



2019 Global Giving Update



BRIGHT SIDE
嚮光協會

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An amazing year for Bright Side!

2019 is the tail end of an amazing decade that has seen the rise of Bright Side Projects and our continued work in the community. We are building a comprehensive support system for our youth and young adults and this can only happen if everyone takes part. This belief has never wavered, only honed throughout the years and as our youth have grown, become validated.

We've had some delays to our spring workshops but have continued to provide necessities and plant-based meals to local communities such as WanHua, whenever possible. We've continue to move beyond art and cooking workshops to bring in more content to our lessons. From creating DIY sanitary pads with women in Orchid Island and introducing menstrual cups as zero waste eco friendly solutions, making plant-based hotpot working with Green Monday and Omnipork, art therapy with Miaoli youth, making Taiwanese

shaved icy from scratch alongside OMD Agency and Taoyuan kids, to our horror movies session taught about media effects, how to spot fake news, through special effects makeup. We make learning fun and engaging. More importantly, youth learn how to socialize, work in teams towards a common goal.

We look forward to providing you with more updates later on in 2020. Thank you so much once again for your support!

Daisy H. Lin / Founder

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<http://BrightSide.tw>

Indigenous Atayal youth in ChingChuan greeting us as attend Taoshan Elementary School's graduation

Photo by Jon Burke



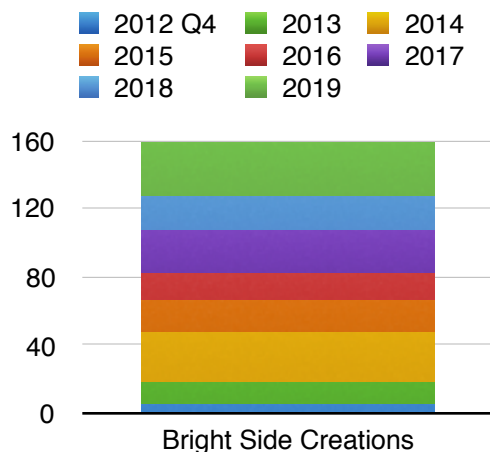
What we've been doing overall...

Since the end of 2012, here's a quick recap of those who have joined us on our journey in face to face interaction in the workshops to make friends:

Number of activities: 195
Number of creative edu classes: 159
Number of Community spots: 1751
Number of Big Friend spots: 1373
Big Friend overall return rate: 50%

2019 Friendship Meter

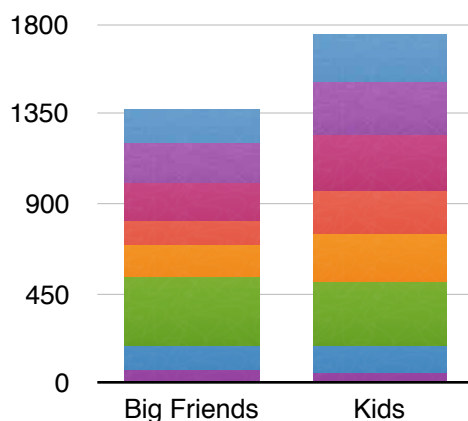
While we may spend 60-95 hours for each workshop regardless if it's half day or full day and could easily execute a 300-500 person event during the same amount of planning, we limit each of our workshop attendance to approximately 15 members in the community and 15 Big Friends. This increases enhance the quality of interaction and depth of engagement, making everyone a memorable individual instead of simply a "volunteer."



No. of creative edu classes 2019: 29
No. of Plant-based Meals served to Youth and Community: 243
Big Friend Volunteers: 173
Amount of organic rice delivered in December 1146 lbs

Plans for SS 2020

- Solidify services in providing quarterly plant-based food staples
- Inclusion of senior citizens for plant-based nutrition
- Continued development Brighter Futures Programs for our 16+ Youth
- Continue creative education workshops with focus on emotional management and art therapy
- Volunteer Re-training on Trauma Education, Sexual Harassment, Creativity Impact, LGBTQ tolerance
- Elect new board of directors for 2020 - 2023



Our DNA

What sets us apart?

