

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Hope Project

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SUMMARY

As all of us continue to battle against the global pandemic, 2021 continued to be an eventful one for all of us at The Hope Project. With all the health measures in place, we set out to celebrate World Autism Awareness Month this year with a bigger emphasis on remote means. We continued our #lovesomeonewithautism social media campaign to raise awareness and acceptance for individuals with autism, launched our online school campaign packs and even got our campaign video professionally produced! The EAP Malaysia team members also jumped on board to help raise funds for The Hope Project through their very own fundraisers!

This year, we also placed more emphasis on reaching out to more individuals through the provision of services. We were able to finalise and begin our collaboration with the National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) to train all their teachers and support two of their centres! To top it all off, we continued producing resources for our 'Autism at Home' online resource platform with thanks to The Hope Project donors.

This report details the outworking of the initiative from January to December 2021 as well as the financial outcomes within this time period. Produced internally, this report aims to uphold the core values of accountability and transparency in managing a non-profit initiative that collaborates with various sectors of the community for the best interests of individuals with autism.

For any further information about The Hope Project, contact projects@autismmalaysia.com or give us a call at 03 2094 0421 during our business hours: Monday to Friday [8:30am – 5:00pm].

The Hope Project was established in October 2016 by Early Autism Project Malaysia (EAP) in partnership with Yayasan Kajian dan Pembangunan Masyarakat (YKPM).

CAMPAIGNS

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCEPTANCE CAMPAIGN

With a focus on our #lovesomeonewithautism campaign this year, all of us at The Hope Project continued to strive towards raising awareness and acceptance for individuals with autism through remote means.

In building acceptance for individuals with autism, it is important to understand what autism is and also to discuss the rising cases of bullying in schools where children with autism have a higher tendency to encounter bullying. With that, the social media campaign for 2021 took up the mantle of urging members of the public to be aware of bullying and actively put a stop to this issue. The Hope Project team strived to educate and empower members of the public by sharing two series of information on what autism is as well as bullying. The bullying resource was illustrated by Arina Azhari who donated her illustration as well as the profits from her April print sales to The Hope Project.

Across all platforms, the posts were able to reach more than 10,000 individuals not including the reach of posts by some of major partners and influencers such as UNIQLO, YB Hannah Yeoh, Marianne Tan, and John Tan!



Below is the resource on what autism is:



Below is the resource on bullying:



'STOP Bullying Today!' CAMPAIGN VIDEO

In 2019, a young named named Adam organised 'Adam's Autism Awareness Aquathlon' to raise funds in support of The Hope Project's efforts. Adam ran, swam and cycled more than 400km throughout this aquathlon to raise RM5,957!



In order to honour his effort and his story, The Hope Project team decided to create a campaign video to feature his story and experience surrounding bullying alongside with a combination of experiences by other children with autism. This campaign video was produced and directed by Shan Sze Tho and filmed by Stories.my.



The video featured a story portion with 5 child actors, Marianne Tan as well as one of our team members! The video also featured an interview portion with Adam whereby he told his story, advocated for individuals with autism and spoke of individuals differences in the video.

As of the end 2021, the video has garnered close to 6,000 views through Facebook, Youtube and Instagram. All of us at The Hope Project are so proud to be able to collaborate with the various parties involved to produce a video aimed towards raising more acceptance for individuals with autism.



'STOP Bullying Today!' campaign video can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5Ns9CK8G4I&t=1s>

SCHOOL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN PACK

Through the ups and downs of the current global health crisis and the lack of predictability in the opening and closure of schools, we aimed to continue reaching out to schools and students of all ages to initiate discussions on kindness, bullying and autism. We produced a free resource on bullying along with a kindness activity pack for teachers to utilise in their classrooms whether physically or remotely. This year, we were able to reach a total of 6 schools:

1. Eaton International School
2. Nexus International School
3. Taylor's International School
4. International School of Kuala Lumpur
5. TreeTop House, UThant
6. IGB International School



The Kindness Activity pack is free for download here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14DG3KFAkzey2VRXDAO0kYbYRr1E0bpzf?usp=sharing>

OXYGEN CYCLE KL: AUTISM AWARENESS CHARITY SPIN

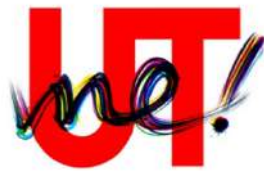
Towards the end of April and the beginning of May, The Hope Project teamed up with the Oxygen Cycle team to launch an Autism Awareness Charity Spin. Aiman Asmawar, Marcus Tan and Stephanie Ong collaborated to host 4 duo ride spin classes to support the cause. Additionally, the Oxygen Cycle team has also graciously offered 100% of the proceeds to support The Hope Project's efforts.



