

CLOSING THE DOORS OF THE PAST

Every year, more than 200 to 300 youth offenders are sentenced to the Reformatory Training Centre (RTC). RTC houses young offenders between 14-21 years who had been sentenced by the Court to undergo reformatory training.

Joshua used to be one of them.

He was greatly affected by the divorce of his parents when he was young and this led him to have a rebellious behaviour. At 14, he was caught by the police for glue-sniffing and had to undergo regular urine test supervision with the police. Due to the lack of parental guidance and influence from friends, he would often go out for drinks and got himself into trouble at clubs, which led him to dropping out of school and skipping work.

At 19, Joshua was caught for rioting and then sentenced to RTC for 18 months and community supervision for six months. "During my confinement in a cell with three other inmates, I started to realise the mistakes I've done and understood my life's purpose after reading the bible. I told myself I need to change and push myself to step out of darkness," said Joshua.

Joshua enrolled into prison school and decided to renounce from his gang although it was a big struggle for him at first. With the help and encouragement from his teachers, prison officers and Rui Kang, his New Life counsellor, Joshua slowly became more motivated to find his life's purpose.

"Prior to my release, I told Rui Kang that I am interested in cooking. He then looked out for a suitable and meaningful job for me. I am thankful that he referred me to a French restaurant that is willing to employ ex-offenders like me. I learnt how to let go of my past, set clear goals and move on. I am grateful for his positive influence and I was motivated not to give up."

Joshua is now 23 and had successfully completed supervision for more than a year. He is currently running his family business and working in the same French restaurant at the same time. He dreams to open as many restaurants in Singapore that hire ex-offenders to give them hope and a bright future. "I believe everyone deserves a second chance," he shared.

"Finding meaning and purpose in life is vital for youths. We must be able to help them realise their strengths and link them to the right avenues for them to realise their potentials. Besides encouragement, rendering realistic help is also important," shared Rui Kang.

Since 2016, New Life serves at-risk youths through the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme in partnership with The New Charis Mission and counsels approximately 240 cases a year.

For more details on Joshua's story, please visit <http://www.tnp.sg/news/singapore/ex-offenders-giving-themselves-and-others-second-chance>



IF YOU ARE PASSIONATE IN BRINGING NEW LIFE INTO YOUTH OFFENDERS AS SOCIAL WORKERS AND COUNSELLORS, EMAIL YOUR RESUME AT HR@NEWLIFE.ORG.SG.

EVENTS & UPDATES



PARENT-TEACHER GET TOGETHER

CHILDCARE

On 3 February, 110 parents from Woodlands Childcare had a fruitful time interacting with the teachers to understand more about the curriculum, processes and how they can work together to ensure that their children's learning needs are met and potentials reached.



EXPOSURE TO THE ARTS PROGRAMME

STUDENT CARE

In collaboration with Keppel Corporation, 60 students guided by volunteers from Keppel had a wonderful art experience at the National Gallery wherein Keppel launched a new playscape at the Keppel Centre for Art Education on 9 March.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT CARE

New Life Children & Student Care had the opportunity to serve the community on 13 December 2017. The children engaged the elderly at Fajar Springs through art and craft sessions and teaching them how to fold Christmas origami ornaments. They also joyfully celebrated Christmas party with the seniors at Pacific Healthcare Sunshine Gardens. These activities practically taught the children how to show love and respect to the elderly.



ZOOTASTIC PARENT-CHILD BONDING

CHILDREN

Through the partnership of Republic Polytechnic, 111 parents and children from Children Services had a wonderful time bonding together through fun activities such as games, colouring contest and touring at the Singapore Zoo on 10 March.



VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT | EMAIL: volunteer@newlife.org.sg

VOLUNTEERING

HEALTHY LIVING WITH STEADY READERS

CHILDREN

Children from Steady Readers Programme visited the Kidney Discovery Centre at National Kidney Foundation on 12 March 2018. Through the interactive displays and talk, the children had an enjoyable time learning about kidney functions, healthy living and illnesses associated with kidney failure.

