

BRIGHTENING LIVES

MARINA BAY
SINGAPORE
COUNTDOWN
2024

THE
Majority
TRUST

Stories of Featured Majority Grantee Partners

These groundups, nonprofits and charities work tirelessly all year to alleviate the struggles and brighten the lives of vulnerable individuals and families among us who often struggle on their own.

Migrant workers who don't always
feel a part of our community



migrant x me

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Building an inclusive Singapore by empowering youths for the migrant community through experiential educational programmes

About MigrantxMe

MxMe seeks to build an inclusive Singapore for the migrant worker community with experiential programmes, through educating Singaporean youths and empowering them to interact with and understand the migrant worker community better.

Their aspiration is for youths in Singapore to learn to treat everyone, especially migrant workers, with dignity and respect.

Example

Experimental programmes, learning journeys and volunteer opportunities for youths to understand the struggles of the migrant community and build connections.

Through immersive experiences and education, Migrant x Me aims to bridge the divide between Singaporean youths and migrant workers. By breaking down stereotypes and fostering empathy, they strive to create an inclusive society that embraces the migrant worker community.

“Their families are all the way back home and they’re coming here as a sacrifice. They put everything on the line just to work here and ensure that their family has a roof.”

– Kynan 14, Youth who attended Migrant x Me’s immersive programme

Migrant x Me continues to pave the way towards a more inclusive and compassionate Singapore. Through their dedication and the empowerment of youths, they are brightening the lives of migrant workers and fostering an inclusive society built on dignity, respect, and solidarity.



Media Feature

Gen Y Speaks: I was fearful of migrant workers, now I speak out for them - TODAY

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migrantxme.com



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Bringing healing and hope to vulnerable low-wage migrant workers in Singapore through the provision of holistic health and social care

About Healthserve

Established in 2006, HealthServe is a registered charity dedicated to bringing healing and hope to the migrant community in Singapore.

They serve disadvantaged migrant workers through the provision of holistic and affordable care, from medical and mental health services to casework support and other forms of social assistance.

“Healthserve has helped me feel secure in a foreign country and reminded me to not be lonely or afraid if i need emotional or mental support.”

Rona, Shipyard migrant worker and client of Healthserve.

HealthServe has become a vital support system and community for migrant workers in Singapore. Beyond medical and mental health services, HealthServe also fosters a safe and supportive space where migrant workers can find solace, connection, and support and navigate the challenges they face in a foreign land.



Media Feature

HealthServe launches first 24-hour crisis helpline for migrant workers needing mental health support - TODAY

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healthserve.org.sg



JUSTICE FOR ALL

Migrant workers who don't always feel a part of our community

Empowering vulnerable and marginalised individuals through legal awareness, guidance, and representation

About Pro Bono SG

Pro Bono SG is a registered charity with IPC status. It started as a department within The Law Society of Singapore and later became Law Society Pro Bono Services.

In line with their mission to enable access to justice for all, Pro Bono SG fills a critical inclusion gap in the legal aid ecosystem by providing crucial and holistic legal support for vulnerable persons through legal awareness, guidance and representation.

Example

Connecting the migrant community with locals through a cricket tournament to build a more inclusive society.

Building an inclusive and gracious society for migrant workers will take time. But it can start with us taking steps to meet and befriend them.

