MICA (P) 214/06/2012

THIRD QUARTER 2012



YMCA Proms @ the Park

Corporations and volunteers rally to bring cheer to beneficiaries while celebrating YMCA's 110th Anniversary

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- 13th YMCA Charity Golf and Lim Kim San Corporate Challenge
- YMCA 110th Anniversary Thanksgiving and Dedication Service
- New YMCA Project Bridge Vocational Development Centre opens path for at-risk youths

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Dear Members and Friends

Before I share more on the happenings at YMCA, I would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr Tay Puan Siong. YMCA Board Director and member of the YMCA Advisory Council, on being awarded the Public Service Medal (Pingat Bakti Masvarakat or PBM) at this year's National Day Awards. This honour. I believe, is also the Government's recognition of the role that YMCA plays in Nation building, through leaders like Mr Tay who has dedicated over 26 years of distinguished service to YMCA.

In the month of July alone, five major events were held in celebration of YMCA of Singapore's 110th Anniversary this year.

From 17 to 22 July, we hosted more than 150 youths from 15 countries for the YMCA Regional Youth Conference. Shortly after they arrived in Singapore, the youths had the privilege of visiting the Istana to meet His Excellency Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore and Patron-in-Chief of the YMCA of Singapore.

We also hosted Presidents, General Secretaries and staff from Twinning YMCAs and YMCA programme partners from the region for a Fraternity Dinner at YMCA to kickstart our 110th Anniversary celebrations for the entire week.

A YMCA 110th Anniversary Thanksgiving & Dedication Service was held at Orchard Road Presbyterian Church on 20 July. Representatives from the YMCA fraternity in the region. YMCA members, volunteers, Board members, management and staff came together to give thanks to God and reflect on His provision and blessings over the YMCA of Singapore for the past 110 years. YMCA Advisory Council, Board members, management and staff were also dedicated to His service.

Our new YMCA Project Bridge Vocational Development Centre at Bukit Batok

YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary

Serving God, Serving Community

was officially opened by Mdm Halimah Yacob, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports on 21 July. This Centre houses Vocational and Soft Skills Programmes including baking, hairdressing, hospitality and makeup to equip out-of-school youths and youths-atrisk with skills that will aid them in seeking employment.

On the same day, we organised a mega YMCA Proms @ the Park at Singapore Management University where over 2,000 beneficiaries and volunteers bonded over food, music and high energy stage performances in a carnival-like setting. The event was graced by Mr Sam Tan, Mayor of Central Singapore District.

The 13th YMCA Charity Golf was held over two days on 26 and 27 July at the Tanah Merah Country Club. Mr Lawrence Wong. Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, and Mr S Dhanabalan, Chairman of Temasek Holdings and the YMCA Advisory Council were the Guestsof-Honour respectively. Over \$320,000 was raised for the YMCA-Lim Kim San Volunteers Programme to develop volunteers.

On 24 August, an awards presentation ceremony & photo exhibition launch featuring 19 winning entries from the Tan Chin Tuan Photo Contest 2012 was held at YMCA. Themed "iCherish", the contest celebrated ties and bonds of friendship with photos exclusively taken at YMCA Proms @ the Park. Ms Chew Gek Hiang, Council Member, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation and Ms Yap Su-Yin, Deputy CEO, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation hosted the ceremony.

We are organising two more fundraising events in October. The Inaugural YMCA Appeal Gala Dinner on Wednesday, 3 October at The Fullerton Hotel aims to raise funds for the YMCA Community Service Programmes, YMCA Project Bridge and the YMCA Financial Assistance and Capability for Employment Scheme (FACES). His Excellency Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam will grace the event as the Guest-of-Honour.

The annual YMCA Flag Day will be held on Saturday, 20 October. We are targeting to mobilise 2,000 volunteers to help raise \$100,000 for the YMCA Community Service Programmes. I would like to appeal to all our members to support us in our fundraising efforts. You can sign up as a volunteer to sell flags, adopt a tin or make a donation towards the cause. For more information on how you can be involved, please visit www. ymca.org.sg/flagday/help.html

"A generous man will prosper; he who efreshes others will himself be refreshed. - Proverbs 11:25

In-His-Service

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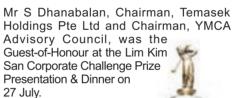
The Patron-in-Chief of YMCA of Singapore. the President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan meeting the region's youths at the Istana. The youths who hail from 15 countries participated in the YMCA Regional Youth Conference 2012.

Photo: Leo Simon YMCA volunteer professional photographer YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary Serving God, Serving Community

13th YMCA Charity Golf raises \$320,000 to promote volunteerism

The 13th YMCA Charity Golf was held over two days at the Tanah Merah Country Club Tampines Course to raise funds for YMCA to recruit, develop and recognise volunteers through the YMCA-Lim Kim San Volunteers Programme. For the second time since the competition was organised in 2000, the 13th YMCA Charity Golf was held over two days to cater to individual flights (on 26 July) and corporate golf supporters (on 27 July). Individual flights were taken up at \$2,000 per flight while corporate flights were sponsored at \$5.000 each.

At the Individual Tournament Prize Presentation & Dinner on 26 July. Guest of Honour Mr Lawrence Wong, (in his capacity as Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education) encouraged all golfers to explore the possibilities of getting their organistion to partner with VWOs like YMCA to serve the community. "By pooling your resources together, you have the power to make a tremendous impact in the lives of the less privileged in the community."



Singapore gifted artist, child prodigy Miss Gelyn Ong, 8, generously donated six of her paintings to be auctioned. A set of Mills aluminium club, Rodwell aluminium putter and antique golf ball, and a set of MacGregor Streamliner #2 wood (1937) and an antique golf ball, all donated by Dr Les Buckley, were also auctioned











Lim Kim San **Volunteers Programme**

Winners

26 July 2012 Individual Flights

Champion

Mr Alex Tan K L

1" Runner Up

Mr Chan Kok Mun

2[™] Runner Up

Mr Andy Poh

27 July 2012 Corporate Flights

Champion

Lim Kim San Corporate Challenge Lippo Realty (S) Pte Ltd

1" Runner Up

Lim Kim San Corporate Challenge Citi Singapore

2[™] Runner Up

Lim Kim San Corporate Challenge

GMG Global Ltd

Individual Champion

Mr Tan Lye Woo

1" Individual Runner Up

Mr Lim Hoo Wee

2[™] Individual Runner Up

Mr Lawrence Low



Lim Kim San Corporate Challenge 2012 participating corporations

The Lim Kim San Corporate Challenge is named in honour of the late Mr Lim Kim San - an Honorary Life Member of the YMCA of Singapore and shining example of volunteerism in his lifetime. His deeds continue to inspire many to follow in his footsteps even today. YMCA would like to recognise and thank the corporations who competed in the Lim Kim San Corporate Challenge.