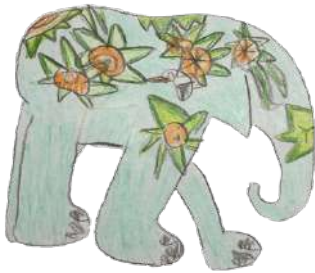
Photo Credits: Oxygen Cycle KL

UTme! WITH UNIQLO MALAYSIA

In continuation of our partnership with UNIQLO Malaysia, we were honoured with the opportunity to collaborate with UNIQLO Malaysia in creating a series of designs for their UTme! collection. UTme! is an exclusive machine in UNIQLO's branches at DA square and Fahrenheit 88 that allows customers to create their own unique T-shirt by combining unique sticker designs, photos, images and text in any way they like. It currently holds designs from local artists such as Red Hong Yi, Love Limzy as well as non-profit organisations like FugeeLah.



The series of designs by The Hope Project features a series of artwork by children at EAP Malaysia in order to celebrate individuals with autism and their unique strengths to see the world through a different perspective.



Through the collaboration, UNIQLO Malaysia has contributed a total of RM12,000 towards supporting The Hope Project's efforts.

On the 3rd of December 2021 in conjunction with International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we launched this collection together with UNIQLO Malaysia through an event featuring an opening speech by YB Hannah Yeoh, a simulation activity as well as presentation by 4 of the artists.



WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH HIGHLIGHT VIDEO

For all that we have done in the month of April in conjunction with World Autism Awareness Month, we produced a highlight video to increase awareness as well as further celebrate the various collaborations that we have been able to be a part of.



You can view our WAAM 2020 highlight video here: <https://youtu.be/Tho03UffVhs>

Collaboration with Dough Little Malaysia

During the World Autism Awareness Month 2021, the team at Dough Little Malaysia along with The Hope Project team collaboratively created a line play dough that is both autism friendly and aimed towards raising awareness for individuals with autism. The playdough set themed Mr. Biggle's Blue Barber set was created with helping both typically developing children and children with autism to learn more about the process of cutting their hair.



Collaboration with Malaysia Toys

The team at The Hope Project was also able to team up with Malaysia Toys to create a blue busy box in celebration of World Autism Awareness Month this year. The box consists of blue sensory rice and accessories, blue playdough and accessories, suncatcher art, DIY blue calming jar and salt painting with a pipette. 10% of the proceeds from the sales of this box will go towards supporting The Hope Project.



SERVICES

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS IN THE NATIONAL AUTISM SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA (NASOM)

Following a series of meetings starting in October 2020 with some of the board members at NASOM, we were graced with the opportunity to train and develop teachers in NASOM. Throughout the process of this partnership, we were able to sign the memorandum of understanding on the on the 11th of January.



