

# HEART of ASSISI

JULY 2020

Bringing you the heart of Assisi Hospice

## CORING FOR MORE

The recent three years have seen the Assisi Team maturing in our ministry, growing professionally, and developing significantly in size and

capabilities to better serve our patients and families. 2019 was the 50th year of service to our community. We are grateful to be able to continue to learn and be of more help to those around us.

After celebrating our Golden Jubilee, the world changed

around us in the first half of 2020 with the Covid-19 global pandemic and circuit-breaker measures. Despite the challenges we faced, we soldiered on and not only continued our services, but tried our best to care for more.



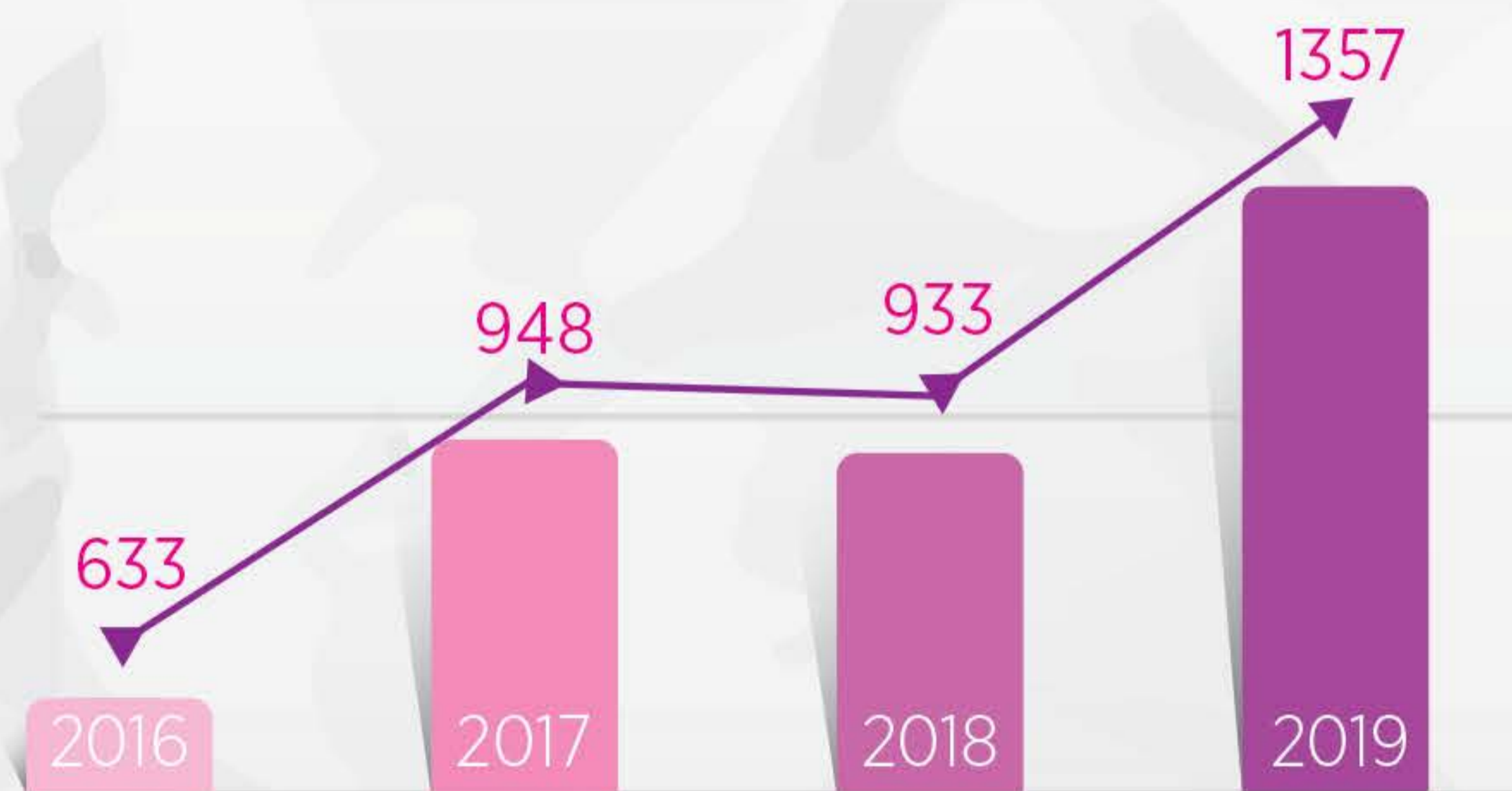
### INPATIENT NEW ADMISSIONS



↑ 25% INCREASE



### HOME CARE NEW ADMISSIONS



↑ 24% INCREASE



### DAY CARE ATTENDANCES



# I Care for Assisi Nurses (C.A.N.)

Our nurses have a calling to provide care, comfort and dignity to patients, no matter how challenging the circumstances may be. But let's not forget that they need our support too. As Nurses' Day approaches in August, we share a short extract of their stories here.