Atos Information Technology (S) Pte Ltd ArrowCrest Technologies Pte Ltd Citi Singapore Courts Asia Pte Ltd Fouant Pte I td ESRI Singapore Pte Ltd Far East Organization Pte Ltd

GMG Global Ltd Ho Bee Investment Ltd Kangqi International Pte Ltd Keppel FELS Ltd Knight Frank Pte I td Lippo Realty (Singapore) Pte Ltd

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Sim Law Practice LLC Singapore Press Holdings Ltd Stamford Tyres International Pte Ltd Superior Multi-Packaging Limited T Systems Singapore Pte Ltd

TPS Corporate Services Pte Ltd Tuas Power Supply Pte Ltd Water's Edge Pte Ltd Xi Yan Pte Ltd

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YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary Serving God, Serving Community

YMCA-Lim Kim San Volunteers **Programme**































The volunteers programme is named after the late Mr Lim Kim San, one of the founding fathers of Singapore, and also an Honorary Life Member of the YMCA of Singapore.

The programme aims to promote and raise the standards of volunteerism, develop voluntee capabilities to better serve the beneficiaries as vell as recruit, train and recognise volunteers.

ntroduced in 2007, the key thrusts of the YMCA-Lim Kim San Volunteers Programme are the training and development of volunteers and promoting of Corporate Volunteerism hrough the Programme, YMCA has facilitated everal major corporations including Citi Singapore, Credit Suisse, NTUC FairPrice, PricewaterhouseCoopers Service LLP, Superio Multi-Packaging Ltd and more in mobilising their staff to serve across various structured and sustained YMCA community service programmes locally and overseas.

In 2011 alone, YMCA engaged over 21,000 volunteers who served more than 330,000 hours across various YMCA local and overseas community service programmes, touching the lives of over 7,500 less privileged. Collectively, in service value to the community through their voluntary work.

13th YMCA Charity Golf































YMCA Regional Youth Conference Serving God, Serving Community

YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary

YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary

Serving God, Serving Community

YMCA REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2012

onference Page

Youths were challenged to discover their talents and to enrich themselves to serve community at the YMCA Regional Youth Conference, an event of the YMCA of Singapore and the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY), organised by University-YMCA (Uni-Y) in celebration of the YMCA of Singapore's 110th Anniversary.

Over 160 youths (aged 17 to 25 years) from 22 YMCA movements across 15 countries namely Egypt, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Macau, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Japan, Philippines and Singapore participated in the YMCA Regional Youth Conference themed "STEP-UP: Encourage, Educate, Engage" from July 17 - 22, 2012.

On 17 July, the youths made a courtesy call on the Patron-in-Chief of the YMCA of Singapore, the President of the Republic of Singapore, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, who hosted them to tea and conversation with him at the Istana in support of youth volunteerism.

Mr Michael Palmer, Speaker of the House, Parliament of Singapore, launched the Conference held at Town Plaza Auditorium @ University Town, National University of Singapore, and addressed the youths.

Keynote addresses set the theme (Encourage, Educate, Engage) for each day, and there were four Parallel Workshops on topics relating to pillars of society (Business, Education, Family, Media, Leadership, Arts & Entertainment), and how every youth can be that positive difference in each of these pillars of society.

Invited speakers were Mr Kenny Low (Founder, City College and O School) who spoke on "Encourage"; Ms Anthonia Hui (CEO and Founder AL Wealth Partners Pte Ltd) on "Educate"; Prof Albert Teo (National University of Singapore) on "Engage".

There was also an Experiential Learning session on being visually-handicapped: the delegates were blindfolded to experience the challenges (dressing themselves, getting around with a cane, eating dinner) and



with a learning experience; unknown to the delegates, each one received a different quality and quantity of food for them to take the initiative to be conscious of and respond to social economic needs.

The youths were also given the platform

The youths were also given the platform to inspire one another by showcasing their talents in song writing, dancing, cheerleading, acting, video editing in YMCA Youth Got Talent. Delegates learned more about each other's culture through an evening of performance and interactive activities in YMCA Cultural Night.

Dreams flew high during the Conference closing ceremony finale. The youths wrote their dreams on over 160 helium-filled coloured balloons fitted with blinking LED lights, and simultaneously released their balloons into the night sky after a countdown at the YMCA Rooftop Pool Terrace.





Third from left: Mr Joshua Yau (President, Asia & Pacific Alliance of YMCAs), Mr Stephen Loh, President Dr Tony Tan, Ms Angelina Lim (Chairman, YMCA Regional Youth Conference and 2011-2012 and Uni-Y NUS President) and Mr Kohei Yamada (General Secretary, Asia & Pacific Alliance of YMCAs) with the Singapore delegation

About YMCA Regional Youth Conference 2012
An event of YMCA of Singapore and the Asia & Pacific Alliance of YMCAs, organised by University-YMCA (Uni-Y) Singapore from July 17-22, 2012. The theme was "STEP-UP: Encourage, Educate, Engage".

Objective

- 1. To Encourage delegates to attach greate confidence in their capabilities. Delegates will step out of their comfort zone to be equipped with a new skill, or step up to represent their local YMCA in their various projects.
- 2. To Educate delegates by enhancing their leadership and personal capabilities. The Conference will provide interactive platforms for them to develop a greater understanding and stronger network between various Uni-Ys. There will be creation of both formal and informal sharing and collaborative platforms between various Uni-Ys during and after the Conference.
- To Engage their local and international communitie through service. Delegates will be inspired to recognis their talents and use them to serve their communit by pledging to action on their learning.





















About Uni-Y

University YMCAs or Uni-Ys, are groups set up in tertiary institutions in Singapore with the mission of empowering youth to be servant leaders who will impact the local and international communities. Through conceptualising and executing innovative community service programmes, Uni-Ys also foster the development of leadership and social entrepreneurship among youths. The first Uni-Y was established in Singapore Management University in 2005, followed by National University of Singapore in 2007 and Nanyang Technological University in 2009.

