



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

ABOUT THE AWA FOUNDATION

Rooted in work that began nearly 70 years ago, the AWA Foundation (AWAF) responds to the needs of vulnerable people in Hong Kong by providing funds to local charities and non-profit organizations that offer effective and efficient solutions to existing problems, making a positive impact on the lives of those most in need. AWAF together with its sister organization, the AWA, also provides many volunteering opportunities for members to contribute to the charities we support.

MISSION

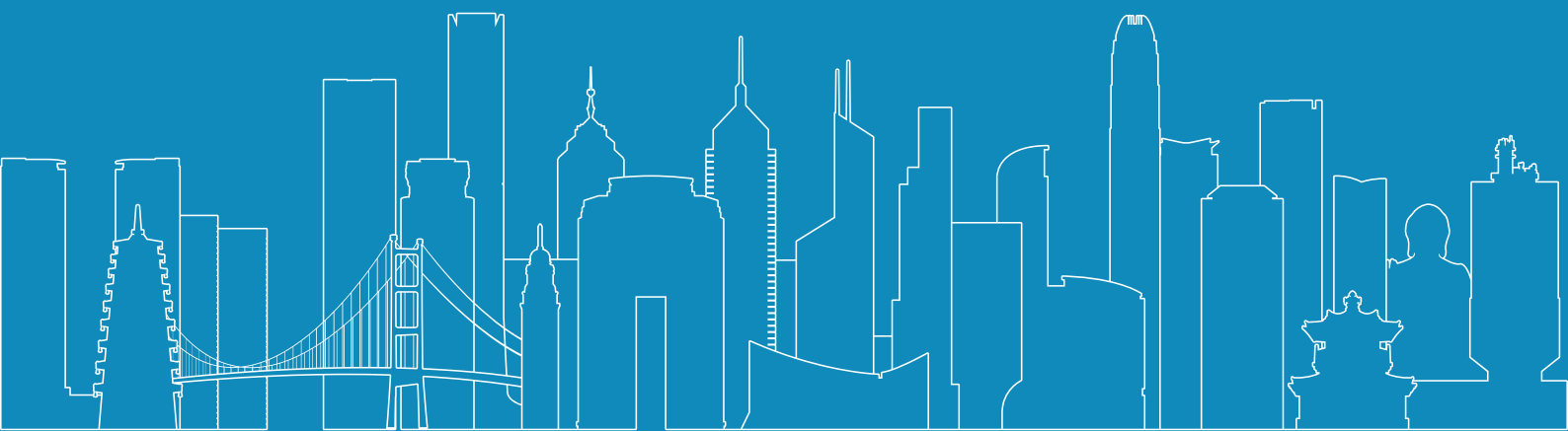
Our mission is to support charities that improve the lives of people in Hong Kong who are vulnerable or at risk through charitable giving.

VISION

We envision a Hong Kong where everyone has access to the resources they need to achieve their full potential.

VALUES

Commitment. Collaboration. Service.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2023-2024 program year was particularly special to the AWA Foundation in that it was the very first year, since we were formally established, without Covid-19 restrictions.

We were proud to celebrate the official launch of the AWA Foundation and pay tribute to the AWA's long history of philanthropy with the successful "Gatsby Gala."

In response to a growing need among charitable organizations for unrestricted funding in order for them to effectively and efficiently carry out their missions, the AWA Foundation made the decision to provide general operating support grants to those charities who exclusively support women. We continued to provide project and equipment support to organizations that work with children and youth, and elderly constituents.

Early Autumn Highlight

- Pink Drinks and Pink Challenge – October 2023
- Halloween Pub Quiz – October 2023

Late Autumn Highlight

- Charity Bazaar – November 2023
- Giving Tree Campaign – November/December 2023

Winter Highlight

- Gatsby Gala – March 2024

Spring Highlight

- Members of the Charitable Donations Committee reviewed applications from 40 organizations.
- Grant Awards Presentation - June 2024

MAJOR MILESTONES

	Projects	Details	Outcome
5	Fundraising Events and Campaigns	We held four events and one campaign to raise funds for our grants	1.2M HKD was raised in support of Hong Kong charities
1.3M	Distributed in Grant Awards	20 volunteers reviewed applications from 40 organizations	20 charities received funding, including \$239K via AmCham Foundation
80K	Awarded in Scholarships	Awarded to female students with financial hardship	20 students from the Institutional Advancement Office received funding



Branches of Hope's STOP (Stop Trafficking of People) program.

