KECHARA
soup kitchen

KSK SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT 2022












Alleviating poverty together - One life, one family, one community at a time



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we look back on the year 2022, we recognise the difficulties faced by many Malaysians due to inflation and limited job opportunities, particularly those in the lower income brackets. Our team at KSK received numerous calls from those in need, and it was heart-wrenching to hear about the struggles faced by our less fortunate citizens.

Despite these challenges, we at KSK remained committed to our mission to serve the homeless and marginalised communities. Thanks to the generosity of kind Malaysians from all walks of life, and the private sector, we were able to raise much-needed funds and donations to continue our work. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed their time, money, and food to support our cause.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our vision to build a nation with less homelessness, hunger, poverty, and food wastage, and a better quality of life for all. To achieve this, we plan to expand our operations by acquiring a building to provide more space for storage of dry food and fresh produce, as well as a larger area to train and empower the jobless with skill sets, and an office space.

As we move into the new year of 2023, our dedicated and hardworking staff and volunteers are filled with enthusiasm and excitement to serve even more of our Malaysian brothers and sisters. We welcome all those who share our passion for helping the less fortunate to join us in this noble cause.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

With gratitude,



Henry Ooi



STAFF LIST AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2022:

Group Managing Director	: Jean Mei
Marketing Director	: Justin
Corporate Relation	: Julia
Managers	: Katie, Mingwen, Vivian



Andrea
Arina
Athirah
Bernard
Erzarith
Fenddi
Jien Howe
Kishan
Krishnan
Leziel
Maya
Nabilah
Sean
Shirley
Sunny
Uncle Ng
Vicky

KSK Society has been serving the marginalised community in Malaysia since 2008. These communities include the homeless, urban poor, and Orang Asli population. Our services can be broadly categorised into three departments: Soup Kitchen, Food Bank, and Empowerment. Within these three departments, there are subdivisions of services that aim to help various vulnerable demographics of Malaysians. These include off-the-street programmes for homeless clients and education for Orang Asli children.

Vision

Towards a nation where no one is deprived of basic necessities because of poverty.

Mission

Soup Kitchen: Reduce homelessness and poverty, through providing cooked food and community care.

Food Bank: Provide food security for the underprivileged community, through dry and surplus food assistance.

Empowerment: Promote self-reliance and financial independence, through education and skill-sets programmes.

Nurturing Hope Amidst Adversity: Our Endeavours to Serve the Needy Community in 2022

KSK Society was able to produce an output that was five times greater than the amount of donations received. This means that for every RM1 donated, RM5 worth of items were contributed to the beneficiaries.

Total Assistance Provided in monetary value	: RM5,344,684.15
Total Number of Volunteers	: 4,022
Total Number of Volunteering Hours Contributed	: 34,160
Total Number of CSR Initiatives	: 540
Total Number of Student Group Initiatives	: 52

Since our establishment in 2008, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to serve, even amidst global political and economic instability that has threatened to derail our efforts. Despite growing concerns about the ever-increasing prices of food and operating costs, we have remained resolute in our mission to serve more beneficiaries in need. We have sought to continuously improve our efficiency to reduce costs and maximise the positive impact we are able to provide to each beneficiary.



Through innovation and hard work, we take pride in the significant strides we have made in nurturing hope amidst adversity. We remain grateful for the unwavering support and partnership of our stakeholders.

Moving forward, we are committed to continuing our efforts to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve, and we thank you for your continued trust in our work. At KSK Society, we look back on 2022 as a year of great encouragement.

General Update

Expansion and reorganisation to benefit more

This year, we expanded our current team to increase capacity in operations, marketing, public relations, and administration, in order to cope with the increasing needs and number of beneficiaries in the underserved community.

We welcomed Miss Elisa Khong, who first volunteered with us 15 years ago when she was a teenager, as our Group Managing Director. Justin Cheah, who served as our Operations Director for many years, assumed the role of Marketing Director, while Mingwen, who previously interned with KSK Society back in 2014, has taken on the role of Operations Manager.

Looking to the future, we have many plans for further expansion and growth. With our expanded team (including new staff members in Penang and Ipoh), we are confident that we can continue to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve.

Expanding Our Services to Benefit More Underprivileged Individuals in Ipoh

In July, with encouragement from a generous benefactor, Mr. Andy Ooi, KSK Society established a hub in Medan Bendahara, Ipoh. With the establishment of this new hub, we aim to provide even more comprehensive assistance to the local underprivileged community, after having established a surplus food programme there in 2017. Since its establishment, 50 needy families and 40 homeless clients have been receiving consistent food assistance through our food bank and soup kitchen programmes.





New Home, New Opportunities: KSK Society's Penang Team Moves to Lorong Carnarvon

After 11 years of serving the community from Halaman Ariffin, KSK Society's Penang team has found a new home in Lorong Carnarvon, thanks to the incredible generosity of an anonymous couple who offered two newly refurbished units for free to enhance our current soup kitchen and food bank operations.

This new location has proven to be more convenient for our regular clients, who now find it easier to walk to. Looking ahead, KSK Society's long-term plan is to establish an empowerment programme at the new location, enabling us to provide even more support and help those in need. We are excited about the opportunities this new home will bring and grateful for the support of our anonymous benefactors.



Partnerships and Collaborations

At KSK Society, we are privileged to have forged numerous partnerships and collaborations with esteemed corporations and learning institutions, all of which have helped us to serve the community more effectively. We recognise the importance of working together, to avoid duplication of efforts and resources, and to maximise our impact. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide a platform for all groups who share our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those in need.

