

# ywwLink



The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.  
Lamentations 3:22,23

Jan - Mar 2012

A quarterly newsletter of the YWCA—Young Women's Christian Association of Singapore

[www.ywca.org.sg](http://www.ywca.org.sg)

## Highlights



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## Thoughts from the Editor

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.  
~St Theresa of Lisieux

"We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love"  
~Mother Teresa

"Because he loves me," says the Lord,  
"I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation".  
~Psalm 91:14-16

As we begin a new year, we thank God for his continuing blessings and look forward to another year where we can show our faith in our deeds. The last quarter's activities as reported in this issue had been diverse and reflected our outreach to our members, beneficiaries and volunteers. We are always grateful to our donors, corporate partners and volunteers who believe in our mission and contribute to our work. We look forward to another year of making a difference to the community.

May God bless you and keep you safe in 2012.

Tan Kee Leng  
Editor

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## Upcoming Events

EVERY LAST MONDAY OF THE MONTH  
(BEGINNING FROM FEBRUARY)

### JOY TALK

Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge,  
Grace Room (Level 2),  
6 Fort Canning Road  
Singapore 179494

Time : 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm

07 MARCH

### INVESTMENT OUTLOOK FOR 2012

(EXCLUSIVE TO YWCA MEMBERS ONLY)

Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge,  
Pool Terrace I & II (Level 3)  
6 Fort Canning Road  
Singapore 179494

Time : 6.15 pm – 7.15 pm  
(registration & dinner)  
7.15 pm – 8.30 pm  
(investment talk)

Fee : YWCA members - \$15 per  
person (Inclusive of a non-  
vegetarian dinner. Fee is also  
applicable to friends and  
immediate family members of  
YWCA members.)

17 MARCH (SATURDAY)

### COOKING CLASS

Venue : To be confirmed

Time : To be confirmed

Fee : To be confirmed

NOVEMBER

### WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER

Venue : To be confirmed

Time : To be confirmed

28 NOVEMBER (WEDNESDAY)

### YWCA FLAG DAY 2012

Venue : Island wide

Time : 9.30 am – 1.30 pm;  
1.00 pm – 5.00 pm

DECEMBER

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Venue : To be confirmed

Time : To be confirmed

For more information, please contact  
Membership Department at tel: 6223  
1227 or email members@ywca.org.sg or  
visit our website at www.ywca.org.sg.

### Visit from Ms Pirjo-Liisa Penttinen (YWCA of Finland)

In September 2011, Ms Pirjo-Liisa Penttinen, National General Secretary of the YWCA of Finland, visited the YWCA of Singapore. She was en route from Frankfurt to Manado, Indonesia, to represent World YWCA at a Global Christian Forum and made a stopover in Singapore for a couple of days before continuing on her journey. Ms Liisa had met some of the Board Members of the YWCA of Singapore at the World Council meeting held in Zurich in July.

A casual lunch meeting was arranged at the YWCA Fort Canning Lodge between Ms Liisa and some representatives of the YWCA of Singapore which included Mrs Ma Kheng Min, President of the YWCA of Singapore and Mrs Leung Yee Ping, Executive Director, and two other staff. Ms Liisa shared briefly about the work of the YWCA of Finland. There was also an exchange of gifts between the two associations.



Mrs Ma (left) together with Ms Pirjo-Liisa (right)

## Community Services

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### YWCA Kids' Club and Meals-on-Wheels for Children

Between the months of October and December 2011, a series of events were organised for the beneficiaries of Kids' Club and Meals-on-Wheels for Children by our corporate volunteers. Children from low income families between the ages of 5 to 12 years old were invited to participate in these events. It was very encouraging for us to witness the positive interaction between the volunteers and the young children. We strongly believe that through the various activities which our volunteers took great effort and time to plan, they have sowed seeds of hope and encouragement into the hearts of the children. We hope that these outings have brought much joy and fond memories for our volunteers and beneficiaries!

Last but not least, we would like to thank all our corporate volunteers for blessing our beneficiaries abundantly through their thoughtfulness and generosity!

#### Road Safety Community Park outing organised by United Parcel Services (UPS)

In conjunction with their Global Volunteer Month, on Saturday, 15 October 2011, United Parcel Services (UPS) organised an outing for more than 20 children from Kids' Club to the Road Safety Community Park located at East Coast Park.

