



YEAR IN REVIEW
2018

A NEW ERA

In many ways, although we crossed over from our first year into our second in 2018, the journey we took into 2019 included several firsts for Awful Grace. From growing our Toki Formation programme to include schools, to organising our first fundraising dinner, to becoming a full member of the National Council for Social Services (NCSS).

For Awful Grace, 2018 was about preparing for a new era. It was about focus. And for us, it is working with communities who have experienced victimisation through various circumstances. Be it political, socio-economic, cultural - in many ways, we can identify with them. We have all been victimised or have felt victimised at times. What would it look like if we could turn this into strength? What would it look like if victims can transform internally to in turn, become mentors and influencers? How can we make this happen? This is our focus moving forward at Awful Grace.

Since 2017, we have journeyed with inmates from the Singapore Prisons in their transition from in prison to out of prison, with Toki Formation, our signature programme. In 2018, we also partnered with Assumption Pathway School and ran Toki Formation for its students. Their pieces were showcased at the school's public exhibition in November 2018. This year, we will continue our collaboration with both organisations.

Projek Namaste, took us on a continued journey with the people of Nepal through our community development project. This is a collaborative effort with Singapore Red Cross and Victim Support & Rehabilitation Program (VSRP) Nepal. Another 20 families from Dhading received goat farming training and the animals to start their own farms. We also completed a mobile clinic in Kathmandu, visited Dhulikhel Prison and gifted sewing machines to prisoners in order for them to learn how to sew as a means to generate income for themselves. We distributed school backpacks to the children in Kathmandu, under the care of our partner VSRP Nepal.

The fundraising dinner in September 2018 has enabled us to continue our programmes and activities into the next two years. We would like to thank our donors and volunteers for your partnership and your continued engagement with us. For more information about our activities this year, please contact me at christine.tan@awfulgrace.org.

Grace and peace,



Christine Tan
Founder

“The world
breaks everyone
and afterwards
many are strong
at the broken
places”

- Ernest Hemingway -

CHITWAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

We also witnessed the completion of the training and the closing ceremony of the community development project in goat farming. 20 families in Chitwan received 2 goats and a cow each at the closing ceremony. This gift will enable each family to start their own goat farm, resulting in having sustainable income.

NEXT STEPS

Projek Namaste's objective of community development and of improving the livelihood of the Nepali people in the various districts continues in 2019 with the refurbishment of the goat and cow training centre in Chitwan. The expansion of the building will enable more families to be trained by local specialists, and the initial phase of producing goat milk-related products. We will continue to focus efforts in supporting the Nepal community on their road to recovery from the devastating 2015 earthquakes.



In 2018, another 20 families from Dhading received their goats and cows after a three day training workshop conducted by a veterinarian from the agriculture department at the Chitwan farm.



We are very grateful for the love and support from the people of Singapore because you have given the families in Nepal new hope for a better future. The goat and cow farming project in the past two years have brought 40 Nepali families out of poverty. The partnership with Awful Grace and Singapore Red Cross has been a blessing for us. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you and God bless you!

Dinesh Neupane
Executive Director
Victim Support & Rehabilitation
Program (VSRP), Nepal

DHULIKHEL PRISON, NEPAL



Dhulikhel Prison in Kavre District is one of more than 70 prisons in Nepal. To support prisoners in learning tailoring, Awful Grace donated sewing machines during our visit in 2018. The machines will enable prisoners to earn a living through tailoring.



VOLUNTEER REFLECTIONS



I received so much more than what I gave in my eight days in Nepal. My whole being was overwhelmed in a strange yet wonderful way. These beautiful, simple, humble people of Nepal moved my heart, my spirit. In Chitwan, we met with families who had completed the goat farming training. Having certification and equipped with skills, they were each gifted with 2 goats and a cow to help them start off their sustainable living journey. The language of hugs, the look in their eyes, and their smiles said it all - gratefulness, empowerment, dignity, joy and hope. I felt it all when I was with a beautiful lady. She hugged me, kissed me, shed tears. Her embrace was filled with thankfulness. As I looked at her I could tell she had gone through much hardship and now she is redeemed, restored. It was a very special moment for me. I went so as to give, to help make a little difference in their lives, to effect change for the betterment of their future but I was changed instead. I now view life and humanity with deeper understanding and perspectives.

- Pamela -



This was the first time we went on a mission trip together. The boys and girls at the Peace Loving Children's Homes in Kathmandu and Pokhara were welcoming of us and we enjoyed spending time with them. Despite very difficult circumstances, we could feel their joy. The visit to the local prison was also a new experience as we have not been into a prison before. The inmates were so grateful when they received the sewing machines we brought for them. In their enthusiasm, they assembled the machines very quickly and started using them while we were there! It was truly a blessed, meaningful and wonderfully enriching trip. We know it won't be our last.