In 2022, we were fortunate to collaborate with several outstanding partner, including Lotus's Stores Malaysia Sdn Bhd, AEON Co. (M) Berhad, Universal Robina Munchy's, Nestle Malaysia, Unilever and other generous individuals, to raise over 15,000 kilograms of dry provisions for "World Food Day." We also participated in the regional food drive campaign "Drive Hunger Away 3" organised by The Food Bank of Singapore, together with seven sister food banks in Asia (members of the Global Foodbanking Network), namely: Feeding Hong Kong, Green Food Bank of China, Scholars of Sustenances Thailand and Indonesia, Food Cycle Indonesia, and Rise Against Hunger Philippines.









In addition, we worked with AEON BiG, Airdry Apparel Sdn Bhd, HSBC Malaysia, Lazada, Shopee Mobile Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Sutera Mall Johor Bahru, TedBoy, The Alice Smith School Foundation to raise awareness and hold food drive campaigns.



We are especially proud of the long-term volunteering partnership programme we established with UCSI University. These partnerships have been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals, and we are grateful for the support and collaboration of our partners.



Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) and Award

In August, KSK Society was honoured to receive "The Best CSR Award at Malaysia Best Business Award 2022". We humbly acknowledge that this achievement was made possible through the collective efforts of all stakeholders within the community. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our cause, whether it was through their own initiative, their company's CSR programmes, community groups, friends, or other means.



CSR plays a crucial role in ensuring that non-profit organisations like KSK Society can continue to sustain and carry out our mission. We are grateful for the recognition and will continue to work tirelessly towards serving the underserved communities.



Our sincere gratitude!

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers, who form the backbone of our entire operation. We recognise the invaluable role that our volunteers play in helping us to deliver our services to the community. Without your valuable contributions, we would not be able to achieve our mission goals. We are humbled by your selflessness and dedication!





"Kechara Soup Kitchen provides a very organised system to enable me to help the less fortunate in Malaysia. I have also made friends with many like-minded people who just want to help make things a little better. So grateful to serve the people with all you good people ❤."

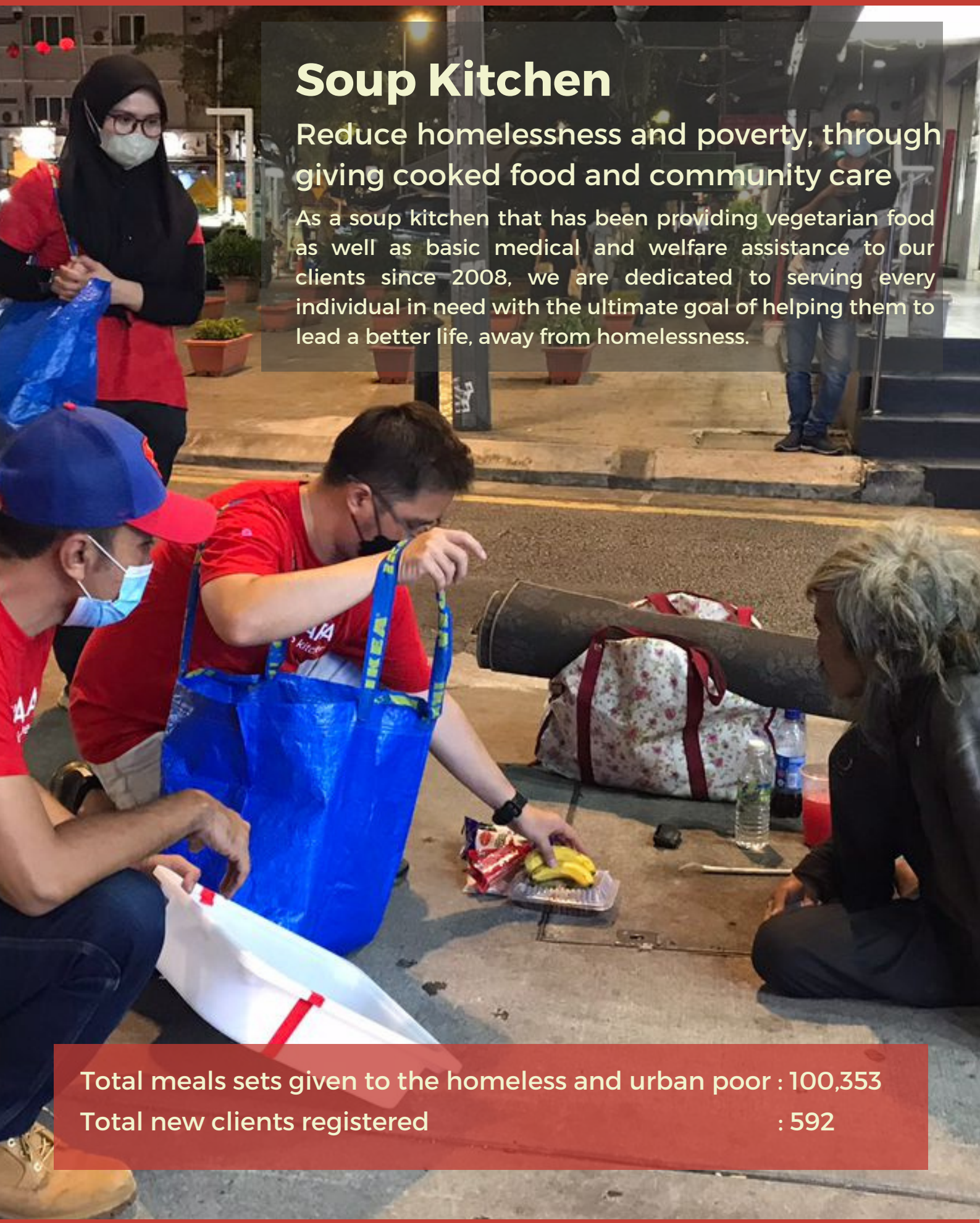
Charlene Angelene, KSK Kuala Lumpur



"Mother Teresa — 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.'

