

# 嚮光遠景計畫 BRIGHTER FUTURES

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# 嚮光遠景計畫 **BRIGHTER FUTURES**

Brighter Futures is Bright Side Project's second phase of our lifelong journey in constructing a support system to Bright Side Youth.

This phase has four major parts, focused on empowering youth through our customized vocational education program. This includes educational support, life skills and practical learning opportunities, and job skill training through hands-on experiences. We also offer a unique 3-6 month paid work apprenticeship at Bright Side Projects providing guided mentorships focused on strengthening the overall well-being of the individual.

## Long Term Results

By our continuation in providing a well rounded support system, will result in a compassionate person who is independent, confident, financially stable, with a can do attitude with ability to find solutions that positively impact the society and the earth. We also partner with suitable companies and non profits regarding career placement for our youth and adults.



# Participants

We support children of all ages, with a focus on on-site educational and career guidance for those 14+. We provide paid apprenticeship targeting youth age 16 and above that have grown up with Bright Side Projects through the years in our creative educational programs who had indicated they would like to, need to, or require further support to harness a better future. Our youth come from a diversity of background from children's homes, low-income communities, and indigenous regions.

## What makes Brighter Futures unique?

Bright Side Projects is the first creative education non-profit that promotes long term involvement in communities to provide a life-long support system that will tailor-make this program suited for the needs of each individual. We focus on providing these resources to youth that have grown up alongside us, many having first met us through our creative education workshops when they were in elementary school.

In our apprenticeship program, youth will have a minimum of 4:1 mentorship ratio, individuals do not teach but collaborate together to support and share skills with the our youth. Learning skills through experience such as task runs to IKEA or the print shop we are able to assess how our youth functions in planning the transportation, manage their time, interaction with others, EQ, problem solving skills that it take to complete the set goal. We become each others' social responsibility.

We are not only focused on skill sets for employment and advanced education but teaching wellness beyond increasing a person's annual salary - we also focus on wellness, compassion, and kindness to not only others and the planet, and to themselves. Only from teaching self-esteem and confidence building can one first love themselves and love others.

### Bright Side Project Locations

01 清泉 CHINGCHUAN

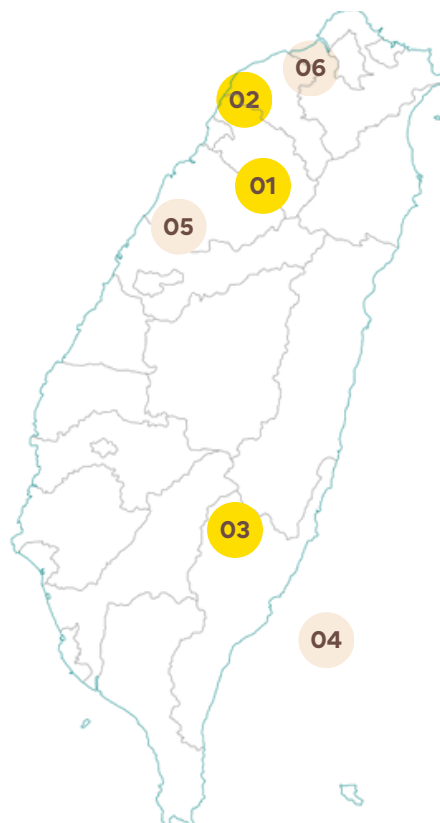
02 桃園 TAOYUAN

03 台東 TAITUNG

04 蘭嶼 ORCHID ISLAND

05 苗栗 MIAOLI

06 萬華 WANHUA



教育支持  
EDUCATIONAL  
SUPPORT

Tuition, tutoring, school enrollment.

From 2019 onward, we have supported over 200 sessions of tutoring including that for English, Mathematics, and also created 3D design and printing classes.

生活津貼  
LIFE SUPPORT

We care about the overall wellness of our youth and we know staying connected is important. We continue to provide funds for staying connected through cultural events and shared experiences, and provide monetary support for everyday life that may be difficult to apply elsewhere; transportation to see family, house rental deposits, meals, etc.

職能訓練  
SKILLS TRAINING

Our youth will be prepared to pursue immediate employment and advanced education opportunities. Supplementing with additional resources and a 4 to 1 mentor to student ratio strengthens their support system and confidence.

