



Babes Pregnancy Crisis Support Ltd

Annual Report

For the financial year
1 January to 31 December 2020

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



As I write this letter, Singapore is continuing to experience heightened COVID-19 vigilance, though perhaps COVID-21 is the more appropriate description of this virus now. Since most of us have been largely working and living from home in the past year, and have not had an opportunity to take a break from our routines, it is hard to feel that we have made much progress. In fact, given the persistent uncertainty of the pandemic, and the financial instability that has affected our service users deeply, just getting by is often a challenge.

At Babes we approached the year with trepidation. Our work is deeply personal, focusing on sexual relationships, family integration and developing skills for the future. It took Babes a number of months to adjust to the new reality: we had to adapt counselling for the world of Zoom and cancel our in-person Empowerment Camps, Forum Theatre sessions and Babes Day (the annual gathering of our Babes community).

As you will read throughout the report, the team had to experiment with many ideas and formats in order to identify most effective ways to engage with our community. We have had to switch most of our outreach to social media and to keep our service users engaged through small group virtual "Chai Time". We have also seen more of our families struggle financially and have responded to this by expanding our Milk & Diaper programs and donation distribution.

On the management and administration side of Babes, we have also had a year of big changes. The Board had two key goals for 2021: to hold a major fundraising event in February and to select a new Executive Director as Christina Vejan (our previous ED) moved on to her next rotation with the Sun Ray Scheme. While we were disappointed to have to cancel our gala, we are very grateful to our donors who chose to keep their commitments to Babes at this difficult time. The combination of funds raised for the gala (matched by the government through the Bicentennial matching campaign) and series of smaller scale donation drives meant that Babes is on very sound financial footing as we emerge from the pandemic.

We are also incredibly excited that following an exhaustive search we have been able to welcome Melisa Wong as our new Executive Director. Also a Sun Ray with extensive experience in the IPC sector and a background in social work, Melisa has settled into Babes well despite having few opportunities for in person interactions. She has been busy connecting with her team members, donors, volunteers and Board & committee members in order to formulate her vision for the future of Babes. We are excited to support Melisa and the team on this journey.

Our Board itself has seen an exciting change too when Dr Chua Yang—a renowned gynecologist, activist for maternal and women’s health, incredible photographer and wine connoisseur joined us in October. Dr Chua has already conducted workshops on contraception and sexual education for the team and has been a strong voice in all of our work. We feel she has been a part of our family for a long time.

I do hope that the year ahead will bring happier times to the world and to our little island. We continue to be amazed by the generosity of our volunteers, befrienders, interns, donors and the community at large. We are also grateful to NCSS for supporting our work and guiding us through this challenging period.

Thank you for everything that you do for Babes.

Julia on behalf of Babes Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

ABOUT US

The work of Babes Pregnancy Crisis Support Limited (**Babes**) began in 2005 as a programme under Beyond Social Services (**Beyond**). It was the first programme in Singapore that provided a targeted service to teenagers needing support with their pregnancies.

In May 2013, Babes spun off from Beyond to become a separate organisation, in order to give greater focus to the issue of teenage pregnancy. We are the only organisation in Singapore that is devoted to exclusively supporting pregnant teenagers in crisis. In August 2013, Babes began operating independently.

At Babes, we believe in taking a non-judgemental, "mother-centric" approach. We want every pregnant teenager to be aware of her options and to make sure that she has the opportunity to make an informed decision with regard to her pregnancy.

We believe that support from her family, friends and wider community is essential for a pregnant teenager to come to, and implement, her decision responsibly. We advocate and help her to nurture long-term, on-going support from family, friends and volunteers and as normal a life as possible for her during her pregnancy and beyond.

Babes was set up on 31 May 2013 as a public company limited by guarantee (Unique Entity Number (UEN) 201314611H) and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is a registered charity under the Charities Act (since 13 September 2013) and has been accorded the status of an Institution of Public Character (IPC) from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022.

Our registered office address is:
50 Raffles Place #17-01
Singapore Land Tower
Singapore 048623

Our mailing address is:
Blk 26, Jalan Klinik
#02-42/52
Singapore 160026

24-Hour Helpline: **8111-3535**

General Enquiries: **6664 8590/91**

Website: <http://babes.org.sg>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/babespregnancycrisissupport>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/babes_pregnancysupport

OUR VISION

Babes' vision is for an inclusive society where every pregnant teenager needing support will not feel estranged or marginalised.

OUR MISSION

- To proactively reach out to and journey with girls aged 21 and below needing support with their pregnancy, helping them to:
 - ❖ make responsible decisions about their pregnancy
 - ❖ take the appropriate steps to carry out their decision responsibly, with the support of their immediate family and wider community
 - ❖ navigate their lives during pregnancy and cope with the impact of pregnancy on their lives.
- To advocate for a more inclusive society, where pregnant teenagers do not feel marginalised or estranged, by:
 - ❖ raising awareness and appreciation of the problems faced by pregnant teenagers in Singapore
 - ❖ garnering community support for pregnant teens in crisis.

OUR ORGANISATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	OCCUPATION
Ms Julia Raiskin (Chair)	22 July 2013 (7 June 2017)	Banker
Mr Kevin Teng (Treasurer)	25 April 2016 (7 June 2017)	Executive Director of Sustainability
Mr Gerard Ee*	31 May 2013	Community Worker
Dr Sadhana Nadarajah**	22 July 2013	Consultant, Gynaecologist
Mr Purandar Rao	22 July 2013	Partner, Transaction Advisory Services
Ms Sophie Mathur	27 May 2019	Lawyer & Partner
Dr Chua Yang	2 November 2020	Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

*Mr Gerard Ee is also Executive Director of Beyond Social Services.

