

Dear Team

We endeavour to bring about safe neighbourhoods that care for their children and one way we do this is by welcoming gifts. Gifts - in terms of time, love and care from volunteers and programmes such as training in the arts, sports or specific work skills, to name a few. We also take tangible items such as books, beds, pots and pans. Now before anyone thinks that we have gone into the recycling business, we have not and this is because we believe gifts create an abundant community. We tell our members that a confident and competent community can receive gifts graciously to complement its inherent strengths.

A few months ago , we received 2 old pianos at our Whampoa facility. At that point, we just thought that it would be a shame to discard them and thought that they would be a good addition to our facility as they would not be something our children would have at home. Of course, we were not sure if we had made the right decision when the children started banging on them. However, one volunteer was absolutely sure that the pianos were a wonderful gift and she was absolutely right in more ways than we could see at that time. Today, there are 6 young people aged from 6 to 17 years old who faithfully practice at our facility in between the lessons she gives them. They can play a couple of simple tunes and even appreciate the theory that she teaches. This volunteer is also now working together with a group of student volunteers that she met at our facility to create piano lesson plans. So there are now about 12 volunteers taking turns to get 6 young people playing the piano and they have also gotten our pianos tuned.

The children's enthusiasm has not been lost on their parents and they now count the volunteer piano teacher among their friends. These parents have come to listen to their children play and are deeply appreciative of their children's modest achievement. Parents and piano teacher now also cooperate on their children's routine which includes a healthy combination of schoolwork, music and family. Life is fuller now for these 6 young people and their families. It is said that when there is love, there is plenty. Gifts are a gesture of love. Gifts create an abundant community and we endeavour to welcome them.