



New Youth Hub: Fulfilling Youth's Aspirations

What do you want to be 10 years from now? Perhaps you dream to be a doctor or travel around the world. Walt Disney once said, "If you can dream it, you can do it."

New Life Youth Hub's dream to open its doors to the youths in Admiralty has now turned into reality.

The opening celebration also witnessed key stakeholders and the youths penning down

their aspirations in scrolls locked inside a time capsule to be opened in 10 years.

A hub member, Syahmi, 13, confidently shared his own, "I aspire to be an airline cabin crew and fly across the globe. I would want to witness this capsule opened up (in 10 years)."

With these aspirations also comes pressing challenges in fulfilling them. Dialogues within the residents, schools and grassroots leaders have identified that many youths are loitering around the void decks, slacking off after school, and engaging in vices.

An African saying once said that it takes a 'village' to raise a child. This community must provide a safe and caring environment for the child to be positively moulded.

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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).



Diana Ooi, Director of New Life Community Services said, "This next generation has been aptly coined as the "strawberry generation" – sweet and pleasant looking, but easily bruised. In other words, they are not resilient to the pressures of life and the moral and emotional decay that pressure brings."

"Therefore, there is an urgent need to mentor the next generation, and that is what New Life is all about. We need to act today, or we may lose this generation forever," she added.

Guest-of-Honour and Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Defence and National Development, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman said, "This hub is a focal point for youths to harness their potentials and establish good networks with the support of New Life's mentors."

The former MP of Sembawang GRC (Admiralty) also encouraged more youth involvement since they will eventually become



“ The hub creates opportunities for the young to develop their talents and be empowered to participate in the community. ”

Mr Vikram Nair
MP for Sembawang GRC (Admiralty)





Guests write down their aspirations for the youths

leaders. He also added that they are never too young to give back to the society.

Grassroots Adviser Mr Vikram Nair, MP for Sembawang GRC (Admiralty), concurred, "Seeing the group 'Youth Hubbies' perform on stage today is a testimony that the hub creates opportunities for the young to develop their talents and be empowered to participate in the community."

Together with the distinguished guests, Mr Ong Teng Koon, MP for Sembawang GRC (Woodgrove), also took part in writing down words of encouragement for the youths.

Also in attendance in this milestone were members and leaders of Covenant Evangelical Free Church, Residents Committee of

Admiralty Zones 3 and 4, the Youth Executive Committee (Woodlands), Youth Guidance Outreach Services, Care Corner FSC (Woodlands and Admiralty), Christ Church Secondary School and over 150 open house visitors and residents from nearby blocks.

"The Hub seeks to build the youths' character through our mentoring programmes. Overall, our aspiration is to see them having resilience and emotional intelligence to overcome the common challenges they face such as school stress," said Jeannie Chiu, New Life Youth Manager (Woodlands) said.

The 400-square metre drop-in centre both has the learning and leisure facilities such as library, study room, pool, music and dance studio with several equipment provided by various donors. Workshops in music, dance, arts and craft, outdoor activities and camps are just a few of the many offerings in store for the teens.

The launch of New Life Youth Hub paves the way for more aspirations of the young waiting to be fulfilled.

For inquiries about New Life Youth Services in Woodlands, please call **6892 7119** or email youth@newlife.org.sg.



Meet the Youth Hubbies

You know there are teenagers who drop-in the Youth Hub. Now, get to know them a little better. Hear what three youths from New Life have to say:



Architect Amirul

When Amirul, 14 experienced challenges in his family at an early age, life has not been easy for him. But he never let this difficult circumstance hinder him from focusing on his studies and pursuing his dream to be an architect.

"I'm very happy for the mentors I met here in the hub. I have people whom I can depend on and willing to listen to my problems."

"The mentors have been encouraging me to keep going, be confident and to never give up on my dreams no matter how difficult it may seem."

He is also thankful that he has gained friends whom he can share his life with. "I learnt to bond with other youths and respect people from different backgrounds."

Amirul said he enjoys the resources in the hub, especially the music room because he loves playing the guitar. "My mom is very thankful that I'm being mentored here," he said.

Policeman Firdaus

The youngest of the three, Firdaus, 12, had a serendipitous way of joining the Hub. He was cycling one afternoon when the hub manager approached and invited him to become a member.



Since then, he had learnt to be more responsible in his studies. "I used to be quite lazy, always slacking under the blocks after school. But now I'm happy that I can focus on my homework in the study room. And when I want to relax, I can play Xbox and pool."

Aside from being motivated to study, he has also gained confidence. "At first I felt very nervous performing for a big crowd during the New Life Day and Hub's official opening. I realised that I can do it confidently and now I'm excited on our next performance."