**Dr Sadhana resigned from her position as Director on 19 July 2020.

COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair	Mr Purandar Rao
Members	Ms Hetal Dave Mr Kelvin Ang (14 Jan 2020)

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Chair	Ms Julia Raiskin
Members	Ms Shuchi Bahl Ms Eng Jia Yun Ms Sophie Mathur (7 Dec 2020)

FUNDRAISING & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair	Mr Kevin Teng
Members	Mr Steve Duncan*** Ms Elizabeth Perlman Ms Iolanda Meehan

PROGRAMMES & SERVICES COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs	Mr Gerard Ee Dr Sadhana Nadarajah Dr Chua Yang
Members	Ms Geraldyn Lim Ms Carrie Seow Ms Anthea Kiu Mr Mohammed Faiz Selamat

***Mr Steve Duncan resigned from his position on 24 April 2020.

2020 BOARD MEETINGS

S/N	Names of Directors	30 Mar cancelled	27 Aug	18 Dec	% of attendance by person
a)	Julia Raiskin	NA	✓	✓	100%
b)	Kevin Teng		✓	✓	100%
c)	Gerard Ee		✓	✓	100%
d)	Dr Sadhana		NA	NA	NA
e)	Purandar Rao		✓	✓	100%
f)	Sophie Mathur		✓	✓	100%
g)	Dr Chua Yang		NA	✓	100%
% of attendance by meeting					100%

STAFF

Executive Director	Christina Vejan (Appointed 3 Jul 2015, Last day 31 Dec 2020)
Executive Director	Wong Li Yee Melisa (Appointed 1 Dec 2020) 60% part time
Casework Supervisor	Azrahayu Ahmad Afandi (Last day 31 Dec 2020)
Social Worker	Noor Haslinda Md So'od
Social Worker	Siti Fatimah
Social Media & Volunteer Executive	Pearlyn Tan
Outreach Executive	Santhiya Subramaniam
HR & Admin Executive	Zeenatunnisa d/o Mohd Haniff

As at 31 December 2020, Babes had **7** full-time staff and **1** part time staff.

BANKER

DBS Bank Ltd

SCB Bank – Investment (FD)

AUDITOR

Ardent Associates LLP

Please refer to the Charity Portal at <https://www.charities.gov.sg> for more information, including Organisation Profile, Financial Information, Annual Report and Code Compliance (Governance Evaluation Checklist). Quick link [here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

Babes Pregnancy Crisis Support Ltd (Babes) is a pro-choice organisation that is committed to ensuring that every pregnant teenager in need of support is aware of the options she has and is given the opportunity to make an informed decision about her pregnancy.

We are the only organisation in Singapore that is devoted to exclusively supporting pregnant teenagers in crisis. At Babes, we do not charge for our services and since the programme was launched, we have assisted close to 750 girls in a pregnancy crisis from 2005 to 2020.

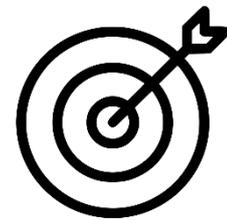


**Journeyed with
86 cases**



**68 successful
closure**

Returned to school or
found employment and
referred to other agencies



**46 cases achieved
their goals**

Returned to school or
found employment



**Close to 300
enquiries**

Helpline & email



Raised \$466,935

Offline & online campaigns



**Conducted 17
outreach &
information sessions**

PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. CASE MANAGEMENT & COUNSELLING

❖ Helpline

Our 24-hour helpline is one of our core services. This helpline is manned by Babes' social workers, volunteers and interns on a rotational basis. We assisted close to **300** individuals this year via our helpline and email enquiries.

❖ Casework

Besides the 24-hour helpline, we also managed **86** cases, of which **37** were new cases and **49** were brought forward from 2019. This is a decrease of **47%** over the last year and this could be attributed to the shift in how youth seek assistance during the pandemic.

There was also **successful closure** of **68** cases:

- a) **46** cases closed achieved their goals – returned to school or found employment.
- b) **16** required no further help.
- c) **6** were referred to other help agencies.

2. COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Our annual programs such as Babes Day and Babes Camp help teenage mothers integrate back into the community. With the cancellation of these physical events due to COVID-19, we adapted them to be done virtually. The Chai Time chats and regular group discussions were the final product of our experimentation, where we connected with our beneficiaries monthly to ensure that they feel supported by the community.

This FY, Babes also launched our own Bridging program, which prepares girls for employment through skills upgrading. Overall, Babes takes a holistic community integration approach, ensuring that our girls are socially and economically ready to integrate back into society through the help of our staff and volunteers.

❖ Babes Day & Babes Camp

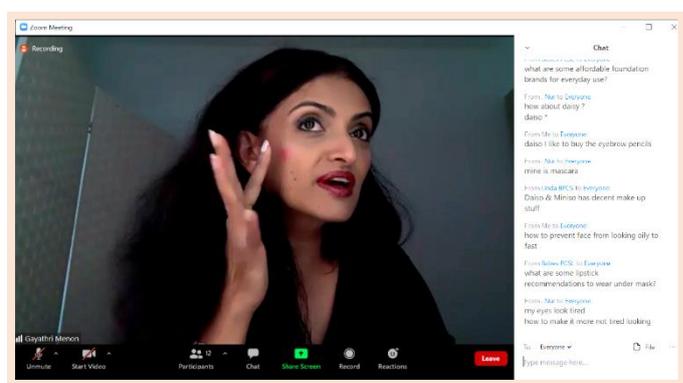
Babes Camp adopts a holistic empowerment approach where workshops (e.g. financial literacy, sharing sessions, sex education etc) were planned for the girls, their family members and partners. It aims to help girls and their families understand themselves and one another better through self-reflection and improved inter-communication respectively. The workshops also equip them with useful tools to plan for a smoother parenthood journey. Overall, the camp has been effective and satisfactory for our participants, and 100% would recommend others to join the camp.

