

Staff News

On 19 March 2007, **Florence Chia** joined New Life as a part-time Administrative Assistant (Youth Centre). Florence mans the front desk of the New Life Youth Hub, and provides administrative support to New Life's Youth Centre. Florence and her husband, Vincent, and their daughter, Gladys, worship at Covenant Evangelical Free Church.



Likes to have fun, therefore can click with children and youths. **Dawn Ang** joins New Life on 1 August 2007 as a Programme Co-ordinator (Youth Centre). Her motivation in life is live to give, which brings her into wanting to make a difference with the youths and children. Dawn used to work in Beyond Social Services with delinquent youths and children for two years doing casework and programmes. Dawn worships at Riverlife Church and she loves travelling, writing, history, arts and film, photography.

Congratulations to **Jackii Lau** who was recently promoted to Finance Executive with effect from 1 October 2007.

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)

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 simmuliang@newlife.org.sg

Our Programmes & Services

CHILDCARE CENTRE

Playgroup
Nursery
Kindergarten

YOUTH CENTRE

New Life Youth Hub
(Youth Drop-In Centre)
S.U.P.E.R. Kidz Club
STEP-UP Programme
(Zhenghua Primary School)
(Zhenghua Secondary School)
(West Spring Secondary School)

FAMILY LIFE CENTRE

Counselling
Legal Advice
Family Assistance
Family Life Enrichment

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Home Care
Health Care

New Life Community Services Centre is
affiliated to



Mastering
Life's
Transitions

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NEW LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE



The new life news

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Even at 92, Mdm Soh Chin Yah had still been living an active life, collecting cardboards. Married in China at the tender age of 23, her husband had come to Singapore to work three days after the wedding. She joined him in Singapore only 10 years later, but he then fell seriously ill thereafter. By sheer willpower, she had to take upon herself the role of breadwinner for the family. She persevered for decades, overcoming immense hardship to single-handedly raise 4 children, take care of her husband, and do everything for the family in every circumstance. Then, one year ago, Mdm Soh herself suffered a stroke.

Her daughter and main caregiver, Mdm Ong Kim Choo, tearfully recalls the hospital doctor's

advice to the family back then -- to prepare for her mother's end stage of life, giving her only a couple of months to live.

At about that time, Kim Choo took over the responsibility of caring for her mother, and was most grateful that New Life Home Care came alongside to support her. She recalled the initial visit by New Life's multi-disciplinary team, comprising a doctor, dietician, speech therapist and nurse, whose comprehensive assessment of her mother's condition and needs inspired her utmost confidence. She remembered being impressed by their professionalism, commitment and care for her mother.

Her trust in the New Life team was further deepened when Diana Ooi, the home care nurse, perceptively detected black spots on her mother's legs at an early stage and administered care to prevent further infection. "Diana came thrice a week to tend to the wounds so that they would not be infected further," recounted Kim Choo. "After two months intensively tending to the wounds, the black spots disappeared."

Not only had infection been arrested, the New Life Home Care team counts it all joy to contribute to the recovery of her mobility. Dr Patrina Wong, one of the volunteer doctors, puts it best, "To help a patient transit from a bedridden state, to being able to get out of bed onto a wheelchair, and thereafter to resume some movement of her limbs and body and a semblance of normalcy in daily routines, is a joy for me all the way!"

A General Practitioner for the last 14 years, Dr Wong closes her clinic for one afternoon every week just to volunteer with New Life, giving undivided, quality care and attention to New Life's patients. Other volunteer doctors in private practice do no less, while doctors and

allied healthcare professionals in the public sector give of their time after working hours or their off days to do likewise.

And what a difference the care for Mdm Soh has made. Today, a year on since she suffered a stroke, Mdm Soh is alert, able to recognise people including the New Life team members when they visit her, and can effectively communicate through physical gestures. From being totally bedridden a year ago, she is now able to sit upright independently, dress herself and even direct where she wants her wheelchair to be pushed by pointing. Even with just one hand, she has gradually begun to return to her old, active self, doing simple household chores, such as folding her own clothes and blanket while seated on the bed, and even washing her own dishes.

And till this day, Kim Choo relates, with a deep sign of relief, how New Life had saved her mother's legs, "Had Diana not detected those black spots early, my mother's legs would have been amputated!"

Or what if the family had simply given up based on the hospital doctor's advice back then ...

苏进益女士23岁在中国结婚，丈夫三天后来到新加坡工作，而她十年后才来新与丈夫团聚。不幸的是，过后她丈夫一直病重，苏女士不得不一人挑起生活的重担。几十年来，凭着坚强的意志，她克服重重困难，一手养大四个孩子，还要照顾生病的丈夫。92岁高龄的她还在努力做工，收集纸箱。可是就在一年前，苏女士自己也患了中风。

她女儿金珠--也是主要负责照顾她的人，流着泪回忆当时医生的建议--母亲只能活几个月，要为她后事做好准备。

从那时起，金珠接过照顾母亲的责任，而令她最感激的是新生社区保健中心的帮助。她记得新生首次来拜访时齐全的队伍包括了医生、营养师、语言治疗师和护士，他们对她母亲病情的全面评估给了她很大的信心。他们的专业精神、投入态度和对母亲的关心深深地感动了她。

