

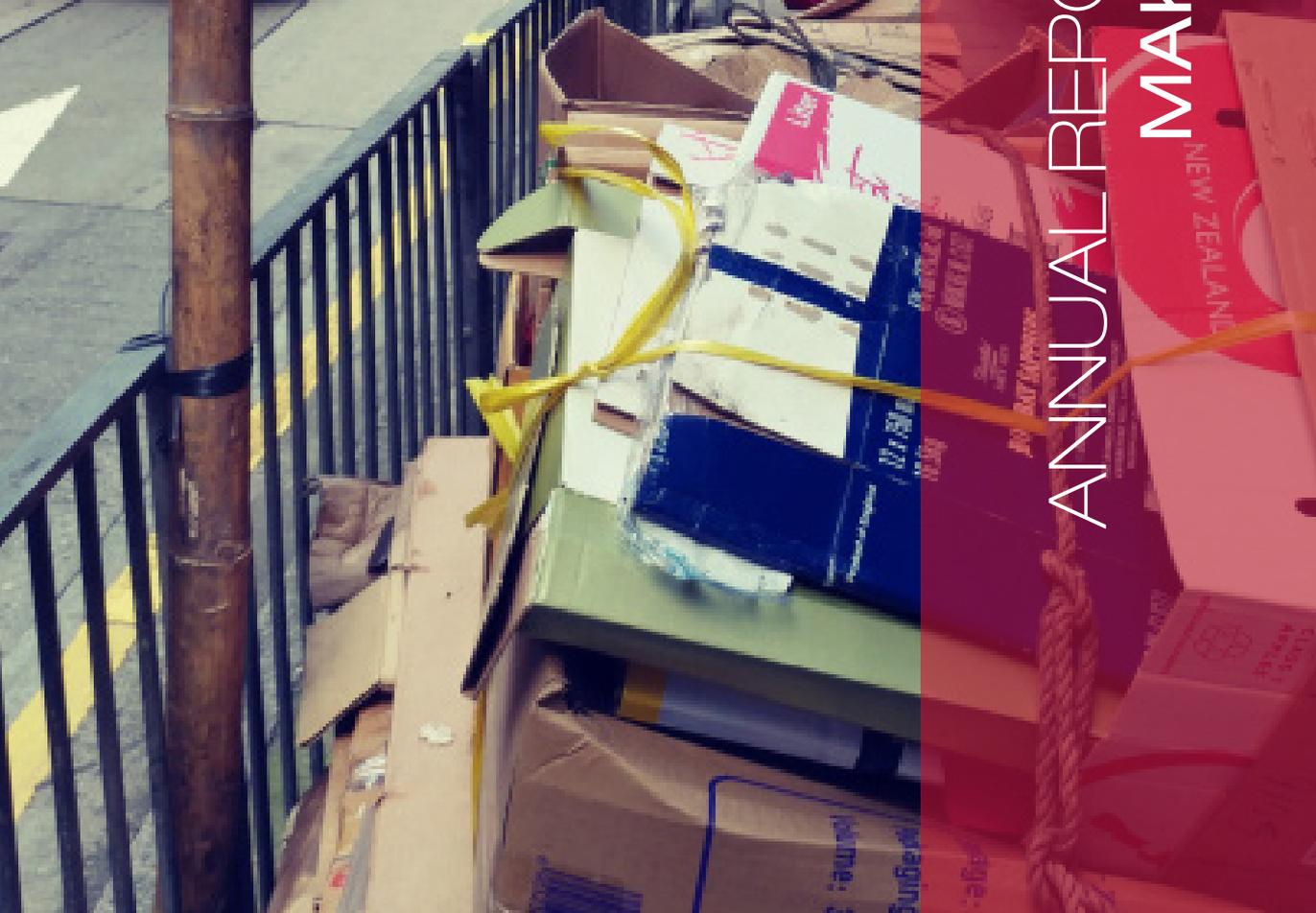


THE FRENCH  
CHAMBER  
FOUNDATION



法國商會慈善基金

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019  
MAKE IT WORK HK



# Table of Content

# 06

## Our Project – Make It Work HK

- Our Locations
- Our Services
- Our Beneficiaries

# 04

## The Way Forward

# 11

## Our Reach & Scale

# 05

## Honorary President's Note

# 12

Activities & Events

# 18

Our Key Partners

# 16

Corporate Governance

# 19

Our Thanks

# 17

Financials

THE FRENCH  
CHAMBER  
FOUNDATION



法國商會慈善基金

# The Way Forward



**Thierry Neveux**  
President of the French  
Chamber Foundation

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The French Chamber Foundation (“FCF”) is a young and vibrant charitable organization aiming to give back to the local Hong Kong community.

