

DIAMONDS



ON
THE STREET

INFO PACK



Dear Supporter,

In 2011, I had my eyes flung open to the necessity of hope.

I had been singing publicly for a while. Then, one day, I lost the ability to use my voice well. It was a singer's nightmare. The doctors did not have a cure for it.

Months went by. I struggled with everyday tasks like carrying out a normal conversation, making my order in a noisy hawker centre, and being heard in a work meeting.

I believe I can recover. While on the journey towards it, I have found companionship in friends who have also been suffering.

We made up our minds to fight our predators with an undying vision of hope, beauty, faith, love, a rainbow and a smile.

Diamonds On The Street was thus founded to celebrate the good stuff that come out of overcoming adversities and to spread that hope to others who think they are alone.

Please join me on this journey.

Yours truly,

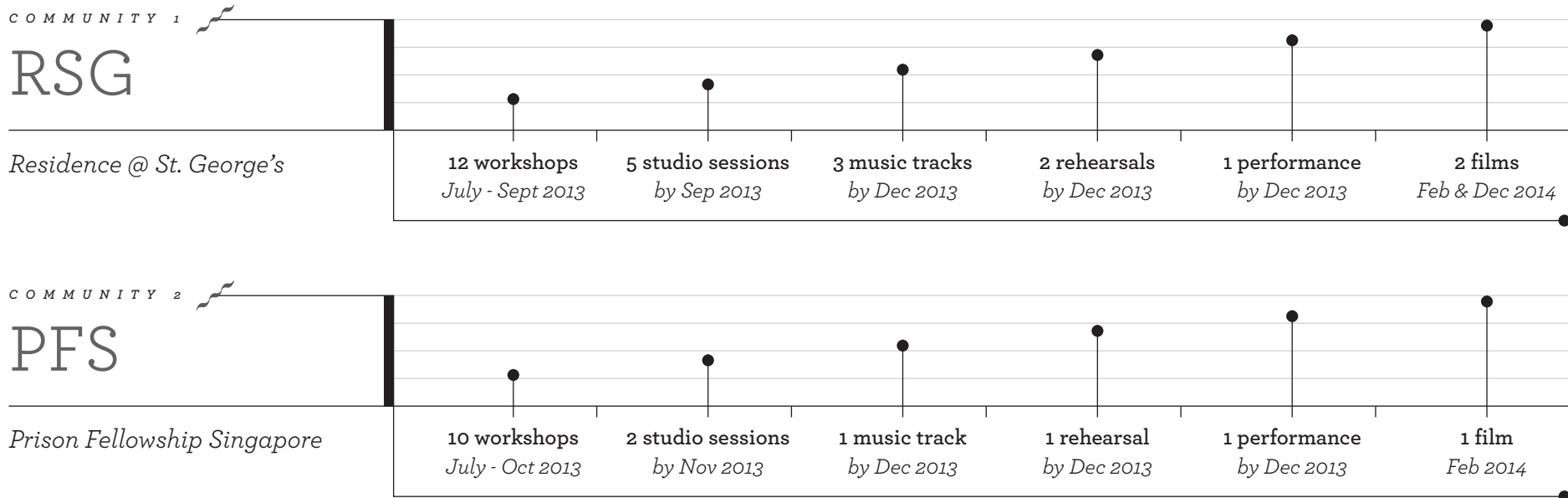
Crystal

Crystal Goh

OCTOBER 2013

What Is It About?

OVERVIEW OF DOTS' VISION, DIRECTION, KPIS AND GOALS



1. OUR VISION AND MISSION

VISION:

Diamonds on the Street enlivens communities and the city with hope through the arts. We believe in its power to heal, unite and celebrate lives.

MISSION:

We collaborate with communities in need of hope by co-creating music, stories and drama so that they are healed and empowered to be a voice of hope to others.

2. COMMUNITIES WE COLLABORATE WITH

2.1 Residence@St George's (RSG)

This is a home for girls aged 16 to 21 who are referred for voluntary admission or are mandated by the courts.

We work with 13 RSG girls to co-write, record and perform 3 original songs.

2.1.1 OUR KPIS

The collaboration culminates with the completion of:

- a) 12 music and storytelling workshops by Sep 2013
- b) 5 music studio recording sessions by Sep 2013
- c) 2 rehearsals by Dec 2013
- d) 3 professional studio tracks by Dec 2013
- e) 1 live performance for the community's loved ones by Dec 2013
- f) 1 short film that shows the impact of program and how it empowers by Feb 2014
- g) 1 full-length film that shows how the participants are empowered to be voices of hope through their personal stories by Dec 2014

2.1.2 OUR GOALS

This program aims to develop the following:

- a) Confidence in ability to contribute to society
- b) Motivation to live meaningfully and to achieve
- c) Ability to work well in a team
- d) Better family connection
- e) Empowerment to be a voice of hope to others

2.2 Care Club, Prison Fellowship Singapore (PFS)

Care Club is a Saturday program for children of prisoners.

We work with 19 Care Club PFS kids to record and perform 1 original song and drama.