Serving God, Serving Community

YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary Serving God, Serving Community

Christian **Development**

The YMCA of Singapore's 110th Anniversary Thanksgiving and Dedication Service was held at the Orchard Road Presbyterian Church on 20 July, attended by the YMCA Advisory Council, YMCA Board of Directors, YMCAmanagement & staff, YMCAmembers, twinning and partnering YMCAs from the

region, and partnering local VWOs.

YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary

The service commenced with the Call to Worship by Dennis Lee, Chairman YMCA Christian Development and Board Director. Mr Stephen Loh, President, YMCA of Singapore gave the Testament of Thanksgiving.

Bishop Terry Kee, President, National Council of Churches of Singapore and Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Singapore, exhorted on 'Serving God, Serving Community' .The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Teo Zi-Ming, Vice-Chairman, YMCA Christian Development Committee and YMCA Board





Congregation singing "He is Exalted", "Give Thanks" and "One Voice" during Praise & Worship



YMCA Advisory Council, YMCA Board Directors and Honorary Chaplains with Bishop Terry Kee



YMCA staff affirming "it is indeed a privilege to be called into service in this ministry of love and grace as Christ





Dedication of Board Members, Advisory Council Members,



Rev Melvin Huang, Chaplain, YMCA of Singapore and Pastor in-Charge, Wesley Methodist Church, officiating the Dedication





The YMCA Choir conducted by Seraphine Anne Chia, Vice-Principal, YMCA School



Stephen Rapkin playing the pipe organ for the Dedication & Presentation song,

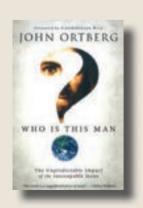


Rev Dr Graham Ng, Senior Minister. Orchard Road Prebyterian Church and YMCA Chaplain leading the Opening

Book Review

Who Is This Man by John Ortberg

Bishop Terry Kee speaking from the pulpit on 'Serving



Rather than just another book which tells readers who Jesus is, John Ortberg's latest title, 'Who Is This Man?', gives believers and non-believers alike a compelling reason to seek answers for themselves.

Ortberg's writing is spectacular in this book even when compared to his past titles as he points out in detail, the tremendous impact that Jesus has on our society over the last two millennia. Some influences affect us on a daily basis but we are unaware of them as we have long taken them for granted.

This together with Ortberg's unique ability to bring the events in the Gospel to life while keeping them in their historical context makes readers take a new look at the life of Jesus and ask for themselves exactly Who Is This Man?

Usual price: \$22.00

Special offer: \$17.60 (While stocks last)

Email: enquiry@sksbooks.com

Website: www.sksbooks.com

Location: 315 Outram Road, Tan Boon Liat Building, #09-03, Singapore 169074

Word From The Chaplain

THE PRIORITY **OF SPIRITUAL POVERTY**

Rev Melvin Huang (Pastor-in-charge, Wesley Methodist Church)

In this day and age when we are told to achieve our full potential, to "just do it", to just "believe" and "visualise" our way to achievement and success, the value of spiritual poverty is not something we want to hear about. It gets drowned out beyond oblivion, to our ultimate loss and true deprivation.

Yet spiritual poverty is a pillar of Christian Spirituality and a mark of those who truly wish to follow Jesus and His idea of success.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit..." (Matthew 5:3).

Oswald Chambers in his classic Christian devotional, "My Utmost For His Highest"

"The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount produces a sense of despair in the natural man - exactly what Jesus means for it to do. As long as we have some self-righteous idea that we can carry out our Lord's teaching, God will allow us to continue until we expose our own ignorance by stumbling over some obstacle in our way. Only then are we willing to come to Him as paupers and receive from Him. "Blessed are the poor in spirit..." This is the first principle in the kingdom of God. The underlying foundation of Jesus Christ's kingdom is poverty, not possessions; not making decisions for Jesus, but having such a sense of absolute futility that we finally admit, "Lord, I cannot even being

to do it." Then Jesus says, "Blessed are you..." (Matthew (5:11). This is the doorway to the kingdom, and yet it takes us so long to believer that we are actually poor! The knowledge of our own poverty is what brings us to the proper place where Jesus Christ accomplishes His work."

This is a core value that needs to be practised not only by individuals but by Christian organisations as well.

(Too often even Christian groups get carried away by a non-Biblical view of power and achievement that makes them no different from any other organisation).

Time to reassess our view and practise of true spiritual poverty because this is what Jesus blesses.

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Snapshots

Tan Chin Tuan Community Service Programmes

Supplies befriending

A mega annual YMCA Proms @ the Park

YMCA of Singapore organised its largest annual YMCA Proms @ the Park on 21 July, bringing together over 2200 corporate volunteers, public befrienders, overseas YMCA partners, YMCA volunteers, and beneficiaries from 27 voluntary welfare organisations for a concert and mega picnic. Mr Sam Tan Chin Siong, Mayor of Central Singapore District, was the guest-of-honour.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the mass singing of "Happy Birthday YMCA of Singapore" by everyone present at the Singapore Management University

3M Singapore, Citi Singapore, Consortium 168 Architects Pte Ltd, Credit Suisse AG, DHL Global Mail (Singapore) Pte Ltd, Esri Singapore Pte Ltd, Holcim (Singapore) Pte Ltd, International Y's Men's Club of Singapore (Alpha Chapter), Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd, NTUC FairPrice Foundation, Orange Business Services, Singapore Police Force, Strategic Alliance, Toppan Security Printing Pte Ltd, Tuas Power Ltd, UPS, Yeap Medical Supplies Pte Ltd donated and/ or sponsored items and partnered assigned VWOs during Proms

Entertainment was provided by:

- Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road) Chinese Orchestra
- YMCA Ballet School
- YMCA Zumba
- YMCA Korean Mums Group
- Latin Dance (by Luigi & Hristina)
- Cantonese / Hokkien / Teochew / Mandarin singing by Mrs Susan Lim
 • Hip Hop Dance (Tfest)
- Y Guitar Club

YMCA of Singapore recognises that many corporations may not have the resources or experience to venture into corporate volunteerism and since 2007, YMCA has staged Proms @ the Park to make it easy for corporations to come on board to experience volunteering. YMCA hopes that after the initial introduction, corporations will commence their long-term volunteering

YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary Serving God, Serving Community Serving God, Serving Community

