



## Food Insecurity in Singapore

Issue 2: Jul 2021—Dec 2021

### Do We face Food Insecurity?

Walking through the streets and neighbourhoods of Singapore, we will be able to see that food is almost always readily available at every corner. Singapore is also known by many as a food paradise. However, if one digs a little deeper, beyond the food haven, do her citizens face problems of food insecurity?

Some may ask, "What is food insecurity in the first place?" In a study commissioned by the Food Bank Singapore titled The Hunger Report, it is described, 'Household food insecurity comes about when a household does not have, or is not confident of having, economic and physical access to sufficient, acceptable food for healthy life.'. Would Singapore, being the first world country that it is and having the economic stability that we have, face the social issue of food insecurity?

Unfortunately, it is more common than we think. In a report by the Food Bank, it found that about 10% of Singaporeans face food insecurity at least once in the last 12 months. Out of this 10%, two out of five households face it at least once a month.

Sadly, food insecurity is an issue that some of our community members are facing, and it is an issue that BCS, as a change agent, attempts to play a part in. Through our monthly food bundle programme, we aim to coordinate and provide food support for households facing food insecurity. We believe that supporting these household with food aid can elevates some of their immediate worries, allowing them to focus on other troubles in their lives such as work or illnesses.

Also, through this programme, we are hugely encouraged by the passion and giving spirit of our community partners and friends of BCS. This year, in celebration of Chinese New Year 2021, we partnered with Savour! a social enterprise that is hugely impassioned about food wastage and the food insecurity situation in Singapore. Through their fundraising efforts and the generosity of our community, BCS was able to give a little blessing to our Chinese beneficiaries, reminding them that no matter how dire their situations are, we can still celebrate the festive season and BCS will celebrate together with them.

At BCS, we are determined to continue playing our part in elevating the food insecurity situation, and we hope that our efforts (or maybe this article) can ignite a desire in you to contribute to the fight as well. Additionally, we hope to give thanks to Savour! for their noble efforts and for partnering with us in providing the Chinese New Year blessings.



Elijah Xu and Gregory Yeo  
Case Coordinators





## Greetings From the Chairman

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### We Are Singapore, Singaporeans!

While the spread of Covid-19 seems to be unstoppable, I recalled, “There was a time when people said that Singapore won’t make it, but we did!” Bethel Community Services is “strong and free, reaching out together” to serve one another!

During Circuit Breaker last year, while many businesses and services had to stop and their staff had to work from home, it was business as usual only for individuals working in essential services. Our childcare and infant care centres continued to serve parents who were serving in healthcare as frontliners and other essential services. There was risk, yet there was a strong sense of sacrifice and support for one another. We are Singapore, Singaporeans!

While our centres were not equipped with resources to facilitate virtual lessons for home-based learning, our teachers worked very hard to prepare study materials for the students who had to stay home. Our teachers took so much care and showed so much concern to ensure the students’ studies would not be halted - they are the future of Singapore, Singaporeans!

Our social services staff were unyielding in their care to ensure the needy families and elderly received their food rations. We are a family; we are Singaporeans!

Our church, Bethel Assembly, has always been covering us with prayers and reaching out to our community during the pandemic too. I pray that as we go through these tough times together, we will appreciate one another more; regardless of race, language or religion, to build a more resilient Singapore that will soar over the pandemic and ride on the waves of becoming endemic. Remember, we are Singapore, Singaporeans!

### 我們是新加坡，新加坡人！

虽然冠状病毒疫情的传播似乎势不可挡，但我回想起一首爱国歌曲说：“曾几何时，人们说新加坡不会成功，但我们却做到了！是的“伯特利社区服务”强大而自由，携手共进”，为他人服务！

在去年的冠状病毒疫情期间，许多企业和服务不得不停止，他们的员工不得不在家工作，唯一“照常营业”的是基本服务。我们的托儿中心和婴儿护理中心继续为在医疗前线和其他基本服务的父母提供服务。有风险，但有一种强烈的牺牲感和对彼此的支持。我们是新加坡，是新加坡人！

虽然我们的中心没有在家学习的虚拟功能，但我们的老师非常努力地为不得不呆在家里的学生准备学习材料。我们的老师们非常的关心，以确保学生的学习不会停止——他们是新加坡的未来，是新加坡人！

