

THE NEW LIFE NEWS

JAN - APR 2020 • ISSUE 60



— Never Let a Good Crisis Go to Waste —

Just a few months ago, the word “coronavirus” was still foreign to us. But today, our waking moments are bombarded with non-stop media coverage about this pandemic. As this crisis unfolds, it is upending societies, sending countries into lockdown, and forcing people to make drastic changes to their lifestyle.

Some have described Covid-19 as an ‘equalizer’, for it does not discriminate when it comes to race or socio-economic status. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said, “Everyone is subject to this virus. I don’t care how smart, how rich, how powerful you think you are.”

However, looking deeper, Covid-19 is not an equalizer at all. While all of us are impacted in many ways, it hits the poor and vulnerable many times harder. It has sharply amplified the gulf between the privileged and the disadvantaged.

The poor and vulnerable are among the most affected as they tend to be in low-paying jobs, with few safety nets and insufficient wage protection. While many white-collar workers can work from home (WFH), for the many blue-collar workers such as construction workers,

cleaners, cab drivers, WFH means being out of job.

Many of us were in a frenzy buying mode to make sure we have sufficient stock of groceries. However, many of these poor can only pray that the items of their choice and budget range are still available once they have the means to buy them.

“I hope that Covid-19 will be remembered as a turning point wherein our society became more caring and compassionate, helping the weak and vulnerable, more conscious of the inequality and leaving no one behind.”

— Mr Eddy Neo, Deputy Executive Director
(Corporate Services & Special Projects)

This stark contrast was heightened again during home-based learning (HBL) in April. Some poor families lack access to stable Wi-Fi and laptops. While some of them were loaned with equipment, many of them live in small and crowded flats, which is inconducive for HBL.

Covid-19 has surfaced fault-lines and inequalities that our society was ignorant of or perhaps has chosen to ignore. More than ever before, the poor and vulnerable need our help..

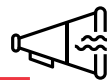
‘This too shall pass,’ says a Persian adage. But when this day comes and we look back, I hope our memories won’t be only be about circuit breaker, WFH, or despair. Rather, I hope that Covid-19 will be remembered as a turning point wherein our society became more caring and compassionate, helping the weak and vulnerable,

more conscious of the inequality and leaving no one behind.

Let’s re-write the Covid-19 narrative by taking action now. Let’s walk out of our comfort zones and extend help to those in need. And in doing so, may it also be a personal turning point where we rediscover a better version of ourselves.

As Winston Churchill said, “We should never let a good crisis go to waste.”

EVENTS & UPDATES



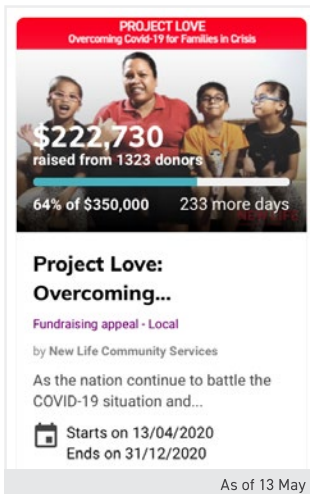
Youth Mentoring Goes Online

Despite temporary closure of the New Life youth hubs from 26 March due to the implementation of tighter safe distancing measures, mentoring work did not come to a halt. Since 7 April, all programmes and activities

have been moved online. The team also developed several creative ways of engaging and mentoring youths. #HangOuts is one that enables youths to do their homework and have conversations with their mentors while hanging out with the latter virtually. The team also explored videos on working out, baking, cooking, talk shows, etc. "We believe that it's important to stay connected with our youths during this situation. Through these meaningful touchpoints and positive engagements, we hope to stay positive and united as we brave this storm," shared Edwin Wee, Head of Youth Services. Check out New Life Youth's Instagram page @newlifeyouthsg for more details.

New Life Fundraising on Giving.sg

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis where donations are affected by the economic downturn and fundraising events such as Charity Golf being cancelled or deferred, New Life turned to Giving.sg to raise funds for the children in Steady Readers and needy families through Project Love with a target of \$20K and \$350K respectively. Giving.sg is a secure giving platform hosted and maintained by the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC). Donors can be assured that all donations will still be entitled to 250% tax deduction. Also, NVPC is waiving its usual 3% transaction fee till March 2021. To check out campaign details and to donate, visit tinyurl.com/nlcsgivingsg.



