



The new life news

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Childcare Concert 2004

Parents' fingers poised over the "Record" button, on standby to immortalize the debut stage appearance of their little one. And a memorable capture it was – as their little one stood nonchalantly anchored to the stage floor as his N1 classmates gyrated enthusiastically to the rhythm of "Friends who Love Dancing".

As adorably unpredictable are children, much more the love required to care for each. The New Life Childcare 2004 Year End Concert, held on 13 November 2004 showcased and typified the efforts put in through the year.

And what a showcase! Especially memorable were the endearing N1 Caribbean bum-shakers and the exuberant K1s in the Indian dance.



Spanning 10 items, the morning's programme was a rich tapestry of emotions – pride of the audience parents; fulfillment of the teachers who orchestrated the event; obvious enjoyment and pride of the little performers, and teary-eye moments as K2 children presented their individual farewell speeches and "Auld Lang Sang" chorus as the programme culminated in a heartwarming graduation ceremony.

As surmised by Mrs Shirley Ong, proud mother of two boys, Ong Zhern Yi (7) and Ong Zhern Xin (5), whom she had entrusted to New Life Childcare, she was "pleasantly surprised" and "impressed" by the Concert. She credits New Life Childcare teachers with "focusing on the individual child rather than the task" and appreciated the constant feedback on her children's development.



Sound affirmation indeed for the mission put forth by Rev Tan Kay Kiong, New Life's Vice-President, to be "partners in raising your children".

Pow Wai Cheng

Alive!

Concert

Tricia Lim



Throng of people began streaming into Zhenghua Square as early as 6pm on the evening of 15 Jan 2005, each hoping to find a good spot to get up close and personal with their idols – Mayday, Fan Weiqi, Li Shengjie, Yang Jiachen, Chou Pijiang, Fabulous Forte and Joi Chua, amongst others. Such was the exuberance that many young people radiated from their fervent cheering and screaming, boosting the entire atmosphere of expectancy and excitement as they welcomed each artiste on with eager anticipation, cheer and applause.



But older folks were not forgotten, as they hummed along to Cai Xinjuan's serenade of the golden tunes, and local athletes, too, made a special appearance, inspiring the crowd with their success stories.

The ALIVE! Concert injected an invigorating vibrance into the bloodstream of the Bukit Panjang neighbourhood, commendably engaging the community, stringing young and old alike together as they swayed to the beat of the night. Guest-of-Honours Mr Lim Swee Say, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Dr Teo Ho Pin, Mr David Lim Tik En & Mr Gan Kim Yong, members



of parliament for Holland-Bukit Panjang GRC who - in an audience numbering by the thousands - stood amongst the rest of the crowd throughout the four-hour night of fun-filled entertainment.



+ First Aid Corner

Not to be left out, New Life was present to provide First Aid coverage of the event. New Life's Staff Nurse Josephine Poh and Volunteer Nurse Benny Ho were on standby at the First Aid Booth to offer immediate help when required, even though – fortunately as it turned out – there were no casualties that night.

The Toolbox II

"The Tuk Tuk Tale", "The Singing Telegram", "The World Is Flat", "Sunglasses are for Your Hair", and "This Way, That Way". These were the five principles of creative thinking that the 20 children who came for New Life's Creative Learning Workshop, The Toolbox II, on 17 December 2004, were taught to apply.

Stretching their imaginative minds, such as during the "Kaleidoscope", the children were challenged to manufacture handmade stationery holders from recycled materials. In "Produce the Beat", the little participants formed a mini band within their own groups, playing artistic musical instruments which they had effortlessly created themselves, all within a mere half an hour!

Besides learning to approach problems from a whole new light, the enthusiastic participation and cheerful involvement in all the sessions clearly showed how much the children enjoyed themselves. An experience that was, indeed, enriching and educational for not only the children but the volunteers as well.

Joy Cheong



Volunteer's Experience --- **Shirlyn Oh**

Looking back, I served in 3 Discover Character! Day Camps in 2004. Although each camp had a different theme - Forgiveness, Sincerity and Virtue; every one focused on developing strong moral character. And the kids keep coming back for more! Cynthia Chua, 11, & Chua Siang Yu, 8, for example, are veterans with New Life's Kidz Camps, having come for 4 camps each! What brings them back time after time - they say - is the enjoyable craft work, stories, memory work, songs, and, of course, the tea breaks.

Serving as New Life's volunteer has been an enriching experience, because I was at the right place, at the right time to make life more meaningful for others. First-timers at New Life's "Virtue" Camp, Nicole Ng and Jermyn Leong, both 10, told me that they had enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Nicole loved every activity, especially the crown-making craft activity. Excited for more, she was certain that she was returning for the next camp. Jermyn, too, was coming back for more, as he wanted to know more friends.

As a volunteer, one thing which I found to be unique about this experience was being encouraged to look out for the children's positive character qualities, and to praise and affirm them for character (rather than behaviour, or performance). And these young ones whose characters I have the privilege of shaping today are going to become the leaders in society tomorrow. Who knows, perhaps the next prime minister of Singapore was one of those in my group?

I believe that my short interaction will have impacted each one of these creative, attentive, obedient and eager-to-learn little ones, in one small way or another.

You can definitely count me in for New Life's next Discover Character! Day Camp, as I want to touch more lives.



Staff News



Michelle Cheong joined New Life as Corporate Communications Executive on 1 February 2005. With other prior working experience in communications and fundraising, Michelle, who had last served in Toa Payoh Methodist Church as an Administrator, will focus on building community partnerships and fundraising channels for New Life. Michelle and her husband John have two daughters, Jenny, 11 and Joyce, 9, and the family worships at Mount Hebron Bible Presbyterian Church, which is not far from their Choa Chu Kang home.

Having several years of experience working with youths as a church worker in Fairfield Methodist Church, **Amy Lee** joined New Life on 3 February 2005 as a Programme Co-ordinator of the Youth Centre. With a passion for youths, Amy hopes to reach out and serve the youths as she avails herself as a friend and listener. Amy and her husband, Benjamin, have two children - Cheryl, 7 and Darren, 5. They are presently worshipping at the Fairfield Preaching Point (FPP), where Amy serves in the Steering Committee, Prayer Ministry and Children's Ministry. Amy will co-ordinate New Life's STEP-UP Programme at Zhenghua Secondary School and upcoming Steady Readers Programme.



We bid farewell to **Christine Kang**, Programme Co-ordinator (Family Life Centre) and **Ng Kim Leong**, Volunteer Co-ordinator.

S.U.P.E.R. Kidz Club Discover Character! Camp ~ Responsibility ~

Children will learn and develop various positive character qualities through fun games and creative activities.

Date: 17 March 2005 (Thu)

Time: 10.00 am – 6.00 pm

Contact: 6892-0979 or

joshuacheng@newlife.org.sg

Date: 20 March 2005 (Sun)
Time: 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Contact: email@newlife.org.sg

New Life Annual General Meeting

Our Programmes & Services

CHILDCARE CENTRE

Playgroup
Nursery
Kindergarten

YOUTH CENTRE

S.U.P.E.R. Kidz Club
School Social Work
(Zhenghua Primary School)

STEP-UP Programme
(Zhenghua Secondary School)

FAMILY LIFE CENTRE

Counselling
Legal Advice
Family Assistance
Family Life Enrichment
School-Family Education Programme
(Fajar Secondary School)

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Home Care
Health Care

New Life Community Services Centre is
affiliated to a full member of



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 serenatan@newlife.org.sg

Mastering Life's Transitions

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