



STEADY READERS: Investing in One's Life, One Book at a Time

With a high literacy rate in Singapore, it is hard to imagine that there are children who struggle with reading. But that is the truth, and six-year-old Puteri was one of them.

Puteri could barely read even though she was able to recognise letters. This caused her mother, Mdm Suryani, to be worried.

"I was afraid that Puteri will have a hard time coping when she enters Primary One because she cannot read very well. However after almost a year in Steady Readers (SR), her reading skill improved a lot. I am proud to see her reading confidently on stage during her graduation," shared Mdm Suryani.

Puteri is now able to read without much guidance. From a girl who was struggling with reading, she is now a book lover. Puteri is just one of the 800 children helped by our SR programme since 2007. This intervention programme caters to K2 to P4 students with reading difficulties.

However, these success stories would not have been possible without the help of dedicated volunteers who have invested their time and energy in these children.

"The SR programme is heavily dependent on volunteers. Our volunteers come from all walks of life. They selflessly commit their time weekly to mentor the children through reading and I am deeply inspired and thankful for their unwavering support and commitment," said Wendy Sim, Head of New Life Children Programmes & Support.

At a recent volunteer awards night, Minister for Social and Family Development Mr Tan Chuan-Jin shared that every one of us can play a part and help those in need. Service changes lives for both volunteer and the beneficiary as it does not only touch the hearts of those who are served but nourishes the souls of those who serve as well.

There are more success stories waiting to be told. You can be the next volunteer to make it possible. Make a difference in a child's life today and help them build confidence through reading.



Puteri's graduation in November

MINISTRY PARTNER Q & A CORNER

Faith Lai is one of the volunteers of To the Max @ ITE youth camp in September. She is 22 years old and is a fresh graduate from Murdoch University and currently a freelance make-up artist

Q: What made you decide to volunteer in the camp?

Back in secondary school, I used to be a notorious student and a rebellious daughter. Nobody could earn my respect even my parents. I was constantly getting myself into trouble such as running away from home, skipping school and getting into nonsense fights. Hence my school sent me to an anger management programme wherein I also participated in a youth camp. That influenced me a lot to change and fix my life. Hence I wanted to give back and serve the youths.

Q: How was your overall experience?

It's amazing! Although it was challenging to engage them at first, but as I genuinely reached out to them, they started sharing with me about their life stories, their dreams and even the problems they face at home.

Q: What inspires you to serve?

After the camp, some of the youths still kept in touch and they opened their hearts to me. Our friendship and trust was built. I was very encouraged by their "thank you" messages about how New Life has motivated and mentored them. Seeing the positive influence and impact of the camp on their lives inspires me a lot. Thank you New Life for giving me this opportunity to help the youths. Sometimes all it takes is just one person to step out and make a difference!

You can be like Faith and invest in the lives of our next generation.
Please contact Aiwei at 6892 0979 or email caiaiwei@neewlife.org.sg



From a rebellious and suicidal youth to a volunteer team leader

To The Max @ ITE Youth Camp

New Life is back on the grounds of ITE College West for the third and fourth run of the youth camp "To The Max @ ITE" held on 7-11 December.

Since August, the camp has impacted more than 1000 students with character competencies through structured fun and educational activities intentionally designed to embrace the school's core values such as respect, responsibility, resilience, integrity, care and harmony.



LET'S CELEBRATE FRIENDSHIP!



Zakiah (left) experienced playing without sight with her friends

It was a fun-filled and action-packed afternoon for the 54 children from New Life Children & Student Care as they enjoyed learning through a three-day enriching workshop called "Let's Celebrate Friendship!"

Volunteers from Institute of Education (NIE) collaborated with us and conducted the workshop which aimed to promote the appreciation and importance of friendship. Based on the life story of Nick Vujicic who was born without limbs, the children learnt more about people with disabilities.

When asked about the meaning of celebrating friendship, ten-year old Zakiah replied joyfully, "Celebrating friendship means accepting differences. I experienced what it is to be blind during one of the games and it was challenging. I want to be friends with the physically challenged in future."

The workshop consisted of storytelling sessions and role-playing, art and craft lessons as well as modified games from

Paralympics sports for the children to experience how paralympians compete.

"Through the workshop, the children have learnt to work together as a team better, and they encourage one another more often. I am also pleased to see that they have learnt to be more accepting towards differences," shared Calvin Sue, New Life Student Care supervisor.



P.A.N.D.A. CHAMPS

P1 to P4 children from New Life Student Care were involved in an exciting and meaningful time again as P.A.N.D.A Champs resumed.