我们的社区服务人员不屈不挠地照顾有需要的家庭和老人，以确保他们获得口粮。我们是一家人，我们是新加坡人！

在大流行期间，我们的教会——神召会伯特利堂一直为我们祈祷，并与我们的社区接触。我祈祷，我们一起度过这个艰难的时期，我们不分种族、言语或宗教，彼此更加感激，以建立一个更具弹性的新加坡，乘着流行的浪潮，在大流行中腾飞。记住，我们是新加坡人，新加坡人！



Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock  
Chairman



## Greetings From the Executive Director

### *From the ED's Desk...*

As the COVID-19 pandemic situation evolves globally, Singapore, our nation, continues to adapt accordingly. At the date of writing, our government has indicated that once we have enough vaccinated residents, the COVID-19 disease will be treated as an endemic one. This essentially means that we have to live with it in our midst with the necessary measures in place. In light of this, we want to assure everyone that Bethel Community Services (BCS) is committed to serve our Geylang East and Aljunied community, taking all measures to safeguard our workers, volunteers, children as well as youths in our programmes and services.

As we navigate against the backdrop of uncertainties and challenges, BCS will continue to keep our ears on the ground, tuning to the needs in our community. In the Bible, in the book of *Mark chapter 10 verses 46 to 52*, it recorded Jesus' encounter with a blind man named Bartimaeus. Blind Bartimaeus, as he is popularly known, called out to Jesus amongst the large crowd to have mercy on him. Jesus then asked him, "*What do you want me to do for you?*" (*Mark 10:51*). The Bible recorded the happy outcome of Jesus healing Bartimaeus' blindness. Unlike Jesus, BCS cannot heal people of diseases or sicknesses; however, we can and will be His extended arm to the community. Like Jesus, we can ask a similar question: "What do you want us to do for you?"

In recent months, we had an opportunity to ask that question to a household in our community. For anonymity, we will address the household's contact person as Mr B. Mr B was based in Malaysia with his Malaysian wife and children until 2015, when he returned to Singapore to look for a job. Unfortunately, Mr B met with a serious road accident and was permanently unfit for work. He had to live on his savings and CPF pay-outs. Through a referral, we got to know Mr B who was living with his sister, Mdm C and his nephew who both have some form of mental disability. Mr B was our direct contact to Mdm C and her son, in view of their challenges. We supported them through our food bundle program and they were coping well until the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the pandemic, Mr B returned to Malaysia to be with his family without our knowledge. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, BCS lost contact with Mdm C and her son, resulting in the halting of our assistance to them temporarily. When restrictions eased, we visited the mother and son; we found them struggling financially with an insecure food supply. Immediately, we resumed our monthly food assistance to them.

Through our encounter with Mdm C and her son, we are reminded that COVID-19 affects people in different ways and it is times like that we need to extend our arms wider and train our ears harder to filter the noise so that our friends do not fall through the cracks. As we face the challenges posed by the pandemic, we want to be more like Jesus to keep our ears on the ground in our community. This will enable us to hear the cries among the crowd like that of Blind Bartimaeus or Mr B's household and provide the necessary support. We appeal to our readers to support us through their prayers and other forms of giving. This enables us to continue doing our best to reach out to our community.



Lilian Sze  
Executive Director



## Greetings From the Executive Director

### *From the ED's Desk...*

随着冠状病毒疫情大流行形势在全球范围内演变，新加坡，我们的国家继续相应地适应。在撰写本文之日，我们的政府已表示，一旦我们的居民有足够的接种疫苗，冠状病毒疫情疾病将被视为地方病。这基本上意味着我们必须在采取必要措施的情况下接受它。有鉴于此，我们想向大家保证，伯特利社区服务（BCS）致力于为我们的芽笼东和阿裕尼社区服务，采取一切措施保护我们的工人、志愿者、儿童和青年。

当我们处在不确定性和挑战的背景时，伯特利社区服务（BCS）将继续密切关注我们社区的情况。在圣经中，马可福音 10 章 46 至 52 节记载了耶稣与一个名叫巴底买瞎子相遇。盲人巴底买，众所周知，他在人群中呼唤耶稣来怜悯他。耶稣接着问他：“你要我为你做什么？”（马可福音 10:51a）。圣经记载了耶稣医治巴底买失明的喜乐结果。与耶稣不同，伯特利社区服务（BCS）不能治愈疾病或疾病的人；然而，我们可以，而且将会成为他对社区的延伸臂膀。像耶稣一样，我们可以问一个类似的问题：“你希望我们为你做什么？