This profound quote has inspired me through my five year journey with KSK. We think we are here to help others, but we are the ones who gain so many real life lessons in humanity. Thank you for letting me be a part of the community."

Prema, KSK Negeri Sembilan



Soup Kitchen

Reduce homelessness and poverty, through giving cooked food and community care

As a soup kitchen that has been providing vegetarian food as well as basic medical and welfare assistance to our clients since 2008, we are dedicated to serving every individual in need with the ultimate goal of helping them to lead a better life, away from homelessness.

Total meals sets given to the homeless and urban poor : 100,353
Total new clients registered : 592

Soup Kitchen

While food and basic necessities are crucial to address their immediate needs, they also serve as a tool for our team to connect with them more closely and provide the best solutions to their predicament. KSK Society currently provides 16 meal services on a weekly basis across its four hubs in Kuala Lumpur, Penang Island, Ipoh and Johor Bahru.



Thanks to joint efforts within our community, the number of homeless individuals on the streets has greatly reduced over the years from 1,800 individuals in 2010 to approximately 700 in 2022. Nevertheless, we know there is more work to be done to improve the situation even further.

Increased serving capacity in key areas

Since the pandemic, we have identified a growing number of jobless elderly and visually impaired individuals who are in need of food. They live in partitioned rooms in slum areas and have no means of income. In response to this, we have increased our serving capacity in identified areas such as Pudu and Brickfields with the specific aim of targeting these vulnerable groups. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on their lives, and our focus is to identify and provide assistance to even more individuals in need.





I am a blind person and work as a masseuse for a living together with about another 100 other blind people in Brickfields. It was a tragedy to us during the pandemic period as we had to close down, and there is no other source of income due to our disability. Fortunately, KSK came in to help us by providing regular food assistance regularly which we are very grateful for. We have definitely benefited from their kindness and we have also gained courage from the fact that people care. On behalf of the hundreds of blind people whom I represent in Brickfields, I would like to give a quote by Sir Winston Churchill, "Never have so many owed so much to so few."

Mr Lee Shing Chow, The Blind Community in Brickfields











"I have had a great experience volunteering at KSK. It creates an awareness to the situation of the underprivileged clients and gives me an avenue to make a positive impact in their livelihood. I have learnt new skills and challenged myself in new ways like taking up leadership roles, motivating the other volunteers to become regular volunteers and optimising the distribution process. Besides that, it gave me an opportunity to build great friendships with KSK staff and volunteers as they are all friendly and fun to hang out with."

Sivaraj, KSK Johor Bahru



"I have enjoyed 6 years of voluntary service in KSK Taiping. Collecting and distributing surplus produce, cooked food and dry provisions to the needy and less privileged of all races and religions is my small and humble contribution towards a noble cause. We will strive to reduce homelessness, food wastage and poverty together. I will walk the extra mile to reach out to the needy as long as I can. Thank you and appreciation to the dedicated leaders and volunteers of Kechara Soup Kitchen Society."

Aileen Oon, KSK Taiping Volunteer Group

Festive Treats

KSK Society has been distributing specially prepared meals, called Festive Treats, during festive celebrations like Chinese New Year, Hari Raya, Deepavali, and Christmas to our friends on the streets. These meals are valued at RM20 per pax and serve as a significant act of kindness towards those who are often ignored and excluded from such celebrations. Although these special meals may be a small gesture, we hope they bring comfort to those who have nowhere else to turn.



Self Care Pack

We are pleased to share that, with the help of generous public donations, we were able to raise a total of RM50,000 to purchase 1,000 sets of self-care packs for our friends living on the streets. These packs contain essential items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, mosquito coils, medicated oils, carrier bags, face masks, warm meal sets, and Kechara Empowerment cookies, and were distributed across our hubs in Johor Bahru, Kuala Lumpur, and Penang. Our clients were pleasantly surprised by the thoughtful gifts.





"I have met so many incredible people while volunteering at Kechara Soup Kitchen - the volunteers, recipients and the team. The experience taught me the importance of building relationships and that everyone has a story. And we all have the capacity to help each other in some way."

Yunus, KSK Kuala Lumpur



The KSK team has definitely delivered warmth in the coldest nights to the clients. It's amazing how a simple hello and meal is appreciated by the clients. The smile when they receive the food is just priceless! They may not be able to pay back with money or items but some often return with "good night & God bless you."

Sharon Xin, KSK Penang



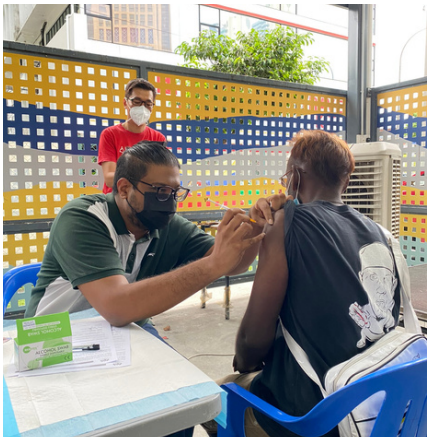
Medic

In 2022, we experienced great relief as our medical team was able to resume full service, providing essential medical assistance on the ground. Throughout the year, the most common health issues faced by those on the streets were hypertension, breathing complications, and skin-related conditions.

Number of medical casese attended to: 2,013

Collaborations

In addition, KSK Society collaborated with the National Cancer Society Malaysia (NCSM) to provide free Covid-19 vaccinations to the homeless and urban poor community. The turnout was encouraging, highlighting the community's concern about the potential danger posed by the pandemic.



Business as usual

Overall, in addition to our street rounds, the Kuala Lumpur team has resumed services at both the Medan Tuanku and Pudu stops, while the Johor Bahru team has been able to provide bi-monthly medical consultations to formerly homeless individuals staying in a halfway home as they wait to be reintegrated back into society.