P.A.N.D.A. is an acronym for Perseverance, Acts of Love, eNcouragement, Discipline, and Accepting differences. Focusing on acts of love and accepting differences in the month of November and December, the children will learn to love and care for not just themselves, but also for their family members, peers and the community.

The programme keeps the Student Care children meaningfully engaged during the school holidays through fun and interactive character games, structured activities and active discussions. Volunteer mentors from New Life befriend them, join them in the activities and facilitate small group mentoring during the sessions.

"They will leverage on teachable moments and in their interaction with the children bring about positive learning outcomes that will help the children know themselves better. As a result, helping them to discover their strengths and weaknesses, leading to greater self-awareness which is essential in their social emotional learning competencies," said Koh Ser Lian, Director of Services (Children).

New Life volunteer mentor, Jenn Ye shared, "The most rewarding part is that you get to form a close relationship with the children. They look forward to seeing you every week, to catch up with you and share things that have happened to them over the week."

If you have the heart to volunteer and bless the children, contact Aiwei at 6892 0979 or email caiaiwei@newlife.org.sg

SENTOSA GIVES TO STEADY READERS KIDS



Time to unwind from school!

Close to eighty children from Steady Readers' Programme enjoyed a whole day of fun and learning journey at Sentosa on 7 September.

Sentosa Gives 2015 is a community outreach event that aims to bless underprivileged children who have never visited Sentosa and hopes that every child in Singapore would form fond memories of Sentosa.

The children marveled at the iconic attractions such as Madame Tussauds, Images of Singapore, Sentosa Line Cable Car and 4D Adventureland.

DANCE MENTORING FOR YOUTHS

New Life Youth gets into the groove through Dance Mentoring Workshop which piloted on 15 December in collaboration with Distinct Creative Arts, a performing and creative arts provider.

"The workshop aims to mentor the girls through equipping them with basic dancing skills and techniques in order to build their confidence, character and self-esteem," says Melissa Peng, Team Leader, Youth Hubs & Mentoring.

The 12-week programme is supported by National Arts Council.

For more info about New Life Youth, contact youth@newlife.org.sg or call 6892 7119.



DIALOGUE IN THE DARK

25 teens of New Life Youth experienced how to move beyond their sight and explored their non-visual senses at the Dialogue in the Dark exhibition on 21 December.

The activity aims to raise awareness of the visually handicapped amongst the youths and helps the latter to gain a better appreciation of effective communication for those who live without sight.

New Life organised this service learning for youths in collaboration with Republic Polytechnic and nEbO.

NEW LIFE DAY AND WORKSHOP

We would like to thank you for celebrating New Life Day with us on 15 November and witnessing our journey through our beneficiaries' testimonies and special performances. We also honour your time for attending the workshop on 18 November.



We GIVE THANKS for the new sign-ups as volunteers, donors and partners to help us mentor the next generation. Because of you, our services have touched lives of hundreds of children and youth in 2015.

To find out more how you can be involved, contact us at email@newlife.org.sg or 6892 7191.

WOODLANDS CHILDCARE IS STILL OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!

At New Life Childcare (Woodlands), places are still available for Playgroup, Nursery and Kindergarten levels. The centre is located at Blk 580 Woodlands Dr 16 #01-582 S(730580).

For more info, please contact Mrs Debbie Chua at 6892 0013 or email enquiry.wdlcc@newlife.org.sg.



CHILDCARE GRADUATION CUM CONCERT



Children from New Life Childcare (Bukit Panjang) rocked the stage with their astounding Hawaiian-themed skit and dance performance before their proud parents and teachers. The annual graduation-cum-concert was held on 27 November. We wish our K2 graduates all the best as they continue their learning journey in Primary 1.

CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT GIVING!

As we freely receive, may we freely give. 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 next generation and meet the needs of the community.

Donations received by **31 December** will be 3 times tax deductible the following year. Kindly provide your NRIC, FIN or CRN to enjoy tax benefits.

For more information, call 6892 4350 or email donate@newlife.org.sg.

OUR SERVICES

New Life Childcare

Nurturing wholesome children in partnership with families & the community.

New Life Children & Student Care

Mentoring children to become disciplined and confident individuals.

studentcare@newlife.org.sg
6892 8040

New Life Children Programmes and Support

Loving children by mentoring them to become character champions.

children@newlife.org.sg
6892 8020

New Life Youth

Building character and developing resilience in youths through life-transforming purpose.

youth@newlife.org.sg
6892 7119

New Life Casework & Counselling

Promoting social change and empowerment to individuals to enhance their well-being.

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