YOUTH HUB CNY CELEBRATIONS

YOUTH

On 13 and 20 February, 16 youths from Woodlands Youth Hub and 15 youths from Fajar and Junction 10 Youth Hubs celebrated Chinese New Year respectively. The youths bonded over steamboat and discussed on the topic on friendships, facilitated by the staff.



Ministry Partner

“ I encourage anyone who are keen in working with youths to give this a try. You will definitely be able to make a difference in their lives! ”



Q: What made you decide to volunteer?

My previous volunteering experience with National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) as a Youth Leader had inspired my interest in joining the youth sector. There are theoretical and practical lessons involved in NPCC. Whenever I walk pass New Life Youth Hub, which is near my place, I got keen to find out the various activities and programmes that they offer for the youths. And since I have never volunteered in a nonprofit organisation before, I wanted to try something new. When I applied to be a volunteer, I learnt many interesting and innovative ways to mentor youths.

Q: Can you share your experiences while volunteering?

It was challenging at first. Most of the youths had lots of energy and there were times I felt exhausted. However, eventually I got used to it. Some of the secondary one youths have asked me how it's like being in a new school environment. They seemed to be quite nervous

and anxious of changes and transitions. However, through the motivation and encouragement by the staff and I, the youths were able to adjust better. I learnt many interesting ways to connect with youths, through the way the staff conducted lessons through cookout or icebreakers. Their patience and guidance in mentoring is something I've benefitted greatly from.

Q: Any lessons you've learnt about volunteering which you wish to share?

This experience have taught me many valuable life lessons. I've learnt to be patient and understanding through the many interactions that I've had with the youths. I encourage anyone who are keen in working with youths to give this a try. You will definitely be able to make a difference in their lives!

~Vishnu, 27 years old student at Singapore Institute of Technology



We have a lot of opportunities for you to serve and love the community.
Contact Jason at 9635 1135 or email volunteer@newlife.org.sg.



WHAT'S NEXT

Children's Fest 2018

Watch out for the most awaited community carnival on 8 April. Look out for more fun and exciting time of family bonding and games with our friendly ninjas. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/loveCF2018> if you wish to serve.

KCC Holiday Activity

Through the 'Character-Building Thru Hip-Hop Fun' initiative, children and volunteers from Kids Champ Club (KCC) will have fun at an introduction to Hip-Hop workshop on 9 June. This precedes an 8-session Hip-Hop programme, possibly funded by WeCare Arts Fund, wherein children learn character values through the guidance of their volunteer mentors after each session.

Fun Korean!

New Life Youth at Woodlands will be conducting free volunteer-led classes on Korean language and culture for 12 sessions from May to July. For more info, email youth@newlife.org.sg.

STAFF INSIGHTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Serving as an educator in the Ministry of Education in the past 16 years, I always have a big heart and passion in investing to the lives of the young. I've held management positions such as Discipline Master and School Staff Developer during my teaching career in three secondary schools. And as a previous Physical Education teacher, I love to interact with students and inculcate good values in them through appreciation of sports and games. This passion continues as I come to serve in New Life. My desire is to see our youth today unleash their great potentials. Hence they are in need of mentors to speak words of inspiration and affirmation into their lives. I am excited to see how New Life continues to fulfil its mission of loving the community through mentoring the next generation. As the famous quote by Mahatma Gandhi says, "If we are to reach real peace in this world... we shall have to begin with children." ~Felix Wong, Deputy Executive Director

RECRUITMENT



Email: hr@newlife.org.sg / Tel: 6760-0533

- Youth Team Leader
- Youth Programme Coordinators / Assistant
- Social Workers / Counsellors
- Finance Executive
- Donor Management Executive
- Childcare / Infant Care Teachers

DONATION

Every dollar counts in making a difference and impacting a life.

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