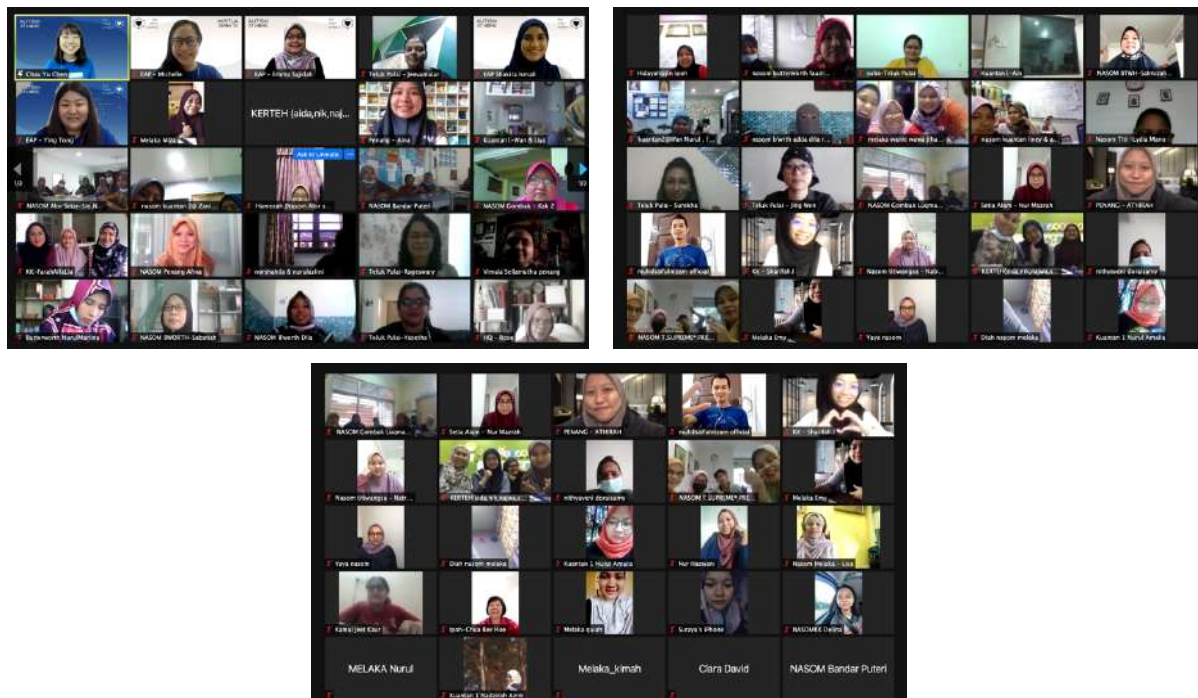
Initial meetings with NASOM



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding

Beginning January 2021, we were able to begin the theoretical training of all of NASOM's teachers via Zoom. We trained the teachers on a total of 5 modules, amounting to 20 hours spread out from January to March 2021. The 5 modules were:

1. Introduction to Special Needs Education: 30th January 2021
2. Principles of ABA: 6th February 2021
3. Managing Challenging Behaviours: 27th February 2021
4. Foundational Skills and Prompting: 6th March 2021
5. Speech, Language and Communication: 13th March 2021



After a successful training of the teachers across the 5 modules, we were able to continue supporting NASOM Titiwangsa and NASOM Gombak physically. We were able to guide the teachers in the implementation the strategies taught during the 5 training modules once before the support was put on hold due to the Movement Control Order (MCO).



NASOM-THP Centre Support Launch 1



NASOM 1st Observation



NASOM first centre support

MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF MALAYSIA

In continuing our efforts to impact individuals with autism on a national level, we were graced with the opportunity to meet the deputy minister of education, YB Dato' Dr. Mah Hang Soon. We were able to discuss the current climate of special education in Malaysia as well as some solutions to improve the quality of special education. Officers from GENIUS Kurnia, YBrs. Pn Rozawati, YBrs. Dr. Nil Farakh, and Pn Wan Mazian.

Following this meeting, we were also honoured to be able to continue the conversation with GENIUS Kurnia on the 7th of May to discuss areas of potential collaboration.



Meeting with YB Dato' Dr. Mah Hang Soon



Meeting at GENIUS Kurnia

REVIEW OF IDEAS POLICY BRIEF

In the interest of the development of special education within Malaysia's government system, our Director Jochebed Isaacs was invited to review a policy brief titled **"Identifying and Supporting Children with Learning Difficulties in Mainstream Schools in Malaysia"** by Sharmini Xavier. The Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) met with our director to discuss the details of the paper and Jochebed was able to provide her thoughts. Together with IDEAS, we believe that education should help every child learn to their best potential. All of us from The Hope Project will continue to support appeals for change in the education system to give every child the chance to learn to the best of their potentials.

SUHAKAM FOCUS GROUPS

On 27th July and 28th July 2021, we were given the honour to participate in a focus group discussion on the current challenges faced by persons with disabilities in terms of access to education, health, information and employment. During the focus groups, we joined other respected professionals in Malaysia in order to discuss various areas to strengthen, solutions as well as areas to strengthen in order to increase access to education, health, information and employment. We hope that the results from the discussion will be a starting point towards a stronger governmental support for people with disabilities.



