

New Hub for

IY youths

Happy feet dazzle the dance floor. Busy fingers strum the guitar. Creative ideas materialise into multimedia illustrations. This will be the scene at the New Life Youth Hub in Woodlands when it opens its doors to youths beginning April 2012.

The new Youth Hub in Woodlands will function similarly to the current drop-in centre in Bukit Panjang, where youths engage in fun activities and seek guidance from the mentors at New Life.

Mr Vikram Nair, Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC and Adviser to Admiralty

Grassroots Organisations, commended New Life at the Youth Hub Ground Breaking Ceremony on 13 November 2011.

In the presence of grassroots leaders, teachers, and community members, the incumbent Mr Nair said, "Nowadays, children and youths grow up differently because of technology. I commend New Life for coming up with a creative platform to connect with today's youths holistically."

Indeed, new media has not only changed the way people interact, but also influenced how children and youths are brought up, especially in a modern society as Singapore.

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



MP Mr Vikram Nair, kickstarted the construction of the Youth Hub.



Youths of the 'iY' generation may grow up digitally or virtually connected but in reality, many lack the physical, social and emotional connections. Among the issues adolescents face are low self-esteem, identity crisis and difficulty interacting with people offline.

Germaine Lee, 17, boldly shared her struggle with poor self-esteem, which affected her ability to interact with her peers. She joined New Life Youth's Magic Mentoring Programme in Bukit Panjang in 2010. Over time, she has gained self-confidence and is currently mentoring other youths.

"Thanks to my mentor (Joel Seah, Magic Mentoring Programme Coordinator), magic has become my passion and I have learned many new tricks," said the secondary 5 student. "I can now perform in front of a huge audience. I have also made great friends and continue to make new ones."

According to New Life Director Ms Diana Ooi, "The Youth Hub seeks to implement a wide range of programmes, incorporating both physical and digital aspects of mentoring."

In 2008, New Life refocused its efforts to mentor the 'Next Generation' (children and youths from 18 months to 18 years). The Youth Hub was pitched to Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, then MP for Sembawang GRC, who



“ The Youth Hub seeks to implement a wide range of programmes, incorporating both physical and digital aspects of mentoring. ”

Ms Diana Ooi
New Life Director

strongly endorsed New Life's plan for a Youth Hub.

“This is a project that has taken many years to fulfill. I am grateful to my predecessor (Dr Maliki) and the New Life management for carrying on the good work,” added Mr Nair.

With a floor area of 400 square metres, the Youth Hub's facilities include a digital media room, a dance studio, a music room, two counseling rooms and a multi-purpose cafe.

These facilities are designed to engage the young purposefully, offering real time advice on how to deal with issues that beset adolescents.

In 2012, New Life will also organise 'To The Max' in Woodlands, an annual multifaceted event featuring sports, digital arts and performing arts.

“Looking ahead, New Life Youth will work hand in hand with the community partners (schools, grassroots community, and fellow service providers) in delivering impactful programmes for youths in Woodlands,” said Ms Ooi.



Mr Rick Adams, President of ConocoPhillips Asia Pacific Commercial, presents a \$10,000 donation for the construction of the Youth Hub. The company actively supports New Life's programmes.



Germaine Lee sharing her testimony with the crowd.



For donation enquiries, please call 6892 4366 or email donate@newlife.org.sg. All donations received in 2011 are eligible for 2.5 times tax deduction for YA2012



When it comes to carnivals, it's best to listen to the experts – the children. They asked for bouncy castles. The request was approved. How about sock-puppet making, candy-floss, story-telling, popcorn, and goodie bags? Considered done!

Judging from last year's success, New Life decided to up the ante so children at both Bukit Panjang and Woodlands would have an enjoyable and memorable Children's Day celebration.

CHILDREN'S FEST



"We simply listened to their hearts," said Ms Diana Ooi, Director of New Life. "The moment we heard and observed what they truly wanted, we went for it."