当黄宝珍护士及时在早期发现了苏女士腿上的黑斑并加以治疗，防止了进一步感染时，金珠对新生的信任更加深了。“黄护士每周来三次清理伤口，所以才不会有进一步感染”，金珠回忆道，“经过她两个月的细心照料，黑斑消失了”。

不仅感染被及时阻止了，新生的员工欣喜地发现他们的努力帮助使苏女士

人近黄昏， 不言放弃

Translated by Qie Lan

恢复了行动能力。自愿医生王丽莲说：“能够一路看着病患者从卧床到能坐上轮椅，之后恢复部分手臂及身体的活动能力，直到生活起居逐渐恢复正常，这是我最大的欣慰！”

作为一名门诊医师，王医生每周有一个下午特地关闭她的诊所以便为新生的病人们提供专一的、高质量的医疗服务。其他在私人诊所的自愿医生也是如此，而在政府医疗机构的医务人员则在工作时间外或他们的假日时来为新生服务。

看一看苏女士现在吧，中风发生一年后的今天，苏女士神志清醒，能够认识新生的医护人员，还能跟他们用手势进行交流。一年前的她完全卧床，而现在的她可以独立坐起，穿衣，用手势示意她想坐轮椅去哪里。虽然只能用一只手，不过她正在逐渐回复到从前的那个勤劳的苏女士，她开始做简单的家务，例如：坐在床上叠衣服，甚至洗自己的碗碟。

直到今天，每当回忆起新生是怎样挽救了母亲的腿时，金珠总是感慨万分地说：“如果不是黄护士及早发现了黑斑，我母亲的腿早就被锯掉了！”

想一想，如果这家人按照当时医生的意见而放弃了治疗，结果将是如何呢 ...



**FROM DROP-OUT DELINQUENTS TO DROP-IN ANGELS...
I ONCE WAS WANDERING, NOW I HAVE FOUND MY PLACE!**

A girl cutting her wrists to gain her parents' care and attention. Two boys in school uniforms smoking in one corner of a HDB void deck. A girl and boy making out in a dark alley. A group of youths fighting and spewing vulgarities at one another.

Unable to cope with life's demands and the lack of care and attention from parents and mentor-figures, more youths are engaging in crime, violence and sexual activity to fill the void in their lives.

Since its inception in July 2005, New Life Youth Hub (a Youth Drop-In Centre) has befriended many youths who hang out at the Drop-In Centre situated at Fajar Road. The "happening void deck" of Blk 419, one youth described that, "You can feel the change from the outside... a cheerful noise resounds from within!"



by **Danesh Daryanani**

Indeed, as one enters its premises, one is greeted with good cheer – youths pitting their skills against one another at the pool table, some engaging in a game of carom, others roaring away at the three Xbox kiosks in competitive gaming, a musically-inclined youth strumming away at the guitar while a group of girls chatter away in one corner, yet another group concentrating intensely on their studies in the study room. Joyful laughter filled the air.

Drawing from his own experiences as a youth of his generation, it was indeed incredulous that these youths would hang out with "meddling adults who tried to tell them what was right for them"! Yet, these youths revealed how they shared their problems



with the youth workers and received useful guidance and advice from them in return. Was it any surprise then, that these youths hung out regularly at the Youth Hub because of the bonds of camaraderie and friendship developed with the youth workers.

Come to the Fajar neighbourhood to catch these positive vibes that emanate from the sincere hearts of the youth workers, drawing youths to the Youth Hub, like bees to honey!



2nd Annual New Life Pool Competition

15 September 2007
9 Participants

Champion
Muhd Sufiyan

(2006 Defending Champion)

Runners Up
Lim Jiahao

Third
Kenneth Tan



**EVERY
SHOT
COUNTS!**





To our Friends volunteering in the youth and children programmes, THANK YOU for exhibiting passion, patience and love, sometimes to a challenging group.

To our Friends who have served as board members, committee members and advisors, THANK YOU for ensuring that we are well-governed and aboveboard in all that we do.

To our Friends who have given generously from their pockets, and choosing to remain unseen, unheard and unnamed, THANK YOU for giving us the means to do what we do.

To our Friends volunteering in our publications and communications THANK YOU for your gifts in writing, translation, photography, videography and design work, which have helped us to better communicate about who we are, what we do, and whom we serve.

To our Friends volunteering in Home Care and Health Care, THANK YOU for dedicating precious personal time to meet the needs of our service-users. More than just professional help and services, you have extended your love and care to the sick and needy.

Our Precious Gems

by Dawn Ang

Indeed, just as how there are different types of precious gems, each one unique and beautiful in its own sight, our Friends of New Life are also of diverse walks of life, talents and skills, purposefully working in partnership with us to demonstrate God's love to the community.

So THANK YOU, all our Friends, for having given generously – of more than just your time and resources, but also of your compassion, dedication, commitment and love. With our deepest appreciation, we thank you for being our Friend, our special gems. We thank you that we can count on you.

And we thank God for you.



Financing Our 2008 Needs

- \$100K** Fund-Raising Projects
- \$150K** Govt Funding
- \$375K** Covenant EFC's Funding
- \$500K** Donations
- \$625K** New Life's Programme Revenue & Other Income

You can help here!

You can help here!

New Life needs
\$1.75m
to operate



“Our volunteers in New Life are not just Friends but they are also our precious gems.”
- Nelson Ong,
New Life Youth Centre Manager

