



Children's Fest: We Are Family

Now on its eighth year, Children's Fest carnival held on 24 March brought joy to approximately 2,883 children and families in the Bukit Panjang and Woodlands community. This year, the theme "We are Family", aims to see families and neighbours coming together as one big family to bond and engage with each other.

Mr Felix Wong, Executive Director of New Life Community Services passionately shared, "It is such a joy and privilege that we can come here & celebrate with the community in this year's Children's Fest. As you can see there's so much energy, that when we bring community together we begin to bless them as they come together and celebrate today's Children's Fest."

The success of the event was attributed to the 809 volunteers wherein majority are from Covenant EFC. Some volunteers are from our Residents' Committees (RCs), students from ITE College West, National Institute of Education and even members of New Life Youth Hub. In spite of the humid weather, these unsung heroes braced the heat to serve

"It's really heartening to see our children coming here with smiling faces having fun together not only with their family members but with neighbours and friends around."

— Mr Liang, MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC (Zhenghua)

the children and their families. Edwin Khoo, one of the volunteers joyfully shared, "As a photographer for Children's Fest, I always see a lot of smiling faces. And it is really a big blessing to see the joy that we bring to the community."

The event was graced by grassroots leaders Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Ministry of Communications and Information and MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC (Bukit Timah), Mr Liang Eng Hwa, MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC (Zhenghua), and Mr Vikram Nair, MP for Sembawang GRC (Admiralty). RCs of Zhenghua-Jelapang, Zhenghua-Greenridge, Admiralty Zone 3, 4, and 10, and partner schools including Greenridge, Zhenghua, West View and West Spring Primary School also rendered their support.

The children and families were blessed with cool milo from the Milo

van sponsored by MILO Singapore, and toys and gifts sponsored by Dazzling Gifts and Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS). One delighted mother said, "We enjoy the activities here. They are interactive and we have an enjoyable time. We met different people in the neighbourhood. And thank you for the crew that are able to volunteer today and organise this awesome event."

Mr Liang, Guest of Honour shared, "Children's Fest is one of our highlights for the kids here every year. And I hope when they grow up, they form fond memories of Children's Fest as well. I want to thank New Life for bringing this to our community every year. It is a major effort. I want to thank the volunteers as well for their passion and commitment to this wonderful event."

EVENTS & UPDATES



Opening of Woodlands Childcare Extension at Blk 556

On 7 February, New Life celebrated the opening of the Woodlands Childcare at Blk 556 specifically set up for the K1 & K2 classes. This centre is an extension of the existing childcare centre at Blk 580. The centre carries a brand-new design concept, in line with the new blended curriculum which focuses on character development and authentic learning. With special features incorporated to promote

a vibrant and engaging learning environment, the opening of this extension is indeed a joy and delight to everyone – the staff, parents and most of all, the children!

Mrs Anna Qi, mother of Qi Lu Ming from K1, commented that the centre's atmosphere exudes warmth and is soothing to the senses. She added that the interior set-up is modern, especially with the cushioned platform and mini stage. She also said that she likes the space that allows the children to move around the different learning centres easily.

Steady Readers Graduation

A total of 95 kids celebrated the Steady Readers graduation which was held at Bukit Panjang and Woodlands on 10 and 15 November respectively.

Each group of kids took turns to present on stage a topic related to the theme "Learning Journey to Changi Airport". The show-and-tell presentation provided a wonderful platform to build the children's confidence in expressing themselves as they showcased their reading ability accompanied by creative hand-built props. All the graduates were blessed with a new story book and awarded a certificate to affirm their effort and commitment throughout the programme.



Youth Hub Annual Year-End Camp

Following the celebration of the individual youth hub identities in June, Camp Unite! was birthed as an annual year-end camp with the purpose of bringing the staff and youths from the three hubs together to form a united

New Life Youth Hub identity, and also foster closer relationships between the youths and staff. The camp was held at the Fajar Hub from 26 to 18 December and attended by 23 youth beneficiaries and 9 staff. Through this camp, the youths managed to build connections with one another and with the staff, learnt teamwork through the camp activities, and demonstrate care to their fellow campers.

