

MP BREAKS NEW GROUNDS

New Life Student Care @ Zhenghua

With a thunderous roar of the jackhammer, Mr Liang Eng Hwa officially launched the construction of New Life's new Student Care Centre at Blk 507, Jelapang Road on 24 July 2010.

This Student Care Centre (SCC) will function as a before-and-after-school-care facility for students between 7 to 14 years old when it opens its doors next year.

Mr Liang, Member of Parliament for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC (Zhenghua) and the Guest of Honour at the ground breaking ceremony, was all smiles. In his speech, Mr Liang said, "I cannot help but express my joy and happiness to see this Centre being formed."

"I am glad to partner with New Life and am thankful for their support in seeking to benefit the residents of Zhenghua," he said.

The SCC has been three years in the making. It all started when Greenridge Primary School's Head of Pupil Management and Development, Mr Suresh Balakrishnan, approached New Life to help their students who had no place to go to outside of school hours.



MP Mr Liang launches the construction.

In this Issue

Partnerships

- **Breaking New Grounds**
- **Inspiring Youths Together**
- **Engaging Parents**

“

I cannot help but express my joy and happiness to see this Centre being formed.

”

Mr Liang Eng Hwa,
Member of Parliament for Holland-
Bukit Timah GRC (Zhenghua)

Chief Editor

Diana Ooi

Editorial Team

Victor Yeo

Amy Tan

Chan Sue Ming

Jenny Lim

The New Life News is published quarterly by New Life Community Services Centre.



10 Jelapang Road,
Singapore 677740

Mainline : 6892 7191

Fax : 6892 7181

Website : www.newlife.org.sg

Email : email@newlife.org.sg

Copyright is held by the publisher. All rights reserved. Production in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

MICA (P) 036/04/2010

New Life Community Services Centre is affiliated to Covenant Evangelical Free Church and a member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS).



MP Mr Liang with New Life Board, Zhenghua grassroots leaders, and Greenridge Primary School staff.

Without a safe and nurturing environment, children could turn to vices by hanging out with the wrong company.

New Life currently operates two youth drop-in facilities – the Youth Hub at Fajar Road and The Foyer in Woodlands. However, a similar facility for primary school children is lacking.

After more than two years of discussion, planning and seeking of approval from various authorities, a tripartite agreement was formed among the Zhenghua Citizens Consultative Committee, Greenridge Primary School and New Life to set up the SCC.

Besides its before-and-after school programme, the SCC will also offer other programmes to reach children in the community. Two of these are the Steady Readers Programme for children with literacy difficulties, and Kids Champ Club, a fun character-focused children's club.

At the ground breaking ceremony, New Life Youth Hub member Lim Jiahao captivated the crowd with his magic performance. He wowed the audience with his poker card moves, and sent them into peals of laughter.



Jiahao's magic thrills the crowd.

New Life's desire is that the new Student Care Centre will be a blessing to the community.

Editorial

He also tugged the hearts of many with his sharing of how his time at the Youth Hub has helped him become a better person. During Jiahao's six years as a New Life Youth Hub member, he was asked to help conduct a beginner's class to teach other youths how to perform magic.

"It not only improved my skill as a magician but built my character too," he said. "With the nurturing and mentoring that I received, I learnt that being in the limelight is not everything. It is important to let others shine too."



Front View of SCC.

Indeed, as New Life's Centre Manager Ms Diana Ooi puts it, New Life desires to serve the community through purposeful activities that mentor and nurture children and youths. The new SCC is built to serve this very purpose, offering a wholesome and nurturing place for children to be at outside of school hours.

*The New Life Student Care Centre will begin operations in 2011. For further inquiries, please call **6892 7191** or email to **email@newlife.org.sg***

In our communities' web of many helping hands, partnerships are indispensable.

Support from community leaders such as MPs Mr Liang in Zhenghua (Bt Panjang) and Dr Maliki in Admiralty (Woodlands), catalysed the development New Life's Student Care Centre (SCC) and Woodlands Youth Hub respectively.

"Building the next generation" would be impossible without partnering with schools. Amongst others, West Spring Secondary and Zhenghua Primary in Bukit Panjang, and Christ Church Secondary in Woodlands are our close partners for student empowerment. Greenridge Primary was instrumental in our SCC's development.