NEW LIFE FRIENDS' DAY

CELEBRATING THE HEART OF SERVING

New Life Friends' Day

19 April was New Life Friends' Day. This is an annual event that New Life celebrates by thanking and appreciating its volunteers over the Covenant EFC's Sunday English Services. In 2019, a total of 1,317 faithful volunteers selflessly stepped up to partner with New Life to serve the community. This year, with the temporary suspension of all services 'till 1 June, the special event took place via online streaming, where Edwin Wee, Head of Youth Services shared how the youth mentors and their mentees continue to engage one another through online activities such as #HangOuts. The story of a family who benefited from the Project Love financial assistance scheme before and during the Covid-19 crisis was also specially highlighted. New Life is grateful for the \$109, 313 raised for Project Love financial assistance scheme over one Sunday.

Partnership with #SGPAYSITFORWARD

64 needy families from New Life's Project Love were selected by #SGPAYSITFORWARD as one of their beneficiaries to receive care packs containing hand sanitisers, disinfectant sprays, antibacterial wipes, antibacterial handwash, Vitamin C and masks. #SGPAYSITFORWARD is a national movement for individuals and organisations to step up by buying a kit of essentials for vulnerable communities in Singapore. Formore info and to support this campaign, visit www.sgpaysitforward.com.



Photo credit: @sgpaysitforward
Instagram page

MINISTRY PARTNER



Kate Nai, Steady Readers volunteer since 2017

Q: What made you decide to volunteer?

A: There was a need for volunteers and I had the time to spare, plus the venue was within walking distance from home. I taught my children phonics when they were small. Being confident I could put my knowledge to good use, I decided to volunteer. Of course, getting permission from my husband and children is also critical because they have to bear with one simple dish meals on those days which I serve.

Q: Can you share your experiences while volunteering?

A: I thought all I needed to do was to teach the children phonics so that they could enjoy reading. Lo and behold, actual work exceeded my expectations. Besides weekly teaching, I had to prepare progress reports per child per run. On top of that, there was this graduation script to write and props to make for the children on their graduation day. The task looked daunting.

There were times I felt like throwing the rope and quit.

Especially when children did not seem to cooperate, attendance was not regular, and other behavioural problems. But the joy of seeing them transformed and the joy and pride I saw on their parents' faces, really motivate me to persevere – for a commitment of at least two runs till now.

This year, due to this pandemic, the class was postponed. I really miss the children. Really looking forward to seeing them when this pandemic is over.

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

A: Don't be too quick to quit. The joy surely outweighs all other sacrifices. Each run, I get to befriend a few sets of parents. They are appreciative of what the volunteers have done.

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

STAFF INSIGHT



One day, my eldest daughter, then six years old, asked, "What should good people do?" In that instance, the illustration of love flashed in my mind. I answered, "Tell the whole world about the love of God!"

"What, the whole world?! How are we going to do that!" she surprisingly asked with innocence.

As the volunteer and project management executive for New Life, my role is welded to the vision of why New Life was first created – to be a platform for God's love to be exemplified through tangible acts of service and care. I am thankful for the opportunities to help build up physical environments in order for that love to be practically demonstrated. I also look forward to bridging volunteers to find an avenue for them to love and serve the community in action.

And I answered my daughter with this statement, "We don't just love the world by telling but in actual showing."



Jason Lee

Volunteer & Project Management,
Corporate Development



20 Years of Faithfulness in 2020

2020 marks New Life's 20th anniversary. The theme for the anniversary celebration happening in November is "20 Years of Faithfulness".

As we celebrate our milestones of serving the community, we also give thanks to our faithful stakeholders, partners, volunteers and donors who made it possible for us to carry out our mission.



New Life volunteers conducted a survey dubbed as "Love Bukit Panjang" to 711 households in 1999 to identify the needs of the community. And in 2000, New Life was registered as a society and as a charity in 2001 with its first childcare centre. Some of the key pioneers involved were John Lim, ex-Board Chairman, CEFC Senior Pastor and ex-Vice President Rev Tan Kay Kiong, and Elder Lawrence Chua, ex-President and current Board Advisor.

RECRUITMENT



We need committed and passionate staff to reach out to the next generation. Turn your passion to career and join our team now!

POSITION AVAILABLE

» Director of Children Services

📞 6760 0533

✉ hr@newlife.org.sg

DONATION



As a New Life donor, your generous giving creates such amazing stories of transformation and lasting impact to the lives of our next generation.

Every cash donation is qualified for **250% tax deduction!**

📞 6892 7191

✉ donate@newlife.org.sg



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FUNDRAISING

To find out how you can participate in New Life's fundraising events, contact 📞 8767 7089 ✉ fundraising@newlife.org.sg

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MCI (P) 124/03/2020

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