Babes Day is organised for girls and their families to enjoy a fun-filled day away from their childcare responsibilities. Attendees participated in various activities such as makeovers and henna art, and the free market also gave girls the opportunity to choose some donated, thrift clothes to spice up their wardrobe. Their children also got to participate in the talent show organised by our volunteers.

Unfortunately, both events were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19. However, we would still like to thank our volunteers for making both events a success in previous years as they helped run booths and workshops and cared for kids as the girls took part in these activities.

NEW INITIATIVES

❖ Babes Chai Time



As everything was slowly moved online during the pandemic, Babes too started exploring ways through which we can continue our work via online platforms. During the circuit breaker, 'Chai Time', an online support group program for our service users was introduced.

The main goal was to create a support system for the girls amidst the pandemic and to ensure Babes was having continued communication with our beneficiaries. Babes organised a trial session in June to assess how the online program was going to be received.

We ordered teatime snacks online and had it delivered to 10 girls and facilitated an interactive session with them for an hour. Feedback from the beneficiaries showed that they had enjoyed the session and were interested in attending more of such programs. Following the positive response, the Chai Time was subsequently developed into a monthly online support group program with guest speakers joining us during each session to educate and explore important issues with our beneficiaries.

We have since explored topics such as feminine hygiene, safe sex, makeup, skincare, financial budgeting and more. Special thanks to the following speakers:

- a. **Gayathri Menon**, a professional makeup artist who taught the youths simple affordable makeup looks they can easily replicate by themselves.
- b. **Liyana Dhamirah**, a book author, shared her own journey and struggles as a teenage mother, and how she overcame her challenges.
- c. **Christina Willock**, a valued befriender who shared her own journey as a teenage mother and how she managed to build a career.
- d. **Sebamed**, a medical skincare company, shared their knowledge on feminine hygiene and women's health.

❖ Bridging Programme



The poster for the Babes Bridging Programme 2021 features a vibrant, multi-colored background. At the top, the title 'Babes Bridging Programme 2021' is prominently displayed in white and blue text. Below the title, a subtitle reads: 'This programme aims to assist our teen mums in becoming self-sufficient adults in managing their lives and their families.' The middle section, titled 'Programme Overview:', contains two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph states: 'To empower and equip service-users who opted for parenthood with skills and knowledge required to gain employment and support their families.' The second paragraph says: 'Babes will sponsor our service-users who opted for parenthood for short/long term courses of their choice.' To the left of this text is a collage of colorful images, including a woman's face with large sunglasses, a colorful pattern, and a small animal. The bottom section, titled 'DREAM BIG, SET GOALS, TAKE ACTION', lists 'COURSES TO CHOOSE FROM:' with a bulleted list: Beauty: make-up, hairstyling etc; Barista; Culinary & Baking; Generic Manufacturing Skills; Workplace Skills; Office Skills; Academic; and General/others. To the right of this list is another collage of images, including a woman's face with the word 'LOVE' written on it, and various other patterns and text.

Bridging Programme was launched in 2020 with the funding from The Majority Trust Ltd, where ACI Trampoline Fund panel approved a grant amount of up to \$40,000 (80% of the project cost).

With full sponsorship, the girls are able to decide on courses of their choice, ranging from beauty to administration.

These courses equip girls with industry skills that will help them gain employment, with the aim of helping these girls attain self-sufficiency in supporting their families in the long-run.

Before signing up for this program, girls are also taught responsible decision-making to ensure that they reap the best benefits from the course, such as having alternative baby-care arrangements to ensure that they can commit to the course.

3. ONLINE CAMPAIGNS & OUTREACH

Babes' online campaigns aims to raise awareness about the difficulties of teenage pregnancy and change damaging stereotypes of pregnant teens. This year, we launched 2 campaigns, titled #Strongerthanyouthink and #WeAreWithYou. Through our continuous efforts, we hope to create a culture of greater acceptance towards pregnant teens.

❖ Online Campaigns

The year has forced many, especially those more vulnerable, to adapt to new realities. When Circuit Breaker began, it was a time of unease and uncertainty. Many of the teens we support come from low-income families who lost their livelihood during the pandemic.

Our fundraising goals were thus centered around helping them tide over this period by providing them with necessities such as food hampers, milk and infant essentials for their loved ones. Throughout the year, our fundraising activities were forced to drastically adapt to the changing situation, and we moved exclusively to the online space to continue raising funds to support vulnerable young women in crisis.