In the last four years, it has developed an organization around a network of four centres, focused on helping Hong Kong low-income workers escape poverty.

Our gratitude goes to the French Chamber and its staff, as well as to the many supporters and volunteers who assisted us along the way, particularly to our generous donors who make all this possible.

With their help, FCF has grown and developed, from initially providing affordable lunches to offering psychosocial support and jobs training, finding employments and assisting in job placements, allowing a growing number of working poor to improve their living conditions.

A new management team has started in July 2019, transitioning from the presidency of Jean-Baptiste and the general management of Servane. May we take this opportunity to thank these good people for their substantial past contributions.

Anita, our new General Manager, brings with her a breadth of experience and we wish her all the best.

With the support of our Board, building on past achievements, we will now strive to further enhance the professionalisation of services provided, in order to maximize the efficiency of our actions and the resulting life improvements for beneficiaries. Giving back to the working poor in Hong Kong who want to improve their condition is truly a worthy cause; together with your support, we endeavour to do our best to Make it Work!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Neveux', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

# Honorary President's Note



**Cecilia Cheung**

Honorary President of  
the French Chamber  
Foundation

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Time flies, and two eventful years have passed since I joined the French Chamber Foundation as the Honorary President. I am deeply proud of the development that has been achieved thus far, but more importantly, I want to express my gratitude to all our supporters and partners for their continuous support.

Because of their contributions, the Foundation is able to provide dedicated services across our four centres in Hong Kong. Through this initiative, we have built an inclusive community for individuals who are living below the poverty line.

While we continue to supply affordable, nutritious food provisions, we also improved access to career resources, increased job-matching support, and developed concrete steps in building their confidence at work. This year, we placed a large focus on supporting individual's well-being by providing assessments and programs like stress management, self-esteem improvement, communication training, and many others.

In the future, I hope we can help more youth who are affected by poverty, to make the various age groups inclusive, and in order to promote the social harmony.

I believe our project Make It Work HK, especially with collective effort, will continue to thrive by encouraging socioeconomic mobility and empowering the working poor in Hong Kong.

Thank you for making 2018-19 another remarkable year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cecilia Cheung". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Our Project : Make It Work HK



## Our Locations

The French Chamber Foundation is a charitable organization created in 2015 by the French Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, involved in the fight against poverty. Its primary objective is to assist local workers living under the poverty line and struggling to make ends meet despite being professionally active. Our program Make it Work HK integrates social workers, occupational therapist, counselling psychologist and experienced professionals, who dedicate their energy and expertise to helping the working poor and their families improve their lives. Our organisation and its 4 centres enable potential beneficiaries to access a social community, obtain affordable meals, career assessments, jobs training and employment services, with the goal to improve their mental state and successfully apply for better paid jobs, so as to create a sustainable improvement in their overall well-being.



4 centres

### OPERATION TEAM



## Our Services

### Access to a Community

Many working poor tend to be isolated; our centres give them a place to join a community, a chance to share experiences and make friends. They are an ideal place for them to reconnect socially, improve their mental state and receive assistance from our professionals.



### Career Assistance / Employment Services

We provide a personalised and warm support to each of our beneficiaries. Moreover, we empower them with individual counselling, personal career advice and support, while sharing job industry knowledge, job placement and job opportunities. Our ultimate aim is to help them secure jobs and seek upward mobility in their career, as witnessed in section "Our Beneficiaries".



### Job-skills Training Workshops

Social workers and professionals provide users with job skills training workshops to enhance their employability skills. Workshops include diverse themes such as smart phone utility, workplace English, mental health talks for fear and anxiety, etc... Very valuable talks and information are also provided by our corporate partners, willing to transfer their knowledge and skill wholeheartedly.



### Affordable Lunches

Thanks to our partner, Food Angel, we serve a HK\$8 healthy and affordable lunch to members every day from Monday to Friday, providing beneficiaries with basic nutrition. A total of over 44,000 dietician-supervised meals were served last year.