Photos: Tetty Murniaty Teh and Xavien Ang, YMCA volunteer photographers





Esri Singapore Pte Ltd with Community Network



Holcim (Singapore) Pte Ltd with Thye Hua Kwan Seniors Activity Centre@ MacPherson

Toppan Security Printing Pte Ltd with Thye Hua Kwan



DHL Global Mail (Singapore) Ptd Ltd with Care Corner Seniors Activity Centre



Strategic Alliance with National Kidney Foundation Singapore





UPS with Community Care Network Seniors

Singapore Police Force volunteers

serving up Papitto Gelato for Christalite

Corporations and volunteers bring cheer to beneficiaries while celebrating YMCA's 110th Anniversary



Susan Sy CREDIT SUISSE AG CREDIT SUISSE Corporate Citizenship APAC, HFPA

Citi Singapore with Thve Hua Kwan Seniors Activity

Consortium 168 Architects Pte Ltd with Tampines Family Service Centre

NTUC Fairprice Foundation with Community Care

Mr Chew Kwee San (YMCA Treasurer and Board Director), Mr Samuel Chan (YMCA Board Director) and Mr Stephen Loh (YMCA President) leading the singing

L-R: Mr Sam Tan (Mayor of Central Singapore District),



About YMCA Proms @ the Park

In 2007, YMCA inaugurated YMCA Proms @ the Park, a community outreach programme that brings corporations and voluntary welfare organizations together. YMCA Proms @ the Park comprises a concert and mega picnic in the park that brings cheer to beneficiaries through various types of performing arts and interaction with volunteers. The programme also facilitates corporations to embrace corporate social responsibility and engage their staff in volunteering to serve the less privileged in a meaningful way.

New Project Bridge Vocational Development Centre opens path for at-risk youths to become gainfully employed

A school dropout turned Lancome Beauty Advisor. An out-of-school youth who now aspires to be a patisserie entrepreneur. A delinquent who is now a hardworking Customer Service Associate. These are just three of many youths whose lives have been transformed through the Vocational and Soft Skills Programme offered by YMCA Project Bridge.

The Vocational Development Centre of YMCA Project Bridge which runs the Vocational and Soft Skills Programme, was officially opened on 21 July 2012 by Madam Halimah Yacob, Minister of State, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

Located at Bukit Batok Street 21, the 327 sq metres YMCA Project Bridge Vocational Development Centre conducts the Vocational and Soft Skill Programme (VaSSP), providing at-risk youths with certified training in hairdressing, make-up, hospitality in food & beverage and baking for employment. What set this programme apart are the interpersonal and soft skills (job interview preparedness) training, and the mentoring and support given by YMCA youth counsellors during the youths' training course.

To-date, 42 youths have established an interest and purpose in life after successfully completing their VaSSP. YMCA Project Bridge has run five VaSSP intakes since July 2011 with corporate partners Kimage School of Hairdressing, School of Makeup, Baking Industries Training Centre and Jamiyah Business School to impart invaluable vocational training. The youths have since found employment at Chewy Junior United Pte Ltd, Lolita New York, Park Hotel Group, Hair Folio, YMCA Y Café, Poise Atelier, Benefit Cosmetics Singapore and Watsons.

Mr Stephen Loh, President, YMCA of Singapore said, "When we look at these youths whose lives have been transformed, we are gratified that the VaSSP benefitted them by imparting invaluable knowledge and more importantly a better clarity of their life goals. I am sure that they feel the pride in themselves to have evolved so much. Today, we celebrate another VaSSP milestone in 2012, that is, the physical realisation of our Vocational Development Centre premises to provide a more centralised and nurturing service."

The idea of the YMCA Project Bridge VaSSP was conceived as early as 2009 after a survey



L-R: Mr David Wong (former YMCA Director), Mr Teo Zi-Ming (YMCA Director), Mr Eric Teng (YMCA Director), Guest of Honour Mdm Halimah Yacob, Mr Stephen Loh (YMCA President), Prof Ho Peng Kee, Ms Magdalene Sik (YMCA Director), Ms Peace Wong (YMCA Project Bridge Committee Member), Mr Peter Tay (YMCA Director) and Mr Tan Hock Seng (Assistant Director, MCYS Central Youth Guidance Office)

on youths who are early school leavers, who have chosen to withdraw themselves out of the mainstream education by their own choice or circumstances to explore life options and employment. Youths are referred to YMCA Project Bridge by schools and voluntary welfare organisations.

The National Council of Social Service has subsidised \$117,059 for the capital funding of the Vocational Development Centre which cost \$225,000 to set-up. The YMCA Annual Appeal channels donations to operate YMCA Project Bridge. The youths pay a nominal \$100 to \$300 each (subject to means testing) for attending VaSSP.

Referral Process

The Vocational and Soft Skills Programme (VaSSP) receives referrals through:

- Schools
- Government agencies
- Social service organisationsCorporations
- Public

The Admission Process 1st Week: Registration

2nd Week: Core Training Course Job Search & Interpersonal Skills Training Discipline and Motivation Training

2 - 3 months: Job-specific Skills Training

Hairdressing, Make-up, Hospitality Food & Beverage or Pastry Making

3 - 6 months: Career Counselling: on the job training / enrol in other professional training courses Certificate of Participation

Admission Criteria

- Singapore Citizens or Permanent Resident
- 2. Unemployed youths or school leavers aged between 15 and 21 years
- Educational attainment GCE N Level or below
- Pass the YMCA Project Bridge admission interview
- 5. Able to commit and attend full-time training and achieve 75% attendance

Sponsors

The YMCA Project Bridge Vocational Development Centre and Vocational and Soft Skills Programme are supported by the National Council of Social Service, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, schools, voluntary welfare organisations, industrial companies and reputable training institutes that share the same advocacy passion for at-risk youths through:

- Referrals of youths who need the programme
- Professional tailored training programmes to accommodate the level of learning of the youths

- Donations of essential teaching tools, materials for the vocational training programme
- 4. Professional consultations and creation of training materials/ programmes
- 5. Employment or on-the-job training for the youths
- On site collaboration (where employers work with our counsellors to help youths foray into working life)

Address YMCA Project Bridge Vocational Development Centre Blk 212 Bukit Batok Street 21 #01-225 Singapore 650212

Tel: 6362-0900 Email: projectbridge@ymca.org.sg



L-R: Mrs Helen Tan (Principal, YMCA School), Guestof-Honour Mdm Halimah and Mr David Wong (former YMCA Director)



Universal, a band comprising YMCA Project Bridge youths, showcasing their musical talents





Kindergarten 1 and 2 children from YMCA Child Development Centre @ Bukit Batok delighting with their 'Racial Harmony Day' celebration song & dance



Ho Wen Jie, 17

en Jie dropped out of school at age 13 and ran away from home. He realised he could not find a suitable job after stints as a waiter, retail assistant and fruit seller. He had no plans for his life. He relented when his school counsellor contacted him and introduced him to VaSSP. He learned basic skills in baking and after three months on-the-job training, he became responsible for his time and finances.

