

# Youth Hostel: Home<sup>2</sup> Youth Hostel

## 2024-2025 Annual Overview

### **1. Introduction**

Home<sup>2</sup> Youth Hostel began operations in June 2023. Over the past year, it has continued to operate smoothly under the established management framework, with a focus on providing affordable, safe, and community-oriented accommodation for young residents.

Home<sup>2</sup> Youth Hostel provides up to 200 hostel places. The monthly rent is from \$4,970 to \$5,290 per hostel place.

#### **Management Strategy**

We have established regular meetings between Youth Hostel residents, Y.Elites, and Nina Hotel, involving resident representatives to address concerns and gather feedback. Additionally, management has conducted periodic reviews of hostel policies, including admission criteria and guidelines, to ensure fairness.

#### **Maintenance Measures**

The hostel conducts regular inspections and maintenance to ensure that all common areas and accommodation facilities are well-maintained. The management team promptly addresses maintenance requests from residents to foster a positive living experience. However, we have received considerable feedback regarding issues with the lift during peak times. We are actively communicating with Nina Hotel to develop an effective solution.

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 123 events in the past year. Youth tenants at the Home Square Youth Hostel 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, free access to the gym and swimming pool, free movie tickets and free concert tickets) 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. We have arranged regular monthly meeting with tenants and the representatives from the hotel.
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 and the District Council 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 and Chongqing Exchange Program, which promotes the engagement and understanding of Hong Kong youth in China's development.

## 2.2 Hostel Life and Activities

### **Highlights of Youth Hostel Operations and Activities**

#### **Residents' Life Highlights**

The introduction of a new communal lounge has significantly enhanced the living experience for residents at the Youth Hostel. This shared space, equipped with cooking facilities, has fostered greater interaction and collaboration among residents. For instance, residents have organized cooking sessions, enabling them to bond over shared meals and cultural exchanges, strengthening the sense of community within the hostel.

#### **Activities Organized in the Youth Hostel**

The communal lounge served as a vibrant hub for a variety of activities throughout the past operational year. These included:

- **Creative Workshops:** Painting and handicraft classes were held, encouraging residents to explore their creativity and develop new skills, fostering a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie.
- **Cooking Classes:** Regular cooking classes were organized, teaching residents practical skills and promoting healthy eating habits. These classes also provided opportunities for residents to share recipes from their diverse backgrounds.
- **Career and Life Planning Activities:** The hostel hosted several career-focused events, including sharing sessions with industry professionals who provided insights into various career paths. Additionally, financial planning workshops were conducted to equip residents with essential budgeting and investment skills, empowering them to plan for their futures effectively.

#### **Operational and Management Improvements**

To enhance the hostel's operations and communication, two significant initiatives were implemented:

- **Communal Lounge Addition:** The newly added communal lounge has transformed the hostel into a more interactive and welcoming environment. Equipped with modern amenities, including a fully functional kitchen, the lounge has become a central space for residents to relax, socialize, and engage in activities, significantly improving their overall hostel experience.

- **Floor Leader System:** A new floor leader role was established, allowing residents to elect representatives who voice their opinions and concerns at monthly floor leader meetings with hostel management. This initiative has strengthened communication between residents, management, and the hostel operator, leading to quicker resolution of issues and higher resident satisfaction. These efforts have not only enriched the residents' hostel life but also reinforced the Youth Hostel's mission to provide a supportive and dynamic environment for young people to grow and connect.

### **3. Discretionary admission**

In accordance with established guidelines, we have exercised discretion in the admission process, thoroughly evaluating factors affecting eligibility. In the 2024-25 operational year, 4 tenants that did not meet standard eligibility criteria were admitted by discretion.

Our discretionary admission decisions reflect a commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by applicants, particularly those in vulnerable circumstances. Each case is assessed holistically, balancing established criteria with specific situations that may warrant exceptions.

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