

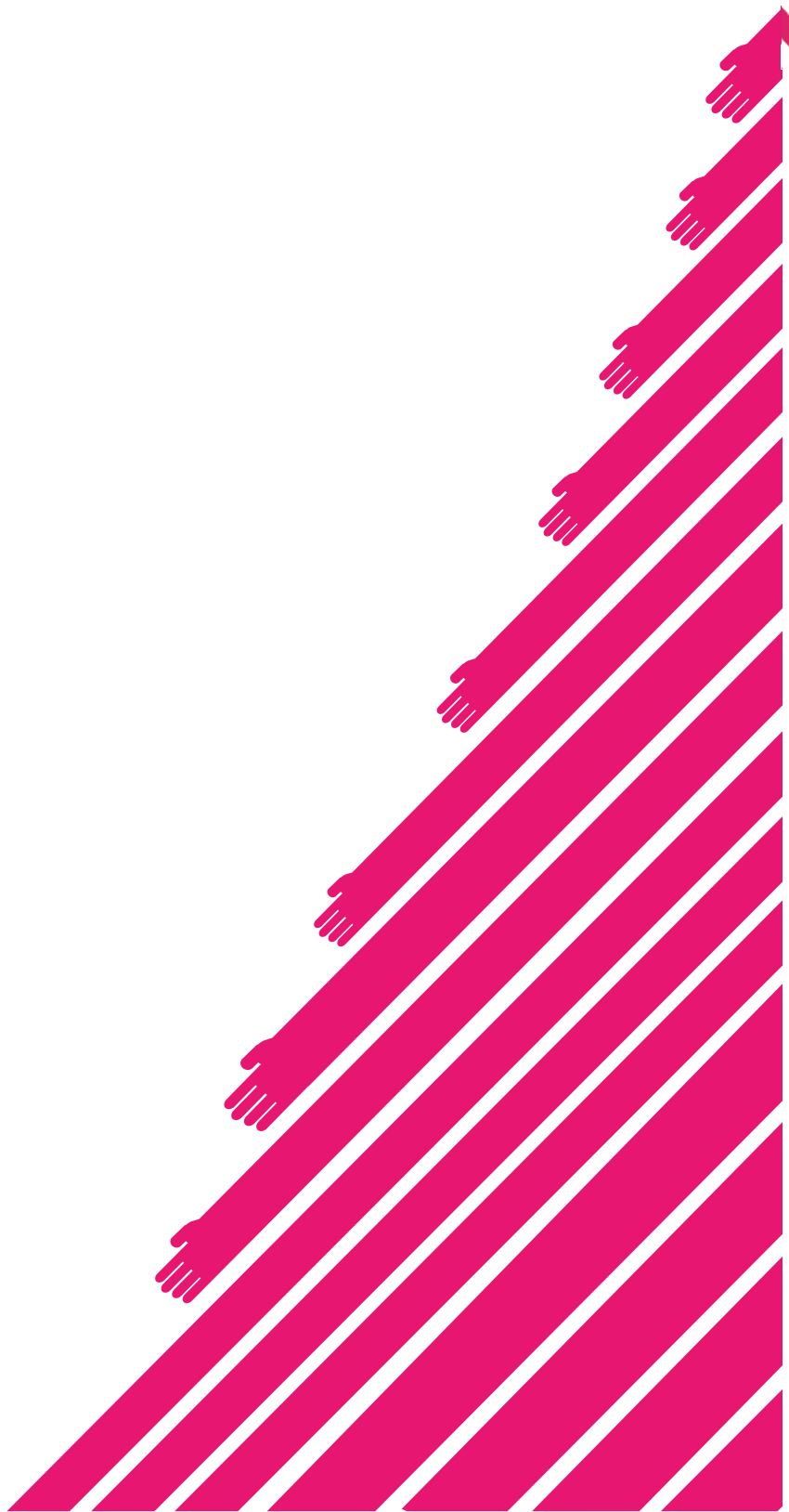
JANUARY TO JUNE 2019



NEXT STEPS

WITH YOU, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY







Greetings from all at Babes.