Indeed, wearing the childhood hat was the key to success.

This year, New Life Children's Fest drew an estimated 2,300 children at Jelapang Square in Bukit Panjang and Vista Park in Woodlands on 2 October 2011. It was organised in partnership with Zhenghua Citizens' Consultative Committee and Admiralty Zone 4 RC, respectively.

Mr Liang Eng Hwa, Member of Parliament for Holland Bukit-Timah GRC and Adviser to Holland-Bukit Timah Grassroots Organisations, expressed his happiness on seeing children and families enjoying the Children's Fest.

"This community (Zhenghua) has lots of young parents and children. Children's Day is about celebrating children's power. It's their break from school. Today, we gave them what they wanted – a Carnival," said Mr Liang.

Taking the stage in Woodlands, Mr Vikram Nair, MP for Sembawang GRC and Adviser to Admiralty Grassroots Organisations, observed,



"I am impressed how New Life gathered the residents. Lots of effort went to planning with the RCs and grassroots in terms of game conceptualisation and ticket selling."

At the event that lasted 3.5 hours, children were treated to a variety of educational game and art stalls, a road show and a stage performance on children's rights sponsored by Ministry of Community Development, Youth, and Sports.

Apart from the usual excitement, the games added an educational dimension. Mr John Lim, Chairman of New Life Board, said, "We deliberately added themes such as nursery rhymes, Aesop Fables, and back to the 60s, so they would learn while enjoying."

Children's Choice!

"The games brought me back to my childhood years," said a parent. "I even explained to them how hopscotch (a popular 60s game) is played."

The Children's Fest also drew much needed support from volunteers. Over 350 volunteers, mostly from Covenant Evangelical Free Church, were mobilised to serve as game stall operators, marshals, and emcees.

"I think many of us volunteered in Children's Fest because it serves the purpose of celebrating children's day and linking New Life's services to the community," said volunteer Mr Felix Ong.

At the event, New Life received 46 sign-ups from parents interested to know more about the Steady Readers Programme and Kids Champ Club. Since the Children's Fest, a number of children are already lined up to join New Life's programmes in 2012.

For further inquiries about New Life Children, please call **6892 8028** or email **children@newlife.org.sg**



PP Parental Partnership Advised

A jittery mother was ushered to her front row seat in the auditorium. She sat down and anxiously waited. Moments later, Mdm Lai Jing Wen beamed with pride and relief.

Her daughter, along with her classmates, had stunned over 700 spectators with a drama performance at the New Life Day Celebration on 23 October 2011.

The K1 children from New Life Childcare had prepared for weeks for this special performance, especially their outfit. Together with their parents, they had made their own costumes out of recycled materials.

"I couldn't believe what I saw," exclaimed the jubilant mother. "All the countless hours spent collecting and assembling crumpled plastic bags, egg trays, and cookie wrappers were well-spent." Mdm Lai had spent 3 weeks preparing her 6-year old Lim Xin Hui's recycled outfit.

Parents as Teachers

Like many New Life Childcare parents, Mdm Lai is becoming more engaged in her child's everyday learning. Since New Life Childcare bolstered its "partnering with parents" programme in 2011, a growing number of parents are now actively involved in school activities such as reading, sports, as well as arts and crafts.



"The New Life Day performance is one successful platform that teaches children skills such as teamwork, and nurtures confidence and creativity through direct parental involvement," said Ms Yvonne Lee, New Life Childcare Supervisor.

Aside from the children's performance at New Life Day, parents also took part in the Childcare's first-ever Sports Day, and an Open House where they experienced the children's daily routine.

One such parent was Mdm Sim Soh Lian, who participated in both the Sports Day and Open House activities.



Ms Yvonne Lee interacting with K1 children.