CONSULTATION AND TOY PACKS FOR HOSPITAL TUNKU AZIZAH KUALA LUMPUR

In hopes of creating a hospital emergency department that can support persons with disabilities, Dr Yap Hsiao Ling and Dr Hanis reached out to us at The Hope Project. On the 24th of June 2021, we were able to speak to the doctors at Hospital Tunku Azizah on strategies that can aid a child with special needs go through the treatment process more successfully as well as some of the adaptations that can be made in order to increase chances of success. Following that workshop, our director Jochebed Isaacs joined a brainstorming meeting with the emergency pediatrics department in order to prepare for a suitable quiet room within the department. However, during the discussion, it was noted that one major challenge for special needs children is entering the emergency room where it can be new and daunting for them. As such, we put together 50 packs of toys along with a hospital social story for the staff at Hospital Tunku Azizah to give out to children with special needs. The packs will serve to help prepare the children for the process at the hospital but also pair the visit with a reinforcing element. We hope to make the treatment process for individuals with special needs more successful for both the child and the family.



Quiet room discussion



Workshop with HTA doctors



Brainstorm meeting for Quiet Room

THP FLOOD RELIEF

As the flood rendered many families without a home and basic necessities, the Early Autism Project Malaysia and The Hope Project team was deeply saddened by the impact of the floods and hoped to play our part by helping out in some way. On the 24th of December 2021, the team worked together with National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) to send 12 boxes of toys and children's activities to the USJ relief center for 260 children below the age of 12. The boxes contained a number of different activities including bubbles, slime, cars, soft toys, crafts and activities as well as balls to help make their day better.

Prior to giving out the toys, the team also had a wonderful opportunity to read a book and draw a picture with a few of the children at the relief center. It was an incredible opportunity to be able to interact with the children up close.

We continue to hope to be able to do our small part for the community by bringing some hope and joy to those affected.



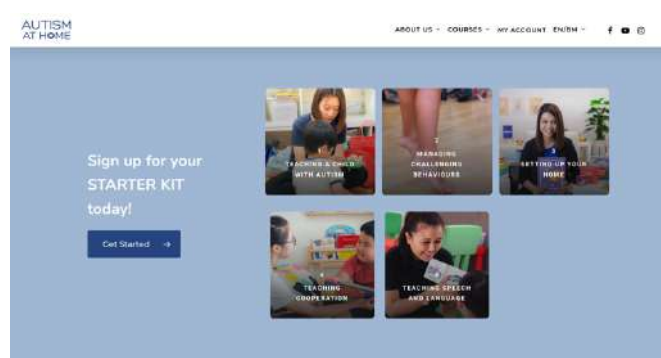
RESOURCES

AUTISM AT HOME ONLINE RESOURCE PLATFORM

With thanks to the continuous support of The Hope Project's donors, we are able to continue the production of resource videos for the Autism at Home platform. The Autism at Home features a series of interactive courses with videos and the strategies taught in the courses are some of the best strategies utilized by Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) professionals all over the world to teach individuals with Autism. Since its launch in April 2020 as well, the platform has garnered **836 subscribers** and a total of **175,818 views** internationally!

Throughout 2020 and 2021, we filmed and released a total of 13 series consisting of 69 videos! In 2022, some of the planned topics are:

1. Safety
2. Receptive language
3. Expressive language
4. Basic needs
5. Tolerance
6. and many more!



The Autism at Home website can be accessed here:

<http://www.autismathome.co>

BLOG RESOURCES

As the current health crisis and global pandemic pushes into 2021, we produced a blog resource on coping with MCO 2.0 (Malaysian Movement Control Order) in order to help lessen the stress faced by families with children with autism.



In supporting families with children with autism, we continued producing 19 more blog resources from January to December 2021 on a variety of topics including activities ideas for families at home.



June Theme Activities – Travel: Malaysia

By EAP Team | June 5, 2021

Our series of thematic activities are back! As the lockdown is relaxed again this year, we have compiled a week of activities to support families with children that are more stuff at home. With the pandemic going on for more than a year now, what is the one something that we all miss? Traveling! This time, we are bringing it back to our kids at home, where they can learn all about countries through these activities! The first stop is none other than our beloved country, **Malaysia**. Below, we have compiled a series of movement activities, crafts, water play, sensory activities and games with the theme of learning about Malaysia. The activities are adapted to different skill levels, and we can carry it out for both younger and older children.

Join, Cati - Cati Malaysia! Let's get started!

Malay & Movement Monday

Yikes to the development of motor skills, as well as maintaining health and wellbeing, movement activities help to build attention and retention skills. It is also a great opportunity for you to engage and have fun with your child!