Added services in our Free Clinic in Imbi

As everything returns to normal, our partner organisation IMU Cares (International Medical University) has resumed its in-house dental and clinic services at our Soup Kitchen in Imbi. Other services, such as Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Chiropractic, were gradually added to our Free Clinic over the course of a year. These services are now available to both the homeless and urban poor clients.





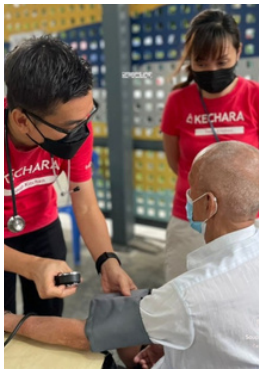
"I have been a client of KSK for many years when they first started giving food on the streets. I have very little but it doesn't mean I should not be giving something back. The doctors are very nice to me too and always very helpful in treating my wounds. I like them."

Mr Liew, 65, on why he donates to KSK Society regularly

Shout out

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to KSK Society's dedicated medical team, who arrive early and stay late, serving well into the night. They are humble in their service, and their unwavering commitment to our mission is truly admirable. We truly appreciate their hard work and dedication, and we are always in need of more medical professionals who would like to join them.











"It is always a humbling and inspiring boost to be amongst a team of genuinely caring individuals who embrace their kindness to move forward to help others in the multitude of services that KSK has to offer. Even after many years, I'm still inspired by the team that comes together without judgment to find ways to benefit many others."

Dr Ming, KSK Kuala Lumpur



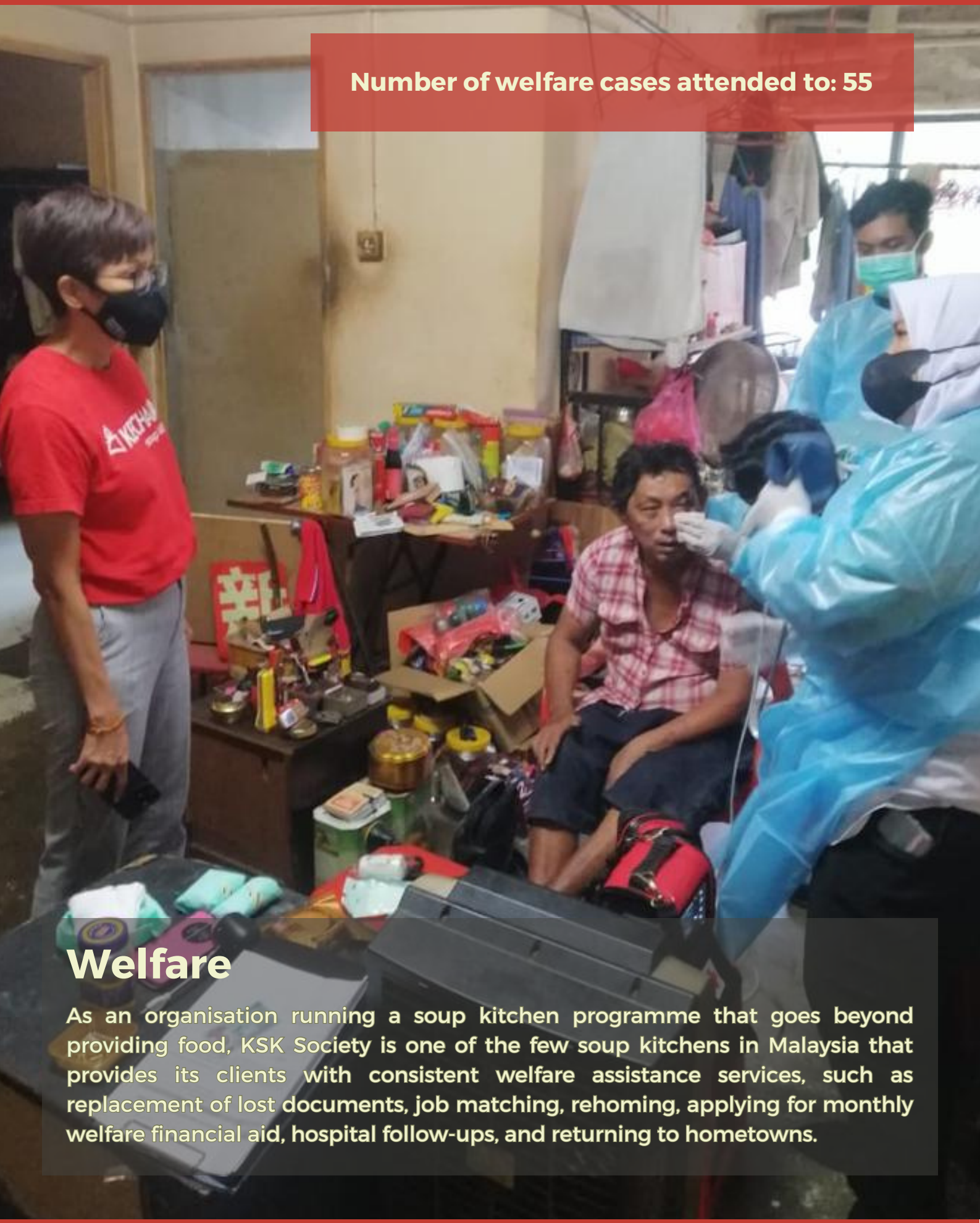
"I thought that I was going to be living my final days on the streets until KSK helped me to settle into a shelter home which I am very grateful for. I am very happy here and it has helped me to have stable healthy meals and a place I can call home. I am very relieved in every way."

Uncle Ng, 66, ex client



"I ran away from my abusive husband and was homeless for more than a year. I met kind people on the streets and KSK was one of them. They helped me to replace my lost Mykad, monthly financial aid that enabled me to rent a room. I went back to my family after a few years. I am always grateful for what KSK had done for me."