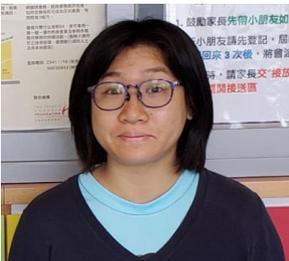
## Our Beneficiaries



**Mrs. Kwai Mui Law**  
Kwun Tong Centre Beneficiary

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Kwai Mui's case is typical of a Hong Kong family struggling to make ends meet. Her husband is a maintenance worker who earns HKD14,000 every month, but the money is barely enough to support their family of 4. Although a mother of 2 children, Kwai Mui wanted to ease her husband's financial burden, so she resolved to join our centre and use our employment services. We successfully matched her to be a part-time cleaner in an office. Her family now has an additional income of HKD2,700 every month with a job that enables her to take care of their children. When we met her, Kwai Mui wore a big smile and mentioned: "I am truly grateful to the French Chamber Foundation as well as to all the staff in the Kwun Tong Centre who helped me in this difficult time. I know life is hard and it was difficult to find a job on my own. I also know that it's hard for a housewife without training to find a job. I am so happy now because I feel more useful to my family, not just raising kids at home but also helping financially. Working in my neighbourhood also meets my needs and lets me spend more time with my children after work."



**Ms. Hang Fong Ng**  
Kwun Tong Centre Beneficiary

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Hang Fong, 35, lives with her parents in Kwun Tong. Her father is retired, and her mother is a cleaner. Their total family income is HKD9,000 every month. Hang Fong has been diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder for years. Since she couldn't manage high pressure at work, she was distressed for a long time. Also, she lost her last job because her anxiety was getting worse and her compulsive behaviours appeared frequently. After joining us at the centre, we created a relapse prevention plan for her, and we suggested her to work part-time. Since May 2019, she started working as part-time office assistant with a monthly wage of more than HKD3,000. She feels happy now and said that this job is less stressful, so she has confidence that she can cope with it in the long run. She also expressed that her parents were constantly worried about her future. Now, with the income she earns, this can ease her parents' emotional and financial burden.



**Ms. Lai Kuen Chui**

Wan Chai Centre Beneficiary

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Lai Kuen's husband has a chronic illness following an industrial injury. Their son is the sole bread winner of the family. She was working part-time but earned only HKD2,000 monthly, so she was very anxious about their financial situation, which affected her emotionally and physically. Joining the Wan Chai centre gave her the opportunity to talk about the difficulties she was facing. After participating in various trainings such as Laughter Yoga and job searching skills, she gained more confidence and was able to find a better job, doubling her salary. She mentioned that she is now happier, with a better family work life balance and a more active social life.



**Ms. Tsui Hei Fung**

Wan Chai Centre Beneficiary

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Tsui Hei is living with her daughter, who earns around \$15,000 monthly. The family was living on a tight budget. Before she came to us, she had been laid off and was unemployed for half a year. During that period, she felt disappointed and depressed as she thought that she was a burden for her daughter. With the support of our staff, Fung has become motivated and active again. She has joined the Communication Mobile App workshop improving her communication and technology skills. Through the network of the French Chamber, she eventually found an employment as a part-time cleaner in an aqua-bike studio for a few hours every night. She is grateful not only because she can earn money again, but also because she gained confidence by successfully re-entering the labour market.

# Our Reach & Scale

800

disadvantaged persons  
received  
individual  
counselling



44,077

meals  
served



134

people in  
new jobs



+35%

increase in average  
monthly  
income



90

training & job  
information  
sessions  
conducted



# Activities & Events

## Training in style – February 2019

A trainer from CHANEL came to give make-up tutorials and talked about workplace etiquette to the beneficiaries. These trainings helped them rebuild their self-esteem and improved their presentation skills.



## Take, Make and Give – February 2019

Take, Make and Give brought together creatives from various fields to lead workshops and sell thoughtful gifts for Chinese New Year. This second edition took place at the cultural and artistic community space in Wong Chuk Hang, Bulle d'Art, and offered creative workshops such as knitting, knotting and embroidery. Visitors also enjoyed a photo exhibition by the UNESCO club of the French International school on the disappearance of traditional shops in Hong Kong. Part of the proceeds were donated to the French Chamber Foundation to help their funding.

## Goût de France 2019, French Chef in action – March 2019

As part of the Good France/Goût de France campaign, the Consulate General of France arranged to have a meal prepared by a French Chef for our beneficiaries.

Hong Kong's underprivileged enjoyed tasting French food for the first time and feeling supported by the French community.



## A concert for charity – March 2019

The energetic band Cracklebox brings together musical talents from four countries to create unique music pieces, ranging from classic rock to melodic pop. They performed at the intimate live music venue, Peel Fresco and part of the proceeds were donated to the French Chamber Foundation.



