

Youth Hostel: Home² Youth Hostel

2023-2024 Annual Overview

1. Introduction

Home² Youth Hostel began operations in June 2023. Over the past year, it has provided a safe and comfortable living environment to meet the needs of young people.

Home² Youth Hostel provides up to 200 hostel places. The monthly rent is from \$4,830 to \$5,130 per hostel place.

Operational Overview: It continues to attract young tenants from diverse backgrounds through additional promotions. By organizing various activities, the hostel enhances interaction and socialization among residents.

Management Strategy: The management team has implemented effective communication strategies, regularly engaging with tenants to gather feedback and enhance service quality. This approach ensures that tenant needs are promptly addressed and that the overall living experience is continually improved.

Maintenance Measures: The hostel conducts regular facility inspections and maintenance to ensure that all common areas and accommodation facilities are well-maintained. The management team promptly addresses maintenance requests from tenants to ensure a positive living experience.

Overall, the Youth Hostel has successfully operated over the past year, meeting tenant needs while promoting social interaction and development among young people.

2. Activities

2.1 Community and Volunteer Services

The hostel has organized 175 events in the past year. Youth tenants have actively engaged in various community and volunteer services, fostering a sense of belonging and social responsibility. We have encouraged more youth tenants to participate in these activities by:

1. **Incentivizing Participation:** Incentives include certificates, recognition events, and rewards (e.g., discounts on rent and free access to the gym and swimming pool) for those who actively engage in community service.
2. **Creating a Peer Leadership Program:** We encourage interested tenants to take on leadership roles in organizing events and managing the opinions of their peers. Peer influence can motivate others to join, as they may feel more connected to their fellow residents.
3. **Feedback and Suggestions:** We regularly solicit feedback from tenants about the types of activities they are interested in and incorporate their suggestions into future planning.
4. **Flexible Scheduling:** We offer activities at various times to accommodate different schedules, ensuring that more tenants can participate without conflicting with their personal commitments.
5. **Collaborating with Local Organizations:** We partner with community organizations to provide structured programs and activities that cater to youth interests, such as environmental conservation, cultural initiatives, and the arts.

Throughout the year, they have participated in initiatives such as:

- **Community Clean-Up Drives:** We partner with civil service voluntary teams and Sub-district Care Teams (Tsuen Wan) to organize volunteer service events, encouraging tenants to actively participate in community initiatives.
- **Charity Fundraising Activities:** We participated in fundraising events for local charities, such as the Joyful (Mental Health) Foundation, helping to raise awareness and support for important social causes.
- **Cultural Exchange Events:** We were involved in organizing cultural exchange activities, such as the Fujian Exchange Program, which promotes the engagement and understanding of Hong Kong youth in China's development.

These initiatives not only enhance the tenants' personal development but also strengthen ties with the local community, fostering a spirit of cooperation and mutual support.

2.2 Hostel Life and Activities

In the past operational year, the Youth Hostel has engaged in several significant activities that have enriched the experience of our residents and fostered community involvement. Below are some key highlights:

YH Lunar New Year Market 2024

The Lunar New Year is a vital festival for the Chinese community. Starting from the 28th of the lunar month, families engage in extensive cleaning, decorating with couplets, and preparing for celebrations. On New Year's Eve, families gather for reunion dinners and visit night markets. On the first day, traditions such as temple visits, lighting incense, lion dances, and exchanging red packets are observed. This year, our hostel residents organized a New Year market, which invited local residents from Tsuen Wan to participate. This event not only promoted traditional New Year practices but also allowed the community to experience the festive atmosphere.

Hong Kong, Macao Exchange Tour for Hundred Youths(Youth Delegation to Beijing)

To promote interaction and exchange between mainland and Hong Kong youth, and to encourage Hong Kong teenagers to actively seize opportunities for national development, this program offers hands-on experiences for participants to enhance their understanding of the Motherland and their sense of identity through various activities such as viewing, listening, learning, and playing. The Youth Hostel will provide a limited number of spots for patriotic and Hong Kong-loving residents to participate in this event. During the process, participants will experience and visit various activities, including a flag-raising ceremony, national education lectures, educational bases, national projects, cultural and heritage institutions, sports interactions, local ties, and summary sharing sessions.

Hong Kong, Macao Exchange Tour for Hundred Youths(Fujian)

Our residents participated in an educational visit to Fujian, where they explored significant sites such as the Xiamen Economic Special Zone Memorial Hall and Meiya Pico Information Technology Company. In Ningde, they visited the Jimei New Town Experience Center and the Software Park Exhibition Hall, and in

Fuzhou, they toured the historic Sanfang Qixiang and visited the Lin Zexu Memorial Hall. This trip provided valuable insights into the development and culture of the mainland.

Yuen Long Drainage Bypass Eco-Conservation Guided Tour (Resident-Initiated)

To raise public awareness about flooding causes and the government's flood prevention strategies, the Drainage Services Department collaborated with "Green Power" to organize the guided tour "Understanding the River – Yuen Long Drainage Bypass." This tour allowed participants to explore the Yuen Long Drainage Bypass, Kam Tin River, and Ramsar Wetlands, offering firsthand observations of river engineering and ecological conservation efforts. The itinerary included visits to the San Tin Rainwater Pumping Station, the dry weather pumping station at the Yuen Long Drainage Bypass, and the mangroves at Kam Tin River.

Chung Yeung Festival Hiking and Clean-Up Activity (Resident-Initiated)

The Chung Yeung Festival is a traditional Chinese holiday symbolizing the avoidance of illness and misfortune. This year, we participated in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's "Public Clean-up Activity in Country Parks," organizing a clean-up event at Tai Mo Shan. The aim was to promote physical and mental well-being through hiking while demonstrating our commitment to environmental responsibility and stewardship.

These activities reflect our dedication to providing a vibrant community experience for our residents while fostering a sense of responsibility towards cultural traditions and environmental conservation.

3. Discretionary admission

In accordance with the guidelines established, we have exercised discretion in the admission process, carefully considering various factors that influence eligibility. In the 2023-24 operational year, 3 tenants that did not meet the standard eligibility criteria were admitted by discretion.

Our exercise of admission discretion is guided by a commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by applicants, particularly those in vulnerable situations. Each case is evaluated holistically, considering both the established criteria and the specific circumstances that may warrant exceptions.

- END -