The youth campers shared with the staff that the teamwork helped them to go further together and made the games more fun. They also managed to learn how to control their temper and to speak respectfully to one another. They also felt that the camp gave them the opportunities to step out of their comfort zone and demonstrate leadership.

MINISTRY PARTNER



Caleb Gau
Fundraising Committee Volunteer

Q: What made you decide to volunteer?

A: In 2017, I found out about New Life from my CG member Michael Mok who serves in the charity golf fundraising committee. I started researching on the community services provided by New Life and I am moved by the missional vision of New Life. As I read about New Life's needs for funds to support their works to reach out to more beneficiaries, I decided to sign up as a volunteer fundraiser for the charity run event in 2017. Now I am serving in both charity golf and run fundraising committee.

Q: What are the challenges you encountered while volunteering and how did you overcome it?

A: In 2017 when we organised the first charity run event, we experienced some technical hiccups with the crowd funding platform. On the event day, there were a lack of manpower. For the charity run event to become a sustainable fundraising platform requires partnership. So in 2018, the committee established a partnership with Metasport, a sport management company, and adopted New Life as their official charity partner for the 2018 CSC Run By The Bay event. As it was

the first time such partnership was formed, there were much to learn on the roles and obligations.

Thankfully we were able to overcome most of the challenges with dedicated resource from New Life, commitment from the fundraising committee members especially Eddie Tan our committee chairman who rendered his full support and help to tackle critical issues, and also fellow CG members who went the extra miles to recruit runners, form running teams and raise funds. With the support from everyone, we were able to successfully organise the event.

Q: Can you share how your passion and desire helped in your volunteering?

A: My passion is empowering the next generation and my desire is to be part of the team in New Life to contribute to their works. It is also my desire for the running event to become a regular fundraising charity event that provides a sustainable source of funds to support New Life's cause.



STAFF INSIGHT



At my age, I would think I do not need excitement in life. My heart cannot take it. But God always surprises me.

I am incredibly excited to see how I am placed in New Life to serve the poor and needy. I count it as a blessing that I can be used to be a mentor to the children who are going through challenges in life; emotionally and physically. Through the values taught, hopefully the children will become more resilient and learn to have a renewed perspective in view of what they go through. I am also excited to be in partnership with people who love God and the community; my colleagues and the volunteers, people who want to walk alongside the children and families. They spur and encourage me as we live out kingdom values together. Many of them go the extra mile to reach out to the children and families so that change can begin.

I can live with such excitement.



Dancia Tan
Programme Coordinator,
Children Programmes

WHAT'S NEXT



KCC Holiday Activity

Children from Kids Champ Club (KCC) attended a culinary workshop in March and went through a learning session with the visually impaired in May. To consolidate their learning on Responsibility and Kindness this run, the children will visit The Food Bank Singapore for their KCC school holiday activity on 8th June.



P.A.N.D.A Champs' Learning Journey

This coming June, children from the student care centre will gain knowledge on the values of "Courage" and "Responsibility" when they attend the P.A.N.D.A Champs programme. As part of the programme, they will be going to Forest Adventure on the 18 and 27 June. Through this learning journey, it is hoped that the children will learn to be courageous as they take small steps to overcome the obstacle courses. In the process of going through the challenges, they will also learn to be responsible and look out for one another.

RECRUITMENT



New Life needs committed and passionate staff to reach the next generation!

New Life is deepening and expanding our services to the community. We are looking for talented people of all ages with a passion to mentor the next generation of youths and children. The following positions are available:

- Childcare Principal (Bukit Panjang Centre)
- English and Chinese Childcare Teachers (Woodlands Centre)
- Programme Coordinator (Children Programmes)
- Youth Workers (Programmes & Hub)
- Personal Assistant (Ministry) to the Executive Director

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DONATION

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