ONSITE:

1. Professional trainers and career guidance.
2. Training programs and Six Foundations Program

OFFSITE:

1. Company workplace visits
2. Training workshops and Six Foundations Program
3. Internship or volunteer opportunities with diversified companies

嚮光見習生  
APPRENTICESHIP

Our unique program tailored for each youth's individual needs split into three sections during their paid apprenticeship in the BSP HQ.

1. General Skills Six Foundations
2. Part-time vocational education training and BSP tasks and duties learning real life and professional skills. Includes basic financial management and basic communication.
3. Hones in on specific areas youth can utilize improvement on
4. Future Realized works with youth to set an achievable goal and complete an individual project during their apprenticeship at Bright Side Projects.

Throughout the process we aim to build confidence and nurture all round wellness and emotional growth



# 嚮光遠景計畫 見習生六大基礎

## Wellness and Social Program

- Communication skills
- Emotion management
- Confidence building
- Problem solving
- Basic nutrition knowledge
- Basic human rights

## Administrative Technology

- Computer basics
- Word, Excel
- Internet Research
- How to write an email
- Email greetings
- Use of copy/title

## Basic Administrative

- Offline
- Followup tasks
- Filing and sorting, inventory
- Maintaining hygienic workspace;  
cleaning physical space

## Basic Job Skills

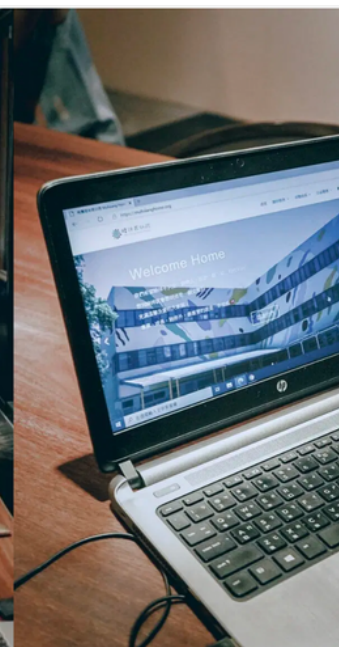
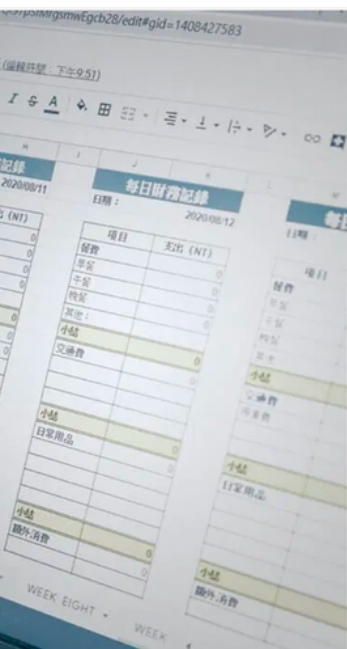
- Preparing for job interviews
- Reading work contracts
- Basics of Labor Laws
- Presentations/self introduction
- Workplace communication
- Time management

## City Life Independent Living

- Navigating public transportation
- Navigating hospitals
- Opening bank account
- Cellular phone contracts
- Obtaining a passport
- Obtaining a visa
- Drivers license (car, scooter)

## Home Skills Independent Living

- Housing contracts
- Finding housing
- Organizing bills
- Basic financial planning
- Sex Education



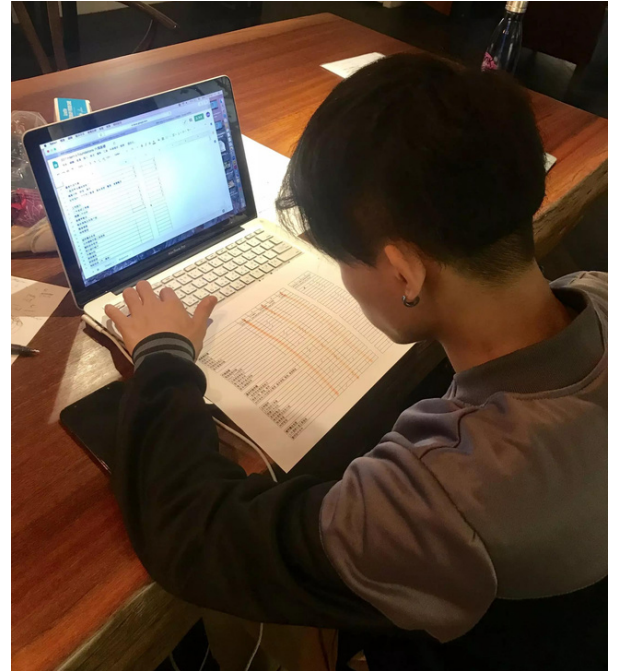
Wu Jr Lung (吳志隆) is a youth from ChingChuan (indigenous region) who first joined in our creative education workshop in 2012. Over the years, Jr Lung has joined as a Big Friend volunteer in our creative education workshops assisting with kids and cooking alongside or for them. We provided them with transportation and sat with them in job interviews, and went with them to their first health check ups in a hospital so they could provide the health certificate to their employer. They were later able to take other youths for the health check up.

