

RESTORING WHAT WAS BROKEN

Yun Kai*, 21 years old, was abused when young and left neglected when both his parents were incarcerated. He moved around from place to place and was eventually placed in a children's home. Growing up with rejection and loneliness, Yun Kai developed an insecure attachment causing him to act out, often in aggression and self-harm to cope with his inner turmoil. New Life caseworkers are currently walking alongside with him through this arduous journey, to restore his self-worth, guiding him to find his purpose in life. New Life is also on the lookout for befrienders who are willing to journey with him.

Every year, there are about 300 youth offenders (aged 16 – 21 years old) who are sentenced to the Reformatory Training Centre (RTC) for a period of 18 to 36 months to reform and rehabilitate them. New Life Community Services has widened its reach to go deep by serving this youths-at-risk through the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme awarded by the Singapore Prison Services. This three-year project is in partnership with Focus on the Family Singapore and The New Charis Mission with New Life helping the project.

The programme aims to increase the youths' insight of their offending behaviour and help them to increase their motivation to change, guide them of possible career and academic opportunities and address transitional issues of youths and their families. Additionally, we hope to build a network of support for the youth and restore broken relationships between the youth and their family.

"When we only look at the surface of these hardened lives, we see rebellious youths who are

falling deep in the mire of alcohol, drugs and greed. It is only when we take the time to look deeper and reach out to their hearts, we realise that these are broken pieces, crying out for help in their own way. While they might fall again and again and society has given up on them, we must not. It is our desire to restore these broken lives, that they can rise from the ashes and live out their destiny." shared Tan Bee Leng, Director for Youth, Casework & Counselling.



With the RTC Aftercare Programme, more youths like Yun Kai will be given intensive and systemic support upon community integration to help them go against the odds, otherwise, they will return to the default of their old habits and lifestyle.

**Name was changed to protect identity.*

CHILDCARE GRADUATION CUM CONCERT

Children from New Life Childcare (Bukit Panjang) put up an inspiring performance on 25 November during their graduation cum concert. In the presence of a hall filled with proud parents and invited guests from Pacific Healthcare Elderly Corner, the performance revolved around the theme – Reach for the Stars! Congratulations to all 20 K2 graduates!



Similarly, New Life Childcare (Woodlands) held her inaugural year-end concert on 26 November to the theme - Those were the Days! All children from PG to K1 classes charmed the audience with their beautiful performances. Well-done, Little Ones!

TOUCHING LIVES THROUGH READING

Steady Readers (SR) is an intervention programme for K2 to P4 children who are not reading at their academic age. The programme relies heavily on volunteers, who commit themselves weekly to teach these children phonics and reading skills. It is also the pleasure of New Life to be collaborating with Greenridge Primary School (GRPS) for the past eight years in this programme. GRPS will refer their students who are in need of the extra help to our SR programme every year.



Below is an appreciation note from Mr Chris Chua, Principal of GRPS:

"Students who have gone through this programme have benefited and their scores have improved. The programme complements our school reading programmes to help many struggling readers to learn to read and develop a love for reading. This would not have been possible without dedicated and committed volunteer tutors who fuel the programme and make it a success. We thank New Life Community Services and the volunteer tutors for the selfless effort to make a positive difference to our students and our community."

MINISTRY PARTNER Q & A CORNER

Siam Hong is one of the volunteer mentors of New Life Steady Readers and P.A.N.D.A Champs Programmes. Below are some of her thoughts on being a New Life Ministry Partner.

Q: What made you decide to volunteer?

At the beginning of this year, I used to reflect how I would want to live my life differently. One of the areas that I pondered upon is about giving, and specifically blessing the community through serving in New Life's Steady Readers Programme and P.A.N.D.A Champs.



Q: How do you feel every time you volunteer?

I always feel a sense of joy and satisfaction when I see that the children (and indirectly their parents) at Steady Readers and P.A.N.D.A Champs benefit from my acts of service in terms of teaching them to read and building character values.

Q: What was your most memorable experience?

My most memorable experience was when the two groups of children I taught in Steady Readers had made progress in their reading skills and even won a prize for their graduation presentation. The parents were also very appreciative of the love and patience I had shown in teaching their children to read.

Q: What have you learnt from volunteering? Is there any lessons you wish to share?

The question I asked myself was "What would I otherwise be doing with my time if I do not volunteer?" I am glad that 2016 was well lived because making the decision to join the Steady Readers programme and P.A.N.D.A Champs had given me opportunities to sow seeds in the lives of children.

You can be like Siam Hong and invest in the lives of the young ones.
Email volunteer@newlife.org.sg.

NEW LIFE CHARITY GOLF

New Life held its second Charity Golf on 15 September at Tanah Merah Country Club. Guest of Honour Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and MP for Holland Bukit-Timah GRC shared, "New Life's efforts help to ensure that everyone can realise their potentials, regardless of their socio-economic background, regardless of race, language or religion."

Through the support of generous donors and sponsors, \$280,000 was raised to help New Life grow its efforts in widening its programmes and services.

"With the support of our donors who believe in our cause, we are encouraged to pursue our vision to mentor children and youth so they may be able to make positive contribution to their home, communities and societies," said Mr Johnny Tan, New Life Executive Director.



L-R: Mr. Ng Kin Ming (Fuji SMBE), Mr. Ng Whye Keong (Pet Lovers), Dr Vivian Balakrishnan (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Elder Johnny Tan (New Life Executive Director) & Mr. Patrick Lim (New Life Board Chairman)

MENTORING THROUGH MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Congratulations to all graduates of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Mentoring Workshop 2016! 15 youths participated in the MMA Mentoring Workshop in September for a total of eight sessions. Two professional MMA instructors were engaged by New Life to coach the youths while staff of New Life Youth Hub (Woodlands) used each session to mentor them.

"Through the MMA Mentoring Workshop, the youths have not only learnt self defence but also resilience and commitment. I also noticed a change in their behaviours as they have now learnt to manage their emotions better and control their own temper," shared Evangelynn Tang, Youth Programme Coordinator.

To find out more about New Life Youth, contact youth@newlife.org.sg.



P.A.N.D.A CHAMPS

P.A.N.D.A. Champs is a character-based programme designed to help children develop desirable traits, foster positive relationships, set goals and make good choices.

The recent Nov/Dec holiday programmes saw a surge in the number of children joining us. During one of the sessions, the theme: Acts of Love was incorporated into the activities. Children are reminded to be considerate of their neighbour's feelings, acting in love always and forgiving others when someone has offended them.

The volunteer mentors' role in the programme is vital in helping us achieve the objectives and desired outcomes.

To find out more about volunteering, please contact volunteer@newlife.org or 9716 7154.

NEW LIFE DAY 2016

We celebrated New Life Day: Mentoring the Next Generation on 20 November Covenant EFC Bukit Panjang, Woodlands, and East.

The event included a song performance from children of New Life Children & Student Care, sharing of inspiring testimonies of beneficiaries from Steady Readers Programme, Reformatory Training Centre, Project Love and Kids Champ Club as well exciting activities at the foyer.

We are thankful for the 151 people who took the step to partner with New Life either through financial giving or volunteering.

Following up the event was New Life Workshop on 29 November wherein 50 attendees knew more about New Life's work in several break out session.

To find out more how you can volunteer, email volunteer@newlife.org.sg or call 6760 0533.

To watch the corporate videos and testimonies, please visit www.vimeo.com/newlifeg.

CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT GIVING!

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 2.5 times tax deductible the following year. Kindly provide your NRIC, FIN or CRN to enjoy tax benefits.

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

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



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