GRANT MAKING

One valuable lesson that the AWAF learned during the COVID-19 years is that the needs of the community are ever changing, and to truly be impactful, we also must adapt to support the organizations that work with the most vulnerable members of Hong Kong. Over the last several years, there has been a growing need among charitable organizations for unrestricted funding in order for them to effectively and efficiently carry out their missions.

As a result, the AWAF made the decision to change its guidelines and piloted general operating support grants for those charities who exclusively support women. We continued to prioritize organizations that work with disadvantaged and/or low-income people in Hong Kong in three target groups: 1) women, 2) children and youth, 3) elderly.

The request for proposals was released in early December and we received applications from 43 charities requesting a total of \$3M in funding.

The applications were received in January 2024. A team of 20 AWA volunteers made up the Charitable Donations Committee, which reviews and vets each charity on behalf of the AWA Foundation and our partner, the American Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Applications were grouped into five categories for review: Community and Social Support; Education and Skills Development; Health, Disabilities and Family Support; Human Trafficking, Refugees and Migrant Domestic Workers (MDW); and Mental Health and MDW Empowerment Programs.

In addition to the vetting of each application's program or project proposal, a Financial Review Team assessed the financial and audit statements for each organization.

At the June 2024 Awards Presentation, generously hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce, \$1.1M was distributed in AWAF funding to 16 Hong Kong charities and \$240K to four charities on behalf of the American Chamber of Commerce Foundation.



2024 Grant Awards Presentation



2024 Grantee, One Sky Foundation's Healthy Meals program

2024 AWAF GRANTEES

Organization	Amount	Project Description
Branches of Hope	\$75,000	Funding provides survivors of labour exploitation and human trafficking with housing support and interpretation services, while they await justice.
Breakthrough Limited	\$75,000	Free family counseling services to low-income families who are experiencing separation, due to the father's employment outside of Hong Kong.
Christian Action Centre for Refugees	\$72,000	The LEAD program brings together female refugees and asylum seekers to create beautiful handicrafts, develop entrepreneurship skills and provide community and support.
Equal Justice Limited	\$75,000	This grant supports website redesign to make it accessible for all users, easier to navigate for potential new clients and funders.
Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy Foundation	\$75,000	Provide high nutritional milk supplements and alternative dietary aids to individuals with SMA who have restricted ability to swallow and assimilate food.
Habitat for Humanity	\$44,000	This grant supports renovation services for two households currently experiencing inadequate living conditions in Hong Kong.
Haven of Hope	\$75,000	This grant supports the Food Pack with Love program, which serves 300 low-income elderly people and families.
Helping Hand	\$70,000	Fund the purchase of airbag vests to protect elderly care home residents from falling, greatly improving their quality of life.

2024 AWAF GRANTEES

Organization	Amount	Project Description
Hong Kong Dignity Institute	\$75,000	Funding supports research around victims of forced marriage which is a form of human trafficking hidden from the public eye.
Love 21 Foundation	\$50,000	Love 21 works with over 400 members of the Down syndrome, autism, and neurodiverse community. Funding helps provide music therapy as well as stretching and movement classes.
Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre	\$75,000	Free practical support for cancer patients and survivors, who have experienced lymphedema after intensive oncology treatment for breast and gynecological cancer
The New Normal Charity	\$44,200	Free mental health peer support groups to youth in Hong Kong providing them with a vital lifeline to improved mental health.
One Sky Foundation	\$50,000	Provides 2,780 healthy meals to underprivileged children and their families to facilitate their development and help them reach their full potential.
Pathfinders	\$75,000	Funding supports 7 critical staff positions who impact hundreds of migrant moms and kids every year.
Sons & Daughters	\$75,000	Supports weekly outreach, casework and counseling, interest classes and job training for women who were caught in commercial sexual exploitation or trafficked.
Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education	\$70,000	Our grant supports 7-8 full-time low-income female students who are facing significant financial difficulties.

SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to our grant making activities, the AWA Foundation awarded \$80K to the Institutional Advancement Office (IAO), formally named Vocational Training Council (VTC). Twenty students received scholarship funds from the AWAF via the IAO.

The 2024 awards recipients reflect the decision to change the eligibility criteria to only female students with proven financial hardship to more closely align with our ongoing efforts to empower women.