A combination of fundraising platforms, social media and email marketing were used for our online fundraising campaigns. Throughout the year we ran several campaigns with the following objectives:

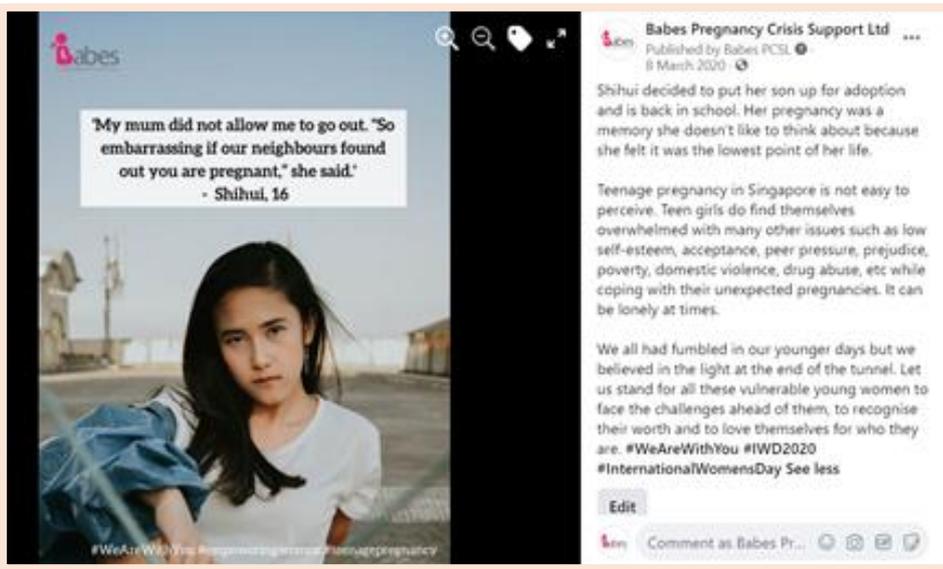
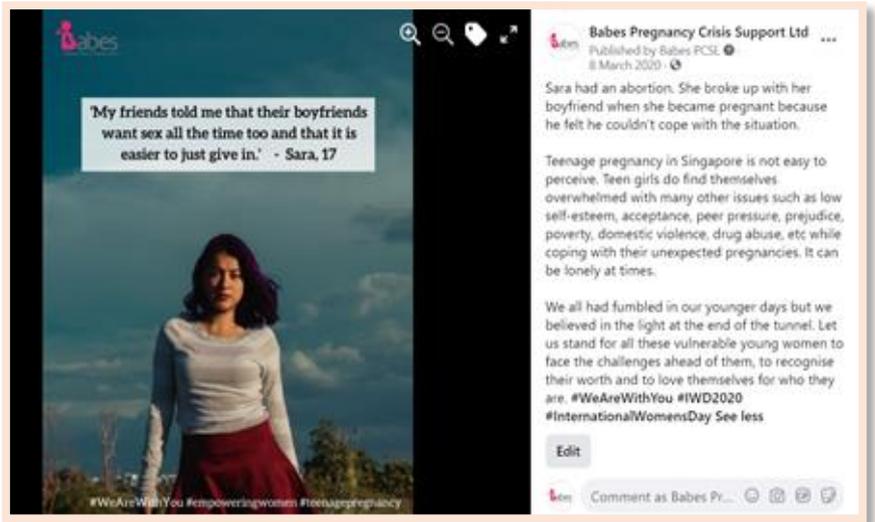
1. Raise awareness of the prejudice faced by pregnant teenagers
2. Fundraising

#Strongerthanyouthink is a campaign to highlight the strength and courage our service-users have despite their youth, despite how difficult and fraught their situations are. One event does not define their future and they are far stronger than anyone thinks. The campaign is a fundraiser to run skills-based workshops for our service-users to upskill themselves. In total, a \$1,415 was raised for this campaign.



#WeAreWithYou celebrates International Women's Day.

#WeAreWithYou highlights common issues our service-users face while coping with their unexpected pregnancies such as low self-esteem, loneliness, peer pressure, prejudice, poverty, domestic violence, drug abuse, etc.



#WeAreWithYou is a message of solidarity for us to empower these young women to find confidence and value in themselves.

❖ Outreach

Drama Workshop @ Northlight School

In 2020, Northlight School approached Babes expressing their interest in engaging us to educate their girls on teenage pregnancy. On top of their current sex education program which promotes abstinence, Northlight wanted an in-depth program to teach girls the importance of the choices they make in a relationship and the consequences.

In October 2020, Babes facilitated a specially curated drama workshop to 10 Secondary four girls who are referred by the school counsellors. The workshop was carried out over three sessions that lasted 1.5 hours each. Drama activities were centered around the topics of healthy relationships, friendships, and the importance of saying 'NO'. Feedback from the students showed that they enjoyed the session and felt like they could relate well to the activities organised. School counsellors felt that the students had responded positively and opened up more than usual during the drama sessions as well.



DoctorXDentist(DxD) Webinar Panelist

On 15 July, Babes joined the panel with Dr Tan Thiam Chye and influencer, Esther Rachel, for Webinar 'Bump: Having a baby in Singapore' organised by DoctorxDentist. The webinar explored the challenges and difficulties of having a pregnancy in Singapore especially during the pandemic. It delved into the social challenges and health difficulties faced by young teen mothers in Singapore and the gaps that could be closed to help assist them to cope with their pregnancy and beyond.

Suria Channel: Gotong Royong

Babes will be featured in 2021 on Suria's Gotong Royong program to share about the work that goes towards supporting pregnant teenagers.

Babes guest star was our social worker, Ms Siti Fatimah, who introduced our origins and current work of providing practical assistance, emotional support, family mediation and community integration to assist girls through their pregnancy and beyond.



Source: Mediacorp -Suria



Source: Mediacorp -Suria

Coupled with Nora's (Babes' service-user) sharing on how Siti reached out to her first to offer assistance, it highlights the sincere help that Babes offers to pregnant teens in need. Siti also debunked misconceptions of pregnant teens – that

unlike public perception of them as individuals with no future or ambition, they do aspire to get a good job and do well in life. She also shared ways that the public can help – by registering as Babes' volunteer or donating milk and diapers.