Sumathi, 48, ex client



Number of welfare cases attended to: 55

Welfare

As an organisation running a soup kitchen programme that goes beyond providing food, KSK Society is one of the few soup kitchens in Malaysia that provides its clients with consistent welfare assistance services, such as replacement of lost documents, job matching, rehoming, applying for monthly welfare financial aid, hospital follow-ups, and returning to hometowns.

Based on the depth of the result from previous years, we are inspired and remain committed to continuing to provide these essential services on the ground, not only to homeless individuals but also to urban poor families.

Among the cases we attended to in 2022:

- Helped Uncle Foo from Sentul and En Rizkhi's family of six from Ipoh to avoid eviction.
- Temporarily sheltered a stranded couple with four children ranging from one to 12 years old in a halfway home in Anjung Singgah. They were eventually reintegrated back to their own hometown.
- Helped ex-client Abang 'A' repair his bicycle, which enabled him to report to work in his new job.
- Facilitated Mr. John in receiving his Covid-19 vaccination, which enabled him to secure a job.
- Assisted Uncle Khoo in obtaining medical certification and monthly financial welfare aid, which prevented him from eviction.
- Rehomed stranded Uncle Ng into a shelter.
- Provided humanitarian assistance to two of our unlucky charity partners: Pertubuhan Kebajikan Anak Yatim Mary when its orphanage was destroyed by fire, and K9 Cottage, which suffered huge losses after the devastating flood in Ulu Langat back in late December 2021.
























"Relishing our long partnership since 2010 when our first halfway home for our street friends, Anjung Singgah first started. There has been ups and downs but we are always grateful to KSK for always being there as a good friend joining hands to continue to serve those in need."

Puan Nordina, Yayasan Kebajikan Negara



"I became homeless when I was very young and that was when I met KSK. I was not happy with life then and was unsure what will hold in the future. Thanks to KSK for giving me the great help and aspirations for me to make the move and leave the streets. I am now back with my family and am happy that I am able to contribute and take care of my family."

Raphael, 32, ex client



"I was released from jail some time last year and ended up living on the streets. I lost all my belongings and had no one else to turn to (for assistance). Eventually, I was introduced to KSK by a friend to get daily food. They helped to pay the fine for losing my MyKad which enabled me to go look for jobs. I am now working in a restaurant and sharing a room with my friend. I am very thankful to KSK for helping me."

Mr Lee, 55, ex client
Note: Mr Lee bought two packets of orange juice as treats to KSK staff on his first pay day.



Food Bank

Provide food security for the underprivileged community, through dry and surplus food assistance

Since launching our food bank programme in 2012, KSK Society has focused on addressing issues of hunger, food insecurity, and social justice faced by needy families and individuals in both rural and urban areas by providing consistent food and basic necessities. Through our presence in 11 states, we have been able to locate, verify, and register those in need under our care, with the aim of preventing them from falling deeper into financial difficulties.

Number of families served regularly : 2,594 families
Food packs provided to needy families : 10,000 packs
Weight served in total : 172,224 kilogrammes

This year, the underprivileged have faced significant challenges such as increasing food prices, which have forced them to reduce their daily grocery budget to make ends meet. Many families are forced to contemplate sacrificing their children's education as essential expenses like rent, utilities, and food take precedence over other expenses. Thanks to the contributions of many kind-hearted Malaysians, KSK Society has been able to provide immediate short-term solutions to desperate families, ensuring they do not have to go to such extremes.



Continuous Efforts to Help the Forgotten People in Taman Negara, Kuala Tahan

We have been consistently providing assistance to the Batek tribe in Taman Negara since 2020. In addition to food provisions, we have distributed basic necessities such as solar panels and tarpaulins to the 126 families residing in seven villages along the Tembeling river. Throughout the year, we have cultivated good friendships, which eventually led to us being granted permission to camp overnight in the village and socialise with them. We understand that food alone is not the ultimate solution to their predicament, and we aim to build on the newly formed trust to create more impactful work with them in the future.





Food & School Mission, Helping The Forgotten

Following the successful Food Mission campaign in 2021, KSK Society embarked on a three-legged mission to deliver dry food assistance and school bags to 1,590 families residing in 34 villages throughout Peninsular Malaysia. We are grateful for the support given by our sponsors and volunteers, especially GD Express Sdn Bhd, for their invaluable assistance in transporting food to Chenderiang during the central leg. We remain committed to addressing the growing needs of this often-overlooked community, and the Food Mission campaign is a critical part of our ongoing efforts to assist them.





"Joining KSK was one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. Seeing smiles from the families that we helped really makes me feel like this is what everyone else should do too. To be a volunteer. It is a one destress day every month when we go out to distribute food provisions to all the families <3."

Brenda Pladius, KSK Sabah

Providing Essential Relief to Flood Victims of Baling, Kedah

In mid-July, a catastrophic flood struck Baling, Kedah, leaving many underprivileged families struggling to cope with the aftermath. With the help of local volunteers and team members from Penang, Kuala Lumpur, and Johor, we were able to provide essential aid to 200 underprivileged families living in scattered areas. This would not have been possible without the invaluable support of Mr. Teoh Swee Sun and CE Technology Berhad, for which we express our sincere gratitude.





Feed A Family

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Malaysians, with 580,000 families slipping into the B40 group due to a loss of monthly income. As a result, there has been a greater need for food assistance for vulnerable communities, as they struggle to meet their basic needs amidst rising prices of goods. We are grateful for the donations received in 2022, which have enabled us to provide three months' worth of dry food provisions to a total of 97 needy families. Nevertheless, we need all the support we can get to continue helping more families in need on a regular basis, as we have been under tremendous pressure to meet the increased demand for food assistance.













