



## WHEN WE RESCUE THE CHILD, WE SAVE THE ADULT

June 2015

### Message from The Red Pencil

It has been an exciting journey for The Red Pencil since it was founded 4 years ago. It was a busy yet fruitful period in the first half of 2015, with vigorous expansion of activities and collaborations with established partners in Singapore and overseas. In this bi-annual report, The Red Pencil has compiled statistics and summarised the new initiatives as well as existing core activities: clinical and humanitarian work.

The Red Pencil owes its incredible growth to your unwavering support throughout the years. The Red Pencil would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who have stood by the organisation and in turn transformed the lives of the people who have benefited greatly from Arts Therapy.



#### Our vision

Every individual uses the creative process of Arts to take care of one's mental, physical and emotional wellbeing towards healing and self-empowerment.

#### Our mission

Bring the power of Arts Therapy to children, adults and families, with a particular attention to those facing overwhelming life circumstances for which they have no words.

#### Our values

Compassion, Integrity, Dynamism

#### The Red Pencil team

Annabelle, Hanisa, Dominique, Manuela et Laurence

With gratitude towards our dedicated Board of Directors, as well as the university students and many volunteers involved in our missions.

#### The Red Pencil until now



- 7 857 beneficiaries
- 19 overseas missions
- 55 partnering organisations



## The Red Pencil (Singapore)

The Red Pencil (Singapore) was first founded in 2011 and attained charity status in 2012. The organisation was awarded the Institute of Public Character (IPC) status in 2013. As Arts Therapy gains greater awareness in Singapore, The Red Pencil has provided extensive clinical art therapy sessions to hospitals, schools, social welfare and about 55 voluntary organisations. The Red Pencil also provides workshops for corporations, reaching out to people from all walks of life who can benefit from the power of Arts Therapy.

The Red Pencil (Singapore) strives towards these two key goals:

- Intervene in Singapore by engaging with local hospitals and organisations so as to facilitate and attend to the emotional needs of children, adults and families
- Promote Arts Therapy as a profession through providing scholarships and promoting research in Arts Therapy

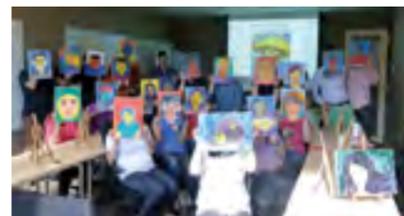
### Singapore highlights

#### A) Clinical work

##### *Clinical art therapy sessions*

Besides offering full-time art therapy service at KK Hospital, The Red Pencil (Singapore) continued with its key work on clinical art therapy sessions at various organisations this year, among which Shuqun Primary School, Teck Whye Secondary School, South Central Community Family Service Centre, Heart @ Fei Yue, Singapore Indian Development Association, REACH, Club Rainbow, Sunbeam, Peacehaven Nursing Home for the Elderly and Gracehaven. Overall, The Red Pencil reached out to a wide spectrum of beneficiaries including children, adults and their families. There was a variety

### Over the last 6 months



- **330 beneficiaries**
- **76 hours of Arts Therapy**
- **engaged with 14 organisations**

of cases and situations that the beneficiaries had experienced prior to treatment, including difficulty in regulating emotions, anger management issues, tendency to self-harm and display destructive behavior, abuse and trauma faced due to the demise of loved ones. These clinical sessions allowed for the beneficiaries to express their innermost feelings and emotions through art, thereby facilitating their road to recovery.



#### *Bringing Healing Arts to hospitals with Dr. Iva Fattorini, from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi*