Albeit short, this exposure has the potential to change people's mindsets towards pregnant teens and rally more public support for them.

3. FUNDRAISING

In previous years, Babes' fundraising has mostly taken an offline focus. Ad-hoc events and the bi-annual Boutique Fair were our main fundraising grounds. In particular, Babes 2020 Charity Gala Dinner was meant to serve as a particularly momentous event, being the first of its kind for our organisation and our main annual fundraising event. The cancellation of these events due to COVID-19 has left many disappointed but nonetheless, the good work does not stop.

Babes' Gala Dinner was scheduled for 28 February 2020 at Singapore Marriot at Tang Plaza. The theme for the dinner was 'Shine Bright like a Diamond' as we believe every pregnant teen has the potential to shine as brilliantly as a diamond.



Associate Professor Dr Muhammed Faishal Ibrahim was invited to be our honourable Guest-of-Honour. However, due to the circuit breaker and the constantly changing situation of the pandemic, the dinner was unfortunately cancelled. Despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, we received the generous support of donors and we would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude. We successfully raised \$292,330 for our beneficiaries, where every cent will fund Babes' continuous efforts in supporting their journey towards shining like bright diamonds.

Babes Dinner Sponsors

Diamond Sponsors SGD \$25,000
Pritpal Gill
Saga Tree Capital Advisors Pte Ltd

Platinum Sponsors SGD \$10,000	
1. Everise Holding Pte Ltd	1. Alyce Chong
2. Marina Bay Sands	2. Amy Beckingham
3. Robbins-Lee Family	3. Catherine Lee
4. Veldhoen+ Company	4. Elizabeth Perlman
5. Warburg Pincus LLC	5. Iolanda Meehan
	6. Jeffrey David
	7. Jonathan Quek
	8. Kevin Teng
	9. Pritpal Gill
	10. Purandar Rao
	11. Sadhana Nadarajah
	12. Sophie Mathur
	13. Stuart Crow
	14. Vikram Chakravarty

The pandemic has brought more uncertainties for the girls, Babes conducted multiple fundraising campaigns online to tide our young mothers through this financially difficult time and bring them festive cheer albeit the scaled-down festive events. Funds were mainly used to provide food and baby necessities for our service-users.

COVID-19 Strong Fund was born out of the uncertainties brought about by COVID-19, where the lockdown and loss of employment made affording baby necessities a struggle. Donations were used to provide milk and diapers to ease the financial burdens of our service-users. From April to October 2020, we supported 16 girls with the \$3,989 raised.



Happy Stork is our annual, ongoing campaign meant to provide low-income service-users with formula milk and diapers for their new-borns to ensure the baby's healthy growth. \$11,135 was raised for this campaign in 2020.

Supporting 10 Teen Mums - The rising costs of baby essentials (where \$600 is required to support one infant for three months), and the COVID-19 situation that resulted in unemployment meant that teen mothers faced a greater financial burden in providing for their infants.

Charity Sale was held on 13 November 2020, Babes organised our first Charity Sale in 2020 at Beyond Social Services to raise funds for our needy beneficiaries. With items blessed by our donors, such as brand-new baby products from clothes, shoes and toys were sold to raise funds for Happy Stork Milk & Diapers. In line with Covid-19 measures at the time, social distancing rules were observed.

As such, Supporting 10 Teen Mums was organised by a member of public Joe Tan, and sought to provide teen mothers with milk and diapers to support their baby's growth. \$6,730 was raised in total. Supporting 10 Teen Mums and Charity Sale serves as an extension of our regular Happy Stork program and through both programs, we supported 29 beneficiaries over six months.





Pay it Forward campaign was made possible with Pigeon Singapore's sponsorship, where every \$30 raised will allow the less privileged within our community receive a hamper of diapers, infant toiletries, and festive cookies. We raised \$5,740 under this campaign.

Festive Appeal - Donate a Gift of Love

is to help our service-users feel the joy of Ramadan, Deepavali and Christmas, Babes ran Festive Appeal - Donate a Gift of love. A donation campaign that aided beneficiaries and their families with food essentials.



A total of \$16,495 was raised from the campaign and this supported 68 girls and their loved ones during the festive season.

Source: UnSplash

5. OUR VOLUNTEERS

Despite the challenges brought about by COVID-19, we received overwhelming warmth and support, from students to partner organisations and individuals alike. We also engaged 42 volunteers in total who supported us in various ways, such as organising Chai Time workshops, teaching crafts, and delivering essentials to the girls despite the pandemic risk. We had training workshops with the Central Narcotics Bureau to help our volunteers better support our service-users, as well as appreciation events such as our Volunteer and Partner Appreciation night to thank them for their support thus far.

❖ Befrienders

Throughout 2020, our loyal group of ad-hoc befrienders such as Zac, Kwan Loong, Sarah and Christina have supported our casework team with 9 of their cases despite the pandemic, assisting with providing them from emotional support to practical assistance such as accompanying them to medical appointments.