It was the beginning of an exciting day for the children as they gathered at the meeting point at 9 am. The event started with a welcome briefing by the Traffic Police followed by going around the road safety circuit. Each volunteer was paired with a child as they embarked on their quest to complete the circuit. The children were grouped into three teams namely, pedestrians, cyclists and go-karters. During the circuit, the children had a chance to learn more about road safety and courtesy such as signaling early, giving way to other road users and waving to say thanks. At the end of the circuit, the UPS team quizzed the children on what they had learnt and prizes were given for the correct answers. The event ended with a picnic lunch and photo taking with the Safe Roads Mascot.

The day was indeed both enjoyable and educational! We hope the children will grow up to be daily ambassadors of road safety and courtesy!



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### **Holiday outing organised by Media Development Authority (MDA)**

30 children participated in the holiday outing organised by the staff from Media Development Authority (MDA) on Friday, 2 December 2011. The children were pleasantly surprised when everyone received a goodie pack early in the morning after they met the volunteers. The volunteers brought them to Marine Cove at East Coast for a bowling session. It was their first time bowling for many of the children. Lunch was at every child's favorite place – McDonald's – where the children ate heartily! Finally, they were treated to a cartoon movie "Happy Feet 2" at Tampines Mall!

All the children were beaming with joy and satisfaction after an eventful day of fun and laughter!



and generous volunteers also shared the joy of Christmas with the families of the children. Each family was blessed with a grocery package containing items such as food and toiletries at the end of the outing.



### **Dry ration donation drives organised by YWCA Kindergarten and Child Development Centres (CDCs) and International Baptist Church**

The YWCA Kindergarten and Child Development Centres (CDCs) organised a Christmas Donation Drive last year to collect dry rations such as dry provisions and toiletries for the needy and underprivileged. Through this Donation Drive, it is hoped to inculcate the importance of caring and sharing for the needy and underprivileged in our midst and also cultivate the spirit of generous giving in the children. This initiative is also in line with the objectives of the centres' new CARE PROGRAMME which will be launched in March this year.

Appeals were sent to all the parents from our 11 centres to support the low income families under the YWCA's Meals-on-Wheels for Children programme. Many parents led by example and responded to the appeal for donations.

For the past two years, church members of International Baptist Church responded to the call to support the low income families of YWCA's Meals-on-Wheels for children. This year, parents from the church's children ministry donated food items, toiletries and household items over a 3-week period in the month of December 2011. The church has also generously donated tins of milk powder to alleviate the financial burden of families with young children, at the same time, ensuring that infants and toddlers receive the important nutrition necessary for healthy growth.

It was heartening to see donations pour in from all our kind-hearted and generous parents and members of the International Baptist Church!



### **Christmas celebration organised by CISCO Systems**

This year, our beneficiaries celebrated Christmas in a unique way on Friday, 16 December 2011. Unlike the Christmas celebrations in the past, staff from CISCO Systems gave our children the golden opportunity to design and decorate their own log cake this year! The children were extremely delighted by this DIY experience as they could choose from a wide range of coloured piping bags, toppings and decorative icings. When they were done, it was a proud moment for all as they confidently showed one another their creations. After that, a magician entertained the children with magic tricks which left many of them in wonderment.

When it was time for dismissal, everyone eagerly looked forward to going home to show their family their log cakes. Our thoughtful

## Events

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### Senior Citizens' Lunch

Senior Citizens' lunch is a yearly event organised by the YWCA to show our appreciation to our senior citizens.

This year, the Membership & Programmes Committee decided to hold this event on Monday, 10 October 2011, at the Fort Canning Lodge.

The highlight of this year's lunch was a ukulele performance by Mr and Mrs Patrick Ng, who are our YWCA members. They entertained our guests with many familiar songs and had everyone join in the sing-along session. They performed oldies which included "I'll Never Find Another You", "Red River Valley" and "Pearly Shells". Their spirit of volunteerism was indeed an encouragement to our senior members that they are not too old to learn a new hobby in their golden years or be a volunteer at the YWCA. At the end of their performance, everyone gave the couple a thumbs-up for their excellent performance.

Overall, the senior citizens enjoyed the day's programme and also the delicious Nonya lunch that was served by the Fort Canning Lodge staff.