Myself! Chair with a Malaysian Song



USEFUL LINKS & ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES FOR THE KIDS

By EAP Team | June 6, 2021

The idea of keeping your kids at home has not been such an important concern, and honestly, perhaps two years ago, we wouldn't be quick to think of ideas to ensure our kids benefit at any given time. With our knowledge of where they are spending more time at home, the possibility that this lockdown is going to last for a long time, it is not usually the weather, or change of plans, and every other temporary situation. Whether we return to the usual living home, or the need of the outdoor activities, it is not just kids that parents are also occupied with other responsibilities as working individuals or just attending to their businesses.

Kids confirm that most parents in the parent community are the struggle to find activities that are interesting enough to occupy their kids, while they are busy with their responsibilities. We are here to help! To make things easier at home, this article aims to help you out with ideas, and resources that you can use to help manage your kids.

Mostly, kids have their own interest and will, as they pick and choose how to spend their time. Using it as an incentive, we can change their interest and can make their time at home, in this modern age where electronic gadgets and the internet have fully merged into our daily lives. It is not so hard under the parent's supervision, the internet is a handy tool to keep kids occupied. Besides to say, the more time spent using electronic gadgets, and the internet should be under close scrutiny to ensure productivity and safety. Hence, using this opportunity, we present to you multiple ways to help to make their time constructive.

Kids are missing out on traveling and experiencing the outside world as we experienced yet another lockdown. In comparison to this, multiple organizations come up with virtual opportunities to explore the world.

Sibling Play

By EAP Team | April 4, 2021



The blog resources can be accessed here:

<https://autismmalaysia.com/about-us/blog/>

ADDITIONAL

MERCHANDISE SALES

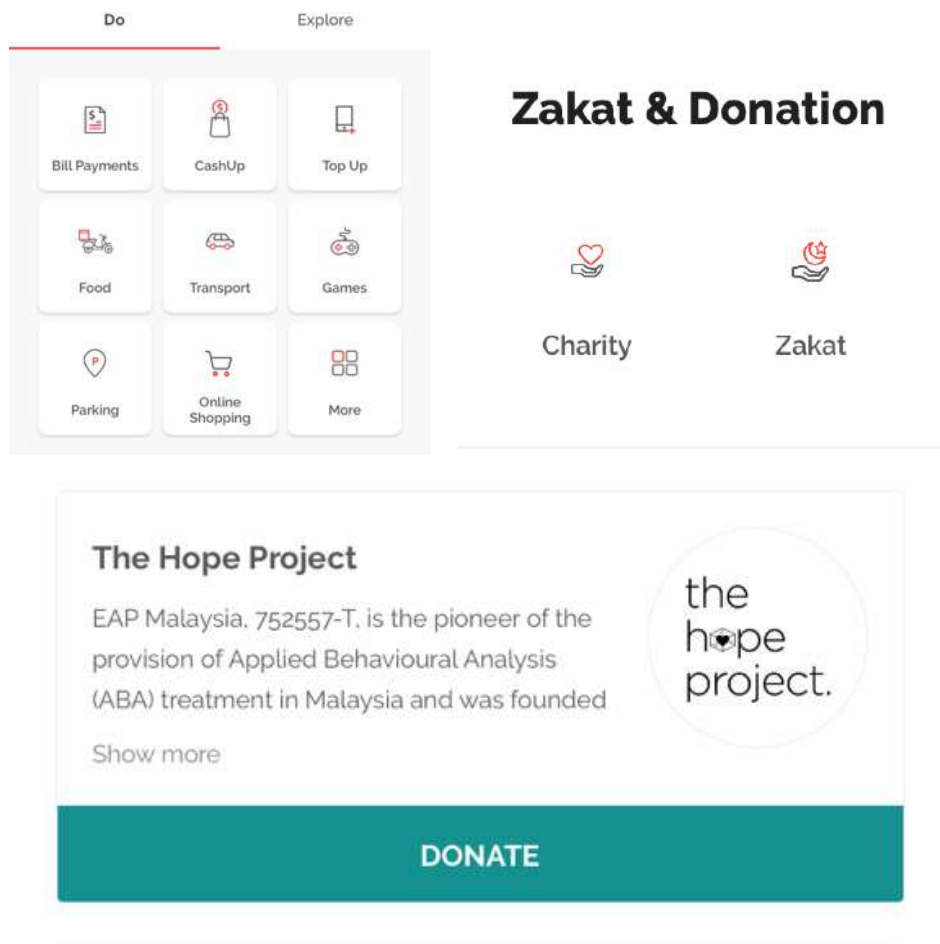
In continuation to raise funds through the sales of merchandise, we relaunched our online store at <https://autismmalaysia.com/store/> in conjunction with World Autism Awareness Day! We continued sales for our merchandise at a sale price for both online and offline sales.