**Nurse Joseph Tan,**  
Assisi Home Care Nurse for 5 years

Like many other male nurses in Singapore, our fathers may not have been too particularly proud unless they had been served by nurses as a patient themselves. Actually, men need attention too, and sometimes our male patients relate better to male nurses. I have supportive friends who admire my courage to take on this profession, often saying that this is a job that they cannot do. I like doing difficult jobs, and I can do it well. At the end of the day, if we answer to our calling, nothing else matters.



**Nurse Rosmah Bte A. Hamid,**  
Assisi Inpatient Ward Nurse for 12 years

Nursing has taught me to understand and value life better, to appreciate every single minute that I have in my life. It gives me a great sense of satisfaction to make a difference in people's lives daily.

We nurses are accustomed to witnessing suffering but this virus (Covid-19) sly ability to spread has resulted in something profoundly sad: It allows for fewer goodbyes (due to the restriction in number of visitors during the circuit breaker period). For some patients with big families, the hardest thing is when some of them are not able to be at their love ones' bedside, can't hold their hands and say their last goodbyes.



**Nurse Linda Chew,**  
Assisi Home Care Nurse for 4 years

I feel that we are the 'front frontline staff'. We enter their houses even before they step into the hospital. We are facing the risks ahead of others.

I am caring for an elderly lady, Mdm T, who is happily married with her husband and with 4 adult children. Mdm T has cervical cancer and we have been caring for her for past 1 year plus. Recently, she deteriorated and was admitted into hospital. She was very depressed in hospital due to the limitation of visitors and she couldn't see her husband whom she was very attached to.

Thankfully, with our Home Care support, she can be discharged and cared for at home, and can continue to see her husband every day. We are still doing active follow up visits for her condition and supporting her care at home. She is now very cheerful and always smiling when I visit her. Through caring for her, I learnt about true love in difficult times and that is even more prominent in times like these.

Visit [www.icareforassisinurses.sg](http://www.icareforassisinurses.sg) or scan to meet more of our nurses and write a note of appreciation to them!