Jr Lung's Futures Realized dream was one day to be able to take the different forms of public transportation. We were able to accomplish this with them in the apprenticeship, leaving a train ride to Taitung and an airplane ride back. They learned how to be able to purchase tickets and also read them - date, time, seat, and navigate his way to platforms. This may not seem like much but it was an essential life skill that no one had prepared them for. That trip was especially meaningful as it was also for the purposes of delivering gifting and necessities to indigenous families in Taitung. This was memorable since Jr Lung, whose family was a recipient of our year end necessities packages from the previous years, was able to now choose, purchase, organize, and deliver first hand necessities to others.

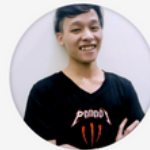
From assisting us in the office and learning the basics of utilizing PCs and Mac, registering and riding YouBikes together, spending birthdays together, we also learned from Jr Lung how to adapt our Brighter Futures program and modify it for each individual youth's needs and wants. Brighter Futures has never been a one sided relationship ; Wu Jr Lung has also provided us with much support and strength through the years, even writing a recommendation letter for us for Global Giving. We've learned so much and gained so much from their friendship over the decade.



## 嚮光見習生 BRIGHT SIDE APPRENTICE



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To me, Bright Side is a quiet and safe space. There is not much noise and within this peace I am able to find myself and be myself without any constraints. I believe that there are a lot of things I still need to learn from computers, layout designs, filing, etc. It takes patience to do a good job step by step so there is still much for me to learn.

Before I met Bright Side Projects, I didn't care about anything but as I grew up I came to realize my own strength and value. There are still things that I should be learn and care about, so I need to learn more about myself.

I think it's important for me to be stronger so that I can create opportunities and be able to support myself. I also want to thank my family and friends and everyone who support me. Perhaps at this moment I have not yet accomplished what I should learn but I hope in the future I will continue to have the opportunity to accomplish my dreams.



Ye RiLong (葉日隆) is a youth from Taoyuan MuHsiang Children's Home who first joined in our creative education workshop in 2014. Even back then, RiLong was always so helpful during the workshops, often electing to assist us in the kitchen or with various tasks many of our Big Friends were doing.

When RiLong began his higher education journey, we provided him with a summer apprenticeship at Bright Side Projects and learned about him even more. We were able to tailor a summer program for him based on honing his current abilities, ensure that he had the right tools for his desired major (social welfare), having him assist our other youths in workshops, and seeing if we could also pave a way for his Futures Realized dream - to build a website for the children's home he grew up in. This proved to be so successful that the website he created is the one they are using now. This greatly increased his confidence. RiLong was eager to chat with us online and provide us with an update in 2022 of where he was and what he was doing - in addition to his college work he also created and builds websites for others now!

## 嚮光見習生 BRIGHT SIDE APPRENTICE



It was no surprise to us for his success has during the apprenticeship he absorbed knowledge and applied his new founded skills.

While under lockdown in COVID, RiLong was also our teacher's assistant at the children's home while we conducted online courses and Brighter Futures programs such as our 3D design and printing. Having him as our go-to was essential so that other kids could learn during that difficult period.

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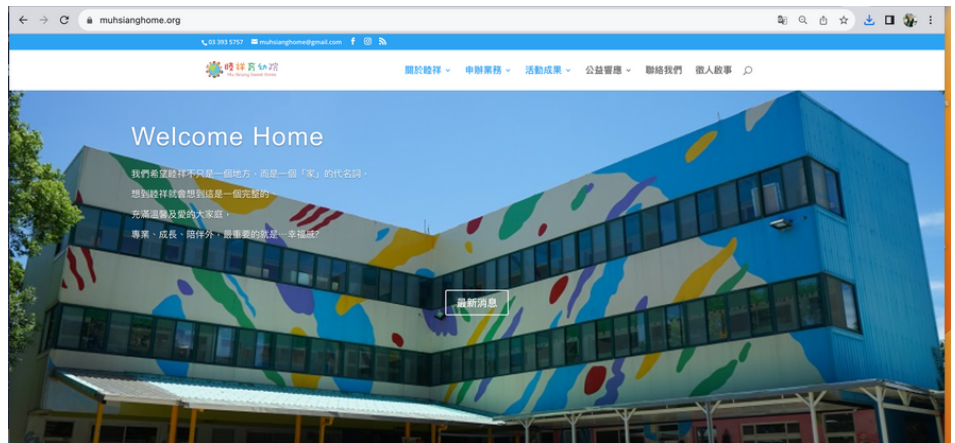