"I have been a regular since I joined KSK in 2017 after starting to work for a month. I currently participate mostly in the food bank and empowerment programmes. It compels me to see that there are people in need around us and we can help them, in particular the children. Some of the children that we were helping have now started working and no longer need our help. I always believe, when there is a need, there is a calling."

Jerry Tan, KSK Johor

Be The Light

The "Be The Light" campaign was launched this year to provide essential household items and appliances such as mattresses, kettles, rice cookers, standing fans, and school supplies to needy families who are struggling to obtain these basic necessities in addition to food. The campaign was able to benefit 265 families residing in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Perak, Pahang, Perlis, Negeri Sembilan, and Penang, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Continental Tyre Malaysia.





A rare bowling experience for underprivileged children

In August, we had the pleasure of providing a rare and exciting experience for 20 underprivileged children from PPR Flat Enggang. Thanks to the generous support of Sunway Group, we were able to organise a special night out for these 20 lucky children to go bowling with Y.A.M. Tengku Datin Paduka Zatashah binti Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, national bowling champion Shalin Zulkifli, and renowned comedian Harith Iskandar. For many of the children, it was their first time bowling, making the evening all the more memorable. We extend our sincerest gratitude to Tengku, Shalin, and Harith for making the night so special for the children. It was heartwarming to see them having fun and enjoying a new experience that they will surely cherish for years to come.





It's such a blessing to be part of Kechara volunteers for Kelantan, particularly Pengkalan Chepa region. Knowing that there are still lots of kind-hearted human beings out there, beyond boundaries, beyond religions, makes me feel delighted and grateful. Keep up the good work. May God bless us all."

Norizan, KSK Kelantan Volunteer Group



"I became acquainted with KSK around 10 years ago when a team of volunteers paid me an unexpected visit in the middle of the night, offering their assistance. At the time, my husband was in trouble and I was struggling to provide for my eight children. KSK's aid was a lifeline for me during those difficult years, and I am eternally grateful. Today, with my husband reformed and back with our family, we are gradually rebuilding our lives together."

Hidayu, 41, food bank recipient

Surplus Food Programme

KSK Society's surplus food programme has successfully diverted tens of tonnes of food waste from landfills and redirected it towards those in need. By doing so, KSK not only addresses hunger relief but also enables our partner to reduce their carbon footprint and put their valuable resources to good use. For KSK Society, it is crucial that we continue to ensure that surplus food is distributed to those who need it the most, such as those living in shelter homes, rehabilitation centres, orphanages, and nursing homes, where the cost of living has significantly increased.







Food rescued and redirected to those in need : 305,432 kilogrammes
Number of charity partners : 150
Number of individuals served : 38,849
Amount of CO2 emissions prevented : 580,321 kilogrammes

"It's not often that we'd come across an organisation that shares the same values as ours in reducing waste while ending hunger. Through a solid partnership since 2016, we were able to realise our ambition towards Zero Waste with Kechara helping us distribute food surplus collected from all our stores daily to vulnerable communities.

Kechara's professionalism and agility coupled with their willingness to listen, appreciate and adapt to our corporate requirements while keeping it simple is key in ensuring that our programme remains sustainable, making the collaboration more meaningful and enriching for both parties.



More importantly, our colleagues absolutely enjoy volunteering shoulder to shoulder with Kechara's ever helpful team on the ground, giving them a sense of fulfilment and pride that they too can help make a difference to our society."

Azliza Baizura Azmel, Executive Director, Corporate Services, Lotus's Stores (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd

Despite the challenges of rising operational costs and a lack of drivers, our team is committed to rescuing food daily to continue benefiting families and charity homes that often receive less support all over Malaysia. We believe that every little effort counts in addressing food waste and supporting vulnerable communities.





New partnerships

In addition to our current food partners, KSK Society has established significant partnerships with AEON BiG and Pandamart. As we continue to expand our outreach, we recognise the significance of forming new partnerships to enhance the quantity, quality, frequency, and variety of food accessible for us to redistribute to those in need.

#zerofoodwastage

The #zerofoodwastage campaign was launched in 2016 by Y.A.M. Tengku Zatashah (the Selangor Princess). It aims to reduce food wastage from hotel buffets by redistributing it to underprivileged communities. During the holy month of Ramadan, volunteers gather surplus cooked food from hotels and distribute it to charity homes and low-income families under our care. We express our sincere gratitude to the volunteers for their unwavering commitment to ensuring that food is not wasted but given to those in need. This year, with the help of dedicated volunteers, we were able to recover a total of 1,604 kilograms of surplus food from 20 hotels.















"An estimated 768 million people are facing hunger globally, and that number is likely rising as supply chain issues, and climate change continue to strain our food systems. Community-led food banks like Kechara Soup Kitchen help ensure more people have access to food while also reducing food loss and waste and its environmental impacts. We're extremely proud to count KSK as a partner in this crucial work."

Lisa Moon, President and Chief Executive Officer,
The Global Foodbanking Network



"We, the SOLS Foundation Solar Academy program Director and students, would like to thank Kechara Soup Kitchen, for your generosity and commitment to ensuring that our students had access to wholesome and nutritious food during their time with us. Your support has made a significant difference in the lives of our students, allowing them to focus on their studies without having to worry about where their next meal would come from. It is through the kindness and generosity of Kechara Soup Kitchen we are able to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for our students to learn and grow."

Teacher Kiranjit Kaur, Director of Solar Academy



"After my retirement, KSK has opened the door for me to serve the needy in Taiping. These 6 years of serving the poor community has been fulfiling as I could see the happiness on the children's faces when they received the buns and cooked food. I saw how hard their parents had to work to make ends meet and I understood the social problems better. Together with my teammates, we reach out to the needy to help them lessen their burden, reduce food wastage and encourage them to have a better quality of life. Stay strong, healthy and happy always!"