With fellow service providers, New Life enjoys collaborating with fellow youth organisations "Up North" in Woodlands. In Bukit Panjang, Moral Family Service Centre is our ally in casework.

Parents are yet another key group of stakeholders without whose engagement our work with children would, at best, be limited.

Conscious that no single group can meet all our communities' needs, New Life recognises that only with partners can we truly make a difference.

Thank you, partners, for the privilege of serving with you!

INSPIRING YOUTHS TOGETHER



MP Dr Maliki throws the opening ball.

Before the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) opened, a mini Games of sorts took place in the northern part of Singapore.

Students from five secondary schools in Woodlands participated in the *North West Sports for Youth* event held on 5 July at the Republic Polytechnic.

The youth day event was jointly organised by New Life Community Services Centre, Youth Guidance Outreach Services (YGOS) and Care Corner Singapore Ltd, and supported by North West Community Development Council. Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Development and Advisor to Admiralty Grassroots Organisations, graced the event.

Inspiring a Sporting Spirit

A variety of sports were showcased to keep the adrenalin pumping. There was a tchoukball exhibition match between the M18 Boys and Men's National Team as well as a sampling of sports played at the YOG, ranging from football and basketball to table tennis. Games stations saw youths throwing Frisbees,

shooting targets, and waving Wii remotes. Lyo and Merly, the mascots of the YOG, also made a surprise appearance at the event.

"The event got me interested in different kinds of sports. It was also a good way to let youths know more about the YOG," said Jeremy Tan, a secondary three student from Christ Church Secondary School.

Teaming Up

More than exposing youths to the sporting scene, the event was a platform for inter-agency collaboration to reach youths in the north.

"Woodlands is a big ground," said Mr Nelson Ong, Manager of New Life Youth Services. "We should work in partnership to complement each other in reaching out to the youths."

Ms Crystal Teng, Deputy General Manager (Social Assistance) at North West Community Development Council, noted how the event had improved partnerships.

"Certainly, *North West Sports for Youth* was a high point. It brought us closer and elevated our working relationship to the next level. We look forward to working with



*Above: Youths enjoying the carnival.
Right: Tchoukball exhibition match.*

the agencies to implement more of such events to benefit youths in our district," said Ms Teng.

Maintaining Momentum

Mr Wong Jun Jie, Social Work Associate at Care Corner Family Service Centre (Woodlands) added that a continuation of such efforts is needed.

"We must see the collaboration not only as a one-time off effort, but something that all organisations can contribute to on a mid-term to long-term basis," said Mr Wong. He hopes

to continue this collaboration using other platforms such as music to connect with youths.

Further collaboration is certainly on the cards. Towards the end of the year, New Life, together with YGOS, Care Corner and YMCA's Project Bridge will come together again to organise the informal "Up North" Tchoukball League as they jointly promote the sport to reach youths in the northern part of Singapore.

For more information on New Life Youth, call 6892 4419 or email youth@newlife.org.sg.

ENGAGING PARENTS



Steady Readers Graduation.

Mdm Cheng* could hardly believe her eyes. Keith*, her 9-year-old son, was on stage playing a part in a skit about the Ugly Duckling. He spoke with a confidence and clarity that she had never known.

Keith, along with 26 other children, was performing at the Steady Readers Graduation held on 31 May. Parents, relatives, guests, volunteers and staff of New Life filled the Zhenghua Community Club's auditorium to watch the performances and witness the graduation ceremony.

"I was very surprised. I wondered if that was really my son," exclaimed Mdm Cheng. Keith had been diagnosed as a hyperactive child and Mdm Cheng had felt overwhelmed by his attention-seeking behaviour.

The mother of five added that Keith has "changed a lot" since he started attending New Life's activities. She said, "He is able to speak to me properly now, and I can understand him. As a result, our communication and relationship has improved."

"This drama performance was really a chance for him to shine, turning his weakness into strength," said Mdm Cheng.

Parents' Involvement is Key

Ms Dawn Ang, Acting Head of New Life Children Services, noted the importance of parental involvement in the children's activities.

"Children whose parents had promised to come for the graduation were more motivated to learn and do their

** Names and other details have been changed to protect the privacy of the family described.*

best in the skits,” said Ms Ang. “Parents also get to see their children in a different light, and seeing them perform well encourages the parents, improving their relationship with the children.”