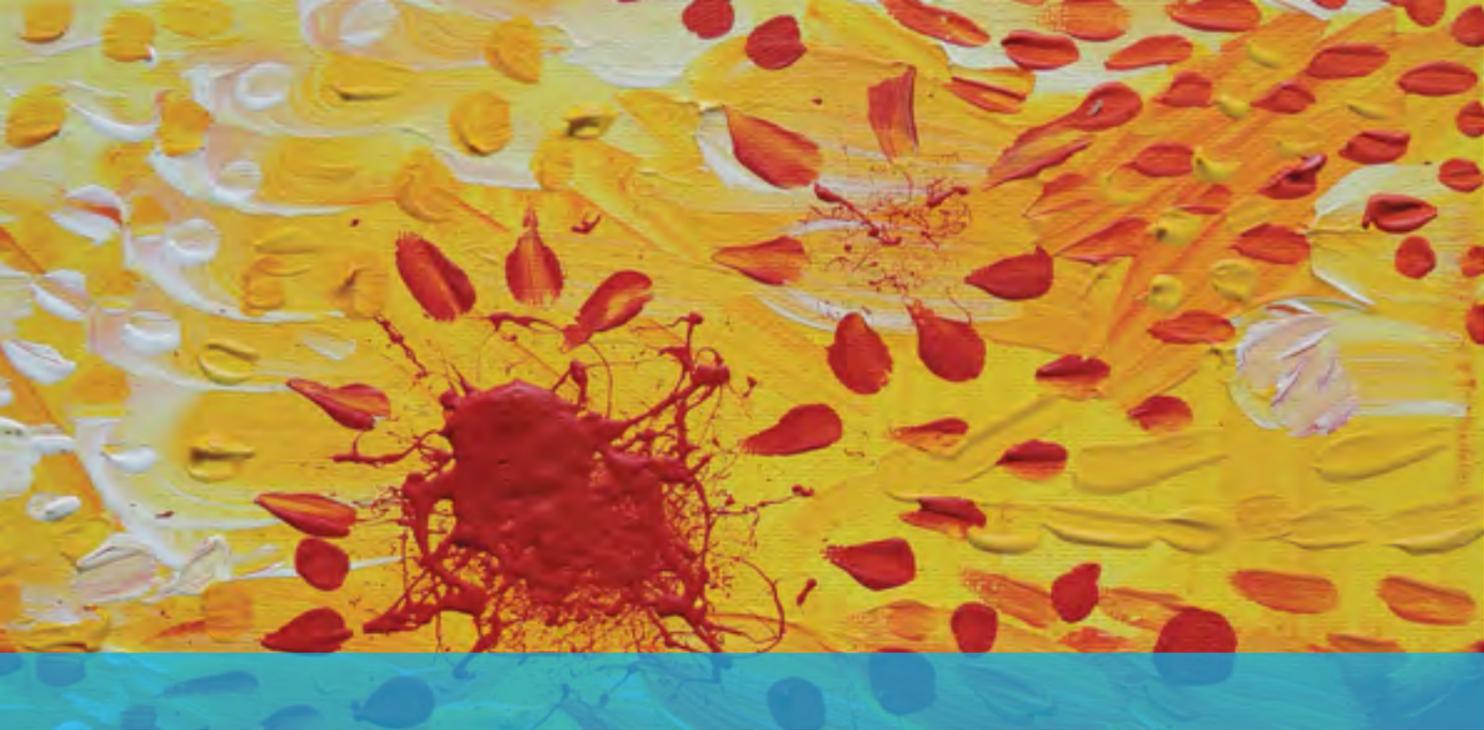
Recently, The Red Pencil had the privilege to receive Dr. Iva Fattorini, Institute Chair from the Executive Board Office of Global Arts & Medicine Institute of Cleveland Clinic, USA. The topic discussed with The Red Pencil and medical institutions was on the importance of displaying healing arts at major hospitals for the wellbeing of patients, families and visitors. While The Red Pencil hopes to spearhead and increase such awareness in Singapore, works are in progress for KK Hospital, a long-time partner, to be the first medical institution to take on this initiative.

#### **B) Community service and awareness of the foundation**

##### *Arts Therapy community events*



In conjunction with Rare Disease Day 2015, The Red Pencil partnered with Rare Disorders Society (Singapore) and organised creative therapeutic workshops for children who suffer from rare diseases and their families. A series of similar Arts Therapy workshops were also conducted for the incarcerated and their families who are supported by The Salvation Army, all with the aim of encouraging self-expression and healing through Arts Therapy.



### Collaboration with Art Stage 2015

The annual Art Stage event was held on 22 to 25 January 2015. Members of the public immersed themselves in the world of paint, enjoying the process that gave room for self-expression and creative response. Some of these paintings were later donated to The Red Pencil for auctions and sale.



### Collaboration with Art in All of Us



The Red Pencil partnered with Art in All of Us to organize exchanges of drawings from children all over the world, allowing them to find joy and forge new friendships through the creative process of drawing. In doing so, they can take their minds off the current difficulties that they may be facing such as hospitalisation, family problems and trauma, travelling beyond the walls of their hospital beds to dream or visualise better times to come.

### Art and cultural exchange with Museum of Children's Drawings

The Red Pencil also had a chance to work with the world-renowned and dynamic Museum of Children's Drawings in Oslo, Norway in 2014. The partnership encouraged cultural exchanges through art and creativity among children residing at KK Hospital, Singapore, and Oslo University Hospital, Norway. An exhibition of this meaningful collaboration was on display in Oslo during January 2015.

### New e-commerce website

The e-commerce platform (<https://redpencil.org/sg/shop/>) was set up as an alternative form of fundraising. Artworks done by visitors who have painted for The Red Pencil during the art fairs are sold online to raise funds and awareness for Arts Therapy.

## The Red Pencil (International)

### Over the last 6 months

Shortly after The Red Pencil was founded in 2011, it expanded rapidly to include the Arts Therapy Response Team (ART), partnering with international organisations and intervening in humanitarian missions. ART deals mainly with beneficiaries who have been involved in natural disasters, conflict zones, or other overwhelming situations such as poverty, illness or abuse. Since 2012, The Red Pencil has since gone on 16 missions, with upcoming missions at the second half of 2015. The missions are carried out in 3 steps within a year, including Visual Diary and Train the Trainers programs to ensure that each mission is sustainable.