"I was lost before I came to VaSSP. I stopped schooling when I was 13 years old and since then I tried working so that I could earn a living. I realised it was not as easy to find a job at such a young age. I had worked in a restaurant as a waiter, a retail shop selling clothes, and even selling fruits at a fruit stall. But there were times where I had to take up some part time jobs like packing, giving flyers and sales promotion. At that time, I did not have plans for my life. All I wanted was to earn money. However, while working in a restaurant, I eventually realised that I had to improve myself in order to get a better future. One day my school counsellor called me and introduced me to VaSSP.

Though I was not very comfortable initially, I realised that they had trained me to communicate with other people during core training. I learned basic baking skills at Baking Industry Training Centre (BITC). The vocational training taught me not only how to bake cakes, pastries and bread, but also exposed me to the baking industry and helped me understand how it is like to be in

this industry better. The chefs at BITC were all very friendly and patient with us, and through their life stories, I was inspired to follow in their footsteps.

The first on-the-job training interview I had was with a baking factory which was about an hour and a half by away by bus from my home. I decided to give it a try as I saw much learning opportunity. However as time went by, I realised that the long travelling distance was too much a challenge for me and I decided to guit after 2 weeks. Fortunately, after evaluating with my social worker from YMCA, I was given another interview chance with another baking company, Chewy Junior. The outlet they offered me to work in was much nearer to my house, and in the end I stayed on till the completion of my OJT. Looking back. what had helped me to complete my OJT successfully were the helpful supervisors I had in Chewy Junior. They were always there for me to teach and guide me when I needed help. These 3 months of OJT experience have helped me to learn how to manage my own time and money better.

After the 6 months' VaSSP, I am very sure of my talent in baking, and I have found my goal in life - I want to set up a business to sell my pastries. This new goal I have found has made me a more disciplined and a motivated person. To reach my goal, I am now back studying at BITC for the proficiency course. Then, I hope to work with some baking companies to get more working and baking experience. And in the near future, I hope to get my Diploma in Baking.

All these would not have happened if I did not attend VaSSP. Hence, I would like to take this opportunity to first thank my school counsellor for introducing me to VaSSP. Secondly I would like to thank the chefs from BITC and my supervisors from Chewy Junior for teaching me so much about baking and the industry. Last but not least, I want to thank VaSSP staff for the programme, and all the guidance and support you guys have given me to make me a better person."

The YMCA Project Bridge Vocational and Soft Skills Programme

The Vocational Development Centre

YMCA Project Bridge is a direct service of the YMCA of Singapore that reaches to out-of-school and youthsat-risk aged between 13 and 19, through meaningful programmes with the aim of integrating them back into society.

The Vocational and Sort skills Programme is an initiative by YMCA Project Bridge. Besides, four vocational training programmes conducted by corporate partners, youths are equipped with job competency skills in the compulsory core training programmes while being supported with social work intervention and mentorship services.

To enrich their lives and help them improve on their social skills, youths at YMCA Project Bridge are given opportunities to serve in YMCA community service programmes locally and overseas, attend adventure and sports camps and participate in enrichment programmes with the volunteers.

Ambassadors of the YMCA movement get together

Photos: Willy Kang

In recognition of the close programme partnership between the YMCA of Singapore and our Twinning and Partnering YMCAs, we hosted a Fraternity Dinner at our poolside terrace, an evening of fellowship in celebration of YMCA of Singapore's 110th Anniversary, to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

Greetings, congratulatory messages and blessings were extended to the YMCA of Singapore while special gifts were exchanged. Guests were entertained by Accidental Wake-up, a group made up of former YMCA of Singapore staff.

In his welcome address, YMCA of Singapore President Mr Stephen Loh said, "To our brothers and sisters from fellow YMCA movements overseas, I am heartened to see so many of you here and I thank all of you on behalf of the YMCA of Singapore for literally going many extra miles just to be amongst us this week and to share in our joy as we celebrate our 110th Anniversary!

On behalf of the YMCA of Singapore, I would like to thank and acknowledge all our Twinning YMCAs and overseas YMCA programme partners for supporting our programmes in one way or another. Without your support and facilitation, YMCA of Singapore would not have been as successful in gaining access and organising the various programmes to touch lives and lift spirits among the less privileged communities overseas."



YMCA of Singapore Assistant General Secretary (Social Enterprises) Ms Lynette Yeo (third from left) with Shanghai YMCA

From left: Board Member Mr Zhao Jun, Board Member Mr Qiu Min, Ms Lynette Yeo, Staff Ms Yu Yang, Staff Ms Wang Junyi, Board Member Mr Huang Weilun and Staff Mr Li Yuanho Stephen Loh



Mr Kohei Yamada, General Secretary, APAY, YMCA of Singapore Board Director Mr Eric Teng, Mr Stephen Loh and Mr Joshua Yau Chung Wan, President, APAY



Mr P S Anandarajah, Vice President, Sri Lanka Batticaloa YMCA, Dr D D David, General Secretary & CEO, Sri Lanka Batticaloa YMCA and Mr Stephen Loh



Ms Oranuch Lerdkulladilok, Program Director, YMCA of Bangkok, Ms Chularat Phongtudsirikul, Acting General Secretary, YMCA of Chiangmai and Mr

Message from Joshua C W Yau President Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

"Mr. Stephen Loh, President of the YMCA of Singapore. Directors and dignitaries, as well as all the staff of the YMCA of Singapore Distinguished guests, local and aboard As the president of APAY, I am pleased to extend our heartiest congratulation to the YMCA of Singapore on the occasion of the 110th Anniversary Fraternity Dinner.

The YMCA of Singapore has served God and the community for 110 years. The outstanding service in Singapore and countries in Asia Pacific has been well recognised.