KITCHEN TABLE

Freshly cooked nutritious plant-based

meal options from our



[Kitchen Table](#) at all events, especially during workshops with children.

Veering towards local, organic, unprocessed foods. Junk food and candy items are not permitted to be brought by Big Friends.

SOCIAL AWARENESS

Workshops always have a deeper message by trying to raise awareness of different social issues and how our lives are impacted by it.



INTERACTIVE & INTIMATE

We don't have just one teacher facing 30 kids. We attempt to bring a 1:1 or 1:2 ratio of "Big Friends" to "Kids," to get more people involved and to enhance engagement. 30 people maximum per workshop. Everyone shares in the task of setting up, sharing food, bringing workshops to fruition, and cleaning up.

GENDER EQUALITY

We maintain a gender neutral zone and respect so that no one is limited or discriminated of their full potential based on a social construct.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC)

This sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. In serving the best interest of the child, this benefits all. Bright Side safe spaces empowers

everyone to speak up, abolishing a hierarchal "talking down" mentality.



2019

January

Trademark registration after we re-created our Bright Side Projects logo designed by Sixten.

February

Our first leg of the Zero Waste Menstrual solutions 【月來月愛零廢棄】; Bright Side Projects promoting menstrual cups paired with cloth sanitary napkins. We sourced suitable organic cotton in Taiwan to offer a DIY workshop.

March

First kid related workshop post the Lunar New Years! We introduced the holiday St. Patrick's Day to the children in Taoyuan and had them make a green infused lunch. Our "Brighter Futures" program providing internships, life skills, and work programs for our youth 16+ as well as tutoring for those of all ages, took root this month.

April

A jam packed month starting with our "Choose Love" Campaign featuring renowned actors Kelly Hsi-Lei Lin and ShuQi. Hosted a #EatforLove vegan charity bake sale at Ooh Cha Cha

May

Bright Side Projects Taichung Training at the Vegan Project

June

ChingChuan TaoShan Elementary School graduation ceremony

Eager to create Moments or Spend a Day with us?

Everyone is welcomed to join us!

MUSIC

KID EMPOWERMENT

April Music Jam



We were so happy to make it back to ChingChuan and have our amazing guest musicians Faye Hong Band head the way up there with us to perform at the new artist village! We often host our workshops at the community center so having it in the beautiful outdoors space was an extra treat for us. We bundled a music jam that showcased instruments rarely seen, including the didgeridoo from Australia. Delicious plant-based pizzas were

made from english muffins with our indigenous kids and made a spring day an even more spectacular day!



Harry Potter Magic Wands Session

There's nothing we love more than to empower youth — meaning all youth.

People often forget that Bright Side Projects is also dependent on our

volunteers and we work with those who are passionate to share their knowledge and skills but tailoring a day long

curriculum that speaks to the youth. We were very happy to have Sean Fan his mother contact us in March from the United States just knowing that they want to become more involved in the Taiwanese community and give back. Over the

course of five months we collaborated remotely to create a workshop that showcased Sean's love of Harry Potter and our love of creating an eco-friendly plant-based workshop; we used 'used' chopsticks for wands and leftover craft

beads, created hearty meals sourced from the Harry Potter cookbook and veganized the recipes. In the end we had delicious meals supplemented with Beyond Sausage from Ooh Cha Cha and blueberry crumble taught by Paula's Brownes and Pinatas.



July

Hosted our first workshop in Taichung, making a Taiwanese classic shaved icy with the youth at the halfway center.

August

Partnered with OMD Media Agency for an engaging CSR workshop in Taoyuan with the fantastic Zumba teacher JLin. This same month we also worked with Sean Fan, a 16 year old, to create two Harry Potter related wand creation workshops.