The Red Pencil (International) aims to achieve these two goals:

- Intervene in sustainable humanitarian missions (Arts Therapy Response Team -ART) for children, adults and families caught in natural disasters and conflicts zones. Teach Visual Diary and Train the Trainer programs for the caregivers.
- Promote Arts Therapy as a profession through providing scholarships and promoting research in Arts Therapy.

- **465 children, parents and caregivers benefited from the missions**
- **7 missions in 6 countries (Sri Lanka, Myanmar, India, Thailand, Nepal, New Zealand)**
- **around 75 days spent overseas**
- **14 art therapists involved**

### International highlights

#### A) Humanitarian missions

##### Ongoing humanitarian missions

The Red Pencil has carried out 7 unique humanitarian missions within the first half of the year in partnership with the following NGOs: in India with Tree of Hope Foundation to help children from low-income families with behavioural problems; in Sri Lanka with CHARIS Singapore, reaching out to



neglected and HIV marginalised children; in Myanmar with Taunggyi Archdiocese to build up the self-esteem of poor and neglected children; in Thailand with Singapore-based RADION International to conduct clinical sessions with teens belonging to the Hmong community affected by discrimination, violence and abuse.

The most recent missions include heading to Nepal to assist a community of children, parents and caregivers affected by the terrible earthquake being under extreme stress and feeling anxiety and loss. In New Zealand, The Red Pencil collaborates with two independent art therapists to implement the Train The Trainer programme, assisting caregivers in overcoming their own distress from the Christchurch earthquake aftermath. Lastly, The Red Pencil went to CanKids Hospital in Delhi, India, to provide art therapy sessions to children with cancer who face long-term hospitalisation and intensive treatments.



*Upcoming humanitarian missions*

The Red Pencil will expand its international missions to Middle East and Europe with new NGO partners that deal with human trafficking and conflict zones refugees. In Lebanon, The Red Pencil will work with the KAYANY Foundation to empower a community of Syrian refugees, children, parents and caregivers living in settlement camps; in Romania to carry out to help women who have been victims of human trafficking. There will also be two humanitarian missions to Cambodia; with Hagar International to help children and adults victims of human trafficking; with two joint NGOs – STEP (Solutions to end poverty) and PSE (Pour Un Sourire d’Enfant) to empower children, families and caregivers facing poverty, low education and domestic violence.

**B) Overseas promotion of Arts Therapy**

*New office in Geneva managed by The Red Pencil Ambassador in Switzerland*

In March 2015, thanks to the support of Sixtine Crutchfield, The Red Pencil opened a new branch in Geneva in response to the extraordinary increase in projects and partnerships received worldwide. The office will be in charge of the humanitarian missions and projects in Europe and Africa.

*The Red Pencil Ambassador in the United States of America*

The Red Pencil is privileged and delighted to have Mercedes Ballbe, PhD, LPC, ATR-BC, a registered art therapist, as The Red Pencil Ambassador in USA. As a former President of The American Art Therapy Association, she is highly experienced in the field of humanitarian interventions and has offered her invaluable advice and support to The Red Pencil. She is supervising the upcoming Lebanon humanitarian mission in the second half of 2015.

*Collaboration with TEFAF 2015*

The Red Pencil participated in TEFAF 2015 in Maastricht, Netherlands, with hundreds of visitors relaxing and enjoying themselves at the booth through painting. More than 600 of these paintings were collected and launched at the e-commerce platform. Out of the entire collection, 25 paintings were selected for The Red Pencil’s live auction in May 2015.



*Global project in partnership with Faber-Castell*

The famous German company Faber-Castell initiated a global project together with The Red Pencil and Museum for Children’s Drawings based on the theme “Children’s Right to Self-Express”. Children worldwide, including The Red Pencil’s beneficiaries, would be asked to express their views on the keywords Respect, Kindness and Play through drawing and painting. These artworks would then be exhibited in museums from all over the world.

# The Red Pencil Scholarship

Every year, The Red Pencil offers scholarships to deserving students who wish to pursue art therapy as a profession. Currently, The Red Pencil provides half or full scholarships for the Masters in Art Therapy course at LASALLE College of the Arts.

*"It is a great honour to be a Red Pencil scholar and I am very grateful to be awarded this scholarship. The Red Pencil allows me to participate in many different community-related art and art therapy events and gives me a chance to continue to work with amazing people from a variety of different fields; to grow and learn as an art therapist trainee."*



**Tracy Lee**, one of the Red Pencil scholar,  
Masters in Art Therapy at LASALLE College of the Arts



*"Through the support of The Red Pencil, I have been gifted with the opportunity to receive training in Art Therapy at LASALLE College of the Arts. The Art Therapy programme @ LASALLE places emphasis on building knowledge, critical thinking, and the clinical practice of Art Therapy through internships. I hope to continue contributing towards youth-in-need in our community upon completing my training."*

**Aaron Leng**, one of the Red Pencil scholar,  
Masters in Art Therapy at LASALLE College of the Arts

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT!

The Red Pencil would like to once again express its heartfelt gratitude to you for having been part of this amazing journey. As the organisation grows and widens its reach to many other beneficiaries all over the world, we seek your continued generosity and support to The Red Pencil's cause.



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