The first half of 2019 has been a very interesting start for Babes. We had our Open Mics Night on 10th March and the theme was International Women's Day.

Our Annual Babes Day was well-received as we had 26 of our beneficiaries and their families attending it. We had a mini competition for the kids and it was the highlight of the event.

The second half of the year will be busy as well as we are planning for two Babes Empowerment camps for at least 30 of our service-users.

We are grateful for the support you are giving Babes and thank you.

Christina Vejan
Executive Director



For this issue, we speak to one of our staff, Ms Azrahayu Benko, Babes' Casework supervisor, on what drives her in her work with these young vulnerable girls.

'As a Casework supervisor at Babes, I directly manage the overall casework supervision which includes ensuring services are delivered in a professional manner, overseeing the team and reviewing programmes and processes.

I also work with pregnant girls and their families directly.

Why is teenage pregnancy something people should care about? What were you doing at 14? Probably playing computer games, reading manga or planning for an outing to USS?

At this age, Babes girls are facing tough decisions on terminating their pregnancies, sending their babies to foster care/adoption or already thinking of where to get the money to buy milk powder for their babies!

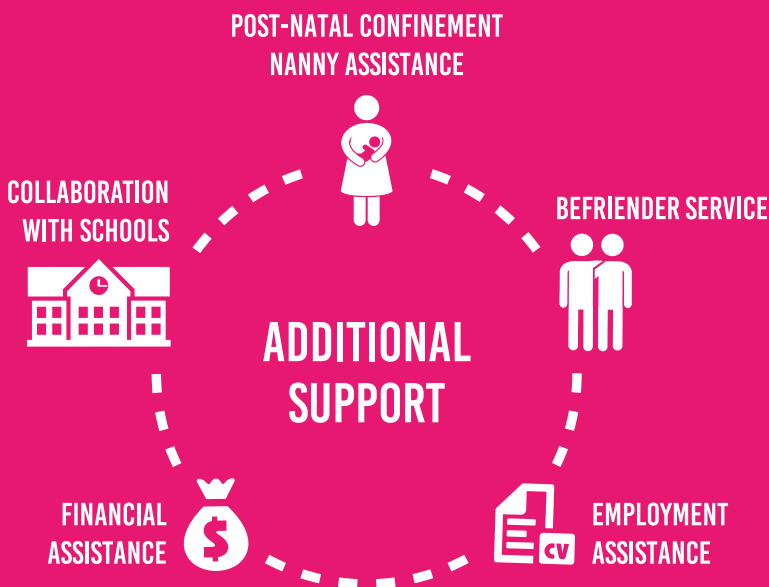
For many of these girls, their partner left them upon knowing of their pregnancy, leaving them to struggle on their own. Many of the boys left because they were afraid of facing the responsibility or they were made to leave their girlfriends by their parents.

Teenage pregnancy is an area often overlooked or judged by society. Help a teenage pregnant mum by journeying with her during this difficult phase. If you are unable to do so, the best is not to judge her.

Being passionate in helping troubled young women motivate me to be with Babes. I am driven by every little success they make – from being able to break the news to their families to taking responsibility for the options they choose and moving on to be a good parent/daughter.

I am also supported by my husband and children who have been very understanding about my job. They are also actively volunteering with Babes.





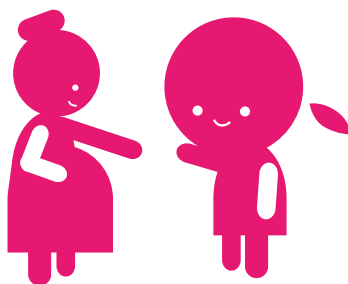
BABES FACTS

IN A GENERAL POPULATION SURVEY, AMONG PARENTS WHO HAVE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION,

33%

ARE UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES AS COMPARED TO **10%**

UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES FROM PARENTS WITH DIPLOMAS AND HIGHER.