**I CAN**  
I CARE FOR ASSISI NURSES



# Helping the POOR and LONELY in 2019

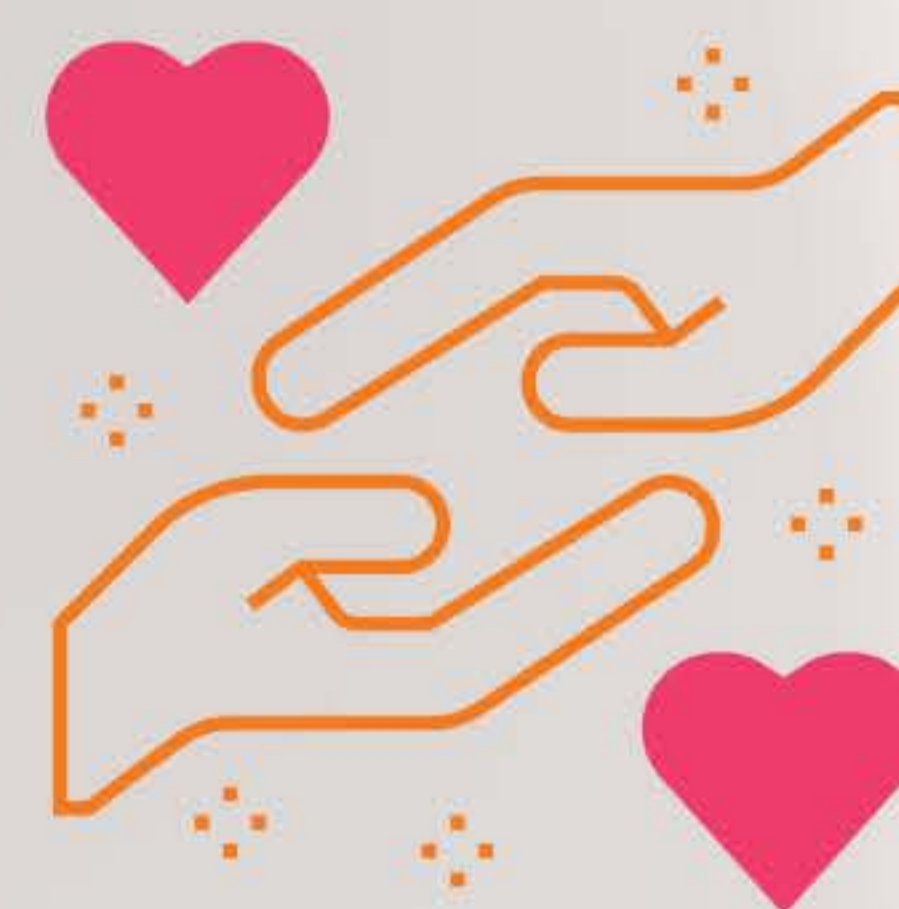
# 48%

of our patients are poorest of the poor and means tested to the lowest income level

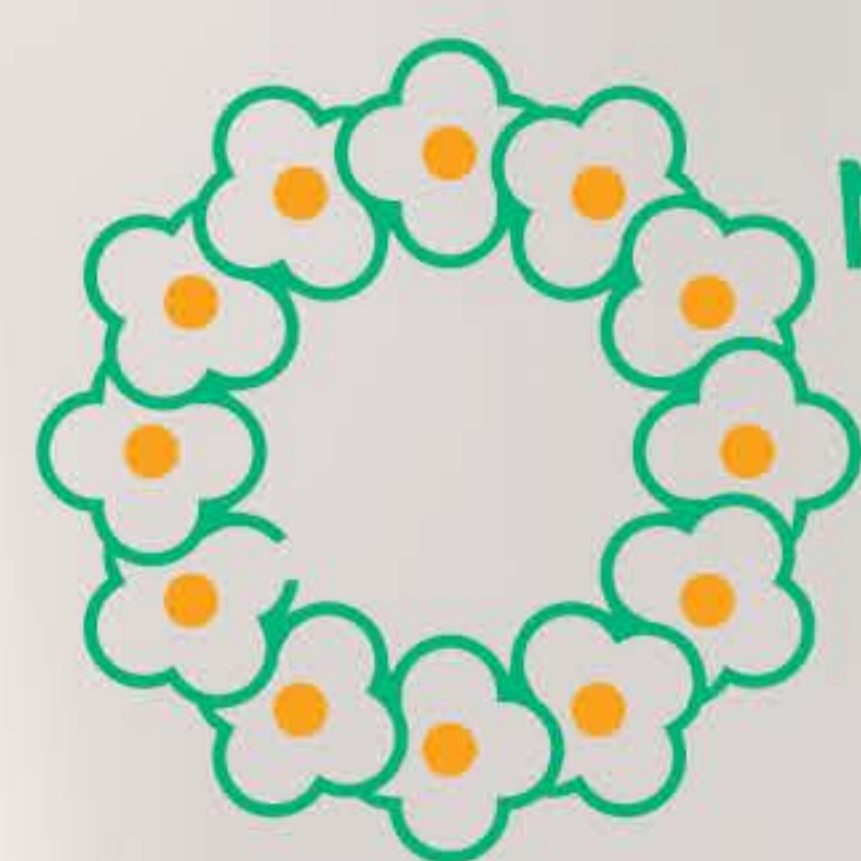


We provided

# 73



patients with financial support in areas like ambulance transfers, transport, supermarket vouchers.

