

ywwLink



"I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first." Revelations 2:19

Jul - Sep 2013

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

www.ywca.org.sg

Highlights



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Editors' Note

The Joy of Being Involved

We are indeed blessed and grateful with many volunteers, both individuals and from corporations who want to be involved in our community services. One such volunteer is Brandon who volunteers with our Kids' Club and he is featured in our Spotlight this issue. We have corporate volunteers who have experienced the joy of being involved in our community services and their stories are also in this issue.

What is joy? Is this different from happiness? Find the answer in Pastor Janet Yan's article on page 10.

Many have written on the differences between joy and happiness. Most will agree that you will live a life of joy through kindness to others and in volunteering, you will find joy in your life. Joy is mentioned 242 times in the Bible. Joy is God's abiding presence.

"Look behind you and feel gratitude. Look ahead and see opportunity. Look upwards and know the divine. Look within and discover joy."
– Author Unknown

We have many volunteering opportunities in YWCA and always need more volunteers as our community services continually expand. We welcome all those who wish to be involved and bring joy to others less fortunate than ourselves and at the same time experience the joy of being involved.

"..the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith." – Galatians 5:22

Tan Kee Leng, *BPM*
Editor

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Upcoming Events

JOY TALK

26 AUGUST, 23 SEPTEMBER, 28 OCTOBER (MONDAYS)

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

Time : 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm

SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCH

24 OCTOBER (THURSDAY)

Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge
Multi-Purpose Room (Level 1)

Time : 12.00pm – 2.00pm

VOLUNTEERS' APPRECIATION LUNCH

2 NOVEMBER (SATURDAY)

Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge
Sophia Cooke Ballroom (Level 2)

Time : 11.30am – 2.00pm

For more information, please visit our website at www.ywca.org.sg.

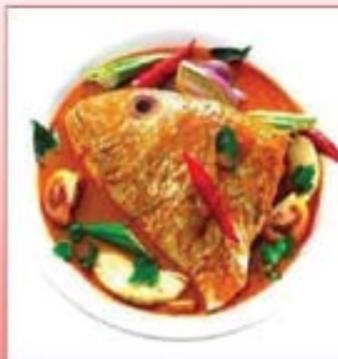
YWCA News

Cafe Lodge Monthly Promotion

CAFÉ LODGE

MONTHLY PROMOTION

Order our Curry Fish Head at only **\$23.00++ per serving** [for 2 persons] and you can add on any one of the following side dishes below at only **\$5.50++ each**!



Side Dishes

- Sweet and Sour Pork
- Deep-fried Chicken with Shrimp Paste
- Wok-fried Vegetables with Twin Mushrooms
- Braised Beancurd with Minced Chicken
- Fu Yong Egg with Shrimp

THIS PROMOTION IS AVAILABLE ONLY FROM FRIDAY TO SUNDAY FOR LUNCH FROM 11.30AM TO 2.30PM AND DINNER FROM 6.00PM TO 9.00PM

*Last order at 8.45pm
Price is subject to 10% service charge and 7% GST
Terms and conditions apply

YWCA News

Annual Flag Day 2013

By Nicole Chua

This year, YWCA'S annual Flag Day will be held on Saturday, 17 August 2013. We are targeting to raise \$50 000 to support our various community services. Operation centres will be set up across the island – Fort Canning Lodge, Ang Mo Kio MRT station, Jurong East MRT Station, Pasir Ris MRT Station, and Velocity at Novena. Fundraisers will be spread out all over Singapore to appeal to the public for their generous donations. If you are keen to make a donation to help us reach our goal to help the underprivileged in our community, feel free to drop us an email at members@ywca.org.sg.

Senior Citizens' Lunch

By Wong Zhanhui

Come celebrate with the YWCA as we honour our senior citizens for their contributions to family and society on Thursday, 24 October 2013. Join us for a sumptuous lunch held in appreciation and recognition of their many years of love and service. Lunch is served from noon at the Multi-Purpose Room on Level 1 of Fort Canning Lodge. Also look out for the launch of our new 2014 Recipe Calendars available for sale at the event.

Pay-2-For-3 Flavours of Asia Buffet

Flavours of Asia Buffet

\$28.00++ per adult
\$15.80++ per child
(3 to 12 years old)

***1 DINES FOR FREE WITH EVERY 2 PAYING ADULTS**

FROM MONDAY TO SUNDAY

11.30am - 2.30pm

APPETISER Mixed Salad, Poached Asparagus with Eggs, Smoked Duck Breast with Cucumber & Mango Salad, Assorted Mushrooms Salad and more

SOUP OF THE DAY

SEAFOOD ON ICE
Salmon Sashimi, Half-Shell Mussel, Poached Ocean Prawn and more

DIY STATION
Roast Duck Wrap, Lorbak, Kong Bak Pau, Assam Laksa, Roasted Pork Belly with Mustard Sauce

