When he was 10, Elijah Ng volunteered at a social enterprise, packing clothes for the less privileged.

At 14, he sold paintings to help needy children through his own social enterprise, Art with a HeART.

Now 17, the Singapore Institute of Management undergraduate has launched his first book, *Vision*, to share his story.

“The book is about my journey. I wanted to prove that if I could do it, other young people could too,” said Elijah, who was nominated for an outstanding youth award from the National Youth Council in 2011.

Part of the proceeds from book sales will provide prescription glasses to a myopic child in a less developed country.

Elijah had to take a $7,000 loan from mentor Elim Chew, who founded 77th Street, to finish the book. He hopes to repay the loan in half a year.

“He had this compassion that made him aware of the needs of the less privileged around him,” said Ms Chew. Believing young people should start as early as they can, she added: “Only by doing can you gain the experience, and it is this experience that will give you the edge over others.”

The first run of 2,000 copies of the book will be available at all major bookstores by the end of the month.

Said Elijah: “I hope that when young people read this, they will be inspired to have their own vision and be driven to achieve it.”

Lim Min Zhang