Due to the pandemic, \$75K that was awarded in 2019-2020 to Lingnan University to support

three female students has been on hold. Each student who receives a scholarship is meant to receive \$25K.

In 2024, \$25k of the funding was awarded to one student. The remaining \$50k remains on hold until next academic year, to be awarded to suitable candidates.

In addition, The American Women's Association (HK) has three loan funds which are administered by The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The University of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong University to support students with financial aid in the form of loans.



Poonam Mahindre, Director, Scholarships, with Albert Suen from Lingnan University at the 2024 Grant Awards Presentation.

IMPACT

In the fall of 2024, we had the opportunity to review the final reports from our 2022-2023 class of grantees. 14 organizations reported on the impact of \$845K in funds awarded. Below are just a few of the ways in which AWA grants helped to make a difference in the community.



Music Therapy at The Child Development Centre

21,048

Local women, children, youth and families, elderly and low income people served.

13,781

Migrant domestic workers received information and education to gain access to justice and fair treatment in Hong Kong.

5,000

Elderly and low-income individuals received low-cost dental services at three clinics.

768

Women, children and families received art or music therapy, or family counseling services.

693

Babies, women, and children received social welfare and support services.

147

Women suffering from gynecological cancers received support for sexual rehabilitation, particularly important following intense radiation therapy.

VOLUNTEERING

The 2023-24 program year saw the full re-opening of Hong Kong and as a result, AWA members interested in contributing to serving the Hong Kong community through volunteering increased.

We worked to diversify the kinds of volunteer opportunities offered to include family friendly and afterwork projects, to meet the needs of our members with families and/or full-time employment.

Though volunteer initiatives are operated through the AWA, the community service and outreach team work closely with the AWAF to provide greater alignment with the foundation's grantees.



2024 grantee, Habitat for Humanity's work to improve the living conditions for people in need living in public housing

INCOME STATEMENT

Revenue

Fundraising activities \$1,693,536

Less

Cost Fundraising Activities \$343,291

Surplus \$1,350,245

Other Income \$19,875

Total Surplus & Income \$1,370,120

Less

Admin & Operations \$151,336

Less

Donations & Scholarships \$1,173,532

Net Surplus \$45,252

FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets

Cash \$2,183,102

Liabilities

Accounts Payable \$95,690

Net Current Assets \$2,087,422

Net Assets \$2,087,422

Reserves

Accumulated Fund \$2,087,422



Pub Quiz for a good cause.



Dancing the night away at the Gatsby Gala.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson - Nicole Marie Boisvert (1st term)
 Director Charitable Donations - Nicole Marie Boisvert (1st term)
 Director Scholarship - Poonam Mahindre (1st term)
 Director Communications - Rachel Bouke (1st term)
 Director Events - Hajnalka Penz (1st term)
 Company Secretary - Morlene Page (1st term)
 Treasurer - Jilian Lobban (1st term)
 Director - Hiroko Nishikawa (2nd term)
 Director - Zoe Pena (1st term/partial year)
 Director - Jennifer Maddox - (1st term/ partial year)
 Director - Anita Gidumal (1st term)
 Director - Anna Gates (1st term)

CHARITABLE DONATIONS COMMITTEE

COORDINATORS:

Amanda Fiteny
 Aektha Wadwani

Shammin Azim
 Nicole Marie Boisvert
 Helen Carruthers

Vivian Crosby
 Giuditta Crovato
 Christine de
 Liedekerke Beaufort
 Pooja Dhyani
 Anita Gidumal
 Barbara Iannazzone
 Jennifer Kabana

Joansa Lam
 Jennifer Maddox
 Jenlen Jasmine Ng
 Karen Nicholls
 Natasha Petit O'Connor
 Trang Uttamchandani
 Florence Wong
 Michelle Wu Yoon

FUNDRAISING EVENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PINK DRINKS:

Liana Sadhwani
 Farah Joo

PUB QUIZ:

Tracy Myers
 Garkay Wong

CHARITY BAZAAR:

Rachel Bourke
 Tiffany Broeckelman
 Farah Joo
 Jennifer Maddox
 Morlene Page

GATSBY GALA

Co-Chairs
 J'Nee Hilgers-Easter
 Hiroko Nishikawa
 Poonam Mahindre

Rachel Bourke
 Anita Gidumal
 Melanie Leung Shea