

CHILDREN'S FEST: FRIENDS IN UNITY 2

Now on its seventh year, Children's Fest carnival once again brought joy to approximately 3,800 children and families in the Bukit Panjang and Woodlands community on 8 April. With theme "Friends in Unity 2", the event aims to see families bond together and neighbours engage each other.

Joy Koh, one of the volunteers shared, "I feel that Children's Fest is really a great opportunity for families in the community to come together. In this event, you see all ages. I think some children may not have the chance to go for paid carnivals, so this is a great and free opportunity for them to bond with their family members."

Parents also shared their experiences. One mother said, "What I like the most is to see my kids happy. Because this is a very good experience. I rarely had the opportunity to play with them. As long as they're happy, we being the parents also feel happy. This is a nice get together on a weekend and kids get to learn a lot of things. It's quite a good activity and initiative."

The unprecedented success of the event was made possible by the unwavering support of 554 volunteers from Covenant EFC, grassroots leaders

Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Ministry of Trade and Industry, MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC (Bukit Timah), Mr Liang Eng Hwa, MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC (Zhenghua), Mr Vikram Nair, MP for Sembawang GRC (Admiralty), Residents Committee of Admiralty Zone 4 RC, Zhenghua-Greenridge, Zhenghua Jelapang and Dazzling Gift Enterprise.

"What I like most is that by the setting of it, children from different races and backgrounds are coming together to interact and socialise. I think that's one of the most important objectives of Children's Fest, and that's to bring communities together!" shared Mr Liang, Guest of Honour.

"It is our desire that through Children's Fest, our community will be united in one spirit, regardless of race and religion and we can call each other friends," shared Felix Wong, Executive Director.

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Watch the highlight video here: tinyurl.com/cf2018vid.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR UPCOMING CORPORATE EVENTS SUCH AS CHARITY GOLF AND CHARITY RUN.
CONTACT US AT VOLUNTEER@EMAIL.ORG.SG OR 9653 1135.

EVENTS & UPDATES



EASTER CELEBRATION

STUDENT CARE

To let the children understand why Christians celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday, New Life Children & Student Care came together on 29 March for a mini celebration. The children watched a video about God's love and sending His son Jesus to die on the cross. The programme also encouraged the children's creativity and performance skills by creating costumes and acting out the scene where Jesus resurrected from the dead. It was indeed a day with joy and laughter for the children and teachers.



DONATION DRIVE

CHILDCARE

New Life Childcare @ Junction 10 partnered with The Salvation Army for a donation drive project on 26 March. The teachers taught the K1 students about the reality of the less privileged families in the community. "I observed that the children's faces expressed sadness after hearing stories about families who are needy and less fortunate. They also shared that they realised that they sometimes waste food while others don't have enough. It made them aware that these families need help," shared Glorilee Po, K1 teacher. Together with the teachers, their families and Tenery residents, they collected used clothes, toys, books and canned foods for the needy families. The children joyfully helped the uncles load the donated items into the truck. This project aimed to teach the young valuable lessons on having compassion for the needy and sharing and caring for the community.

COOKING 101

YOUTH

Eight youths had successfully completed Cooking 101 youth mentoring programme conducted weekly at Fajar Youth Hub from 20 March to 22 May. The programme is designed to equip youths with life skills while teaching them positive values. The programme taught the youths basic cooking skills and wholesome food selection so that they can whip up simple and healthy meals independently. They also learnt kitchen safety in managing sharp objects in the kitchen as well as starting up a fire from the stove or oven. It also allowed youths from financially disadvantaged backgrounds be exposed to getting a healthier meal instead of going hungry or over consumption on processed and junk food.