Whenever I reflect on all the excellent service provided by the YMCA of Singapore, the words of the apostle Paul come to my mind:

I thank my God every time I remember you. I always pray with joy in my every prayer for you... For I am sure of this very thing that the one who began the good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:3,4,6)

The founders and predecessors of YMCA of Singapore started the good work more than a century ago and the present leadership and the dedicated team are scaling new height. Upon the solid foundation in Christian faith and the dedicated servanthood leadership nowadays, the YMCA of Singapore has been developed not only to be an outstanding NGO but also a caring community of Christian love, 'perfecting' the 'good work' by touching lives and lifting spirits.

From the perspective of APAY, the YMCA of Singapore is a very active partner who serves many YMCAs in our region. Without her staunch support and the service offered by their volunteers, the APAY could not have accomplished the mission to empowering our youth. The regional youth conference held as part of the 110th Anniversary celebration is a perfect example of the important role of YMCA of Singapore in APAY. Those participants of the Conference can witness how they have been encouraged, educated and engaged.

As we gather to celebrate this special occasion, we pray God will bless you on the journey from good to great that you will be the channel of blessing of God. We look forward to your continued efforts to APAY in empowering our youth in our region and enhancing the quality of life of others until 'the day of Christ Jesus'.

May God bless each and every member of the family of the YMCA of Singapore."

YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary Serving God, Serving Community



Nur Amirah Bte Ardnan, 17

life for the better. That may sound like a dramatic statement but honestly, I don't know where I would be without this programme

I lost my interest in studies due to bad company while in Secondary 1, started failing in Secondary 2 and officially dropping out in secondary 3. My school tried so many ways to get me more engaged in my studies. I spent every single day just sitting at home waiting for a miracle to happen. At that point of time I was only looking for one thing in life; a purpose. What is the reason to wake up every morning?

One day, my school counsellor recommended me to join the YMCA VaSSP makeup course. She had recommended a few programmes before but they were all not helpful to me. This time, I decided to give VaSSP a try.

I attended the five-day core training where I met strangers, youths like myself and VaSSP staff Shirley, Shannon, Wai Cheng and Benjamin all of whom I started to call friends. The core training was my favourite part of VaSSP as I learnt so many life skills that I have never known. The activities and games were so much fun and there was always a hidden life skill we brought home at the end of each day. The most helpful skill we learnt was about how to handle a job interview. The tough role play put us in a position where we learnt how to handle a real life interview. I finished the core training with full confidence and ready to start the

I am now doing part time studies for my 'N' level at ITE College West. At the same time, I looked for a job. I can't possibly depend financially on my parents anymore and by supporting myself through a part-time job, I am also indirectly helping them out financially. I had many unsuccessful interviews but these

next stage of VaSSP, the vocational training.

My first day at The School of Make Up was

extremely nerve wrecking. The trainers taught

us a lot on the skills of makeup and at the same time, they were also like sisters and mums to us. This is where I finally found what I've been looking for all these years. I

found my purpose, a reason to wake up to every morning. I have found my own worth.

After completing the vocational training, I went

for the on-the-job training which I received

a salary. Despite being extremely excited at

first. I realised that this was not the job for

me. Although I was secretly afraid that I have

made a bad decision. I still staved positive

and looked at the glass as half full instead

of half empty. I realised how education was

important for me no matter where I go, so

I applied for private 'N' level and made a

commitment to own at least an 'N' level

experiences were enriching and worth it. I am now working as a Beauty Advisor at Lancome and have worked in the beauty industry for about six months. I am beginning to have a sense of belonging in my job. Although I am still unsure about my future and coping with working and studying is really difficult, I am determined to finish what I have started. The words of inspiration that I hold dear are from Mr. Peter Angel, the Principal of The School of Make Up. He shared that he stood at his counter for seven years before he achieved his success. For now, I don't mind working at my counter for many more years to come, but who knows where I may end up next if I try harder?

My advice is to dream big. This is where all dreams start. VaSSP has taught me to live and hang onto my dreams no matter how tough. I hope that more youths will know about VaSSP."

About YMCA Project Bridge

Idm Halimah praising and congratulating Ho Wen Jie

Snapshots

Touring the new Project Bridge Vocational Development

YMCA

Project

Bridge

Centre baking kitcher

A Lighthouse for Youths

YMCA Project Bridge is a direct service arm of YMCA of Singapore that reaches out to youths-at-risk and out-of-school youths aged 13 to 19 through meaningful programmes, with an aim to integrate them back into the society. To enrich their lives and help them improve on their social skills, youths at YMCA Project Bridge are given opportunities to serve in YMCA community service programmes locally and overseas, attend adventure and sports camps and participate in enrichment programmes with the involvement of volunteers.

YMCA Project Bridge was initiated in 1999 as a crime prevention pilot project by the Inter-Ministry Youth for Crime on a partnership basis between the YMCA, National Youth Council and Northwest Community Development Council. It was very successful at engaging out-of-school youths in the northern part of Singapore. It provided out-of-school youths with a supportive social environment and exciting activities. From this project, we learnt that resilience in youth and families built desire of out-of-school youths to stay in school. Besides, youths have an on-going need for meaningful and "real" connection with adults in their social world.

To date, we have reached out to 2268 youths/ parents/ peers. In 2011, over 1200 hours in counseling and intervention sessions conducted by Project Bridge case workers.

Serving God, Serving Community

Snapshots

YMCA
Education
Services

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Aileen Cronin and Annabel Spalis visiting Singapore from Nottingham Trent University, England, volunteered their time at five YMCA Student Care Centres (SCCs) from June 18 to 22. The soon-to-graduate primary school teachers visited YMCA SCCs at Loyang Primary School, East View Primary School, Jurong West (a community-based SCC), Gan

"The children are not only cute but also obedient. Once they have been given instructions and discipline, they will do it straight away," Annabel commented.

Eng Seng Primary School and St Margaret's

Primary School.

Tricia Lim

www.ymca.edu.sg

Tel: (65) 6586 2382

One Orchard Road, Level 2, Singapore 238824

Aileen and Annabel seized the opportunity to use London 2012 Olympics to engage the children in learning about sports and Britain. They started class with a short introduction of themselves and the Olympic Games, followed by a torch-making session. The children had the chance to not only make their own torches, but

United Kingdom teachers volunteer at YMCA Student Care Centres

Photos: Lee Jia Yi



Aileen Cronin with students from YMCA Student Care Centre @ East View Primary School

also the country flags they were representing, and Olympic medals.