*Performance by Mr and Mrs Patrick Ng*

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### Staff Dinner & Dance-cum-Volunteers' Appreciation Night

On Thursday, 06 October 2011, the YWCA held its annual Staff Dinner & Dance-cum-Volunteers' Appreciation Night at the Amara Hotel. More than 250 people attended the function and joined in the fun and celebration, including staff of the YWCA from the different divisions, Board members, Committee members, regular ad hoc volunteers as well as donors.

This year, the theme was "Sarong Party Glam". Everyone was really enthusiastic and put in great efforts to dress up for this special occasion. Most guests came dressed in their elaborate and colourful sarong kebayas.

The emcee for the evening was none other than well-known celebrity entertainer, Moe Alkaff. With his gregarious and outgoing personality, he was the livewire of the evening, charming the crowds with his humorous antics.

Many fun games were played throughout the night and great prizes were won in the Blessing Draw. In addition, there was also the "Best Dressed Competition" and nominees were invited up the stage to perform a dance. The winner of the competition was the staff who received the loudest applause from the audience.

Dinner was a scrumptious buffet spread consisting of a wide variety of appetisers, main courses and desserts. It was indeed a fun-filled and memorable evening for everyone!



# Events

## Christmas Bazaar

The YWCA Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday, 10 December 2011, at the Fort Canning Lodge (FCL). There were a total of 69 stalls selling a wide range of products such as food items, accessories and apparels, handmade wares as well as Christmas decorations and trinkets. Our Child Development Centres (CDC) helped to organise games stalls in the multi-purpose hall, transforming it into a Dinosaur Park. There were also opportunities to have a photo taken with the Star Wars Troopers and Santa Claus also came by for a visit.



There were also performances planned throughout the day - Christmas carolling by choirs from various churches and a musical presented by the Boesch family. The children from Bishan and McNair CDCs also presented a selection of their favourite Christmas tunes. We also had the privilege of giving out Bursary Awards to seven deserving children on our Meals-On-Wheels for Children programme who had done well in their school examinations. The day ended on a high note with the boisterous drumming group, "the Bloco Drummers", drumming their way through FCL!

Funds raised through our in-house stalls go toward the funding of our Community Outreach Services such as our Meals-on-Wheels for Elderly and Children programmes.

The YWCA is grateful to all its staff, volunteers, performers, stall vendors and all who played a part to make the Christmas Bazaar 2011 a great success.



# Events

## Christmas Joy Talk

Every last Monday of the month, we gather for Joy Talk at Fort Canning Lodge (FCL) at noon for food, fellowship and also to be nourished by the Word of God. On 28 November 2011, the YWCA organised a Christmas Joy Talk. There were a total number of 60 attendees who joined us for the event.

We were very privileged to have Pastor Ivan Lee who led in worship and shared the Word with us. The topic Christmas Joy Talk was "All I want for Christmas". We all know what we want for Christmas and like Santa, we might even have prepared a list. However, Pastor Ivan challenged us to know what God wants for Christmas instead - to have salvation, protection in this world and unity for this Christmas.

Joy Talk will recommence on 27 February 2012 in the Quiet Room at FCL. We look forward to seeing you then!



## YMCA/YWCA Week of Prayer 2011

The YMCA/YWCA Week of Prayer 2011 was held from 14 – 18 November 2011. The theme for this year was "Young People: A Voice to Influence, A Generation to Treasure". The YWCA hosted the lunchtime fellowship on Wednesday, 16 November. A total number of 140 people attended this event.

The YWCA was privileged to have Pastor Mary Lau from the Mennonite Church to bring us the Word of God. Her topic for our lunchtime fellowship was "A Voice to be Nurtured", inspired by the verse, 1 Timothy 4:12. We have learnt from Pastor Mary that we need to identify the Timothys who are in our midst, nurture them and provide a platform for them, just like how Paul exhorted his young disciple, Timothy.

The love offering collected from the lunchtime fellowship was given to the Rivers of Life Ministries, which is based in West Kalimantan, a province in Indonesia. Led by Rev Ronny Heyboer, the Rivers of Life Ministries provide for children in crisis by giving them education and medical support. Thank you for those who have given generously and supported our partners in Christ.