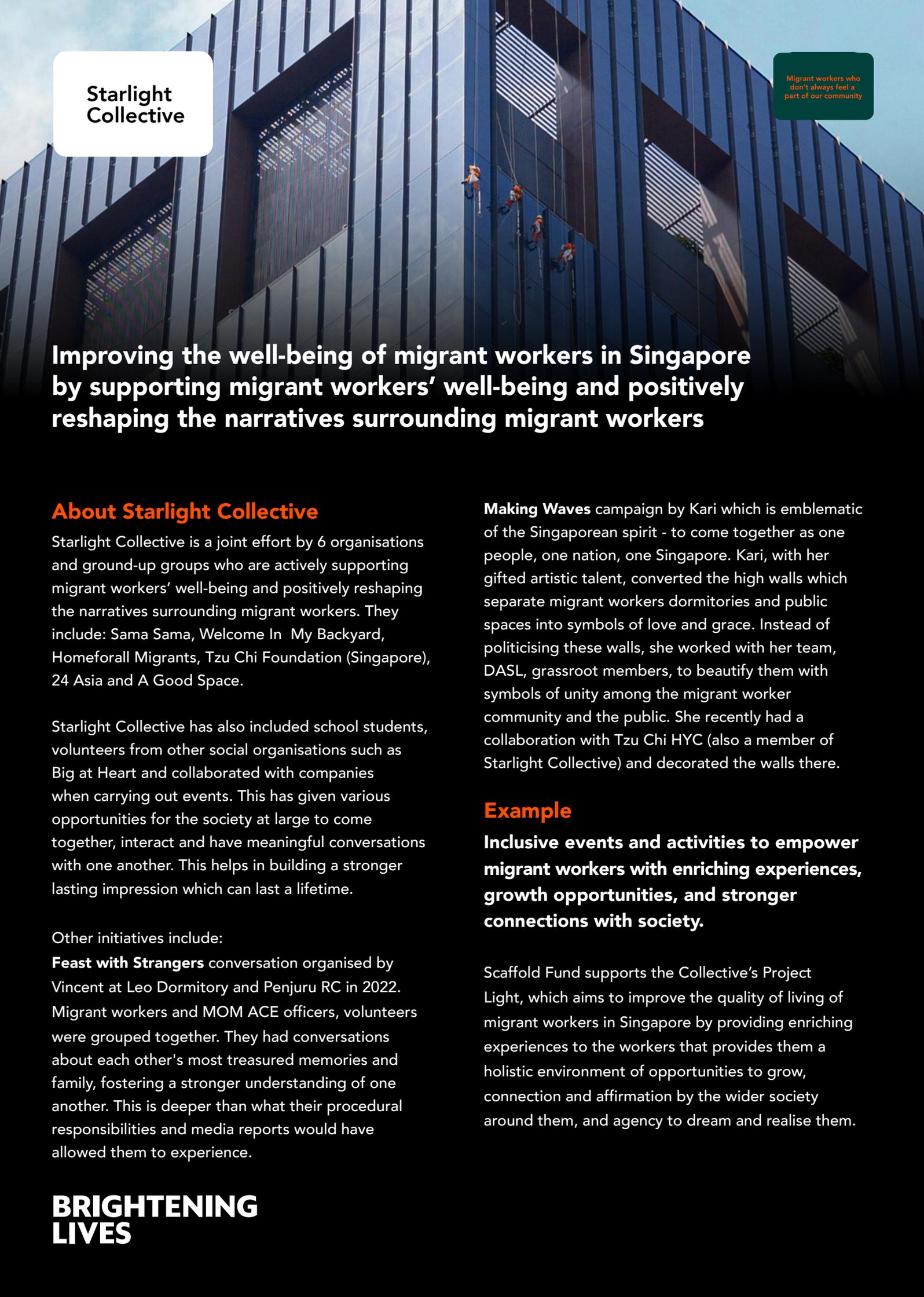
As part of fostering inclusivity, Pro Bono SG hosted a 5-week long friendship-building cricket tournament, Migrant Justice League which brought together 6,000 individuals from both the local and migrant worker communities.

Beyond bridging the gap between locals and migrant workers, it was also an opportunity to lower the barriers to legal access for migrant workers as they learnt where to look for help when in a legal crisis, and build rapport with the legal community.



Media Feature

Migrant Justice League: A friendship-building cricket tournament organised by Pro Bono SG and supported by The Majority Trust Scaffold Fund.



Improving the well-being of migrant workers in Singapore by supporting migrant workers' well-being and positively reshaping the narratives surrounding migrant workers

About Starlight Collective

Starlight Collective is a joint effort by 6 organisations and ground-up groups who are actively supporting migrant workers' well-being and positively reshaping the narratives surrounding migrant workers. They include: Sama Sama, Welcome In My Backyard, Homeforall Migrants, Tzu Chi Foundation (Singapore), 24 Asia and A Good Space.

