



The new life news

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NEW LIFE YOUTH CENTRE
CONCEPT PROPOSAL
- RECEPTION AREA

NEW LIFE YOUTH CENTRE

Kian Seng was almost out of breath. He had been running at top speed for the past 10 minutes. But he knew he was almost there. That's all that mattered. Several steps away from the Centre, he breathed a sigh of relief. He wasn't late, but his friends Joe and Zulkifi were already there – at the LAN gaming room, almost starting on their round of Counter Strike. They didn't do this everyday. Some days were spent in the jamming studio where the three teenagers would dream of the day they would win the Singapore Idol. And of course the days nearest to the exams were spent in the study room, with their faces buried in the books, hoping to top their class in the Secondary Three finals and one day make it to the university.

In today's fast-paced society, with students striving to achieve their best in their studies and CCAs, can this become reality? Well, it will by July this year, if the plans by the New Life Community Services Centre are actualised. Nelson Ong, the Programme Coordinator for Youth Services, says that the HDB has approved plans for the youth centre and that construction work will begin soon, and hopefully be completed in about five months' time.

The "youth-friendly" hangout at Block 419, Fajar Road, aims to be a safe haven for youth during their after-school hours, with facilities such as a LAN gaming room, a jamming studio and a brain-teaser room. Other facilities such as a study room cum library and a counselling room will also be used in mentoring and coaching youth who face difficulties in their schoolwork or in various life struggles.



New Life seeks to empower youths to master the challenges of adolescence and their transition into adulthood within a safe environment that affirms the individual and reinforces family and community bonds. The youth centre will do just that, while at the same time extending New Life's reach into the community via planting a satellite centre in Bukit Panjang. Such a centre also serves to address concerns of youth delinquency, which Mr Gan Kim Yong, the Member of Parliament for Zhenghua Constituency, and various community resource



organisations have identified as a major need in Bukit Panjang. That's because the youth centre will function as a "drop in" location where youth can congregate and grow in a healthy manner, thereby realising their full potential as adolescents and developing sound morals and principles.

Mark Lim



STEP UP

What is **STEP UP**?

School social work **T**o **E**mpower **P**upils to **U**tilise **P**otential

- An initiative launched by the Ministry of Community Development and Sports (MCDS) to support volunteer welfare organisations in their delivery of school-based social work programmes.
- A 5-year programme comprising of a comprehensive package of services, such as counselling and mentoring schemes, assembly talks and discussion groups.
- Intended to complement the school system with programmes to build and strengthen social and emotional resilience within students.
- Substantially funded by MCDS – 75% for the first two years and 50% for the remaining 3 years.

"We want to help the young people in Bukit Panjang deal with the important transitions in their lives, to equip them with coping skills and impart sound values."

- Nelson Ong (Programme Coordinator, Youth Services)



From mid-March 2004, New Life will embark on an exciting project to develop the student population in Bukit Panjang. It will kick off the STEP UP programme with Zhenghua Secondary School to provide professional social services for students of the school.

Under STEP UP, New Life will provide help to students in an individual or group setting most conducive for the pupil to grow in a healthy manner, as well as to identify problem areas in his or her life. For instance, under-achievers will take part in a 32-week mentoring scheme, in which participants will learn how to cope with the stresses of studying. Others who may be at risk of smoking, shop-lifting and truancy will engage in hourly peer group sessions for 10 weeks to identify the problem areas in their lives and how to address these issues. Skills will also be taught to the teachers during case discussion sessions to better equip them in dealing with the difficult issues youths face.

The STEP UP programme is a first for New Life and serves as an opportunity for the centre to enhance its involvement in school-based work. Given that New Life aspires to empower youths in the community to master the challenges of adolescence, the programme serves as an opportunity for the centre to accomplish its purpose in the context of a school environment, thereby helping students to discover and develop their strengths, while at the same time learning about and managing their weaknesses.

Mark Lim

SCHOOL FAMILY EDUCATION

An exciting year awaits New Life Community Services Centre with the implementation of a new programme. Our centre was selected by **Fajar Secondary School** for the running of the School Family Education (SFE) programme.

This direct link opens a new highway for reaching out to the residents of Bukit Panjang via students in school. This is nicely aligned with the centre's mission to enrich the family and community of Bukit Panjang. The SFE Programme will spread its wings at Fajar Secondary School on 1 April 2004, and will run a course of one year. MCDS substantially funds the SFE programme – a whopping \$30,000 – in the 1st year, with the aim that this programme would enhance the quality of family life by making family life education resources easily available to parents, teachers and other school staff.