The YWCA would like to thank YMCA and MYMCA for their support and partnership in organising the YMCA/YWCA Week of Prayer 2011 and also to all who attended its lunchtime fellowship. We look forward to the event in 2012 for we know that God will do greater things in the year ahead.



## Jeremy and Shumin Nguee

Interviewed by Karen Chay



Jeremy and Shumin volunteering at the 2010 Cook-out event

Meet Jeremy and Shumin Nguee, your average young couple in Singapore whose favourite pastimes are eating and travelling, just like most Singaporeans. On their frequent quests for good food and travel destinations, sometimes they squabble just over where to go and what to eat.

An accountant turned chef, Jeremy is the founder of an up-and-coming food preparation and catering business, Preparazzi, which whips up healthy and classy packed meals for busy Singaporeans. Preparazzi also offers customisable meals and private chef services for clients who prefer a fine-dining experience in the comfort of their homes. Having recently won Martell V.S.O.P The Ultimate Start-up Space 2011 Competition in August with his business model, Jeremy is becoming a familiar face in the local media circle with the recent surge of media hits.

In spite of their busy schedules, Jeremy and Shumin are also involved in the volunteering scene, having volunteered together with the YWCA since 2008. Although the YWCA's volunteers are predominantly females, Jeremy did not have any initial reservations volunteering with a women's organisation as he felt strongly for the YWCA's missions and objectives. Instead it was great to have so many "mummies" looking out for him. Both husband and wife serve in the Y-Cook Committee (previously known as the Cookbook Committee). Among other food-related activities which the Y-Cook Committee engages in, it also publishes food publications such as cookbooks, calendars, diaries and greeting cards to

raise funds for the YWCA's community and welfare services as well as to raise awareness of the Association. If you have purchased any of the YWCA's publications, you would have noticed pages of photos of mouth-watering dishes. The masterminds behind these photos are none other than Jeremy and Shumin, who double up as the YWCA's food photographer and food stylist respectively. Every photoshoot is conceptualised, painstakingly styled to perfection right down to the smallest detail and photographed by the couple.

### **What is your most rewarding and enjoyable volunteering experience so far?**

The yearly YWCA Cook-out event is always great fun. At the Cook-out in 2010, I singlehandedly deep-fried almost 200 chicken wings. I'll never forget how that felt.

### **What keeps you motivated to continue volunteering with the YWCA each year?**

The fellowship amongst volunteers and how everybody strives to have fun while volunteering with the YWCA.

### **Jeremy, you took part in The Ultimate Start-up Space Competition in August this year and your business plan was the winning idea. What were your first thoughts when you found out that you had won?**

Praise the LORD! And then when reality sets in, "Oh no! What am I supposed to do now?"

### **How has winning the competition changed your life so far?**

There are more obligations on top of my main business such as media interviews and planning for the new restaurant.

### **What's your typical day like?**

Sadly, it's almost like my old office job. I start my day by clearing emails. My first round of meeting starts at 10 am. By 2 pm, I am in the kitchen meeting with my staff to discuss new menus, do food tastings and prepare for the busy weekend ahead. After a final round of meeting at 6 pm, I have dinner with my lovely wife. Then it is back to clearing my final round of emails and I'm done for the day!

### **What is your future plan?**

See where God leads us. Right now, I'll just take one day at a time.

### **Any word of advice for those who are also inspired to strike out on their own?**

Make plans and test them, speak to lots of people and get advice from those who have gone before you. Pray and trust God to lead you every step of the way.

### **If you could turn back the clock, what would you have done differently?**

I have made mistakes but they were also important lessons for me. One important lesson that I've learnt is "If your plan doesn't work out, it's just God's way of telling you He has a better plan for you."

### **How would you want to be remembered?**

The guy who helped mothers feed a new generation.

### **If we took a look inside your refrigerator today, what can we expect to find?**

Sake, cheese, kangaroo meat, chocolate, miso, XO sauce, frozen ramen, frozen corn, cod, and definitely butter, milk and eggs.



## Knowing God's Ways

By Rev Henson Lim, Deputy Senior Pastor of Covenant Vision Christian Church and Dean of Covenant Vision School of Ministry

As we all know, life is a journey. Some seem to cruise along with little or no effort whilst others seem to meet road blocks and detours. If only there can be clear signs to show us where to go and how to get there. That would be great, wouldn't it? Then we would always know the way.