September

Joined the Global Giving Accelerator Campaign and officially became a part of charity platform so we are able to provide tax deductible receipts to those in the US and UK. We also headed to Orchid Island after almost 1.5 years, bringing more eco-friendly workshops and vegan baking recipes to share.

Taichung Eat for Love campaign

October

We touched up on our special effects/media effects workshop, tying horror movies while teaching children about media effects and how to detect fake news.

November

Kicked off our Jia-Xin Year End workshop with a woodcraft spoon creation camp in Taitung with artisan Whale Dawn

December

Hotpot workshop creating even the soup broth from scratch and dumplings as well as vegan meatballs courtesy of Green Monday and Omnipork. Our annual JiaXin Gifts and Necessities delivery took place in ChingChuan, working with SUIIS online vegetarian platform to provide over \$100,000 NT of plant-based necessities to families.

SKILLED CRAFT

Wood Craft with Whale Dawn



With a small team of Big Friend volunteers who were able to join us, we finally were able to head down on a 4 hour train ride to Taitung and see our kids at the ShinMaLan community. We have been trying to work with the amazing Whale Dawn woodcraft artisan for almost two years. Using fragments of leftover wood, the children spent 4 hours fashioning spoons with nothing more than a sharp knife and some sandpaper. Despite the difficulties in the process, kids were patient until they finally created their own spoon that can now replace disposables.

Kids arrived early to assist with kitchen duties, creating the mushroom gravy, fruit salad, and stir the pot for our pumpkin pasta sauce.

Upcycled Totes and Vegan Baking

We were finally able to return to Orchid Island after a long delay of 1.5 years due to funding and unable to find a teacher that could make the journey over! We hosted 4 workshop sessions including activities for the women. We gathered t-shirts and

youth and women were able to learn several techniques for up cycled totes, replacing plastic bags, one of Orchid Island's biggest polluters. Each session was paired with plant-based baking from blueberry apple crumbles, vanilla cupcakes, and banana muffins. Menstrual cup samples courtesy of DIVA Cup, Lunette, Lena Cup, were introduced in a DIY sanitary napkin sew session for those who menstruate.

ECO FRIENDLY UPCYCLING



Taiwanese Shaved Icy

While we have often introduced foreign cuisine, we decided this year during the 'Ghost Month' of Taiwan to talk to kids about our local customs, beliefs, and in the heat of the summer, make traditional Taiwanese shaved icy with them.

While the history of shaved icy took place not only in Taiwan but its various forms throughout the world, we still have our ingredients that surely make Taiwanese shaved ice the best! We used fresh taro and sweet potatoes to make glutenous dessert balls to pair with red beans and coconut nectar for the perfect treat. It was such a successful workshop with kids we took this on the road from Taoyuan to Chingchuan, as well as our introductory class to Taichung.



Plant-based Hotpot Creations

Continuing our "local" theme, we were so excited to be able to get kids on board making one of our favorite meals - hotpot! We not only had a n organic tofu making session but also had Green Common sponsor Omnipork and lead a class on making plant based meatballs and dumplings. Organic vegetables were sourced from local farmers and kids were responsible for chopping up the veggies, frying the taro, making the meatballs, alongside creating 3 types of hotpot soup base from scratch. The favorite was the amazingly flavorful mala soup base, raw ingredients purchased from Taiwan's traditional Dihua market.

Kids were hesitant at first about a fully vegan hotpot but as we sat down to eat the meals we started overhearing how this was the best meal they've had! We are keen to continue our hotpot tradition with them and with our kids elsewhere. Creating your own meals is another part of the empowerment process!





We are happy to share with you one of our signature creative education workshops - learning about media effects through horror movies and special effects makeup! Living in today's society, the internet has become prevalent in each aspect of our lives. It has come with many benefits but also cons when it becomes a substitute rather than a supplement. Fake news and cyberbullying have taken on a life of its own and talking about how to spot it for the youth may not always be easy.