❖ Visit to Central Narcotics Bureau

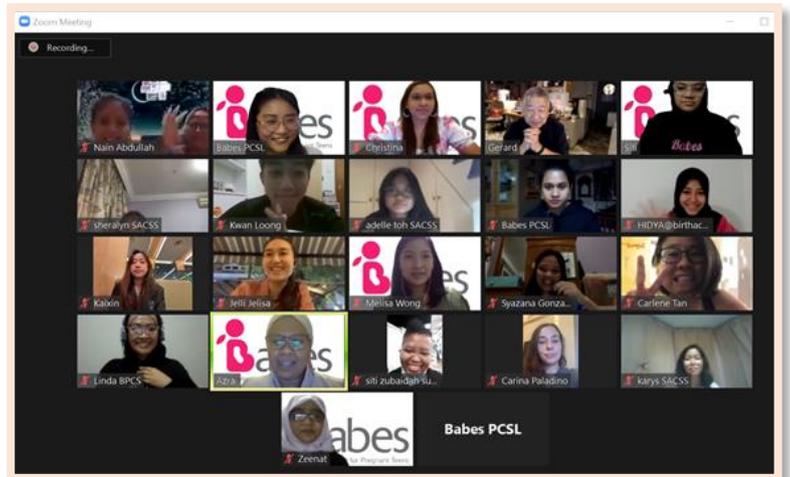
What are some trends about drug abuse in Singapore? What are some of the common drugs in the market that youths are exposed to?

Drugs do not only affect the individual but their loved ones as well. We would like to thank [CNB Drug Free SG](#) for the insightful workshop they conducted for our staff and six befrienders on 6 March 2020, arming us with knowledge that can help in supporting pregnant teenagers dealing with such issues.

❖ Babes Volunteers & Partners Appreciation

We celebrated our annual volunteer and partner appreciation online via zoom on 4 December 2020. During the session, the staff bonded with the volunteers in small groups as we discussed the efforts towards supporting pregnant teens and how we can further uplift them.

Despite the many challenges Covid-19 brought about, we were surprised and overwhelmed by the many volunteers and partners who reached out to us to lend us support however we needed. Our new programs and initiatives could not have happened without the support of many who believed in our cause. Thank you for sharing your kindness and generosity to youths who are travelling through some of the darkest times of their lives.



6. OUR PARTNERS

Babes is thankful to have the support of our partners across different sectors who have offered their invaluable help to us. From financial aid, to education, and needs-support, Babes can better support our service-users with their help.

❖ **Beyond Social Service: COVID-19 Family Assistance Fund**

The COVID-19 Family Assistance Fund (FAF) was set up to provide temporary financial relief to families affected by the crisis. Beyond Social Services extended the assistance to 50 families from Babes who received between \$300 to \$800 a month for up to six months to tide them through the crisis.

❖ **Breastfeeding Mothers Support Group (BMSG)**



Throughout the year, we had support from our partner volunteers such as counsellors from Breastfeeding Mothers Support Group who during the pandemic, nonetheless continued to provide guidance and instruction virtually to the teen mothers who needed support on how to breastfeed their baby.

❖ **North East PAssion WaVe Outreach Committee (NE PWOC)**

In view of COVID-19 where outdoor activities were banned, North East PAssion WaVe Outreach Committee (NE PWOC) collaborated with Babes. Funds for their usual water-sports and waterfront lifestyle activities and events were used to initiate Gotong Royong, a charity drive.

Through this charity drive, six service-users and their families each received a gift pack consisting of \$200 worth of NTUC vouchers to help them with daily expenses and a Nagomi art set. Girls could bond with their children through creating the Nagomi art piece, and potentially win an additional \$50 voucher with their submitted work.

❖ Image Mission

Image Mission, one of our community partners, ran virtual classes on resume-writing and interview skills for our service-users to participate in, to increase their career-readiness, an increasingly important skill in the current climate.



❖ Project Ikhlas SG

Babes launched a mini program 'Happy Baby', to ensure that our service-users who are expecting soon will be equipped with new-born items they need, such as newborn diapers, clothes, toys, etc to welcome their baby. We worked with passionate volunteer group Project Ikhlas SG to support this program.

❖ Project Cinta Ummah

Ramadan is a month of giving and we would like to thank the amazing people at Project Cinta Ummah, a group of volunteers who sponsored and delivered (contactless) to 30 service-users packets of Nasi mandi for their entire family.



○ Saint Anthony's Canossian Secondary School

From their passionate efforts from raising awareness and crowdfunding among their fellow schoolmates, students from [Saint Anthony's Canossian Secondary School](#) fundraised more than \$1,000 worth of milk and diapers for needy teen mothers. The online awareness campaign they launched online on Instagram to educate their fellow peers gained more than 200 followers.

STORIES

“HOW CAN I CONTINUE MY STUDIES?”