But more than just a way, or the way, I want to know God's way. That is the best way because God knows and sees the big picture. His plans for me are good and not of evil, and His ways get me to the destination He has prepared for me.

Is this really possible? Of course, it is! And it's really not as complicated as some people make it out to be. I was richly blessed when God showed me three truths in Psalm 25:4,5 and I'd like to share these with you.

"Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day." Psalm 25:4,5

**Show me Your ways:** Firstly, ask God to show you His ways. It's that simple! God will gladly oblige because He wants you to know His ways. The challenge for many is that we present our ways to God and expect Him to bless and endorse our whims and fancies. Or, some may approach God with their own pre-determined options. And when God does not answer according to their expectations, the result is discouragement and disappointment. But God desires for you to know His ways – not any other way, but His ways. God says to call to Him, and He will not only answer you, but will also show you great and mighty things (Jer 33:3).

**Teach me Your paths:** The first part was the easy part, but don't stop there. Just because God shows us His ways doesn't mean we will necessarily accept and walk in His ways. We need to learn and that calls for God to teach us. Ouch! That explains why many miss God's ways, because teaching and training involves discipline, correction and change. And that doesn't sit too well with many of us. But if we remain teachable and allow God to train and change us, we will begin that His paths lead to life, to peace and to joy! Ask God to teach you. You may not like what you have to unlearn and relearn but take heart ... it will enable you to walk straight and well along His ways.

**Lead me in Your truth:** Whenever God challenges us to do something, He never leaves us alone and without help. Not only does He show me and teach me, He is also there to lead me! Jesus came precisely for these reasons. Lost humanity had little hope of knowing God's ways. So God sent His Son, Jesus, to show us, to teach us and also to lead us. Jesus Himself blazed the trail and set the ultimate example of a life of faith and purpose. He is fully qualified to lead us for in Him is the Way, the Truth and the Life!

Life is full of surprises and uncertainty. Which way is the right way? I thank God that all the guesswork can be removed by my decision to walk in His ways. After all, God's ways are far better than my ways; for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways and thoughts higher than mine (Isa 55:8,9). Truly, there is no better way than God's way!

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Rev Henson Lim is in fulltime ministry with Covenant Vision Ministry in Singapore. He serves as a Pastor at Covenant Vision Christian Church and Dean of Covenant Vision School of Ministry. On the homefront, he is a husband to a lovely godly woman, Serene, and father to seven beautiful children.

The following article is reproduced with permission from Rev Henson's personal website and blog [www.brotherhenson.org](http://www.brotherhenson.org). Further reproduction is prohibited without permission.

# Announcements

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## Welcome on Board

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The YWCA is pleased to welcome new staff joining the team. We welcome Lim Gim Huay (Cook), Oh Soon Hock (Attendant) and Lim Wun Lan (Accounts Assistant) at NOF; Toh Lian Tee (Cleaner) at Bukit Gombak CDC; Koh Siew Guek (Office Secretary) at Marine Drive CDC; Naziah Binte Mohamed Sureez (Teacher) at West Coast CDC; Teng Peiling Jaclyn (Teacher Aide) at Outram CDC; Lai Say Lin (Language Teacher) and Sandy Koh (Principal) at Bedok CDC; and Seah Siew Ling (Teacher) at Bishan CDC.

At Fort Canning Lodge, we welcome Gracia Salvilla (F&B Sales Coordinator), Iskandar Bin Mohamed (Guest Service Officer), Yogeswary a/p Rajagopal (Sales Executive – Rooms); Mok Siew Leong (Room Attendant); and Kaladevi a/p Vayapury (Waitress).

## Volunteers Needed for our Community Services!

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Join us as VOLUNTEERS and make a difference in the lives of the needy in our community! For volunteering opportunities, please visit our website at [www.ywca.org.sg](http://www.ywca.org.sg) or contact Membership at tel: 6223 1227 or email: [members@ywca.org.sg](mailto:members@ywca.org.sg).

## Life Time of Memories

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We are looking for past YWCA mementoes and collectible items such as old newsletters, newspaper articles, souvenirs, etc. as part of our efforts to preserve the YWCA's heritage. If you have any old mementoes which you would like to contribute towards this cause, we would love to hear from you! For more information, please contact Ms Karen Chay at tel: 6223 1227.