最近几个月，我们有机会向我们社区的一个家庭提出这个问题。为匿名，我们将称呼该家庭的联系人为 B 先生。B 先生与他的马来西亚妻子和孩子一直住在马来西亚，直到 2015 年他返回新加坡寻找工作。不幸的是，B 先生遭遇了一场严重的交通事故，永久不适于工作。他不得不靠他的积蓄和公积金支出来生活。通过转介，我们认识了 B 先生，他的妹妹 C 女士和他的侄子住在一起，他们都患有某种形式的精神障碍。鉴于 C 女士及其儿子的精神残疾，B 先生是我们与他们的直接联系人。我们通过我们的食品计划为他们提供支持，让他们在冠状病毒疫情大流行之前能一直很好地应对。

由于大流行，B 先生在我们不知情的情况下返回马来西亚与家人团聚。基于冠状病毒疫情的限制，导致伯特利社区服务（BCS）与 C 女士及其儿子失去联系，导致我们暂时停止对他们的援助。放宽冠状病毒疫情限制后，我们拜访了 C 女士和她的儿子；我们发现他们因粮食供应不足而陷入财务困境。我们立即恢复了对他们的每月食品援助。

通过与 C 女士及其儿子的会面，我们被提醒到，就是在这种紧急状况，我们应该把手伸得更远，把杂音分的更仔细。我们才能帮助到像他们一样，应为状况而被落掉的朋友。当我们面对大流行带来的挑战时，我们希望更像耶稣，在我们的社区中倾听。这将使我们能够听到像盲人巴底买或 B 先生的家人那样的人群中的哭声，并提供必要的支持与援助。我们呼吁读者通过他们的祈祷和其他形式支持我们，让我们继续尽最大努力接触我们的社区。



Lilian Sze  
Executive Director

# Bethel Child Development Centre

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## Building New Bridges and Embracing New Beginnings

It's never easy when God brings change. We can take on change in two ways. We can resist and stir up a frenzy inside us or embrace it with courage and push through victoriously. When COVID broke out, it took the entire world by storm; people had to make changes to live safely. When we trust God, we go with the flow and face challenges by faith, not by sight. At BCDC, facing these changes meant we took on each day with our heads held high. We adjusted our practices, grit our teeth, bore the brunt of it all.



Zoom came into our lives with a big bang. It was on Zoom that we could preserve our connection with the families that count on us for the well-being of their children. When the COVID situation prevented face-to-face meetings, Zoom and WhatsApp became bridges that stood over the gaps and provided us with the platforms for teachers and parents to connect. Meetings on Zoom transcended space, hindered by neither travel nor weather, all that's needed were an internet connection and an electronic device. Meeting parents on Zoom meant that we could do away with the logistical management of parents coming in and out of the centre and parents can stay in the comforts of their own homes which is a fruitful arrangement for all.



On top of Zoom which already brought us a huge step forward, we also introduced a new centre management system in the LittleLives system. In contrary to its name, there was nothing little about the system which had huge potential to improve multiple aspects of our centre. Knowing its potential, we at BCDC also geared up to meet this tool with great excitement. With LittleLives, we found that administrative matters and communication will get easier, and more importantly, the compilation of child's information as well as progress mapping would become more systematic. With the aid of the system, us teachers can focus our energies on the little ones that matters the most.

Interestingly, the ones who adjusted to these changes seamlessly were unsurprisingly, the children. Being the sponge of knowledge that they are, our children caught on quickly to the new procedures of LittleLives and almost always pose cooperatively for the daily scanning at the entrance.

Just like how Zoom and LittleLives was adopted to meet the effects of change, we hope to highlight that with the Covid-19 pandemic, change is already inevitable. Rather than panicking to the frenzy within us, we hope to urge everyone to embrace change with an open mind just like our children and we will push through victoriously.