Firdaus recently passed the PSLE exams with flying colours. He is excited and prepared to transit to secondary school.

"I want to be a policeman one day," said the smiling adorable boy with dimples. "Being a hub member has changed my life."



Doctor Nabilah

"The Hub is my second home," said Nabilah, 14.

She used to be under immense pressure of maintaining high grades in school. Since she became a member of the youth hub, she has learnt to develop her talents in music and foster new friendships.

"I'm now spending my time more productively. Aside from studying, I can hone my skills in piano and guitar. I realised that it's also important to strike a balance between school and relaxation."

The slender girl in her glasses and curly hair shared her dreams. She said, "When I grow up, I want to be a doctor. And I know that

for me to reach that dream, high grades are not enough. The mentors tell me that good character and right attitudes are more important."

"I'm looking forward for more years of learning and great experiences here in New Life," she added.



Performing at the hub's official opening



Youth Hubbies and Amirul's mother



Youth Hubbies and their friends



EX³ Youth Year-End Camp

"You're a champion!"

Lionel, 13, from Pre-Teens Club, will never forget what youth mentor Edwin said during the camp after getting his PSLE results. He was stressed and anxious about school. Now that he has passed the dreaded exam, he felt more confident to

move up to secondary school. "It feels good to know that there's someone who believes in you," Lionel said referring to Programme Coordinator Edwin.

Celebrating time off from studies, New Life Youth ended the year with a three-day action-packed camp titled EX³ Youth Camp. EX³ embodies the camp's goals to *excite* the youths through activities, empower them to *express* themselves and let them *experience* positive change.

Grouped into three teams led by both new and experienced leaders, the youths battled it out for points in highly competitive games such as dragon boating, Captain's Ball and Running Man.

Samantha, 17, said of her first leadership role, "This experience allowed me to step out of my comfort zone of always being a member. I learnt to be patient, control my anger and look after the welfare of my members."

Lionel displaying mentor Edwin's encouraging message





Youths battling out in games



"I'm glad that we get to bond and connect with them even though we're new to the group," said Aniq, 12. "I learnt the importance of respect and fellowship despite our differences in personalities."

The camp definitely has gone beyond the fun and games. The 35 campers also went home with the values of discipline and teamwork. "Teamwork for me is the spirit of lifting each other up and working towards a common goal," said Yong Yang.

Samantha added that Yong Yang, 15, a second timer leader shared with her leadership tips such as staying composed and setting a good example to the whole team.

New Life Youth (Bukit Panjang) Acting Head Joel Seah shared on empowering the youths, "In order for them to become mature leaders, they need to discover their own strengths and weaknesses."

Aside from encouraging the teens on leadership, the camp also became a good way for the Pre-Teens Club members to foster camaraderie with the youth team as they transit from New Life Children to Youth services.

"Through this camp, we seek to influence the youths to be resilient and confident in facing new phases of their lives," Joel aptly summarised.



Team leader Yong Yang lifted by fellow campers

For.Your.Interest.



Graduation Cum Concert

Children from New Life Childcare rocked the stage and wowed the audience with outstanding dance and skits performances in their graduation ceremony on 3 November.

"Our Book, Our Story"

With the theme "Our Book, Our Story", 58 Steady Readers students graduated on 10 Nov in Bukit Panjang and 6 Nov in Woodlands after successful completion of 25 lessons of guided reading with the help of dedicated New Life volunteers.



It's Better to Give than to Receive

New Life Youth spent the school holidays by collecting old clothes from 22 October to 8 November. The charity drive was for the benefit of Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS).

Children's Creativity and Character

34 children from New Life Children and Student Care enjoyed toy-making activities aimed to develop their creativity, discipline and responsibility. The three-day fun-filled workshop from 19-21 November was conducted by Multiprenuer International.



Support New Life!

Your support allows young lives to be transformed, dreams to be realised and destinies to be changed!

New Life Community Services is a not-for-profit voluntary welfare organisation committed to Mentor the Young and Meet the Needs. Join us to Make the Difference!

Donations received by 31 December will be 2.5 times tax deductible the following year. Kindly provide your NRIC, FIN or CRN to enjoy tax benefits.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

7 February 2013

Chinese New Year

New Life Childcare welcomes the year of the snake with a delightful festivity of songs, dance and games.

20 to 21 March 2013

Youth Community Blitz

Bukit Panjang Youth Hub will hold a two-day open house for the community showcasing of its facilities and youth mentoring programmes. Please call 6892 4419 for queries.

OUR SERVICES

New Life Childcare (Bukit Panjang)

*Nurturing Wholesome Children
in Partnership with Parents*

New Life Children (Bukit Panjang & Woodlands)

*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

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