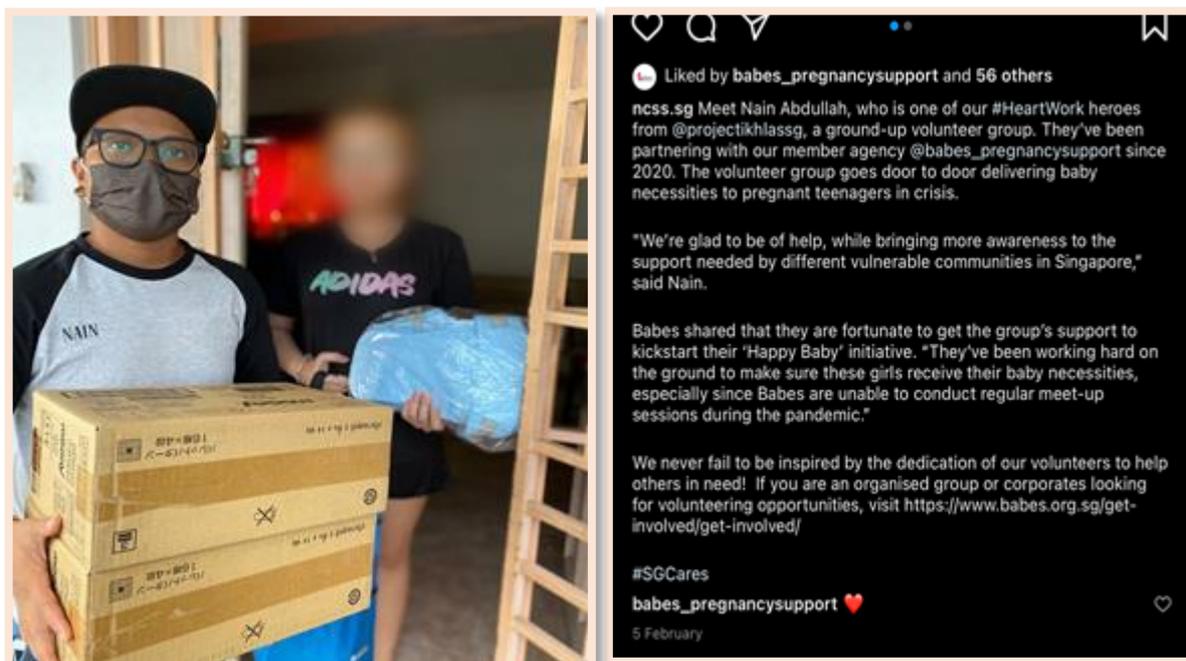
Source: Everypixel, Tirachard

'When I found out I was pregnant, I started to panic. My first thought was how can I continue my studies? I desperately wanted to keep my baby, but this is also my final year for N levels. I really did not want to be retained in my school as I wouldn't have any friends.

When my school started Home-Based Learning (HBL) because of COVID-19, I was so worried. My family cannot afford a computer but using my phone to download and read the learning materials online was so difficult. Luckily, Ms Linda (Babes caseworker) managed to help me obtain a laptop for my studies but learning to use it was quite difficult.

No one in my family knew how to use the laptop as we never had a computer before. Ms Linda and my neighbors took the time to teach me. Not long after, I gave birth to my baby boy and my mother is helping me to take care of him. A few months ago, I really didn't know how I can keep my baby and also sit for my N levels but because I have had help from people around me, I am now happier and healthier.'

HAPPY BABY



Source: Project Ikhlas SG

Project Ikhlas SG (PISG) volunteered their time and effort for Babes 'Happy Baby' Initiative in December 2020. Member Nain shares more about the experience below.

'With Babes being unable to conduct regular meet-up sessions, these girls might feel more afraid as they are isolated. Therefore, my team delivered baby necessities to pregnant teens to ensure that they receive sustenance and remind them that there is always help available.

It was tough braving the elements and racing against time to complete all island-wide deliveries within the day, meeting occasional delays when the girls were not home. We had to be patient as Babes' staff sorted out the issue, waiting extended periods for them to come home before we could personally deliver their items. But eventually, all's good. We are glad to collaborate with Babes to help these pregnant teens together.'

7TH ANNIVERSARY GIVING



Source: Fluff Bakery Facebook

Fluff Bakery ran a one-week campaign for their 7th anniversary and generously donated 20% of their sales, amounting \$6,179, to Babes. Its founder, Ms Syaira, shares her decision to donate to Babes below.

'After adopting a child from a teen mother, I tried to empathise with her and realised that pregnant teens are often scorned. Hence, I strongly believed that these girls require more support and I wanted to aid a cause (Babes) that helped them. Furthermore, with the pandemic, it was increasingly imperative to provide them with more assistance during these trying times. Thus, we rallied support for our campaign extensively on social media to raise more funds. Ultimately, we hope our efforts can help Babes provide better care for the girls.'

FUTURE PLANS AND COMMITMENT

In addition to our usual operating costs (e.g. staff and staff-related services, facilities and programme costs), Babes plans to channel more resources, and give greater focus to:

- ❖ Continue to innovate and create awareness via social media platforms and collaborate with like-minded partners on issues relating to teenage pregnancy.
- ❖ Review existing programmes and services to provide better support for our service-users and their support systems.
- ❖ Strengthen organisational and staff capabilities as we adapt technology and new work processes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A BIG THANK YOU TO....

Cradle & Suckle, for raising funds for Babes through the sales of their tote bags.

Dorothy and team, for your generous donation of \$500 worth of grocery shopping vouchers for each of our 10 selected beneficiaries.

Fluff Bakery, for raising funds for Babes through their online campaign sales.

KK Women's & Children's Hospital, for your partnership in ensuring that the pregnant teenagers are well supported.

Maison Q, for raising funds for Babes through the sales of face masks on its online store.

Motherswork, for providing essentials to our beneficiaries and their children through the Christmas Giving Tree initiative.

Mount Alvernia Hospital, for providing health care assistance at an affordable price to our service-users and their families.

Mummybay, for your continuous partnership in providing pre-loved baby items through your online platform.

National Council of Social Service (NCSS), for your confidence in us, your friendship and support.