Lastly, I also hope to give thanks for all the prayers being given. I arrived at work one morning and chanced upon a lovely scene, the parents of two of our children were praying over our centre at the doorway. Hoping not to interrupt, I allowed them to finish their prayer and stepped up behind them to join them in a resounding Amen. Just as parents and their children mean the world to each other, parents who pray for BCDC mean the world to us.



Jocelyn  
Teacher

## Bethel Child Development Centre

端午节



端午节是我国的一个传统节日，它有着独特的风俗，如：吃粽子、赛龙舟、等庆祝活动。目的是让幼儿了解端午节的一些风俗和来历，乐于参与一些节日准备和庆祝活动。

各班以端午节为主题更换主题墙饰，老师们在区域中提供与主题相关的操作材料，如：提供有关端午节的图书、图片，供幼儿欣赏、阅读；各班提供纸、线等材料供幼儿尝试包粽子、尝试运用画、撕、剪、贴等多种方式和同伴共同装饰美丽的龙舟。展示幼儿参与端午节活动的全过程及在活动过程中的发现、收获与体验。

本次端午节活动内容丰富有趣，活动效果好。首先，幼儿的参与很积极认真，通过谈话“端午节的风俗和来历”、折纸“粽子”、积塑搭建“龙舟”以及家长们的配合，纷纷带来有本地特色的肉粽、娘惹粽等，活动开展的很顺利，使幼儿对端午节这个中国传统节日有了一定的了解和认识，这些活动既能锻炼和发展幼儿的动手能力，又能增进幼儿对传统文化的了解和兴趣。



Bai Liping  
Chinese Language Teacher

## Bethel Kinderlites

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### Semester 1 Parent-Teacher Meeting



Bethel Kinderlites invites parents for Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTM) twice a year. These meetings serve as regular forums for both sides to discuss pertinent concerns. Face-to-face communication allows our teachers to deepen the trust with parents and build rapport with them. This gives both parties opportunities to develop a more holistic approach to ensuring each child's well-being. Through sharing the child's classroom behaviour and learning progress with parents, teachers hope to help parents understand and take stock of their child's development. The conversations between teachers and parents are foundational in strengthening the school's partnership with parents and need to continue throughout the year beyond these formal meetings.

However due to COVID-19, the centre decided to meet our parents via Zoom to adhere to the safe-distancing measures. Even though we were unable to meet in person, many parents signed-up and reserved allotted times to meet and speak with the teachers. Parents mostly expressed their concerns about their children missing out on lessons and worried they might be lagging behind. They sought ideas and tips from the teachers on how to help their children learn while they were kept at home during the Phase 2 Heightened Alert weeks and the approaching June holiday period.

In the short 10 minutes allotted to each parent, teachers were able to meet and speak with the children too. Teachers saw their children through the screen, greeted each other and enquired after their well-being. Although the connections were brief, all teachers were glad to see their children and took the opportunity to remind children to complete their June holiday homework! Yes, the teachers do miss their children too.



Michelle Ding  
Cluster Principal



## Bethel Kinderlites

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### 参观有机农场



五月四日、五日，我校按照防疫的相关规定参观了Kok Fah 有机农场，孩子们分批参观了农场里各类蔬菜的种植和水耕法，让幼儿进一步了解崭新的种植方式。孩子们穿梭于有盖的农场里，细听导览姐姐的解说和分析，大家获益不浅。

孩子们也被安排到品尝中心，尝试新鲜的蔬菜，还参与了图卡配对游戏，认识了我们日常所吃的植物的根、茎或叶的部位。

导览姐姐还讲解了芦荟的特征，接着展示了芦荟去皮切片，让孩子们用手感受它的冰凉和粘度。在活动结束前，孩子们亲自撒种在小小的花盆里，带回家培植。

啊！好有意思的一个行程。



Ayrene Lim  
Chinese Language Teacher

## Bethel Student Care Centre

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**"Together We / I Can" - Stay Strong, Safe & Well, As ONE United Nation**



Cheers to all students this June 2021, with good health and high spirits! The June school holidays are here; the most awaited time of the year for the students! Thus, their favourite month is a jolly one!

Holidays are a good time for the students to take a break from their monotonous routine. They get ample time to relax, perform personal tasks, indulge in their hobbies, favourite sports, bonding with family and meet extended family members and friends.



