-old son was well taken care of by Po Leung Kok, you can only imagine how hard that must have been for the parents.







One week, Jeff was on that bridge in the evening five nights in a row. Bong would play music and they'd eat together. Jeff mentions how as their friendship became stronger it became more and more unbearable to have them sleeping out there. It just wasn't acceptable or safe. So they came up with a plan and got them into an apartment the next week and employed the husband to work for ImpactHK, as ImpactHK's first ever "Community Helper".

Bong started performing again, finding his confidence and smile.

Slowly, their son began getting weekend visits, and today they are fully reunited and living together as a family. The boy is very happy and full of life. Bong, Brix and their son are so happy and grateful to be reunited. They will be friends for life.

We are extremely proud of this family for getting through so much! And ImpactHK will forever be grateful for the lesson they taught us about what's most needed when helping individuals who are homeless.





SUCCESS STORY: DANNY



One evening our new Programme Coordinator Kathryn, ImpactHK's first ever full time employee, and Jeff Rotmeyer were doing outreach in the North Point area. That night we met a nice gentleman named Danny. Danny slept on the same footbridge as Bong and his wife Brix.

Danny was very open to conversation from day one. Over the next couple of weeks we earned more trust which resulted in Danny visiting our newly opened day centre, The Guestroom.

Shortly after, we got Danny into a home and employed him to work for ImpactHK.



Prior to us meeting Danny, he had spent years on the streets in multiple locations around Hong Kong Island.

Danny worked with us for only two and a half months before finding his feet and moving on to a full time job.

He is now selling fruit in a local market and we get to see him in

action, interacting with his customers and giving such big smiles to everyone he meets.

Danny is a friend for life and another example of a person who needed kindness and a friend to empower him for change.



BEFORE & AFTER







FUTURE PLAN

ImpactHK has achieved so much in its first year of operation as a charity in Hong Kong We look forward to building on this platform to grow even more in the coming years - offering more kindness to those in need and arming them with the resources to transform their lives for the better.

The Guestroom

The Guestroom has been a big breakthrough for ImpactHK this year. We hope to further develop The Guestroom as a safe place for the homeless to visit and enhance the reach and scope of the programmes we are able to offer. We are looking forward to building The Guestroom to foster a sense of pride in the local homeless community and help their rehabilitation.

Holistic Approach to Rehabilitation

In keeping with our holistic approach to rehabilitation and assimilation into the community, we aim to extend the scale of our programmes. We hope to offer more physical activities and learning opportunities to our homeless friends.

Job Opportunities

We understand that having meaningful and paid work underpins the road to independence for our homeless friends. At the Guestroom, we hope to further offer employment to Community Helpers - by being paid to carry out ImpactHK's work, these individuals are provided with a nurturing environment in which to improve their transferable work skills. We are also looking with partnering with more organizations to offer more employment opportunities to those in need.

Education Programme

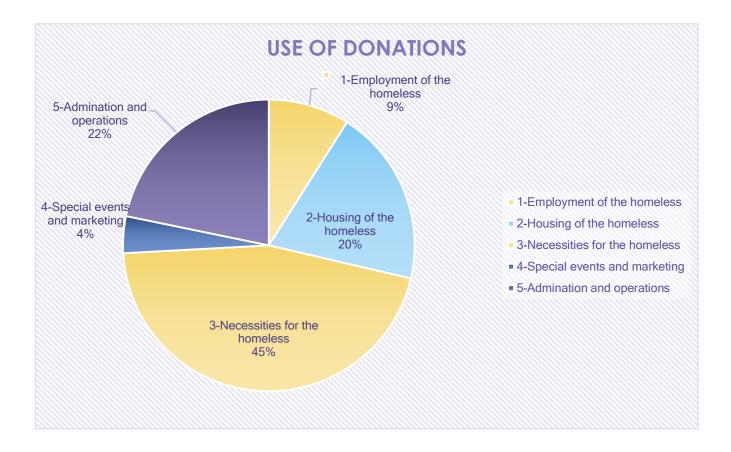
In response to popular demand from educational organizations around Hong Kong, ImpactHK now undertakes a wide variety of speaking and information sharing sessions. These help to raise awareness about the issues of the homeless in Hong Kong among the next generation.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

April 2017 – March 2018	ITEMS	AMOUNT(HK\$)
Income		
	Donations	1,263,286
	Total Income	1,263,288
Expenditure		
	Employment of the homeless	37,300
	Housing of the homeless	81,287
	Necessities for the homeless	188,404
	Special events and marketing	16,905
	Administration and Operation	90,176
	Total Expenditure	414,072
	Surplus for year	849,216

*** During this accounting period, the only full-time paid employee, was our Programme Coordinator.

The relatively high admin cost was due to initial start up costs in setting up charity and new facility.



LEADERSHIP

ImpactHK is committed to upholding the highest standards of corporate governance. We have established an experienced Board of Directors who are charged with overseeing the day-today operations of the organization and provide advice and counsel.

Board of Directors

As at 31st March 2018, members include:

- Jeff Rotmeyer
- Juliana Rotmeyer

Leadership

ImpactHK has a strong leadership team to oversee operations of the organization.

Jeff Rotmeyer

Founder

Jeff Rotmeyer started ImpactHK because he saw a great need for fresh ideas on how the homeless in Hong Kong are treated. Jeff believes multiple connections are essential for overcoming difficult times and he is extremely passionate about giving people in need an opportunity at happiness.

As at 31st March, 2018, ImpactHK had one paid full-time member of staff to perform the overall day-to-day operations:

Kathryn Yuen

Programme Coordinator

Kathryn brings with her a wealth of experience in coordination and administrative work. She has done an incredible job of managing the Guestroom, working closely with our many Community Helpers. Kathryn has continued to build trust and friendships with the dozens of visitors who frequent the Guestroom regularly and has also done a great job of welcoming newcomers. Her friendliness and sense of humour has helped to foster a kind and loving space where our beneficiaries feel welcomed and supported.



Again, we would like to thank you all so much for your support and passion towards helping the homeless in Hong Kong. Your support has been incredible and thanks to it we are able to push forward with our vision for saving lives, one life at a time.

Contact us

For more information and enquiries:

Visit www.impacthk.org

Follow us at

f www.facebook.com/impacthkcharity/

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