## Suggestion Box

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We welcome your views and feedback! If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve on our programmes and services or if you have any creative ideas for fund raising activities or community service projects, we would love to hear from you! Drop us an email at [admin@ywca.org.sg](mailto:admin@ywca.org.sg).

## YWCA Recipe Greeting Cards

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As another fund raising initiative by the Y-Cook Committee in support of the underprivileged in our local community, the YWCA has launched a set of limited edition recipe greeting cards featuring six selected recipes from our popular 2010 Celebrations Diary such as Sugee Cookies, Roast Lamb Rack with Almond Crust, Cold Buckwheat Soba Salad, Tandoori Chicken, Beef Rendang and Tom Yam Mee Siam. The cards are blank on the inside so they are perfect for any and every occasion.

Make every occasion special for you and your loved ones as you send your love and thoughts to them using these lovely fundraiser cards. Each set of six cards are only priced at \$6.00 so get your cards now and help someone in need today!

The cards are available for sale at the YWCA National Office located at 254 Outram Road, Singapore 169051 and at the YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Front Office, located at 6 Fort Canning Road, Singapore 179494. For enquiries, please contact Ms Karen Chay @ tel: 6223 1227 or email: [karenchay@ywca.org.sg](mailto:karenchay@ywca.org.sg).



# Child Development Centres

## Appreciation Letters from Parents of McNair CDC

On Friday, 18 November 2011, Bishan CDC, Outram Kindergarten and McNair CDC held a combined Concert-cum-Graduation Ceremony at the YWCA Fort Canning Lodge. The theme chosen was "Rejoice". A total of 420 parents, friends, Board Members and Principals from the other YWCA CDCs attended the event. We are very blessed that the concert was well received by parents and friends as exemplified in many of their congratulatory notes and compliments to us. All these were made possible because of a team of dedicated and hardworking teachers and also the enthusiasm of our children. We thank God that the event was able to run smoothly without hitches although we believe there are areas we can do better and improve on.



Here are some letters from our parents who have expressed their appreciation.

Dear Mrs Lim,

We have been with YWCA McNair CDC since 2004 and we have seen the centre grow from strength to strength over the years. Even though there is still some room for improvement, I am comforted to know that the organisation as a whole is constantly striving for excellence and teaching the children correct Christian values and to be more like the image of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we draw a close to 2011, we would like to thank all the teachers of the centre for their dedication, perseverance and hard work that they have put in throughout the year. The icing on the cake for us was the Graduation Ceremony on the 18th of November. It is truly amazing to see our children perform with such poise and confidence to an auditorium full of eager parents. In particular the performance by our K1 and K2 students which had a good synergy of not only song and dance but drama which was very well choreographed. Credit must go to their teachers (namely Ms Ifah and Mrs Salleh) for their enthusiasm and patience in teaching and guiding the students along.

The great attitude and motivation the teachers display also largely reflects on the leadership they follow. Once again, thank

you for the fantastic year and a job well done. May the peace and love of the Lord be with you and all those around you.

God Bless.

Parents of Joy and Josiah E. Anandha,

Dear Mrs Lim,

This was my first time attending the YWCA concert and I enjoyed it. The MC was spontaneous and kept both the children and parents entertained and engaged in the performances. The story and music for each performance item was well-selected and the dance was well choreographed. I can imagine the time and efforts put in by the teachers and children to prepare and rehearse for the performances. The logistics in terms of organising the parents and children were also well looked into. It was a good arrangement for the children to be returned to their parents at the end of the concert as it 'forced' parents to stay and support the event to the end, although this meant that teachers and helpers had to care for the children and keep them happy for the whole day.

A suggestion for your consideration is to hold the annual concert on a Saturday. Overall, it was an enjoyable concert!

Well done, principals, teachers and children!

Warmest regards,

Mrs Chaw

Mother of Chaw Liang (K2)



Dear Mrs Lim,

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful production of YWCA's 2011 Christmas Concert! Your staff have done an absolutely amazing job coordinating the event and it has been a pleasure watching our little graduates proudly accept their certificates that evening and their delightful performance on stage. Our little Sara has grown so much under your programme and your staff. We are very grateful for the guidance. We have seen much positive development from both of our children during each term and really appreciate the careful attention and communication your team has provided. We are also very impressed by the outside programmes selected by the YWCA for continual development and preparation for their upcoming primary education. Both our children are very happy with your programmes and staff. We have also noted significant developments and growth in their personal value system and discipline which is very rewarding for our family on the overall.