- Jamie (left) and mom, Jenny -



2018 was my second trip to Nepal, and this time round I noticed that life was beginning to take on a more normal routine. However, challenges remain for the most disadvantaged communities - those who do not have the resources to exit the poverty cycle and rebuild their lives.

My most memorable afternoon was at the Chitwan Goat and Cow Farm, where beneficiary families received their cows and goats for the 2018-2019 cycle. There were tears and laughter, bows and kisses, which broke through communication barriers. I realised that this is where Awful Grace's work bears most impact in Nepal. I look forward to seeing more meaningful changes in our upcoming trip in 2019.

- Phi Yen -

EXPERIENCING HIDDEN COMMUNITIES

On September 28, we celebrated our second year with an inaugural fundraising dinner with more than 260 friends. It was a night of sharing life and of being in community. The evening unfolded with life stories of those whom we have journeyed with these past two years. These include Toki Formation apprentices from Admiralty West Prison and their family members, friends from Victim Support and Rehabilitation Program (Nepal), Saturdays@Lengkok Bahru, volunteers, partners, donors, family and friends.

The dinner was sponsored by The Fullerton Hotel and the funds raised will go towards supporting our programme expansion and administrative costs.

"I am telling my story because none of this would have happened if I had not joined Toki Formation. It changed my life and now I want to pay it forward by staying out of prison and in time when I am stable, to be able to mentor youth-at-risk so they don't end up in prison wasting their youth. Thank you Awful Grace for believing in us and for helping us discover our better selves."

- Toki Formation Apprentice
(Admiralty West Prison) -



Pottery pieces created by Toki Formation apprentices in prison on display at the at the Awful Grace fundraising dinner in September 2018.



Sisters Shanti and Rita from Nepal who celebrated with us, sharing their experience growing up in Peace Loving Children's Home. The home houses children rescued from prison and provides them with a safe and loving environment to grow up in. Where they are able to receive proper education and have their mental and emotional well-being tended to.

Crystal Goh, founder of "Diamonds on the Street" - an organisation that works with at-risk youths through music and dance. Crystal shares her composition on her ukelele during the dinner.



EXPERIENCING HIDDEN COMMUNITIES



Celebrating community on September 28, 2018 with friends, volunteers, donors and those we journey with.



TOKI FORMATION

In June 2018, we completed Toki Formation at Admiralty West Prison. The apprentices whom we have journeyed with during the 10 months are now part of Toki Community, a continuation of the programme outside of prison. In July, we started Toki Formation at Assumption Pathway School with 16 students. Our engagement with them resulted in a mentoring relationship with the students and a bonus exhibition of their pottery pieces at the school's art exhibition - Blue - which was open to the public in November 2018.

Awful Grace celebrated yet another milestone when we were recognised for Toki Formation, by the Singapore Prison Service in its appreciation event on 23 November 2018. We were honoured to have received the recognition award from Senior Parliamentary Secretary from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health, Mr Amrin Amin.

In 2019, Toki Formation will continue to grow in several other schools and organisations in Singapore and overseas. Toki Formation is an expression of Awful Grace which focuses on forming character traits and acquiring life skills through the art form of pottery making. It is a holistic and person-centred approach to journeying with inmates during their time in prison and after their release. This approach of attending to each individual enables volunteers to work with each person in the areas of emotional, psychological and spiritual well-being. Toki Formation is slated to kick off in other organisations in 2019.

MOULDING POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS THROUGH TOKI FORMATION AT ASSUMPTION PATHWAY SCHOOL

Toki Formation made our students see that they can create something out of a simple shapeless piece of clay. The clay representing themselves, the students realised that they could shape their own lives just like the pieces of clay and make something out of themselves. They learnt that they need to work hard if they wanted the eventual pieces to be something beautiful and useful just like themselves. The school is looking forward to further collaborate with Awful Grace in the near future so that more students can be exposed to this programme."

- Gerard Ivan Stewart, IC Discipline, Strategic Committee -





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HEAR FROM THE VOLUNTEERS AT TOKI FORMATION

It has been a meaningful and rewarding time spent when you see the students turn a lump of clay into beautiful pieces. Well done boys and girls!

- Joan Heng -

Watching these young potters at work gives one hope that their lives too, like the clay they fashioned during the Toki process, will take shape in a positive and focused way, culminating in a sense of real achievement and pride.

- Linda Gan -

Over the 10 sessions, many of the kids went from not knowing why they were at Toki Formation to creating works of art that reflected their uniqueness. For many of them, these sessions provided an outlet for them to create art in the midst of difficulties and challenges.

- Timothy Khoo -



Pottery pieces by students of Toki Formation at Assumption Pathway School