2.2.1 OUR KPIS

The collaboration culminates with the completion of:

- a) 10 music and drama workshops by Sep 2013
- b) 2 music studio recording sessions by Sep 2013
- c) 1 rehearsal by Dec 2013
- d) 1 professional studio track by Dec 2013
- e) 1 live performance for the community's loved ones by Dec 2013
- f) 1 short film that shows the impact of program and how it empowers by Feb 2014

2.2.2 OUR GOALS

This program aims to develop the following:

- a) Confidence in ability to express
- b) Ability to work well in a team
- c) Better family connection
- d) Empowerment to be a voice of hope to others

3. THE CHALLENGE

We need help in funding the project. Recording music tracks with these communities at a studio, setting up the live performances and bringing their songs and stories of hope out to the public involve professionalism – our gift to these communities.

Even as professionalism costs, we firmly believe in it as a method to bring these communities on a journey of regaining their dignity, and to help them to go from being in need of hope to spreading hope to many others.

4. OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

As a sponsor, you will receive the following:

1. Two reports on DOTS:
 - How the money has been used;
 - Evaluation of program
2. Invitation to all performances
3. A music album of all the tracks produced
4. A short film that shows the impact of the program and how it empowers

Please contact Crystal Goh at +65 9858 2533 to learn how you can help empower the communities to spread hope.

5. THE TEAM



Crystal Goh, Wong Shu Yun, Paolo Ty and **Karen Wai** plan, coordinate and guide the communities in music and storytelling.

In addition, **Paolo Ty** and **Karen Wai** also document and art direct the project.

Eugene Koh, Clara Lim, Sharon Lim and **Goh Tian Ying** are our lead trainers who guide the communities in music, drama and props-making.

Stories From the Communities



RESIDENCE @ ST GEORGE'S

Diamonds on the Street is blessed to partner a talented group of girls at Residence @ St George's (RSG), each one blossoming into a butterfly.

Profile of the girls at RSG:

- Young females, 16 to 21 years old
- Young offenders on probation with hostel residency by court order
- Troubled female teenagers, referred by MSF, Courts or other VWOs, in need of rehabilitation

Their struggles

- The lack of a healthy support environment
- Negative peer influence
- Financial problems
- The lack of good decision-making skills

CHILDREN CARE CLUB, PRISON FELLOWSHIP SINGAPORE

Diamonds on the Street also holds bi-monthly music and drama workshops for the children at Care Club, Prison Fellowship Singapore.

Profile of the children at Care Club:

- Primary school age
- From broken homes where father is usually in prison and mother is either too stressed out trying to cope with life, or struggling with addictions
- Display “gangster” traits at a very young age
- Lack confidence
- High need of creative expression and diversion

Their background and hopes

When finding out more about these kids, we had to be mindful that some of them are unaware of their parents’ incarceration. It is extremely sensitive for us to broach the topic of their struggles and hopes.



THEIR HOPES INCLUDE

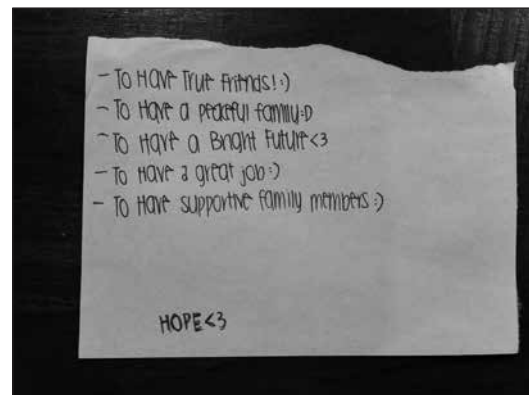
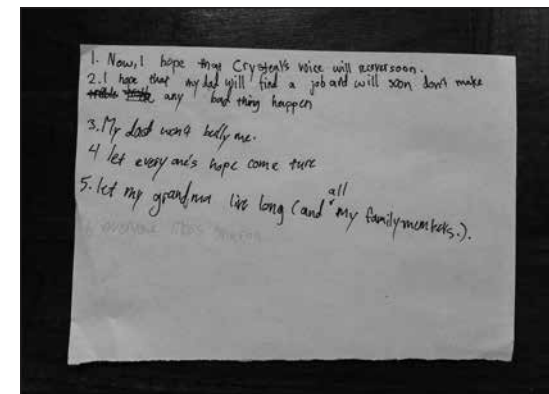
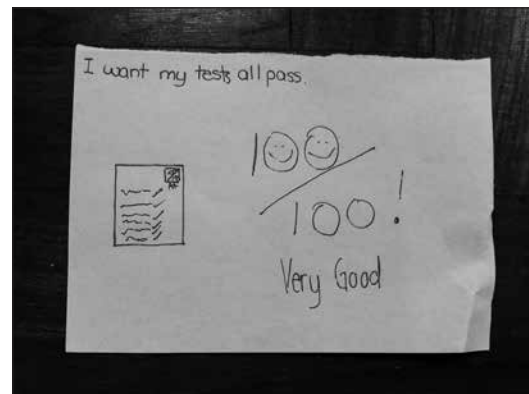
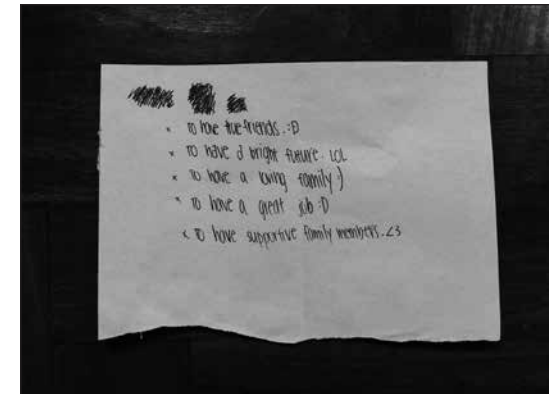
To find out more about these kids, we depend heavily on interviews with the family care coordinator from Prison Fellowship Singapore, research, as well as various expressions of hope done by the kids.