Parental involvement is thus a key strategy in New Life Children Services’ programmes. Ms Ang added that it takes a close partnership with parents to be able to improve the children’s literacy and to inculcate character values in children.

Parents at Kids Champ Club

For this reason, parents are also invited to join their children at the Kids Champ Club (KCC) three times a year. KCC is a fortnightly programme where children learn character and values through mentoring, fun and games.

A recent session on 24 July saw 11 parents join 23 children at the New Life Youth Hub in making sandwiches, playing games and learning about character together.



Parents at Kids Champ Club.

“It was fun for both me and my gal, we enjoyed it very much,” said Mdm Donna Lim, who also wished for more parents’ participation in New Life’s programmes.

Another parent, Mdm Jen Lim, specially took leave to be present at her daughter Joelle’s request. As a working mother, she appreciated the opportunity to have fun with her daughter, as she normally only had time to interact with Joelle over homework.

Mdm Lim added that Joelle had become more respectful of her parents and more responsible in looking after her younger brother since attending KCC.

Plans are in place for greater engagement of parents in the Children Services. For example, volunteer-run parents’ support groups would be offered to parents whose children are enrolled in Steady Readers. Ms Ang hopes that with the strengthening of the family, children will have a secure and nurturing environment to grow in.



Donna & daughter Regine, making sandwich.

*For inquiries on Children’s Programmes, call **6892 4353** or email **children@newlife.org.sg**.*

For.Your.Interest.



Friends of New Life Fêted

New Life's Friends Day was celebrated on 16 & 23 May in honour of those who have supported and participated in New Life's mission. A lunch reception was hosted and friends received a unique telescoping pen as a token of appreciation.

Pirates Galore!

On 14 Jun, 17 children stepped into an enchanted world of pirates, princesses, and puzzles. The New Life Children's Service brought *Stories @live*, an enrichment workshop to interest children in reading by immersing them in stories through games and play.



Adventures in the Forest

New Life staff zipped down cables, swung through trees and "walked on air" at the 17 Jul staff teambuilding retreat. "I was filled with fear," said Admin Assistant Christina Lee, "but my team's care so touched me, I didn't give up. I learned that support and care can actually give people strength to move on."



Childcare Racial Harmony Day

Colourful traditional costumes lit up the Childcare Centre on 21 Jul. Racial Harmony Day celebrations saw children in little *qipaos*, *baju kurungs*, *kerbayas* and even *hanboks* and *kimonos*. They also learned about the music and food of different cultures.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2 Oct Children's Buzz

New Life celebrates Children's Day with a carnival and road show in the community. Call 6892 4353 to find out more.

Sept School Vacation Pool Competition

Youths set to pit their skills in pool at the New Life Youth Hub.
Call 6892 7191 to register.

Sept - Nov Pottery for Kids

Keen to let your child learn the art of pottery making? Call 6892 4353 (Kids Champ Club) to register.

OUR SERVICES

New Life Childcare (Bukit Panjang)
*Nurturing Wholesome Children
In Partnership With Parents*

New Life Children (Bukit Panjang)
*Love Children by Mentoring them
to become Character Champions*

**New Life Youth
(Bukit Panjang & Woodlands)**
*Building Character &
Developing Resilience*

SUPPORT NEW LIFE!

New Life Community Services Centre is a not-for-profit, voluntary welfare organisation committed to serving the community through a range of programmes and services that will *build the next generation*. Your support makes a difference!

Donations received in 2010 are eligible for 2.5 times tax deduction. For every dollar received via the online Charity Donation Portal, New Life pays a service and administrative fee of 3 cents.

For more information, call **6892 8127** or email to **donate@newlife.org.sg**

By Cheque: Payable to
New Life Community Services Centre.
Please furnish your name, NRIC/FIN no.,
address and contact no. on the back of the cheque.

By Credit Card: Please go to
<http://www.newlife.org.sg/donate.htm>

By Interbank Transfer: Please transfer funds to
OCBC Current Account: 7339-581-473667001.
Please state your NRIC/FIN no. as payer name.

By Interbank GIRO: Please download a GIRO
form from our website or call 6892 8127.

**Please furnish your full name and NRIC/FIN
number in order to enjoy tax deduction.**