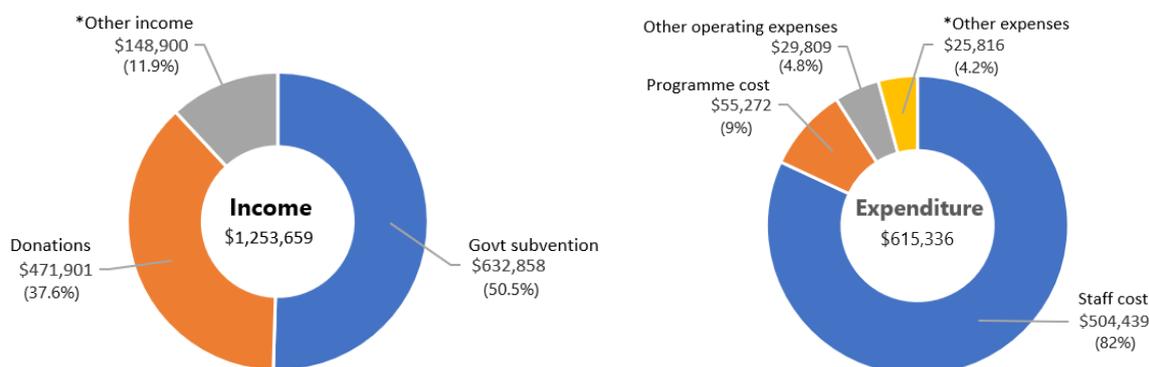
All our volunteers (including our Board Committee members), for generously sharing your time, experience and expertise to serve the people we work with.

The spouses, partners, children, family & friends of our staff, for respecting and supporting their odd working hours and perspectives on life. Finally, our most grateful thanks to all others not mentioned here but have contributed time, energy, resources or funds. Your kindness and generosity provide reassurance to the pregnant teenagers that, with the help of their community (and that includes you), they can better cope with their lives during and beyond their pregnancies.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following gives an overview of the finances from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

Babes does not charge for its services. We are funded by donations from philanthropic establishments, corporate and individual donors, and government grants managed by the National Council of Social Service (**NCSS**).



* **Other Income** comprises of fixed deposits, interest and miscellaneous.

* **Other expenses** comprise of administrative expenses.

Income

Babes received \$632,858 subvention from the Government. This represented 50.5% of the total income receipts for the year, as shown in the pie chart above. It comprised \$458,100 from the Tote Board, \$92,713 from Care and Share Fund and \$50,000 from Community Chest.

Our donors and the public were strong supporters helping us raise \$471,901 which included contributions from our fund-raising efforts as well; this amount was higher than last year. In all, our total income for 2020 was \$1,253,659.

The net income was \$638,323. Our total funds have increased from \$1,389,386 in FY 2019 to \$2,027,706 in FY 2020 due to the increase support in government funding and grants in view of COVID-19. Similarly, our total assets position improved 18% from \$1,936,159 in FY 2019 to \$2,292,583 in FY 2020.

Expenditure

Total operating expenditure was \$615,336. The decrease of 28% was mainly attributed to an overall decrease in programme and operating expenses in view of COVID-19 as compared to FY 2020.

The main expenditure is staff cost at \$504,439 which represents 82% of the total expenditure. A total of \$105,123¹ was paid as professional fees for both outgoing and incoming Executive Directors. There was an overlap for 1 month as the new ED transitioned into her role.

¹ Outgoing ED: Jan – Dec 20 & incoming ED: Dec 20 : Part-time 60%

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

MANAGEMENT AND AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Under our Conflict of Interest policy, all Directors, Board Committee Members, staff and volunteers of Babes are required to read and understand the policy, to make full disclosure of interests and to declare their interests on an annual basis. When a conflict of interest situation arises, the person concerned must declare his or her interests and abstain from participating in the discussion, decision-making and voting on the matter.

There was no transaction with a corporation in which Directors, Board Committee Members, staff or volunteers had an interest during the financial year 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020.

RELATED ENTITIES – There are no related entities.

WHISTLE-BLOWING POLICY – Babes has a whistle-blowing policy, and it can be viewed at <https://www.babes.org.sg/babes-your-friend/statutory-policies/>

RESERVES POLICY

The Company intends to maintain its reserves together with the restricted funds at a level of at least two years of its operating expenditure. As at 31 December 2020, the reserves is 2.8 times (2019: 1.65) of the historical operating expenditure. The Board of Directors will review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil the Company's continuing obligations annually. The Company's overall approach to management of reserves remain unchanged from the previous financial period. The Company is not subject to any externally imposed reserve requirements.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

For the period of 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.

	2020	2019
INCOME		
Government Funding/Grants	\$ 632,858.00	\$ 510,694.00
Fundraising & Donations	\$ 471,901.00	\$ 306,979.00
Other Income	\$ 148,900.00	\$ 49,491.00
Total income	\$ 1,253,659.00	\$ 867,164.00
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Cost	\$ 504,439.00	\$ 621,781.00
Programme Cost	\$ 29,809.00	\$ 56,931.00
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 55,272.00	\$ 84,087.00
Other Expenses	\$ 9,859.00	\$ 68,191.00
Total expenditure	\$ 615,336.00	\$ 850,447.00
PROFIT/LOSS	\$ 638,323.00	\$ 16,717.00
ASSETS		
Current Assets	\$ 2,252,755.00	\$ 1,925,130.00
Non-current Assets	\$ 40,098.00	\$ 11,029.00
Total Assets	\$ 2,292,853.00	\$ 1,936,159.00
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	\$ 265,147.00	\$ 546,776.00
Net asset	\$ 2,027,706.00	\$ 1,389,383.00

	2020	2019
UNRESTRICTED FUND		
Total unrestricted funds	\$ 1,884,639.00	\$ 1,349,639.00
RESTRICTED FUND		
Government funding/grants	\$ 89,103.00	\$ 26,602.00
Campaigns	\$ 53,964.00	\$ 13,145.00
Total restricted funds	\$ 143,067.00	\$ 39,747.00
Total Funds	\$ 2,027,706.00	\$ 1,389,386.00