We first had children guess some common horror movie characters by guessing - sniffing garlic (vampire), blind poking a furry vest (werewolf), a struggling saunter (zombies), etc. Then picking the Exorcist as our inspiration for wounds and scar makeup by showing the before and after makeup kids previously finding scary movies scary, were now a bit more immune seeing how they could easily recreate the makeup. Learning that not everything we see on TV or the internet might not always be real we showed a few questions they should ask when a news info or even a gossip from a friend comes up. Does it make sense? Who is the news source? Is it corroborated? More critical thinking and logic should be utilized instead of simply consuming what we hear. Kids had a fun time not just with the makeup but the dry ice bloody berry punch they created with creepy lychee eyes!



Our year end Jia-Xin necessities donation and delivery is in it's 8th year and only growing stronger. We provided 20 families (12 in ChingChuan and 8 in ShinMaLan Taitung) each with over 8000NT worth of necessities, mostly sourced from Taiwan's premier vegetarian online network SUIIS and their consumers who bought over 100,000NT items from our vegan wishlist!

We are in the communities all year round and having them come out to help sort and send out the necessities is always so heartwarming. We loved having families from the past and

current come out as part of our Bright Side family to support each other.

This year was very special since we went zero waste with our gift packaging - upcycling used shipment paper and



learning a tape free way of wrapping the gifts. 社團法人中華民國生態農耕自然飲食推廣協會 providing 520KG of organic rice from Miaoli, Taiwanese singer Jam Hsiao and UNIQLO for support of children's clothes, KE Foundation for New Balance footwear discount coupons and the International Women's Club for helping sponsor the footwear.

Santa Jia-Xin Year End Necessities



MiaoLi Lunar New Years Upcycle

Making upcycled holiday crafts has never been so creative! With our kids and adults in MiaoLi, we went the Lunar New Years route in making firecrackers from up cycled receipt rolls from our friends at Plants, utilized expired flour dyed red with leftover red paint into spring couplets.

The meal for the day was paired with a traditional meal of Lion's Head veganized and sponsored by Blossom Rena Vegan Cafe.



CORPORATE EVENT



We were honored to be a part of OMD's CSR initiative Helping Hands, supporting Bright Side Projects with \$4000 USD in funds and also getting to know our youth at Taoyuan MuHsiang Children's Home. We had massive amounts of fun not just making taro and sweet potato balls with kids for a fruit infused shaved icy summer treat, but also invited the world renowned Zumba instructor JLin to take them and the kids on a music filled afternoon with tons of laughter!

CHARITY FUNDRAISER

We love having events that are conceptualized and created by the community for the community! Bright Side Projects was privy to a heartwarming fundraising event created by Hej Green with an amazing turnout in Taichung's VeganDay. Over 40 eateries were coordinated to provide a spread of their plant-based masterpieces for charity. By donating a jaw-dropping assortment of plant-based creations, it showed that compassion can and should take place from plastic free packaging to cruelty free ingredients.

Thank you to each person that participated; for each meal that was purchased, we are able to not only provide Bright Side child with a plant-based meal but support creative education, and instill a sense of social awareness and kindness.

Thank you to Chelsea from Hej Green for making this happen, and everyone in the community that made the impossible, possible! We were able to connect with the community and find that we all came together for one single goal through the same means: we know that the children are loved and supported. We love being Taiwan's first and only plant-based charity that promotes creative education and hope others can follow suit!



Choose Love Special Campaign



What choice will you make today for the future of our children? Kelly Lin and Shu Qi choose love. Bright Side Projects' Choose Love campaign marks the first time award nominated and winning actors Kelly Lin and SQ will pair up for a charitable cause to show children they are loved and that they matter.



Our "Choose Love" campaign urgently requires donations so Bright Side Youth in indigenous areas and children's homes can continue year-long programs providing nutritious plant-based lunches, access to education in small class sizes, and work opportunities. Funds also fuels uniquely tailored socialization opportunities instilling confidence, aids young adults in emotional management, promotes gender equity, and builds communication skills that better adaptability in society.