The afternoon sessions kicked off with an opening ceremony before proceeding to outdoor games that ended with an award ceremony where every child was awarded

the medal he or she had made. Every child was a winner that day.

Besides the visits to the centres, Aileen and Annabel joined in with the YMCA Community Programmes team for a Y Camp Challenge visit to the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled

A subsidiary of the YMCA of Singapore

Period: 11 Oct 2010 - 10 Oct 2014

Reg No. 201020152Z

of Singapore at Lorong Napiri on 20 June.

Although it was just five short days that Aileen and Annabel spent with the students, the children enjoyed their presence as much as Aileen and Annabel enjoyed their visits. Aileen stated, "Everybody's been very welcoming. We learnt how to communicate effectively with the local children and being able to make changes to the lesson plan according to the number of children."

The children from the SCCs were equally

positive about Aileen's and Annabel's visit and the Olympic-themed sessions. "I enjoyed the interesting activities like making the Olympics torch." remarked Phoebe Ong, 9, from YMCA Jurong West SCC. Leo Darryk, 11, from YMCA East View Primary School SCC added, "I got to know more about the opening ceremony. I had fun trying out the mini Olympic games."

Through this voluntary visit, Aileen and Annabel have shown that volunteerism is possible not just within the country itself but also internationally. Their itinerary to YMCA

SCCs was planned by Lee Jia Yi social entrepreneurship intern from Ngee Ann Polytechnic. Jia Yi also accompanied Aileen and Annabel throughout the five days.

"Aileen tells me, you have been very supportive and helpful over the organisation of the trip and placement. This has been very much appreciated by both girls and me." -

Barry Cronin, (Director of Community Services, YMCA Watford, UK and Aileen's father) to Lynette Yeo, Assistant General Secretary, YMCA Social Enterprises.



Annabel and Aileen together with YMCA Student Care Centre @ Gan Eng Seng Primary School teachers and students



With 'Olympics torch bearers' at YMCA Student Care Centre @ St Margaret's Primary School

Innova Junior College students enact World War II experience

By Grace Chiang, YMCA Canberra Student Care Centre Senior Teacher



A 'Thank You' montage presented to Innova Junior College by appreciative children from YMCA Student Care Centres with Lynette Yeo, Assistant General Secretary, YMCA Social Entreprises (extreme left)

A group of Innova Junior College students conducted a YMCA CIP (Community Involvement Programme) on World War II for YMCA Student Care Centre children. The programme started with a play and an introductory video on the Japanese Occupation. The children learned the hardships encountered by civilians, the breakdown in economy and the struggle against the oppressive rule during wartime Singapore.

The children later formed groups to visit various booths and were given 30 minutes



Innova Junior College students reenacting World War II scenes to an attentive YMCA Student Care Centre audience in the YMCA Lee Kong Chian Auditorium

to complete games such as 'End of Japanese Occupation - Problems in Singapore (I)', 'Singapore during Japanese Occupation (I)', 'End of Japanese Occupation - Problems in Singapore II' and 'Singapore during Japanese Occupation (II) - War Heroes'. They also competed for 'Most Well-behaved

Group', 'Most Cooperative Group' and 'Most Enthusiastic Group' titles.

To conclude the programme, the Junior College hosts screened a video of Rulang Primary School students on their hopes and dreams for Singapore.



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I was assigned to medical consultation and

health education / games. Challenges were

met on first contact with communication

barriers, that, we could possibility be thinking

that the villager has a headache when he

has an itchy scalp, if not for the help of local

translators. The same for a villager who kept

pointing to his tummy - I would have had

much difficulty thinking of the many possible

differentials if not for the translator. Picking up

few words of their language also helped to

break the ice much to the locals' amusement.

Serving God, Serving Community

YMCA Rebuilding Communities Programme in Sri Lanka

(May 14 - 22, 2012)

A team member touched. Reflection by Dr Chong Keat

Photos: James Ji



"On this trip, I participated as one of the medical doctors. My first trip to Batticaloa was in 2010 when I was still a medical student.

In preparation for the recent trip. we gathered to design posters for health education in areas of proper food preparation, management of cuts & wounds and diarrhoea. We also prepared materials to entertain the children and to facilitate our teaching. A suggestion we thought of after our trip in 2010, was to teach basic first aid skills to a few in each village so that in the event of injuries, basic first aid may still be provided while en-route to the nearest health facility. As such, we created first aid kits and came up with a simple and concise syllabus to empower a few village representatives to use the kit.

During the trip, we prepared for 3 days of mobile clinics and with the help of the whole team of doctors and nurses, medication was stocked and reconciled. In the daily mobile clinics, the roles of team members were rotated to ensure equal exposure to triage, consultation, pharmacy dispensary



The main difference I felt in 2010 and now would be the conducting of consultations. It is hence, an added joy in spending more time to speak to the local villagers, understand their problems, derive a diagnosis and propose a treatment plan and medications they are comfortable with. In all other aspects, it is almost similar as everyone in the team serve for the same goal and purpose be it a medical student or medical doctor.

It is indeed as what many veteran doctors who go on humanitarian trips say that it is always back to basics, when you see a patient in the rural areas. With no access or knowledge of laboratory blood tests, precise history taking and physical examinations were keys to solving their ailments.

satisfaction especially when the youngest kid in the group could perform a return demonstration perfectly on tooth brushing, for example.

The 2010 trip was the first organised by YMCA of Singapore to Batticaloa. It has been definitely meaningful for me to know how much has progressed and changed since. Several heartening

In the health education / games section, both

a mother and son would sit side by side to

listen attentively to us, giving us pressure of

speech that if we stopped speaking, their

attention would go wasted. We derived much

how much has progressed and changed since. Several heartening encounters included seeing several villagers continuing on their high blood pressure medications given in 2010, with their blood pressure now relatively well controlled. Another villager previously referred for a cataract operation is now waiting for an operation on her right eye after having done so for her left.

It was definitely a meaningful trip, knowing that improvements could be made for the locals, especially in the sense of increasing health awareness. Staying in Singapore allows readily accessible medical facilities, hence, we may always tend to take them for granted. In rural areas of Sri Lanka, where seeing a doctor means walking for several kilometers to and fro, mobile clinics I believe would be useful

In the short duration of 3 days, I would only be able to reach out to a small group of people, therefore, with the local doctor continuing to follow up on the villagers, the loop could be closed. Then, it is not just my service, but the entire team's service that is meaningful."

