

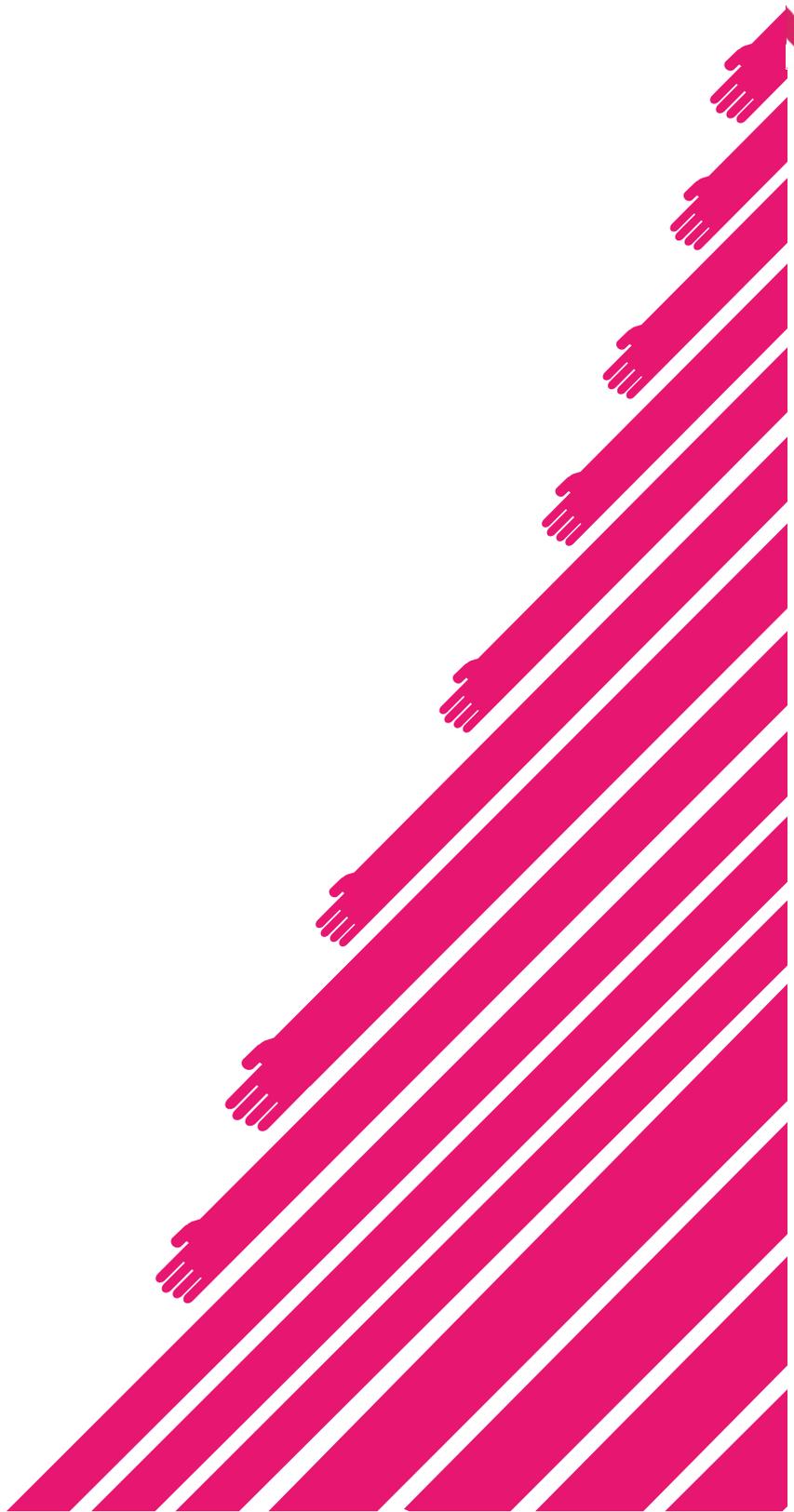
JULY TO DECEMBER 2018



NEXT STEPS

WITH YOU, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY







Greetings from all at Babes.

The second half of the year has been very interesting as we had planned many new activities and programmes for the first time. The Babes Empowerment camp for 14 of our service users and the Babes Theatre Production went very well with excellent reviews which you will read in the events section.

We are also in the midst of completing our research on understanding further the landscape of teenage pregnancy in Singapore and would be sharing more on this in the upcoming issues.

We are grateful for the support you have given Babes and I would like to wish all of you a Happy 2019.

Christina Vejan
Executive Director



Babes is five years old!

We could have not come so far without the support of our dedicated volunteers. For girls who choose parenthood, they must struggle not only with the financial stress of having a baby but also the weight of the responsibility of motherhood when they are barely out of childhood themselves. Their journeys are filled with fear, confusion, and loneliness but it is also about being strong to take responsibility and ownership of their own choices. We are a small team but luckily, we have countless volunteers on their side as well to support them in their journey.

Spradha has been a volunteer with Babes for more than four years and has supported us in several roles. From advocating for Babes at roadshows, befriending our beneficiaries, to sorting through our inventory, she goes down to the ground level to work tirelessly with all the Babes staff. We chatted with Spradha on her experience in volunteering with us.

"I volunteer with Babes because this is a group of girls who are often overlooked by society. Yes, they are a minority but they are perhaps one of the most vulnerable groups of women because not only are they young, many of them have no one they can confide to for support.

By volunteering, I see the opportunity to help not only these youths but also their families overcome this challenge. There is always hope."