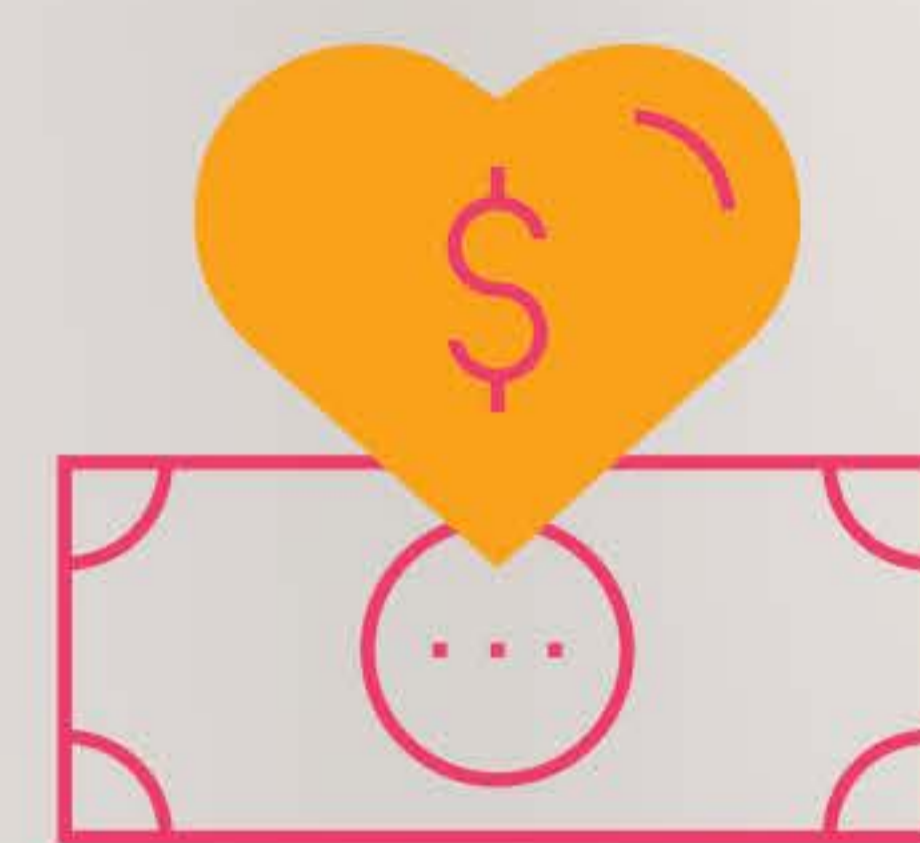


No. of pro bono funerals (inpatient):

# 20

We provided

# 26



patients with cash in hand for daily living while waiting for formal financial assistance from other agencies.

## Deepest Appreciation to FairPrice Foundation

To engage the community to do their part for the less fortunate, FairPrice Foundation has matched the new service fee for all online orders and donated \$100,000 to Assisi Hospice. We would like to show our deepest appreciation to the FairPrice Foundation for their support in our cause of journeying with our palliative patients and their loved ones.

We are facing unprecedented challenges in our mission. Donations, that support many of our patients, have fallen by more than 50% as compared to previous years. Signature fundraising events, which account for a large part of our donations, have all been put on hold. Such support in these immensely challenging times encourage us to continue serving despite all the challenges we face. Show your support and enable us to continue to provide care and comfort to our patients and their families: <https://www.giving.sg/assisi-hospice>.

# “No One Dies Alone” (NODA) 2019

No. of  
NODA patients:

38



No. of  
vigil hours:

553



## We became his “sisters”

**M**r Koh Ngo Tee’s name literally means the 5th brother, which aptly captures the understanding that he is the 5th boy born into the family. He was also the youngest boy and recalled how pampered he was by his elder brothers.

Mr Koh is 73 years old this year and suffers from metastatic lung cancer. He came into Assisi Hospice inpatient service in Nov 2019 and hardly had any visitors, thus the team enrolled him into our NODA programme.

Mr Koh’s father was a private bus driver and the sole bread winner of a big family. Mr Koh did not have much education and started work in his late teens as a coastal security personnel. In his 20s, he worked for one of his brothers in a metal factory, installing metal grill gates for private houses. He was also the main caregiver for his mom while they were staying in Ang Mo Kio Avenue 10. When his Mom passed away, he became lonelier as his siblings were all busy with their own lives.



In his late 50s, he worked as a hawker cleaner at People’s Park. He worked every day from 12 noon to 10pm for more than 10 years. Life was simple for him as a low wage worker. He stayed in a one-room HDB rental flat at Ang Mo Kio with a flatmate.

Mr Koh is a man who values kinship. He affectionately calls his younger sister by her milk name “Ong Nga” meaning “baby” in the Hokkien dialect. He could recall vividly



how he couldn’t visit her during Chinese New Year in the past due to various reasons.

Assisi staff and volunteers are now like his family. His Chinese New Year reunion meal this January was a simple yet heartwarming reunion lunch at the ward pantry with St Michael Ward’s doctor and nurses. Our NODA volunteers will sometimes buy him the food he misses, e.g. char kway teow and braised duck. Our NODA volunteers also bring him regularly to the garden and listen to him share about his life story.

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