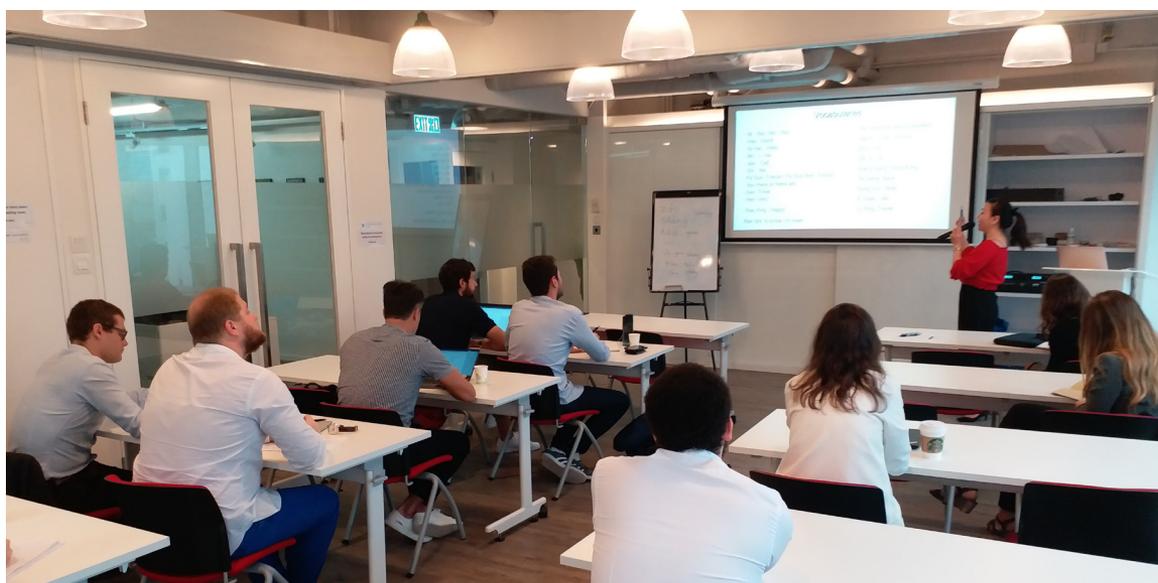
## Culture giving back – April 2019

Created by two women passionate about Art, Bol d'Art, organised and led a guided tour of the Hong Kong's Travel Posters exhibition at Hong Kong Baptist University and the Art Deco exhibition at CityU showcasing over 300 stunning exhibits from the Art Deco movement in France and China. Tour fees were donated to the French Chamber Foundation.



## Teaching for a cause – May 2019

Lucie Xiong, originally from Shanghai offered weekly Mandarin lessons to Chamber members at a discounted rate, making use of her 15 years of experience in teaching Mandarin. Members not only learned new language skills, but also discovered Chinese culture, history and traditions. All tuition fees were donated to the French Chamber Foundation.



## VIP Fundraising – May 2019

The French Chamber's annual Gala Dinner welcomed 600 guests for an evening of "Illumination", to celebrate the longstanding connections between the French and Hong Kong business communities. Thanks to the extensive support from the French Chamber and the VIP guests' generosity at the silent and live auctions, HK\$1.7 million were raised to support the operations of the Foundation.



# Corporate Governance

The Board is the French Chamber Foundation's main governance body.

Its members are professionals, business owners, and executives from the business sector, strongly committed to our mission of poverty alleviation.

All Board Members must be members of the French Chamber Council and are elected for a two-year term by other councillors at the Annual General Meeting of the French Chamber

FCF understands that voluntary disclosure is essential in establishing public confidence in the way we manage our finances.

Our financial accounts are independently audited by Baker Tilly Hong Kong Limited and are in compliance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards.

## **Board Composition**

Honorary President: Mrs. Cecilia Cheung

President & Director: Mr. Thierry Neveux

Directors as of July 1, 2019:

Mr. Jean-Baptiste Dabadie

Mr. Emmanuel Farcis

Mr. Thomas Feld

Mr. Hans-Gunter Herrmann

Ms. Céline Heuls-Vidal

Mrs. Marie-Hélène Prevot

Mr. Gilles-Alexandre Salansy

## **French Chamber Foundation Staff**

General Manager: Ms. Anita Leung

Charity Project Officer: Mr. K.S. Li

## **French Chamber of Commerce**

Executive Director: Mrs. Sophie Leconte

# Financials

The following highlights provide an analysis of the Annual Report and Accounts of FCF for the year ended 30 June 2019, as audited by Baker Tilly Hong Kong Limited.