Students and staff of Fajar Secondary School have much to look forward to as a whole array of family life programmes have been lined up for them. These include talks by trained

professionals, small parent-group discussions, workshops and activities for school staff and their families, and family-bonding activities. A family life centre – a resource hub and focal point for enhancing family life – will also be set up in the school.

In so doing, New Life presses on to strengthen community bonds, and uphold healthy resilient families.

Clara Tan



Annual General Meeting

New Life held its 4th Annual General Meeting on **29 February 2004**, from 2.30pm to 5.00pm at the Covenant EFC Chapel.

The biennial elections saw the following members voted into the New Life Board for the term of office from 2004 to 2006:

President	Lawrence Chua
Vice-President	Tan Kay Kiong
Hon. Secretary	Edwin Pang
Hon. Treasurer	Gavin Mak
Asst. Hon. Treasurer	Loh Ngai Kun
Board Member	John Lim
Board Member	Patrick Lim

New Life also accepted 16 new members into the society: Chan Poh Shan, Chong Kwong Siew, Lydia Ho, Barney Lau, Lee Swee Bee, Leong Sook Wai, Lim Hua Min, Patrick Lim, Liu Hock Choy, Sim Choon Siong, Rachel Sin, Tan Seo Peng, Terence Tang, Oliver Tay, Tee Ming Jir, and Tony Yeo.

Members and others interested to know more about New Life, but were unable to attend the AGM, may obtain a copy of New Life's Annual Report 2003 from the New Life Office.



We bid farewell to **Tan Wan Chiu**, Admin Assistant (Community Health Services). Even though her last day on staff with New Life was 20 February 2004, Wan Chiu continues to serve with New Life in a voluntary capacity.

From 1 April 2004, **Ng Kim Leong** will step-down as Finance Officer, to become New Life's volunteer coordinator. In this new part-time portfolio, he will be responsible for recruiting, maintaining and developing a strong volunteer corps to support all of New Life's programmes and services.

We welcome **Jacquelin Wee**, who joined New Life on 23 February 2004 as temporary Admin Assistant.

Sexual Intimacy & Planning for Babies Seminar "A Recipe for Better Sex!" (In Mandarin)

Growing in love is the essence of a successful marriage. Being able to communicate sensually and sexually increase the closeness between your partner and you. You will both enjoy a truly satisfying, enjoyable and mind-stimulating session of information, discussion and interaction, for your knowledge and growth.

Date: 22 May 2004 (Sat)
Time: 1.30 pm – 6.00 pm
Contact: 6892-0937 or
christinekang@newlife.org.sg

A monthly Kidz Club activity. Children will learn and develop various positive character qualities through fun games and creative activities.

Date: 3 April 2004 (Sat)
Time: 2.30 pm – 5.30 pm
Contact: 6892-0979 or
joshuacheng@newlife.org.sg

S.U.P.E.R. Kidz Club

Our Programmes & Services

PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES

Childcare

CHILDREN SERVICES

Kidz Club

School Social Work

YOUTH SERVICES

School Social Work

Youth Centre (coming soon)

ADULT & FAMILY SERVICES

Counselling

Legal Advice

Family Assistance

Family Life Enrichment

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Home Care

Home Medical

Home Nursing

Home Helps

Home Support

Health Care

Health Talks

Health Screening

Health Campaigns

How Can I Give in Support of New Life?

BY CHEQUE: Payable to "NEW LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE". Please furnish your name, FIN/NRIC number, address, and contact number.

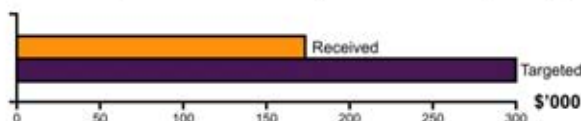
BY CREDIT CARD: Follow on-line instructions at www.donation.org.sg/call_newlife_frame.html (requires credit card number)

DONATE YOUR ERS SHARES: www.ers.org.sg
"Cash Exchange Instruction" and follow on-line instructions.
(requires SingPass ID and password)

Donations received in current year are eligible for tax deduction in the following year. Until further notice, tax deduction will be twice the value of donations made. Individual donors need not claim tax deductions if they have furnished their full name and FIN/NRIC number, as New Life will submit details directly to IRAS.

For more help, contact 6892-0849 or ngkimleong@newlife.org.sg.

Funds Targeted and Received (as of 15 February 2004)



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New Life Community Services Centre is
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Mastering
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Transitions

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