Starlight Collective has also included school students, volunteers from other social organisations such as Big at Heart and collaborated with companies when carrying out events. This has given various opportunities for the society at large to come together, interact and have meaningful conversations with one another. This helps in building a stronger lasting impression which can last a lifetime.

Other initiatives include:

Feast with Strangers conversation organised by Vincent at Leo Dormitory and Penjuru RC in 2022. Migrant workers and MOM ACE officers, volunteers were grouped together. They had conversations about each other's most treasured memories and family, fostering a stronger understanding of one another. This is deeper than what their procedural responsibilities and media reports would have allowed them to experience.

Making Waves campaign by Kari which is emblematic of the Singaporean spirit - to come together as one people, one nation, one Singapore. Kari, with her gifted artistic talent, converted the high walls which separate migrant workers dormitories and public spaces into symbols of love and grace. Instead of politicising these walls, she worked with her team, DASL, grassroots members, to beautify them with symbols of unity among the migrant worker community and the public. She recently had a collaboration with Tzu Chi HYC (also a member of Starlight Collective) and decorated the walls there.

Example

Inclusive events and activities to empower migrant workers with enriching experiences, growth opportunities, and stronger connections with society.

Scaffold Fund supports the Collective's Project Light, which aims to improve the quality of living of migrant workers in Singapore by providing enriching experiences to the workers that provides them a holistic environment of opportunities to grow, connection and affirmation by the wider society around them, and agency to dream and realise them.

Feature Story

Starlight Collective is a stellar example of a successful ecosystem of organisations with a sustained working relationship.

The Collective thrives because of its strong partnership between its member organisations. While Starlight Collective was formed in 2021, its member organisations had previous experience working together. Their history gives them a firm understanding of each other's strengths.

Additionally, the organisations' leaders are friends outside of their work. This lays the foundation for honest and open discussions about the programmes, where everyone's input is valued. The ecosystem they now have allows them to leverage on each organisation's strengths to tackle migrant worker issues that cannot be solved alone.

Their close collaboration was key in enabling them to organise large-scale events in 2021. Even though restrictions for locals were gradually easing up, safe distancing measures had not yet eased for our migrant brothers living in dormitories. Their movements were restricted to the dormitories and recreational centres.

Group size restrictions also hindered large gatherings. Rather than bring migrant workers out, Starlight Collective brought events to the dormitories and recreational centres.

This was no easy feat - Starlight Collective navigated ever-changing restrictions and had to earn the government's trust. Their flexibility and adaptability paid off, enabling them to gain exclusive access to these restricted premises to host events. Their success is also evident from the overwhelming response from the migrant worker community.

What was initially planned as a 1000 person event received an overwhelming 3000 sign-ups, showing how the events are popular and much-needed by migrant workers here.

Starlight Collective's events have also facilitated organic growth of efforts in the migrant worker space.

Nicole, Lead of Welcome In My Backyard, spoke of a polytechnic student group that went from volunteering with Starlight Collective to organising events for migrant workers with support from WIMBY.

Through volunteering, the students gained a deeper understanding of needs on the ground and gained knowledge on how to create their own initiatives.



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Empowering the migrant worker community through training, social counselling and mental health initiatives

About 24 Asia

24 Asia is a volunteer-run initiative that empowers the migrant worker community through training, social counselling and mental health initiatives.

They believe migrant empowerment, community collaboration, career upgrade, and mental health are keys to creating a positive impact to our societies.



Media Feature
Do You See Me?
Change Makers - The 24asia |
Raw Story Untold #3/34
"Education is so important. I
want to create a platform
where people get hope."

Example

Curated workshops to equip migrant workers with essential skills in digital literacy, financial literacy, and communication.

24 Asia was provided a grant to offset the cost of renting venues for their training workshops for up to 600 migrant workers, in the areas of digital literacy (Microsoft Office skills), financial literacy (money management) and communication (public speaking).

24 Asia, predominantly run by migrant worker volunteers, is led by its founder Nazmul, who shares his personal journey and motivations for supporting fellow migrant workers; their initiatives empower migrants through training courses and create a platform for graduate workers to return as facilitators/trainers, supporting their fellow workers.