Great job and a heartfelt thanks to your entire staff!

Kind regards,

Derek Ching

Parents of Sara Ching (K2)

# Child Development Centres

## Dear Diary ...

by Corrina Lee, Principal of Jurong East CDC

### Graduation Ceremony-cum-Year End Concert

The graduation ceremony on Saturday, 05 November 2011, is always a special occasion for the Kindergarten 2 children - the culmination of the years of experiences in the centre; the actualisation of goals and the acknowledgement of successes achieved. So, it is only fitting that we commemorate the road that they have all traveled together over the last few years. The Year End concert "Paradise Jungle Jamboree" which was held at Home TeamNS was a proud moment for both parents and children. All 84 children from the centre, aged 2 to 6 years, performed dances and songs; recited poems, rhymes and jingles; and narrated stories on stage. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all parents and staff for the fantastic role they have played to facilitate this process and in particular the support of the Executive Director, Mrs Leung Yee Ping; YWCA Board members and Child Development Committee members. Last but not least, all the dedicated volunteers who have in one way or another contributed to the success of the event.



### Excerpts of Appreciation Notes from Our Parents

... The school's graduation ceremony and performances by the students on 05 Nov 2011 was an eye-opening event. As parents of the children, we felt touched and happy after seeing our children performing & speaking confidently on the stage. It made us feel proud. ... - Parents of Low Teng Wai (K2)

... During the entire process of concert preparation, I can see that many teachers and staff were involved. They had put in lots and lots of creativity and hard work. I very much appreciate all the effort put in by all to make the event such a wonderful one ... It is interesting to see how the kids have grown and matured. At least for me, I was able to see my 'AGM' (Andrew, Gabriel

and Matthew) in this aspect. - Mrs Kee, Mother of Gabriel (K2) & Matthew (PG)

Congrats! Enjoyed the concert very much! Thanks to the Principal and teachers' guidance. - Melvin Lo

Congratulations on the success of the inaugural performance (05 Nov 2011) put up by the adorable children at the Home TeamNS. The ability to fulfil these tasks speaks volume of the dedication of the teacher's ability and the standards set ... We had a good time at the concert, once again, thank you for all the hard work. - Mrs Ng, Mother of Bryson and Belinda

### Staff Training

From 02 - 03 December, our Centre organised a series of training workshops for our staff. The first workshop was "Enhancing Easy Learning through Play" conducted by Judy Goh. Our teachers learn that play is the most effective method of learning as it is through play that the children learn and gather experiences. The second workshop was "Achieving A Leading Image" conducted by Marion Teo. The workshop was fun and interactive and included mini lectures, role plays, demonstrations and hands-on practices. At the end of the workshop, the staff learnt how to dress well and also how behaviour and etiquette play an important role in creating and projecting a winning and successful image for the Association as well. The last workshop was an in-house sharing and reflection session. The teachers engaged in classroom play to think of new and creative ways to help the children connect their every day life experiences through games.



### Christmas Bazaar

The YWCA Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday, 10 December 2011. The day before, we went to Fort Canning

enthusiastically to decorate our stall - the "Fishing-Game" - for the big day. There was excitement and fun as we watched and cheered the children as they eagerly fished their prizes with delight in their eyes. It was a fun and exciting event for both the children, parents, visitors and staff.



### Visitors from China

On Thursday, 15 December 2011, we had the pleasure of welcoming 20 delegates from the early childhood field from China, (Shanghai). The delegates represented sixty centres across China and Taiwan such as 'Bilingual Intelligence Development School', "SMILE" (SQ, MQ, IQ, LQ, and EQ) - a knowledge network of Professionals and Continuing Education Association in the Early Childhood field. We shared with our visitors the mission, vision and philosophy of the YWCA; our centres' programmes and events; the education system and the multilingual and multicultural heritage in Singapore. We exchanged ideas and engaged in discussions on teaching ideas, school management, teacher training and sources of funding. The delegates were grateful to the YWCA for hosting them and presented the centre with a plaque with the Chinese wordings that are translated to mean "Better Education, Better Future".