Here at Bethel Student Care, we have lined up a slew of fun activities during the June school holidays. There is something for all students from all levels. Online activities offer a wide variety of things to do; exploring creative ways to use recycled materials to create unique craft, baking sessions, experiential learning through science experiments, show and tell sessions to build up a child's confidence in public speaking, etc.

Lastly, we do advise students to devote some time to studies and not let it take a back seat even during their holidays. God's blessings to ALL! May God help us all during these challenging times to be the light that HE wants us to be.



Monica Yap  
 BSCC Teacher



## Bethel Tots Centre

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### 2021 is an Ox Year~



2021 is an OX-picious year. At Bethel Tots Centre, the teachers decorated the centre with many Chinese New Year (CNY) greetings and bought assorted CNY goodies to heighten the CNY atmosphere during this pandemic period. In the centre, children and teachers all dressed up in their best outfit to celebrate CNY.

During the day of celebration, many children were dressed beautifully and handsomely in their traditional Cheongsam and modern CNY clothes. As part of the festivities, teachers prepared some CNY crafts to do with the children, namely: Auspicious Pineapple, Plum Blossoms and DIY Lou Hei. Through these hands-on craft activities, the children could express their creativity. They got to feel the texture of paint and craft materials to create their own art piece, creating a unique piece of their own!

Teachers also prepared an activity where our infants used their three senses: taste, touch and smell. We introduced mandarin oranges and pomelos, often seen during CNY, to our infants. Not only did they get to feel the texture of the fruits, but they also got to taste them too! Some of the expressions shown by the children included furrowing of their eyebrows and shivering upon tasting the fruits. They enjoyed trying both fruits!

Lastly, the highlight of our CNY Celebration was giving all our infants at BTC their personal “photoshoot” in front of our handmade CNY theme board with the children’s best dressed outfit of the day.



Wishing everyone a safe and healthy 2021! Happy OX Year! MOOOOO!



Adeline Tan  
Educarer



## Bethel Tots Centre

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### 到户外去走走

2021年6月28日，一个凉风习习天气很好的上午，老师牵着学步儿和带着小宝宝推着婴儿车，一起到户外去走走，让宝宝看看热闹的人群，听听路上行人的说话声和公路上汽车的轰鸣声。

走啊走啊，我们来到了公园。老师带着宝宝们去大自然闻一闻青草味，听一听树叶在风中婆娑，发出“刷刷”的声音，看一看迷人的花朵灿烂开放，活泼又可爱的学步儿，还用小脚丫去踩一踩地上的树叶，体验踩树叶带来的乐趣。



宝宝天生对外界，感到好奇。在陌生的环境中，树叶、青草、花朵、说话声、汽车轰鸣声……这一切都感觉新鲜。特别是外界发出的声响，宝宝会积极地去倾听。

经常带宝宝到户外去走走，好处多多，宝宝可以充分动用感官去感受自然形态中的各种美的景象。



Janet Lee  
Educarer



## Community Projects / Volunteers

### Celebrating Cultures!

In the year of 2021, there are 11 days gazetted by the Singapore government as public holidays for its citizens. What is the most common thought you know a public holiday is coming up? Most people feel that it is a great time to take a break and in the not so distant past, do some travelling (when it was still a thing). Yes, public holidays are essential for planning breaks along the year. However, the question is, should taking a break be the only thing that one thinks of during public holidays?



The answer to that should be a resounding, "No". Public holidays are gazetted for everybody to celebrate traditional days of cultural importance. Days that represent racial festivities like Chinese New Year and Hari Raya Aidilfitri or religious days of honour like Vesak day and Good Friday. Celebrating these traditional festivities are no doubt core aspects to our culture, and these celebrations are tightly intertwine with our cultural identity. Additionally, it is important to cultivate in our children an appreciation of our society's cultural roots.



Cultural diversity is an aspect that Singapore has been trying to honour, with various degrees of success. Much effort and resources have been and will continue to be committed to encourage the respect and the mutual embracing of cultural differences. Completely merging cultures will not and should not be the aim. Instead, the goal is to accept that there are differences and work together to have mutual respect of each other's uniqueness. The goal is an ambitious one, but it should not stop us from taking the next step as we in Singapore continue to mature together as a community. What better way is there to build on what we currently have than to celebrate each other's cultural days of significance?