Dalbir Singh, KSK Taiping Volunteer Group



KSK's good works has really lightened our burden in providing daily necessities, especially food stuffs for the Orang Asli kids in our centre. We are thankful that KSK is one of the most faithful donors and their volunteers faithfully provided food stuffs for us even throughout the period of covid pandemic. Many thanks again to KSK for their good works, God bless Kechara."

Pastor Yeo, Wesley Methodist School, Melaka



"Volunteering at KSK is not just about distributing food; it is about building relationships, strengthening communities, and promoting kindness and compassion. It is a reminder that we are all in this together, we trust that everyone deserves access to staple foods regardless of their socioeconomic status. Overall, I am grateful to be a part of the KSK team to attend the challenges faced by many unfortunate individuals and families, and able to make positive impact in their lives."

Wei Li, KSK Melaka

Empowerment

Although food banks play a crucial role in addressing food insecurity, there are other cogs in a complex wheel that supports an individual to get out of poverty. In 2017, KSK Society launched the Empowerment programme aimed at helping low-income and unemployed individuals attain financial independence.



Total Income Generated	: RM186,899.00
Total Number of Trainees	: 40
Total Products Created	: 8,318

Over the years, trainees have acquired various skill sets such as sewing and baking, with the aim of breaking the cycle of poverty by empowering them with the necessary tools. Supporting their products is more than just a transaction; it is an opportunity to support their livelihoods and boost their confidence. In 2022, we have seen encouraging results from the Empowerment programme, giving us every reason to be excited for 2023. We extend our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to supporting our Empowerment programme.

Sewing

The sewing department has successfully secured orders from Famous Amos and The Alice Smith School Foundation to create souvenirs using upcycled materials, providing valuable employment and income opportunities for the seamstresses. Mastering the skill of sewing is challenging, and compared to other training programmes, it requires additional patience and perseverance. As a result, the seamstresses have not only produced merchandise but also gained confidence in their abilities.





Baking

Our baking department has been working tirelessly to fulfil orders, and our products have received high praise from customers for their well-balanced flavors. The team is continually exploring new ideas for creating fresh recipes, designing packaging for various occasions, and improving food quality to enhance marketability. One notable achievement has been the creation of our delectable Chocolate Chip Walnut Butter Cookies, which have become one of our best-selling cookie products.





"I first joined the Kechara Empowerment programme in 2020, to teach the trainees how to bake cookies. I'm now coming to the centre everyday and love training them, because they come with such a positive mindset. It warms my heart because they not only work hard but they always have the intention to improve their lives. We are also very proud and happy to see the quality of the cookie they make keeps improving. I think it is because they care to improve. We hope that customers are happy when they bite into the cookies, because of the beautiful meaning behind it and 100% made with love." **Leziel, Trainer**

Events

With careful guidance, trainees were able to participate in promoting their products together at various public events. In 2022, our Empowerment team took part in the "Buy Local Campaign" event organised by Lotus's Stores Malaysia Sdn Bhd, as well as sales bazaars organised by The Alice Smith School Foundation and The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur.







Mental health talk provided by Thrive Well Sdn Bhd

Mental health issues can affect anyone, but people living in poverty are especially vulnerable. The daily stresses of poverty such as food insecurity, unstable housing, and limited access to healthcare can have a significant impact on mental well-being. To address this issue, KSK Society partnered with Thrive Well Sdn Bhd to hold a mental health talk for the trainees in our Empowerment programme in November. This was the first talk of its kind by KSK Society, and 24 participants attended. A survey conducted after the event revealed that the majority found it to be beneficial.



The bakers and seamstresses who participate in the Empowerment programme express deep gratitude for the opportunity to learn new skills and earn extra income. For many of them, the programme has been a lifeline during these difficult times, as they have been hit hard by the pandemic. The income they earn through the programme has helped them to pay for essential expenses such as school fees and groceries. Moreover, by participating in the programme, they have not only developed their skills in sewing and baking but also their self-confidence, which is invaluable in their pursuit of greater things in life. The Empowerment programme has provided them with new hope and a sense of purpose, and they are grateful for the chance to be a part of it.



"Everything went upside down for me after my late husband died in an accident in 2009. I lost my job as a sales assistant during the lockdown and was having difficulty finding jobs due to my age and qualifications. I was very glad when my friend recommended me to KSK. They trained me up with baking skills and not long after, I was already earning about RM900 per month. That helped me a lot in providing food and education for my 11 year old son studying in Madrasah." **Azlina, 41, Baker**



I am a housewife taking care of my three children and disabled husband, who is an amputee and is suffering from diabetes and heart problems. I am the breadwinner of my family and was working as a part time cleaner when Covid-19 outbreak came. I lost my only source of income that left my family in a limbo. It was during that time when KSK approached me and subsequently enroled me into its Empowerment programme. Now due to that, I am able to put food on the table and even have enough money for my children's schooling. In my free time, I will still do cleaning as a side income to support my family." **Githa, 42, Baker**



I have an OKU wife and two adult children living on their own. I was reduced to being a freelance construction worker due to health and my wife's deteriorating condition. Then came the pandemic, it hit me so hard that I had problems maintaining my livelihood. There was nothing that I could do to make ends meet and I was very depressed up to a point of seeking medication from the hospital to keep it under control. It was during that time I was referred to KSK by a friend which I am very thankful of. Now, I am able to receive regular food provisions deliveries and earn a steady income from the Empowerment programme to pay for my other expenses. I love the flexibility of the work as I am able to make sure I have enough money and time to take care of my wife." **Soon, 59**



"KSK has been helping my family for many years. I remembered how hard life was back then when my grandmother was the only sole breadwinner supporting my family. KSK recommended me to an apprenticeship at a salon when I finished school. I ended up working there for over a year and used the savings made from that to study in a university pursuing my dream. Thank you KSK!"
Loga, 20, food bank recipient



"Throughout the last 7 years, Kechara Soup Kitchen has been providing us at Rumah Kita with a generous amount of food supplies. The support has been going on till today. We are extremely grateful for the thoughts and contributions towards our home. The support rendered to us has enabled us to feed our single pregnant mothers, babies and toddlers with ease. There are times when there's excess food, we are able to share it with the less fortunate around us. It is also through the kindness and generosity of Kechara Soup Kitchen that we are able to cook for the homeless every Monday and Friday at Jalan Chow Kit and Anjung Kelana, Taman Desa. This in itself has made a significant impact on those who are in dire need of food. From the bottom of our hearts, we at Rumah Kita thank you for your continuous support." **Suraya, Rumah Kita**



Donors and Sponsors

KSK Society would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to our generous sponsors and supporters throughout this year. We humbly acknowledge that our work would not be possible without your unwavering support.