FUNDRAISING

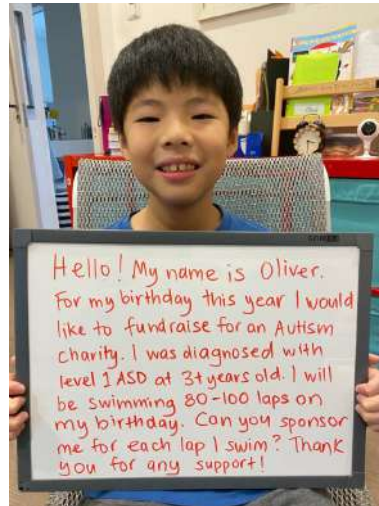
PARTNERSHIP WITH BOOST APP, AXIATA DIGITAL

The Hope Project continued our partnership with Boost this year in order to raise funds for The Hope Project. Through this partnership, we were given the opportunity to be included into their list of non-profit organisations where The Hope Project can receive donations from their users.



OLIVER'S BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISING

In conjunction with his own birthday on the 20th of July, Oliver decided that he would want to help others less fortunate. With the guidance of his parents, he decided to swim 80-100 laps on his birthday to raise funds for The Hope Project and another non-profit organisation. He took a total of 70 minutes to complete the swim with a 10 minutes break!



All of us at The Hope Project is incredible thankful for Oliver's initiative and we are extremely proud of all that Oliver has achieved.

OTHER DONATIONS

In support of all of The Hope Project's efforts, we have also received donations from various donors through:

1. Donation button on our website:
<https://autismmalaysia.com/category/thehopeproject/>
2. Bank transfer

All funds raised goes to support The Hope Project's efforts in campaigns, development of resources and provision of services for the future. We would like to extend our utmost gratitude towards all organisations and individuals who have contributed to the continued growth of The Hope Project towards our goal of making quality services for autism accessible to all.

MOVING FORWARD



Awareness about
accurate diagnosis and
treatment



Implementation of
national standards in
the field of autism



Increased access to
research-proven,
effective therapy

In accordance to The Hope Project's core objectives, all initiatives in 2021 were guided towards achieving the goals through our outreach efforts in campaigns, provision of services and production of resources outlined in this report. We aim to continue all of our efforts towards achieving The Hope Project's vision of making world class services accessible to all. As we continue the rest of 2021, our passion and determination will continue to be guided by our vision despite the state of emergency. The table below features our upcoming plans for the rest of 2021 and 2022.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF NASOM TEACHERS

We aim to continue supporting the teachers in NASOM Gombak and Titiwangsa as well as expand our support to other Klang Valley centres. As we continue to develop teachers all around Malaysia, we grow one step towards being able to provide higher quality services to more individuals with Autism in the B40 and M40 communities.

AUTISM AT HOME RESOURCE PLATFORM

Moving forward in resources, we will continue to develop and build the resources within Autism at Home by adding more lessons and units of learning for the public to access.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH 2022 CAMPAIGN

In preparation for the month of April in 2022, we will continue our efforts to raise awareness and acceptance for individuals with autism through social media campaigns, presentations, trainings and workshops.

PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIQLO

Our effort to raise awareness and funds will continue in partnership with UNIQLO by producing a series of designs for their UTme! collection.

We look forward to the next steps in our journey and making more impact for the rest of 2021! All fund raising efforts including the sales of merchandise will continue in order to support The Hope Project's outreach initiatives.

CONTACT US

For further information or clarification about this report, do contact us via email at projects@autismmalaysia.com or give us a call at 03 2094 0421.

Keep updated with us through our website and social media links:

- o www.autismmalaysia.com/thehopeproject
- o www.facebook.com/eapmalaysia
- o www.instagram.com/eapmalaysia
- o www.instagram.com/eaphopeproject
- o www.youtube.com/autismmalaysia

A massive thank you to everyone who has been a part of the journey with The Hope Project thus far. We look forward 2022 and making a greater impact in all that we do.

Prepared by:

Michelle Yong, The Hope Project Coordinator & EAP Supervisor
28th January 2022

Reviewed by:

Jochebed Isaacs
EAP Director

28th January 2022

Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria
Director of Yayasan Kajian dan
Pembangunan Masyarakat (YKPM)

28th January 2022