

# The Milk (Mainly I Love Kids) Fund

- *He was 3 years old but had the developmental skills of only an 18-month old baby. He was frail and underweight. He had spent half his life in a plywood box 4 by 3 feet until he was found by social workers. After his parents' divorce, Dan (not his real name) was in the sole care of his maternal grandmother who found it too difficult to keep up with her young charge. So, she confined him to a box. Today, he is 6 years old, and is a cheerful and sociable boy ready for Primary 1 next year – thanks to the timely intervention of social workers from the Healthy Start programme who put him in a childcare programme and taught his family child management skills.*
- *She had just turned 17 years old but was carrying a child within her. Many would argue that she was still a child herself; how ready could she be to bring up another child? Afraid of all the objections, Rosie (not her real name) kept her pregnancy a secret. Isolated and with no guidance and resources, she was clueless about the life-threatening condition she was in. Fortunately for her, she heard about the Babes SMS hotline to help teenagers in pregnancy crisis. She plucked up courage to call for help. The social worker brought her immediately to the doctor. Not only did she discover that she was 7 months pregnant, and not 5 months as she had thought, she also learnt she had pre-eclampsia that was leading to renal failure. Both the lives of the teen mother and the baby within her were in danger. Thankfully to timely intervention, because she could reach for help through the Babes programme, both mother and child are alive and doing well today.*

Children are the faces of our future: faces full of hope, life and promise. MILK (Mainly I Love Kids) is about giving disadvantaged or troubled children something to smile about. It is about making a positive difference in their lives. There are children from troubled families; children born sick or physically challenged; children who just need a helping hand or a nurturing environment; children who just need a chance at life. MILK gives them hope by funding their education, care

and guidance, medical treatment or other special needs, and guiding them back to mainstream society. The Healthy Start and Babes programmes have helped children and youths like Dan and Rosie, and are some of the local programmes that MILK supports.

For overseas programmes, MILK works with partners in Timor Leste to improve healthcare and combat the high infant and maternal mortality rates. In China, MILK wants to kick-start a nutrition programme for needy children in partnership with schools. We also provide education grants to poor children in China and street children in Philippines.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Every cent that MILK raises goes FULLY to the children or various local and overseas programmes that support them. All costs are sponsored or underwritten by MILK's management committee.

If you want to find out more about MILK and their programmes, you can visit their website at [www.milk.org.sg](http://www.milk.org.sg) or call 62224123 to talk to Bee Leng, MILK's Executive Director.

If you would like to donate, you can make a cheque out to 'MILK Fund' and send it to **100 Amoy Street, #03-00, Singapore 069920**. On the reverse of the cheque, please indicate your name, NRIC and address, so that a tax-exempt receipt can be issued for donations that go towards supporting local work. If you would like to see how else you can help, MILK would be happy to explore possibilities with you.

Your donations will go a long way in helping these disadvantaged children integrate into society as able and contributing members. Join us in making that difference in a child's life. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ■