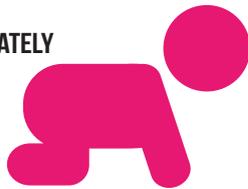




BABES FACTS

IN 2018, APPROXIMATELY

60%



OF OUR SERVICE-USERS
COME FROM SINGLE PARENT
HOUSEHOLDS AND
27% COME FROM
RECONSTITUTED FAMILIES.

APPROXIMATELY

80%



OF OUR SERVICE-USERS RETURN TO SCHOOL
AFTER THEIR PREGNANCY



TEENAGE GIRLS SPEAK

“I HAD TO DEAL WITH THE NEWS OF

AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY

I was 17 when I became pregnant.

Days after giving birth, I broke up with my boyfriend as he refused to acknowledge my little girl as his child. I often find myself struggling alone with my baby without support from my family as my parents are divorced and have little time to spare for me. Finding a permanent roof over my head has been a big challenge.

I tried living with my dad and my stepmother, but she would constantly criticise the way I took care of my child and what I thought was best for my child. Unable to handle the stressful environment, I moved in with my mum. However, not long after, HDB rejected her rental flat application when she lost her job. We moved from place to place, living with friends and relatives.

One day, we had a huge argument and in a fit of anger, I ran away with my baby. A few days later, my baby and I ended up in the intensive unit of KK Women's and Children's Hospital and was hospitalised for three weeks. I didn't know what to do. I could not qualify for shelter homes or infant care without a letter from an employer or school. We clearly could not survive on our own outside and I was too ashamed to beg my mum to take me back in. I was referred to Babes Pregnancy Crisis Support. My caseworker met with my mother and persuaded her to take us home. We stayed at my mum's boyfriend's place for a while but eventually, I had to move back to my father's place.

I was frustrated, cooped up in a small room with my grandparents and my baby. While I had financial assistance from SSO and Babes supported me with necessities for my daughter, but neither were a long term solution. Financial assistance was expiring soon but I couldn't work as there was no one reliable who can take care of my baby. I was under so much stress that I contemplated suicide many times.

The future is uncertain and scary, but I am glad that I have guidance and support from my caseworker. Now, I am waiting to put my child in infant care so that I find work and stand on my own feet. I want to be a good mother and raise up my daughter in a stable and loving environment so that she can have a better life.

- Rachel

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BABES CAMP PHOENIX 14TH TO 16TH SEPTEMBER 2018

In our casework, we devote our efforts on the well-being of the young women who approach us for assistance. For the girls who choose parenthood, there is always an identity crisis as they grapple with adjusting to their new roles. Are they still a dependent daughter or a mother? A carefree teenager or an adult with responsibilities? Despite their youth, so many of them have already been through so much; from rejection from their own families and peers, failure in relationships, to struggles in school. They have lost belief in their own abilities; they fear they can never be good enough.

For the very first time, Babes organised our very own empowerment camp, Camp Phoenix, to help our beneficiaries find self-worth, self-confidence and build stronger bonds with their loved ones. In the safe space of the camp and using psychodrama to draw the girls out of their shells, the girls were able to reveal their vulnerability and share about their heart-breaking struggles that they have never confided in anyone before. They had an incredible time not only because they learned that they are not alone in their journey but also because for some of them, they finally got to enjoy experiences that the typical Singaporean have growing up – having a BBQ at a chalet with friends, having a slumber party, swimming by the beach, etc. The camp ended with a huge smile on everyone's face.





BABES PRODUCTION

12TH TO 14TH OCTOBER 2018

Babes had our very first theatre production at Goodman Arts Centre. In developing the script, we were inspired by the experiences of the young women who had approached us for assistance over the years. In two days, three shows and five volunteer actors, we shared with the world their experiences and gave voice to the fear, the uncertainty and the stigma that pregnant teenagers face in Singapore society. Rome was not built in a day and we would like to thank our amazing volunteer actors and our production team who gave their all to make the shows a success.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

BABES OPEN MIC NIGHT

March 2019

Babes Open Mic Night is a platform for young talent to showcase their talents for social good,--be it stand-up comedy, singing or spoken word. Just as importantly, it also raises awareness of our cause and stimulates conversation about teenage pregnancy in Singapore. Through this platform, we aim to engage with the youth community and encourage them to think beyond narrow stereotypes of teenage pregnancy.\

BOUTIQUES FAIR SPRING/SUMMER 2019 EDITION

29th to 31st March 2019

We are honoured to be invited by the amazing community of Boutiques fair 2019 to run an outreach and fundraising booth at Boutiques Fair Spring/Summer 2019 edition. 100% run by our volunteers, expect delicious confectionery, henna hand drawing and amazing prizes donated by our partners to be won!





BABES DAY

3rd May 2019

An annual funfair we organise for our service users, it is a day to celebrate the strength and resilience they have showed in their journey regardless of the choices they have made regarding their pregnancy. Filled with fun and interactive activities such as henna hand painting, makeup makeovers and manicures, it is a day free of worries that they could spend with their friends and family in an environment free of prejudice.

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

We are always looking for volunteers to fill in roles in areas such as Marketing, Advertising, Events, Public Relations IT / Website, Management, graphic design, etc..

In addition, we are specifically looking for:

1) Copywriters

We are looking for passionate people who would like to pen the courageous stories of our service-users to share with the world.

CONTACT DETAILS



**BABES PREGNANCY CRISIS SUPPORT LTD IS LOCATED AT:
BLK 26 JALAN KLINIK, #01-42/52, SINGAPORE 160026**

24-HR HELPLINE: 8111 3535

PHONE: 6664 8588/90/91

-  HELLO@BABES.ORG.SG
-  [BABES_PREGNANCYSUPPORT](#)
-  WWW.BABES.ORG.SG
-  **BABES PREGNANCY CRISIS SUPPORT LTD**