At BCS, we aim to celebrate with our community as much as we can, and we continue to do our best to promote cultural celebrations. Over the past months, together with some community partners, we were able to celebrate Chinese New Year and Hari Raya Puasa together with some families and individuals in need within our community.

Our hope is that more people can join us in celebrating with the community! In the year 2021, BCS will still be finding ways to celebrate. We urge you to reach out to us to understand further and explore how you can be a part of it too; we will be waiting.



Gregory Yeo and Elijah Xu  
Case Coordinators



## Management Committee and New Staff

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### Getting to know our New Staff



Eden Ang  
BCDC Principal



Faith Ananthi Sundraraj  
BTC Infant Care Educarer



Jeannie Tek  
BCDC Admin Assistant

### Management Committee (2021- 2023)

Chairman:	Rev Dr. Chia Beng Hock
Vice Chairman:	Rev Dr. Moses Pi
Hon Secretary:	Mr. Phillip Teo
Hon Treasurer:	Mr. Thomas Foo
Members:	Dr. Ong Pui Sim Mr. Chia Eng Giap Mr. Steven Foo Dr. Tan Eng Chun Ms. Yvonne Tan Mr. Lim Kok Tiong

Due to current Covid-19 safety measures, do take note that some of our services are temporarily unavailable.

For more information, please call  
**6744 7422**

Tuition is available for needy students, please call:

伯特利社服班，予低收入家庭的学生：

**6744 7422**



#### INFANT CARE

- Infant Care (2 mths - 18 mths)

##### Opening Hours:

- Mon - Fri : 7am - 7pm
- Closed on Sat, Sun & Public Holidays

##### Bethel Tots Centre

Blk 100 Aljunied Crescent #01-369  
T: 6841 8762

#### CHILDCARE

- Playgroup (18 mths - 30 mths)
- Nursery 1 (30 mths - 3 yrs)
- Nursery 2 (3 yrs - 4 yrs)
- Kindergarten 1 (4 - 5 yrs)
- Kindergarten 2 (5 - 6 yrs)

##### Opening Hours:

- Mon - Fri : 7am - 7pm
- Sat : 7am - 2pm
- Closed on Sun & Public Holidays

##### Bethel Child Development Centre

Blk 111 Aljunied Crescent #01-110  
T: 6846 9287 F: 6844 4915

#### KINDERGARTEN

##### Opening Hours:

- AM Session 8.30am - 12.30pm

##### Bethel Kinderlites

Blk 114 Aljunied Ave 2 #03-75  
T: 6744 5860

#### TUITION SERVICE

服  
Blk 114 Aljunied Ave 2 #03-75  
T: 6744 7422

##### Opening Hours:

- Tue & Wed 7.30pm - 9.00pm

#### STUDENT CARE

##### Opening Hours:

- Mon - Fri : 1.30pm - 7pm  
7am - 7pm (school holidays)
- Closed on Sat, Sun & Public Holidays

##### Bethel Student Care Centre

Blk 114 Aljunied Ave 2 #03-75  
T: 6744 4243 F: 6744 5859

#### SOCIAL SERVICE & COUNSELLING

Blk 114 Aljunied Ave 2 #03-75  
T: 6744 7422

#### TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE (TCM) CLINIC

服  
Blk 81 Aljunied Ave 2  
T: 6744 7422

##### Opening Hours:

- Wed & Fri 8.30am - 1.00pm

Note: The above Services are only available for families and individuals residing in Aljunied Ave, Aljunied Crescent, Circuit Rd, Pipit Rd, Sims Drive, Geylang East, Balam Rd & Paya Lebar Way.

备注：  
以上中医服务只限于指定地点

伯特利医务合作社区福利

PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

Medical & Dental Clinic Services 医疗与牙医诊所服务

Student Crisis Financial Assistance 学生援助金

For more information, please call 6744 7422. 以上咨服， 6744 7422

Our website: [www.bethelcs.org.sg](http://www.bethelcs.org.sg)

Bethel Community Services (BCS) was registered with the Registrar of Societies in August 2004. It became a charity under the Charities Act in September 2004. BCS was admitted as a member of the National Council of Social Service in July 2007 and granted the Institution of a Public Character Status. Donors can give to Bethel Community Services and receive tax deduction for their donations.