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Yilo SBJ Sdn Bhd
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"The Hilton Global Foundation is proud to partner with Kechara Soup Kitchen who will be providing 600+ needy families in the region with much needed food aid assistance. Hilton was founded over 100 years ago on the belief that travel could bring people together and hospitality could be a force for good in the world, and KSK's mission directly aligns to our work at Hilton and the Hilton Global Foundation to create a better world to travel. Thank you to the team for their dedication and continued partnership."

Catherine Linskey, Director, Hilton Global Foundation



"Every child should have equal access to education, regardless of their background. In this regard, UOB Malaysia is pleased to support Kechara Soup Kitchen (KSK)'s noble cause through our annual UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk fundraiser. With the money we raised, we supported KSK in organising classes and activities for children in a few Orang Asli villages in the country. We hope our contribution will help bridge the learning gap within these communities and help them break the cycle of poverty.

Our initiative aligns with UOB's purpose of 'Building the future of ASEAN'. We believe in making a difference in the areas of children, education and art, which can contribute immensely to the progress of society."

Ms Ng Wei Wei, Chief Executive Officer, UOB Bank (M) Bhd



"When the pandemic hit, we wanted to do more for the community and that was why we chose to support KSK by contributing to its food bank project in 2021. A year later, we started to send our employees to volunteer for KSK's food distribution programme that helps us to appreciate even more what KSK has been doing for the community. This is not just a CSR for the company but a self-fulfiling experience for us to grow and be grateful for everything we have."

Giam Say Khoon, Deputy General Manager (Communications & Sustainability), STM Lottery Sdn Bhd



“The pandemic has provided the opportunity for our Foundation to work with Kechara Soup Kitchen to support the vulnerable community. The generosity of our donors has enabled our Foundation to donate more than RM260,000 cash and in-kind to support 25 urban poor families for 19 months, distributed more than 2,000 food sets and implemented the Flood Relief Aid programme for Orang Asli and the B40 families with Kechara. Our students supported the Kechara Empowerment programme and our volunteers had a meaningful time supporting the work of the food bank and soup kitchen. We are impressed by the professionalism and good governance of how Kechara Soup Kitchen manages its donations, distributions and volunteerism work. Together, let’s make a difference in the lives of our vulnerable community.”

Tun Zaki bin Tun Azmi Chair, The Alice Smith School Foundation



"Shaklee Products (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd is pleased that our contribution of health supplements benefited 1,500 children across KSK Food Bank beneficiaries, supporting the children's general health and well-being."

Lee Kok Fong, President, Shaklee Products (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd



“At Universal Robina Munchy’s (URM), we believe in the power of compassion and generosity to make a positive impact in the world. That is why we are proud to support KSK since 2018 in their mission to alleviate hunger and provide comfort to those in need, especially during the long, lonely hours of the night. We have taken the extra step of ensuring that each recipient receives not only a hot meal from KSK Soup Kitchen but also a pack of biscuits to ease their hunger throughout the night. At URM, we firmly believe in putting people first and standing by our community, and we are honoured to be a part of KSK's efforts to make a positive impact in people's lives.”

Rodney Wong, Chief Executive Officer, Universal Robina Munchy’s (URM)



"It’s an honour to work with a trustable and reliable partner like Kechara to serve the underprivileged groups. Kechara provided us a platform to better realise our vision of “healthy and nutrition food for all.”

Jack Yap, Chief Executive Officer, Phuture Foods Sdn Bhd

Upcoming plans











Celebrating our 15th Year of Service

KSK Society will be celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2023! We are grateful for all that has been accomplished in the past, and we are committed to reflecting on our progress to find ways to further improve our platform and benefit even more people.

Central Warehouse

KSK Society is actively seeking a new premise with a built-up area of 10,000 square feet in Kuala Lumpur. The new building is necessary to consolidate the organisation's current growing operations under one roof. The new premise will facilitate an increase in efficiency for logistics, warehousing and operations. It will also serve to provide sufficient space to receive an increased request of surplus food donations in bulk from various food manufacturers, effectively diverting more surplus products towards beneficiaries in need.

Digitalisation of our Back Office Operations

KSK Society has initiated a process to digitise every aspect of the organisation's backend processes. Currently, the implementation of an ERP software is underway, which will enhance our efficiency for nationwide operations.

Growth

KSK Society is growing rapidly and constantly seeking like-minded people to join our team. We are excited about the growth opportunities in 2023 as this means benefiting more people.

Education

We hope to bridge the widening education gap among Orang Asli children by embarking on a journey to provide basic education needs for those who are deprived of this necessary element in today's modern world.

Spreading awareness

As we gradually return to normalcy, KSK Society is planning to organise more beneficial events and food drives to raise awareness of the increasing demand for food assistance in the coming year. We welcome any ideas for collaborations to help us achieve the shared mission of benefiting others.

HUBS

KUALA LUMPUR

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17, Jalan Barat, Off Jalan Imbi, 55100 Kuala Lumpur
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Food Bank and Empowerment
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PULAU PINANG

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