“As a mom, I must sustain my children’s (2 year-old Jeff and 6 year-old Justin) interest in their school activities,” said Mdm Sim. “Lately, we’ve been bringing them to the fitness corner to play hoola-hoop and the library to read children’s books.”

Childcare Supervisor Ms Lee explained the importance of parental involvement, “We encourage parents to be actively involved in the children’s learning such as repeating a sports game conducted during the Sports Day or making artworks together. This will reinforce the child’s learning and build their confidence.”

In fact, New Life’s parental involvement approach is based on research findings. A 2001 study by the Michigan State University showed that parent participation in children’s school activities in a sustained way leads to increased motivation and improved self-esteem.

Partnership Reaping Benefits

Mdm Lai vividly recounted the lessons her daughter learnt in making her colourful dress. “She was cutting the flowers, colouring the necklace made of egg tray, and asking me for ideas to beautify her dress,” said Mdm Lai.

She added that the partnership had instilled in her daughter the value of teamwork, resourcefulness, and passion to shine in arts and crafts.

“I guess this is the reason why I’m a full-time mother. I want her to succeed and being involved as a parent is a step to make it happen. I am thankful for New Life for encouraging us to be actively involved,” said Mdm Lai.

“I want her to succeed and being involved as a parent is a step to make it happen.”

Mdm Lai



Mdm Lai with her children.

For.Your.Interest.



Youths Compete in Halo Tourney

10 Halo fanatics from the Youth Hub battled it out in this year's video game tournament. Each team, comprised of two youths, participated in quadruple knock out stages. The popular first person game is used by New Life Youth as a platform to cultivate teamwork in a high-pressure environment.

Tchoukball Fun and Friendships

New Life Youth's *Tchoukball Mentoring* sent 2 teams to the UP North Tchoukball League held at Bishan SMRT Clubhouse on 1 Dec 2011. Aside from the valuable techniques and skills learnt, the youths also socialised and gained new friends.



Blockbuster Concert

Thanks to over 3 months of non-stop practicing, the children from New Life Childcare brought the house to a standstill at the Graduation Cum Concert. This year, they delighted the parents with a musical fairy tale about metamorphosis of the butterfly.

Children receive distinctions in SR

9 children (from Primary 1 – Primary 4) received certificates with distinction at the Steady Readers Graduation Ceremony for 2nd semester of 2011. They went the extra mile! The ceremony was held on 29 October (Bukit Panjang) and 3 November (Woodlands). 41 others received certificates for participating at SR Programme.



UPCOMING EVENTS

8, 15 & 21 January 2012

Steady Readers Volunteer Training

Volunteer training for the Jan-May semester will start in late January. Please call 6892 4366 to inquire.

20 January 2012

Chinese New Year Celebration

Children from New Life Childcare will be treated to an assortment of games, storytelling, and Chinese music at the Chinese New Year (CNY) Celebration. They'll be served traditional CNY snacks and delicacies as they confidently parade their costumes.

February 2012

Launch of Pre-Teens Club

The pre-teens club is a new character building programme for preadolescents aged 11 to 12. It will be conducted every Saturday from 1.00pm-3.00pm. Please call 6892 8028 for inquiries.

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 Children & Student Care (Bukit Panjang)

Mentor Children to become Disciplined and Confident Individuals

New Life Youth (Bukit Panjang & Woodlands)

Building Character & Developing Resilience

New Life Name Changed!

Our name, "New Life Community Services Centre" has been changed to "**New Life Community Services**" since July 2011. This change reflects the growing work of New Life as no longer a single centre but a multi-locale, multi-services agency. Kindly make your cheques payable to "**New Life Community Services**" henceforth.

All donations received are 2.5 time tax deductible. IRAS no longer accepts tax deduction claims for donations based on donation receipts. Thus all donors need to provide a tax reference number (NRIC, CRN, FIN) to qualify for tax deduction.

Make a difference today by supporting New Life!

For more information, call **6892 4366** or email to donate@newlife.org.sg

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