About YMCA Rebuilding Communities Programme in Sri Lanka

Organised jointly with Batticaloa YMCA, YMCA of Singapore continues to support bi-annual medical missions to Sri Lanka to provide basic health care and health education for villagers who have been displaced by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and Sri Lankan civil war. YMCA of Singapore also funds a local medical team comprising a doctor, nurse, medicine dispenser and driver to visit villagers twice a week. This on-going programme serves the medical needs of 8 villages. To volunteer, donate, enquire: please email James Ji at international@ymca.org.sg

New YMCA Merchandise Promo



YMCA Necktie (100% Silk) \$32.00 (with GST)



Bear in Denim \$15.00 (with GST)



YMCA Singapore T-Shirt (Adult) **\$14.00 (with GST) each**

YMCA Singapore T-Shirt (Kid) **\$12.00 (with GST) each**



Sticky Notepad (5 colours available) \$2.50 (with GST) each



YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary

SKS Books Warehouse has been serving the Christian community in Singapore and around Asia faithfully over the last 20 years by providing one of the widest selections of Christian resources available in one single location.

With more than 90,000 titles in our store, we are dedicated to bringing in the latest Christian materials and resources so as to serve the Christian community in Singapore and around Asia to the best of our abilities.

YMCA members' privileges: Complimentary SKS Books Membership

Special discount* (20% off) on the following titles: Disciplines Of A Godly Young Man by Kent Hughes & Carey Huges

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Be A YMCA Member

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SLICE is Singapore's first quick-service restaurant that serves pizza by the slice. SLICE is about defying the convention of pizzas as "shared food". At SLICE, customers can enjoy the freedom of ordering a wide range of pizza in single slices without having to commit to a 12".

YMCA members' privileges: FREE 1 slice of pizza when you buy 2

20% discount for birthday party packages organised at Slice

Not applicable to promotional items and special offers

Free delivery to YMCA of Singapore Minimum order for delivery is \$15

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Email: info@slice.sg

Website: www.slice.sg

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SliceSingapore

Membership enquiries: Call 6586 2255/ 56 or email: members@ymca.org.sg

Y Factor | Third Quarter 2012

and health education/ games.

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Be A YMCA Volunteer

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YMCA of Singapore celebrates 110th Anniversary

Serving God, Serving Community

YMCA-Tan Chin Tuan Community Service Programmes

If you have a heart for the intellectually, physically and mentally challenged, abused and underprivileged children or elderly, we want YOU! YMCA of Singapore organises regular activities to improve the lives of the less fortunate.

Please note that programme details are subject to change and volunteering slots are subject to availability.

To register as a YMCA volunteer, please fill in your details in the YMCA Volunteer Management System at http://vms.ymca.org.sg/vms

For enquiries, please email volunteer@ymca.org.sg

Monthly

Y Makan Fellowship

Date : 27 October 2012
Time : 9.00am to 1.00pm
Venue : Indus Moral Senior Activity

Centre

Date : 17 November 2012
Time : 10.00am to 2.00pm
Venue : YMCA of Singapore
Tan Chin Tuan Room 1

Date : 19 December 2012 Time : 10.00am to 2.00pm Venue : YMCA of Singapore

Auditorium



Beneficiaries from Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society (Bukit Merah) at Y Makan Fellowship held at YMCA of Singapore, sponsored by Dr Robert Loh

Y Outings -Blue Cross Thong Kheng Home

Date : 6 October 2012
Time : 9.00am to 1.30pm
Venue : NeWater Visitor Centre

Date : 3 November 2012 Time : 9.00am to 1.30pm Venue : Singapore Zoo

Date : 1 December 2012 Time : 9.00am to 1.30pm

Venue : Singapore Science Centre

Y Outings -Association for Persons with Special Needs Centre For Adults

Date : 20 October 2012
Time : 9.00am to 1.30pm
Venue : YMCA of Singapore

Date : 17 November 2012
Time : 9.00am to 1.30pm
Venue : Sentosa

Quarterly

Y Camp Challenge

Date: 13 December -

16 December 2012

Venue : TBC

Briefing

Date : 7 December 2012
Time : 7.30am to 9.30am
Venue : YMCA of Singapore

or

Briefing

Date : 8 December 2012
Time : 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Venue : YMCA of Singapore

Visit Y Camp Challenge blog to read testimonials of past Y Camp Challenge volunteers:

http://ycamp-stories.blogspot.com/





"We appreciate your programmes especially rock climbing, zipline, campfire night, disco. They were enjoyable and unforgettable for our beneficiaries. Coordinators worked well in organising all the activities. Safety and all precautionary measures were ensured. The efforts and efficiency of the committee responsible for maintaning the safety of the area was well appreciated. Team leaders and volunteers showed a tireless smile; unity and teamwork were noticeable. Thank you!"

Joanne Lochica Lacsamana Staff of MINDS @ Napiri Children's Wing

"I had the chance to be a part of Y Camp as a volunteer. Y-Camp is a very meaningful event. Not only does it give our buddies' parents and caregivers a short break, it also allows our special needs buddies to experience something different from their daily routine - to learn minorthings like washing their own utensils after meals. All the baby steps will go a long way for them in life. It also lets us, volunteers, understand these unique and special group of friends. And definitely, make us want to reach out to them even more.

My friends in other groups have wonderful things to say of their leaders too. After Y Camp, my group plans to go out and help these friends with special needs. We will link up with you to go to Rainbow Centre. This is how much the leaders have inspired and influenced us. I hope YMCA will organise more Y-Camps, and you have not only me, but also my friends' support for such a meaningful and well organised event. Looking forward to future Y-Camps and also community service events from YMCA. Congratulations on the job well done!"

Loy Joon Wei, 22 YMCA Volunteer

Seeking volunteers and donors for YMCA Flag Day, 20 October 2012

YMCA is seeking the involvement of schools and churches to sell flags on YMCA Flag Day, 20 October 2012.

YMCA also welcomes individuals to take up pledge cards. Corporations can help too by adopting a collection tin at \$50 each.

All funds raised will go towards funding 19 structured and sustained YMCA Community Service Programmes that reach out to over 2,000 intellectually, mentally and physically challenged, out-of-school youths and youths-at-risk, abused and underprivileged children, the elderly and the poor in 35 partnering voluntary welfare organisations and self-help groups.

To volunteer, donate or enquire, please email flagday@ymca.org.sg