We remain available to provide a full set of audited Financial Statement to interested parties.

## Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Expressed in Hong Kong Dollars

	1.7.2018 to 30.6.2019	1.4.2017 to 30.6.2018
	HKD	HKD
<b>Revenue</b>	1,995,647	6,429,463
Direct Cost	(1,821,239)	(2,287,461)
<b>Gross Contribution</b>	134,408	4,142,002
Other Income	5,807	3,553
Administrative and Other Operating Expenses	(913,251)	(1,065,802)
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus before taxation</b>	(773,036)	3,079,753
Income Tax	-	-
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus and Total Comprehensive (loss)/Income for the Year/Period</b>	(773,036)	3,079,753

## Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019

Expressed in Hong Kong Dollars

	2019	2018
	HKD	HKD
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Other Receivables	108,350	119,360
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>5,718,303</u>	<u>6,476,271</u>
	<u>5,826,653</u>	<u>6,595,631</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Other Payables and Accrued Expenses	261,814	208,369
Amount due to a Related company	<u>147,853</u>	<u>197,240</u>
	<u>409,667</u>	<u>405,609</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Funds Employed	<u>5,416,986</u>	<u>6,190,022</u>
Accumulated Surplus	<u>5,416,986</u>	<u>6,190,022</u>

The above financial information relating to the year ended 30 June 2019 and the period ended 30 June 2018 does not constitute the Company's specified financial statements for these periods as defined in section 436 of the HKCO but is derived therefrom.

The Company has delivered the specified financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2018 to the Registrar of Companies and will deliver the specified financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2019 in due course.

Auditor's reports have been prepared on the specified financial statements both for the period ended 30 June 2018 and the year ended 30 June 2019.

The auditor's reports for both periods:

- were not qualified or otherwise modified;
- did not refer to any matter to which the auditor drew attention by way of emphasis without qualifying the reports; and
- did not contain a statement under section 406(2) or 407(2) or (3) of the HKCO.

# Our Key Partners

## OUR OPERATION PARTNERS

### **Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service**

BOKSS was founded in 1978 and is constantly innovating to respond to community needs. Diversified employment services are provided to different vulnerable groups aged 15 or above in Wan Chai district to help them enhance competitiveness and join the labour force by providing job matching, placement services, counselling and job referrals. BOKSS also work closely with the business sector to help companies understand the employment difficulties faced by grassroots employees.

### **Kwun Tong Swatow Baptist Church**

Kwun Tong Swatow Baptist Church is a Christian Church founded in 1952 at the squatter areas of Tiger Tail Village, Lo Fu Ngam. The church located at 11 Tsui Ping Road, Kwun Tong provides services and fellowships for different age groups, serves people and takes care of the needs of the community.

## OUR FOOD PARTNER

### **Food Angel**

Food Angel is a food assistance program launched in 2011 by Bo Charity Foundation with the mission of "WASTE NOT, HUNGER NOT." The program rescues edible surplus food from different sectors of the food industry that would otherwise be disposed of as waste. Following strict safety protocols, the donated food items will then be prepared as nutritious hot meals in their central kitchen and be redistributed to serve the underprivileged communities in Hong Kong.

## OUR COMMUNICATION PARTNERS

### **Wild at Heart | Digital Business Makers**

Digital savvy team focusing on growing clients' businesses by boosting traffic, increasing social engagement and creating efficient web experiences that people love. Holistic approach: SEO, social media, web development, online sales, content creation, and web analytics.  
[wild-at-heart.net](http://wild-at-heart.net)

### **Emotive Studio**

Emotive Studio is a thriving Euro-Asian brand design agency comprising of brand specialists, designers and content creators. They work with a diverse portfolio of international and local brands. Their international team combines global exposure, multi-cultural marketing experience and market trend insights.



# Our Thanks

We are grateful to all our volunteers, supporters and donors for their efforts and generosity.

“Make it Work HK” programs, actions and achievements in 2018-2019 would not have been possible without:

- The French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hong Kong, who provided continuous help, organised the Gala dinner auctions and the generosity wave.
- Corporates and individual benefactors who made donations, offered in-kind support and set up special events or programs.
- Volunteers, whose contribution and dedication have been so helpful in supporting our operations.

The French Chamber Foundation would like to extend its sincere gratitude and warmest thanks to all. Supporting a good cause is not about time and money, it is a matter of heart.

“Merci beaucoup” to every one of you!



Annual Report 2018-2019

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