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November 2025

My dear friend,

In every corner of Youth Outreach, we witness how young people seek light in adversity and rediscover themselves in unfamiliar environments. In this issue of Letter from the Street, we share the story of Sushi, a young lady from the Transitional Housing for Girls (THG) — a journey of exploration through coffee, self-discovery, and the meaning of "home".

Sushi's story reminds us that what young people need is not just resources and skills, but also understanding and companionship — a space where they can be willful, cry out, and be imperfect. Youth Outreach firmly believe that every young person holds infinite potential, as long as we are willing to offer a safe place for them to grow and flourish at their own pace. We hope this issue of Letter from the Street allows you to feel Sushi's courage and gentleness, and invites us all to reflect: how can we build a true "home" for more young people in this city.

Meanwhile, the Youth Outreach Jockey Club Building has been in service since 2004.In order to provide users with a safer and more comfortable environment, with the support of the Lotteries Fund, a renovation project began in September 2023 and has now been completed. We are pleased to announce the "Youth Outreach New Milestone Launch Ceremony & Youth Outreach Charity Basketball Tournament Finale 2025," to be held on Saturday, 18 October 2025. We are honoured to have Mrs. Alice MAK, SBS, JP, Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, as our Guest of Honour.

This event marks a significant chapter for YO as we celebrate the completion of our major renovation project and continue our mission to support at-risk youth through innovative and comprehensive services. The day will feature a variety of vibrant activities, including creative youth-led workshops, busking performances, a coffee booth operated by Sushi — "Good Coffee", and, for the first time, the grand finale of the YO Charity Basketball Tournament 2025.

You are warmly welcome to visit us and capture the moment anytime!

Yours faithfully,

Executive Director of Youth Outreach

Lawrence TSE



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My name is Sushi. Owing to the issues in my family, I had to stay in the Transitional Housing for Girls (THG) run by the Youth Outreach (YO) since November 2024. I stayed there for more than 5 months. During that period of time, I was introduced to coffee brewing and to adding fancy patterns with milk by a social worker in the THG. It was just for fun at the beginning. After a while, I felt very interested in it. I eventually started a coffee shop over there. It was open to all the staff members in YO. I named it as 'Coffee Home' (咖舍). I was so delighted that I could set up a business and enjoy the coffee brewed by myself in the quarters.

During the time in the THG, I learned something that I had never imagined before. I was taken care and looked after very well by the staff in the THG. By the way, I had never had this experience before. This changed my perception of myself, people around me and the world. I learned how to set healthy boundaries for loving myself and for respecting myself as a human being.

In fact, I used to pay full attention to other people's stories and their feelings but never took a notice of myself, my own voice deep in my heart. I had never been loved in my life. Then, all of a sudden, the staff in the THG told me that I could express my emotions and feelings like a child and not to repress my true self, 'If you want to cry, go ahead, just cry!' I couldn't believe it at that very moment.

I had been hurt and had miserable experiences and that was why I stayed in the THG. I had never expected that I could meet these staff members who accepted me, were concerned about me, loved me and supported me although I was not perfect. I could finally see my own value and my own worth. I was not rubbish, not a tool for being used and manipulated by others. At last, I realized how to love and respect myself.



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In addition to my emotional and personal growth in the THG, I could also conceive the true meaning of 'a family'. It was not just a shelter for me. It was the warmth and understanding from the people there. I was actually from a so-called 'home' where nobody cared if I was in or out. Yet, whenever I went in the THG, their smile, their greetings, their welcoming attitudes, their love and care for me certainly demonstrated the meaning of 'safety' and 'Home Sweet Home'. I felt relaxed and overjoyed right away.

My experience with the THG sets me free from my self-repression. I have figured out how to accept myself, my weakness and my imperfection. I understand what it means by being loved, being cared, how to say 'NO', how to set boundaries and how to be brave to protect myself. I now know my rights and obligations and I am confident to go forward to my future life.

Sushi November 2025 Translated by Virginia Li

N.B

Youth Outreach (YO)'s Transitional Housing for Boys and Girls (THB/THG) is located in Sai Wan Ho with an accommodation of 70 beds. It provides 1-year accommodation services for youth aged between 15 to 21 who are either working or unemployed and in crisis, as well as youth probationers referred by court

Through individual and family counselling and remedial small group activities, THB and THG aim to improve the relationships between youth and their family and assist them in study and job. The centres offer training to promote youth's self-care ability, social skills and financial management, strengthen their emotional management and develop abilities to live independently.