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

VOLUNTEERING



STEADY READERS GRADUATION

CHILDREN PROGRAMMES

After 3.5 months of hard work and perseverance, 394 children from the Steady Readers Programme celebrated their long-awaited graduation in Bukit Panjang and Woodlands on 19 May and 15 May respectively. The graduation's theme for this run was "Healthy Living with Steady Readers". Each group took turns to present on stage their ideas on various topics related to the theme such as ways to promote and lead a healthy lifestyle, as well as reasons to adopt a healthy living. Said Mdm Yen, mother of 9-year old Randall, "Steady Readers creates a positive learning environment for children and it is indeed very helpful for us."

NEW LIFE FRIENDS' DAY

CORPORATE

It was a day of celebration to thank New Life's Friends – volunteers, donors and partners during Friends' Day on 20 May at Bukit Panjang, Woodlands and East centres. With the theme "Give to a Need, Gift to a Life", three New Life volunteers shared their heart-warming testimonies of their volunteering journeys. Foyer activities to engage the crowd were also organised such as writing words of encouragement for volunteers, giving out fruit treats and also having fun mini-game stall to promote Children's Fest. Thank you to the 135 new sign-ups as volunteers and donors!



Ministry Partner

“When we serve, we may think that we are blessing others. However, we are the ones who are actually blessed”

Q: Can you share about your experiences while volunteering?

I have been serving in Steady Readers (SR) for the last six years. I started with the mandate to teach these children phonics and comprehension. But soon I realised that there is an opportunity to connect with them as we play games at the end of each session. So over the course of the 16 weeks run, I am glad that I was able to build friendships with them. Wei Lyn was one of my students in SR during my first run in 2012. After she graduated from SR after two years, we continued the friendship with her and her mother. We invited her to Children Fest and various Sunbeam activities. She loved the cupcakes that I brought occasionally to class for her, so I invited her and family over to my place for baking session.

Q: What are the challenges you encountered while volunteering?

Honestly, I struggled with discouragement at first. I had a huge sense of inadequacy as the children



assigned to me were not making much progress. But with the help of fellow volunteer mentors, I learnt not to look at my own efforts but to focus on the children. I started to see beyond their limitations and be thankful for the opportunity to be part of their learning journey.

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

When we serve, we may think that we are blessing others. However, we are the ones who are actually blessed. I am also thankful to the precious friendship of fellow volunteer mentors with common passion. I learnt to focus on the journey rather than on the results.

~Alicia Lim, 53 years old, teacher at Singapore Polytechnic



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

Fun-Raising Events: Charity Golf & Run

Calling all golf and run enthusiasts!

New Life's fourth Charity Golf will be held at Singapore Island Country Club on 13 September with Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs as Guest of Honour. We are looking for golfers and donors in cash or in-kind. Time to swing for a good cause!

New Life's Charity Run is riding with Civil Service Club' "CSC Run by the Bay" on 20 October (www.cscrunchbythebay.com). Gather now your running khakis and be a team fundraiser for New Life.

To find out more, please email fundraising@newlife.org.sg or call 6892 0129.

Fajar Youth Hub Opening Ceremony

Watch out for the official opening of Fajar Youth Hub on 4 August. The hub will be open to let the public know more about New Life's youth programmes. Dr Teo Ho Pin, Mayor of Northwest CDC will be the Guest of Honour of the event.

STAFF INSIGHTS

YOUTH



I've been serving as a youth volunteer in my church and have worked with school programmes since I was 17. Since then, I always find working with youths as a very meaningful experience. Growing up, I didn't experience having a mentor hence I was inspired to be one. My work in New Life is mainly to partner with secondary schools to conduct suitable programmes according to the needs of their students. We aim to befriend these youths at-risk in the long term and be a positive influence in their lives. We also encourage them to confide in us and visit our hubs whenever they need a safe place and refuge or simply when they are bored. It is my heart's desire to equip the youths we mentor with the right skills to achieve their fullest potentials in life and to make them believe in themselves regardless of how others look at them. It's always a joy to see positive changes and growth in the students we journey alongside with. ~ Rachel Anja Mok, Youth Programme Coordinator

RECRUITMENT



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- Student Care Programme Coordinator
- HR Executive
- Finance Executives/Assistants

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