Their struggles

- A future that is much more likely to find them incarcerated
- Feelings of social stigma, embarrassment, and isolation from their peers
- Visitations with incarcerated parents in anxiety-filled prison meeting rooms
- Increased potential for depression, lower grades, separation anxiety, impaired emotional development, acute traumatic stress reactions, survivor guilt, and delinquent juvenile behaviors such as drug use, violence, and teen pregnancy

Children of inmates face a number of challenges every day that their peers do not. On top of the challenges they already face, there are also a handful of children at Care Club with special needs such as autism and ADHD.

These children struggle to connect with their peers and require highly-engaging and creative activities for them to grow and relate to one another.



FAQ

1 Why does DOTS focus on helping at-risk youths and children?

As young adults, we feel that we can connect with youths and children, and can provide a season of mentorship to them through DOTS.

2 Why raise money to do professional music recording, performances and films?

a) INSPIRATION

gained working with people from the industry

“Prisoners also valued the opportunity to work with professional artists and musicians both for the quality of the experience ‘to work with people of such a standard’ and for the way in which they were treated ‘she was so inspiring it felt ... as if I was back working with normal people’. - Learning, rehabilitation and the arts in prisons: a Scottish case study (2012), a joint research by University of Huddersfield, University of Edinburgh and University of Glasgow

b) TEAMWORK

cultivated during performances

“...the way that the projects were set up with a performance at the end meant that everyone had to work together and this emphasized the group effort and the importance of being able to rely on each other to do their fair share.”
- Learning, rehabilitation and the arts in prisons: a Scottish case study (2012)

c) CONFIDENCE

gained from performances and increased connection with loved ones

“A final way in which ‘Inspiring Change’ built confidence and increased self-esteem was the positive impact of the public performances even though doing it ‘took a lot out of you’. Several factors contributed to this: one was the ability for offenders to connect with their families and do something that was ‘going to make them proud’; another was being able to give people outside ‘inspiration’...” - Learning, rehabilitation and the arts in prisons: a Scottish case study (2012)

d) MOTIVATION

to live meaningfully upon in-depth reflection

Bill Strickland, a social innovator working with disadvantaged and at-risk youth, and winner of the MacArthur “Genius” Award and the 2011 Goi Peace Award, shares, “You have to change the way that people see themselves before you can change their behavior...the arts is a strategy to walk across into a new life. We need to unlock their imagination, and unlock a new way of learning. There is no excuse why we can’t use all the resources in the world to help these kids.”

The songwriting and storytelling process allows the community members to reflect, share their stories and be healed as they begin to view themselves with dignity.

Self-reflection can help develop a capacity for critical thinking required for the young person to question their current situation and seek help to make the necessary changes.

Improving reflection can also act to genuinely improve empathy, a capacity and trait well supported in the research literature as being associated with reducing the likelihood of offending behaviour.

e) **EMPOWERMENT**

to be a voice of hope to others

True empowerment comes when the communities learn how to give and benefit others instead of just receiving. Everyone of the program's participants has a life experience that will bring hope to others. When they begin to realise that they are able to be a voice of hope, they will view themselves as overcomers instead of "hopeless cases".

By bringing their stories (through the films) and their songs (through professional music tracks) onto platforms that are able to touch and benefit many, the communities will begin to see themselves as contributing members of society. They will go from needing hope to spreading hope.

3 Why raise money to assess the impact of the project?

Assessments move a program forward, increases its ability to meet the needs of those served, and informs the program's future. It is particularly vital during the formative pilot year, when tremendous growth and learning occur and the need to build support for the program is greatest.

4 What is DOTS going to do after this, i.e., what is our sustainability plan?

We are inclined to start a for-profit creative agency that specialises in building up Singapore's social and emotional capital through campaigns, adverts and more.

This is because it fits best with our strengths, skills, interests and experience.

However, the team is taking some time to consider this sustainability plan. We will be planning our next steps in detail in December 2013, after evaluation and feedback.

Meanwhile, we're definitely focusing on empowering the 32 lives under our care for now.



Please contact us at diamondsonthestreet@gmail.com for more information, or get in touch with Crystal at +65 9858 2533.