SOME OF THE REASONS TEENAGE GIRLS IN SINGAPORE BECOME PREGNANT ARE THE LACK OF THINKING ABOUT CONSEQUENCES AND A FEAR OF REFUSING SEX WITH THEIR PARTNERS.

TEENAGE GIRLS SPEAK



“I HAD TO DEAL WITH THE NEWS OF

AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY

When I found out I was pregnant, I was so scared. My boyfriend, Hamish, is only 17 years old while I am 19 years old. Our relationship was still quite new and I didn't think he was ready to take up the responsibility of being a father.

Growing up, I never really felt wanted at home. My mother divorced my father when my sister and I were in primary school. Since then, my mother has remarried twice, and she never really has time for me as she has to take care of my stepfather and my younger siblings. Money is tight and she often has to work long hours. I ran away from home often and since then, have been estranged from my family.

Despite knowing that my family is unlikely to be receptive or have the means to support me, I simply could not bear to consider abortion. When I told Hamish about my pregnancy, he was surprisingly supportive and determined to take responsibility. Since then, we have moved in with his sister in Malaysia as the cost of living is cheaper. Hamish took up a night-shift job in a warehouse, travelling to Singapore for work 4 to 5 days a week. I was often lonely but I knew he was working hard for the sake of our new family. I started selling bags on-line to help out.

We got to know about Babes through the hospital. My social worker has been supportive, providing me with reassurance, comfort and emotional support that I had not realized I needed. It was a relief to have someone who could advise me on my pregnancy and what to prepare for my baby who is due soon.

- Crystal



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BABES OPEN MIC 2019

10TH MARCH 2019

This year, Babes Open Mic 2019 was organised in conjunction with International Women's Week at Georges@East Coast to celebrate strong women everywhere. This year, we had a fantastic line-up of amazing performances from local artists including indie band Spacewalk music, musical songstress Alyssa Lie, hilarious standup comedy troupe The Latecomers, talented newcomer Vivid Shade, rising acting star Samuel and literature powerhouse Gemma Pereira who joined us in celebrating women's empowerment.





BABES DAY 2019

3RD MAY 2019

On 3rd May, we celebrated our Annual Babes Day at *SCAPE, The Treetop. With the theme “Fairy Tale”, we had over 70 guests who spent the afternoon with us to celebrate the young women we support and their strength in overcoming the challenges they face. Numerous volunteers came to support us in conducting the activities such as the talent show where the children get to perform on stage, the free market where the girls can grab pre-loved goodies from our donors and the booth activities such as makeup makeover, henna art, and tarot card reading. It was a day for our beneficiaries and their loved ones to have a short respite and just have some fun in a community that accepts and embrace them.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

BABES EMPOWERMENT CAMP

26 - 28 July 2019

Community and family support are crucial for the vulnerable group of girls we assist especially if they choose parenthood. Thus, as part of our casework to empower our service-users, Babes is organising a 3 day in-camp for our service-users with programmes and activities that focus on widening their support network and helping them find their identity.

VOLUNTEER & PARTNERS APPRECIATION NIGHT

October 2019

As a small team, our resources and manpower are often limited. We can only achieve the things we do with the help of generous volunteers who answer our call for help without fail. To appreciate our Volunteers &

Partners for their enduring support, we would devote a night each year to thank them for the selfless contribution of their time, effort and passion for our cause.

BOUTIQUES FAIR AUTUMN/WINTER 2019 EDITION

15th to 17th November March

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 EMPOWERMENT CAMP

08 - 11 November 2019

With activities such as a Cook-off competition, slumber party, goal-setting workshop and perspective-switching games, our Babes camp is held twice a year to empower our service-users by widening their support network and helping them find their identity.

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



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