What we do we do with love, for love, for the children. They deserve to not only survive but to thrive. Choose love, choose Bright Side, and give our youth the chance at a brighter future.

INTERVIEW | Joe Chan “詹雯煌”

Joe was one of our first interns in 2019 and has been an integral to our success the past few months. With Joe as part of our team, unselfishly putting in 3 days a week for over 3 months all with passion and a ton of love on everything she does, we have been able to achieve so much with our kids in providing them support, love, and a chance at a brighter future.

Daisy: When did you decide to join Bright Side Projects? What made you interested in becoming an intern?

J: In the late summer of 2019, I was considering a long term stint in a non-profit organization and was hoping to find out that coincided with my beliefs. My wishlist was for an organization that promoted equality, love, and gratitude regardless of one's race, gender, religion, and species. In the process of researching I also added veganism as one of my requirements and the first result I came across was Bright Side Projects. After more research about their goals and achievements over the years, I felt deeply that Bright Side's vision for the future correlated with what the ideal world should look like in my mind so I contacted them immediately.

D: What do you think are unique characteristics to Bright Side Projects from other organizations?

J: Bright Side took children's right for decision-making and freedom of speech very seriously, encouraging them to complete tasks on their own, cultivating a personality imbued with self-confidence paired with a positive mindset, thereby laying a solid mental foundation for children's lives at an early age. The curriculum also focuses on well being in mind and body, analyzes consumerism, media effects and consumption, promotes environmental protection with actionable steps, animal welfare, and accessible nutritional plant-based meals makes it easy for children to understand and integrate compassion and love into their daily lives. I believe Bright Side Projects is the only child welfare organization in Taiwan that seamlessly incorporates such a wide range of topics in its lessons.

D: Any memorable moments in the workshops with the children?

J: There are three things that really have an impact on me! First the way a child's eyes light up when they finish a task, you can see the sense of pride and accomplishment in their eyes. Second, every time children reports back on what they gained from the workshop or complete the goal at hand, you can visibly see their increased learning ability and critical thinking. Lastly, the expression of joy and the beaming smile on their faces after prepping and cooking, are able to eat the meals that they made for themselves and others.





I almost forgot - in just my second time meeting the children, they were able to call out my name! I felt embarrassed myself that I had not memorized everyone's name yet!

D: Has this internship or moments in interacting with children through Bright Side Projects brought about any changes in how you approach issues/kids in the future?

J: I actually didn't know how to interact with children, probably because there are not many of them around my daily life. Through participating in BSP's activities by planning and volunteering as a Big Friend, I slowly grasped how to engage with kids. The most important lesson "break free from the burden and conventional rules established by society" to learning from the children themselves how to look at the world with a more open mind. This was a natural transformation process. In facing matters, sometimes we are too serious or complicate things but forget how powerful we can be if we are true to ourselves.

D: How has it been working in the office as an intern and being able to tie that in with the importance of the work Bright Side does with the children when you see their faces?

J: I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to join in events as a Big Friend to get to know the kids. By being able to interact with them, emotional bonds were formed with lasting friendships and memories. At the beginning of my internship before I met the kids, the lessons and presentations I assisted in preparing for the workshops that were more focused on my perspective but after being with kids, began to understand how to more effectively communicate with them and also how to highlight things that may capture their attention so they would be more interested

to learn. Re-learning this connection and understanding is so important, positive, and inspirational, really driving home the importance of the Bright Side Project's mission. I feel that this should be an integral part of any organization's or corporation's goal.

D: What are your hopes for the children or what you can do?

I really wish the kids now and in the future can learn and complete different tasks with enthusiasm and excitement. Through this learning process I hope they also gradually break out of the reins of authority and inequality, fully develop self-confidence and love for themselves and others. When I volunteer I am wholeheartedly devoted and try to participate in various design projects even when I'm not volunteering. I also want to explore ways to build a more inclusive society and instill this into my daily life.



THANK YOU!

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