Participating in Bright Side's Brighter Futures Program really helped me a lot to develop a financial management mindset, improve writing skills, create presentations, and learn how to set up a website.

In financial management and budgeting, I learned how to distinguish between needs and wants and how to control the amount of money I was spending by filling out a daily financial expenditure sheet. My writing skills were improved by first cultivating my reading habits and being able to pick up key points in the article I was reading. I was guided on how to make presentations and take care of the layout - then eventually took charge in presenting the PPT to others. All of these abilities can be utilized in college and work.

I was also able to fulfill my wish of creating a website for the children's home. Previously, I thought that creating a website was going to be easy - then being able to actually plan and set up the website I realized a lot of thought and details went into the actual design and was quite complex. From deciding the basic structure and site map, website articles, the layout, etc, you will have to face various obstacles so that your website can achieve what you imagine in your mind. I hope that the Brighter Futures program can continue to provide this resource and training to others - I also wish that in the future I could be able to learn how to utilize retouching tools and how to edit videos; let's learn together!

# Future Realized - Children's Home Website Creation (Ye RiLong)



Other than life skills and job skills during our in-house apprenticeship, we leave the floor open to a goal set by the youth. Achieving this goal that might have seemed impossible whether because skills or funds were lacking, helps build confidence.

On RiLong's first day of the apprenticeship, we asked him if there was anything in particular he wanted to learn as part of Futures Realized. He emphatically stated that he wanted to make a website for Taoyuan MuHsiang Children's Home, a safe space that had provided him with family, support, and home since he was young.

At 18 years old, RiLong had numerous ideas and expectations about the website. He hoped that through the site more people could get to know MuHsiang and also allow them to help out if it was needed. As per the usual custom, we wanted to empower youth instead of simply telling them what to do.

We first had RiLong gather his ideas, look around at other people's website so he could have a concrete idea of what he liked and what he felt needed improving. He identified the purpose of the website, drew up a site map, and worked on clarifying the original mission and text that MuHsiang Children's Home already had, and supplement with content that was lacking. We worked together on revising his content to make it concise yet also heartwarming for web visitors.

In the end we selected to utilize Wordpress. Exploring templates and designs, RiLong was able to make decisions on how to make information visually impactful. He took into account aspects of design he had never really thought about before, such as text size, layout, spacing, and color palettes. During one of our creative education workshops back at Taoyuan RiLong was tasked with art directing the photographer on capturing some images of his home for the website.

By the end of his summer apprenticeship before he headed off to college, the website was complete. Although this seemed like such an impossible task to complete in the beginning, we saw the determination in RiLong's eyes and knew that nothing could stop him.

This was a self-challenging journey and RiLong. He learned to be attentive to detail and also seek help from others when he encountered any difficulties or obstacles so that we could overcome them together. He not only fulfilled his Futures Realized, but accumulated workplace experience in a short amount of time. You are welcome to take a look at the official website for MuHsiang Children's Home at the link below.



<https://muhsianghome.org/>

## 嚮光青少年 BRIGHT SIDE YOUTH



"I want to be able to share love so that more people can know how it feels to be loved!"

Megan is one of our youth from ChingChuan who began joining our creative education classes in 2013. Over the years we have watched Megan encounter triumphs and hardships, from becoming a star athlete on a national level to the death of her mother and also suffering sports injuries that cut off her career. We have provided Megan with various forms of support under Brighter Futures and Megan has never given up and has continued to move forward.

We learned that Megan wanted to take her half-sister on a trip to Taipei during summer. Coincidentally, Megan's younger sister had also begun joining Bright Side Projects workshops but we did not know their relationship. Megan stated that her little sister had some sense of insecurity and since the two sisters have never traveled or spent much time together due to their age difference and family situation. This trip would be especially meaningful for both so we were glad to be able to support them on lodging, transportations, and meals. By the end of the trip both sisters were reluctant to part ways and Megan realized what her sister needed most was companionship whether it was traveling together or just daily attention.

In those few days she was able to give her sister love and care and let her know that she was there for her. This Brighter Futures support provided growth in the pair both learning on navigating a foreign city, itinerary planning, Megan's financial budgeting for the trip, and more importantly, helped build a bond and experience between two sisters that aid in their wellness.



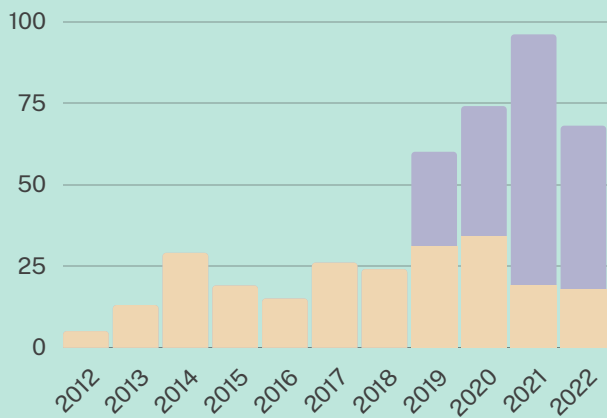
"To me, Bright Side provides a constant source of warmth because someone is caring for our well-being and happiness"

Amanda is our youth from ChingChuan and first came to know Bright Side Projects through our creative education workshops when she was just 11 years old. At that age, her older sister and younger sisters were regulars in our workshops. In the past few years she has become independent and is working part time to fund her college education and living expenses. Continuing to have connections with our youth even after they graduate is important to us. We were able to meet up again with Amanda for a French curated art installation in Tainan, taking this time to reconnect as friends and also understand how we could better provide support. Amanda is on the journey of becoming a certified yoga instructor so that in the future she can share her love of yoga with others and bring this happiness to children in remote villages such as her own. We are still working with her on this goal so she can achieve her dream of giving back to others.

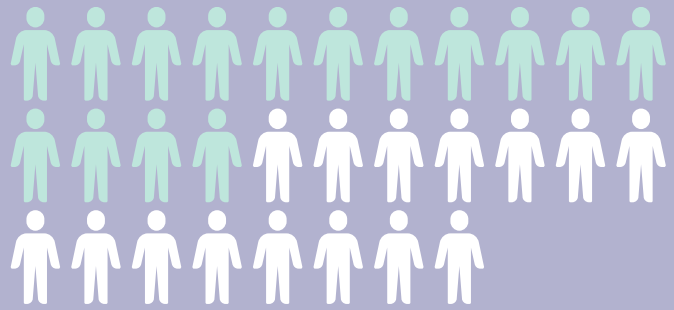
We asked Amanda why she had decided to connect with us after so many years. She said that she vividly remembers making mashed potatoes and fruit salad together, the first time she had ever tried either, and making tie dye t-shirts together. These were part of some fond memories that she experienced, with us, feeling our warmth and authenticity. She stated "What Bright Side Projects brought was a different world I had yet to experience and opened my eyes to endless possibilities." We hope to continue this lifelong journey alongside Amanda so that everyone can know that they can also have a Brighter Future.



# Bright Side Projects Snapshot



Approximately 365 activities that involve the communities; 93 of these in 2021



**2,084**

**BIG FRIEND  
VOLUNTEERS**

**2,690**

**OUR TARGETED  
COMMUNITIES**

## BIG FRIEND RETURN RATE

**64%**

Big Friends that have returned or continue to support, at least once or more, with our targeted communities

Bright Side Projects is Taiwan's first and only non-profit promoting empowerment through long term engagement, creative education, plant-based meals, and content rich activities.

Since 2012 we have leveraged our experience in charity, luxury, and mass marketing events to specialize fostering community involvement to provide education and support to youth, and adults. We target youth in children's homes and indigenous communities. In 2022 we included older persons into our programs.





### Contact us

網站: <http://BrightSide.tw>

IG: @brightsideprojects

臉書: <http://fb.me/BrightSide.tw>

電子信箱: [info@BrightSide.tw](mailto:info@BrightSide.tw)

02 2778 6908 | 0900 755 375

Renai Road Section 3 Alley 5 #21-1

Daan District, Taipei City

Taiwan Ministry of Interior Filing No. 1030234173

Taipei District Court Registry Yr. 103 No.141