HOT FOOD
Vinegar Pork Trotters, Paprika Fried Prawn, Tauhu Goreng, Chipolata with Butter Garlic Sauce, Fried Fillet of Dory, Slipper Lobster with Sichuan Cereal, Broccoli with Mushroom, Mongolian Chicken and more

DESSERT
Ice Cream Station, Apom with Banana, Black Forest Cake, Fruit Tartlet, Kaya Pandan Cake, Cheese Cake, Almond Beancurd and more

For reservations, please call
Café Lodge @ 6333 0487

Fort Canning Lodge, 6 Fort Canning Road, Singapore 179494
Price is subject to 10% service charge & 7% GST
Terms and Conditions Apply
Menu items subject to changes

Fundraising with Zalora

By Ling Goh

Beauty comes with a benefit this August with Zalora.sg. The fastest growing online fashion retailer in Asia has approached the YWCA to generate brand awareness and donations for us this year. Using their trendsetter influence with a base of over 100 000 subscribers, Zalora.sg is sending charity down the runway with a limited edition Beauty Fix Box sold online to raise funds for YWCA. Only 100 of these special beauty boxes will be retailed at SGD25 each (worth SGD95), featuring SK-II, NCLA, L'egere samples and more – and all sales will go directly to the YWCA Youth Centre.



Their web and social media marketing campaign will also spread the good news of our community services to lovers of over 400 brands spanning both local and international designers. As they marry fashion and technology to bring you the best online shopping experience, we are glad that Zalora.sg is making charity in vogue and truly revolutionising the fashion scene with a conscience. More information on this collaboration is available on the YWCA website at: www.ywca.org.sg; or visit www.zalora.sg/beauty-fix-box to support the cause.

Events

May Cook-Out with UPS

By Chu Wai Puay

On 11 May, 15 volunteers from United Parcel Service (UPS) and a group of American youths took time out on a Saturday to participate in the first YWCA Cook-Out event of the year. It was Hakka Yong Tau Foo with five different varieties on the menu.

Before touring the YWCA kitchen, the UPS team was first given an introduction to the YWCA Cook-Out programme. A crash course on various cooking styles and skills was also conducted, and thereafter the volunteers were organised into different groups according to their cooking preferences.

Cooking on a large scale for 100 elderly and 50 children was an experience for the volunteers, taking most of them beyond their comfort zones. But they quickly took to task the washing, cutting, and cooking of the various ingredients.

Once done, the volunteers packed the food into lunch boxes, adding a special goodie bag for each of the children. They then assisted with delivery of the meals to beneficiaries' homes and to various Senior Activity Centres. To help defray the cost of the Cook-Out, the volunteers also purchased YWCA merchandise.

Good teamwork and camaraderie saw the volunteers through the day. Several remarked that it had been an enriching and fulfilling experience for them and the YWCA Board and Committee members who were involved.



The YWCA would like to thank and acknowledge Liang Choo and other donors for their generous contributions of fruits, cooking utensils and kitchen equipment. We would also like to thank all volunteers who helped in one way or another, and helped make this event a success. We look forward to your continued support and participation in our next Cook-Out coming in October 2013!

1-Day Durian and Shopping Tour to JB

By Renu Winson



On 15 June, the Y Sports & Recreation Club Committee organised a one-day durian and shopping tour to Johor Bahru, which included the Bird's Nest Factory, durian plantation in Yong Peng, local products shop and AEON Shopping Mall at Trebau. There was overwhelming response as 44 staff signed up for this fun-packed trip.

The day began smoothly with staff arriving punctually for pick-up. Throughout the journey, everyone was in good spirits and it was also a time of fellowship with one another. After customs and immigration clearance, the staff was met and greeted by a friendly Malaysian tour guide. First agenda of the day was food at Geylang Patah.

After a hearty breakfast, the staff was taken to the Bird's Nest Factory, where they were welcomed and briefed by the in-house guide, then shown an educational video presentation.

They were equipped with knowledge on swiftlet farm housing, manufacturing processes, types of bird's nest and how to recognise the real and pure bird's nest. There was also a bird's nest museum displaying the various types of actual bird's nests. Staff could shop for their wide variety of bird's nest and health products.

The next transfer was to a durian plantation in Yong Peng where the staff enjoyed themselves eating branded durians to their hearts' content. Besides durian, they were also served tasty fried bee hoon and chicken curry.

It was departure to a local products shop thereafter to buy homemade snacks and beverages. Upon arriving at the shop, our staff excitedly went around checking out the wide range of products available and happily made their purchases. More shopping awaited them at AEON shopping mall in Trebau, one

Events

of the biggest shopping malls in Johor. Staff wasted no time in exploring the huge mall once they alighted from the bus.

Finally, it was time for dinner at a local restaurant where staff was served a delicious six-course spread of halal Chinese food. This was the last transfer before heading back.

After a fruitful day of eating and shopping, the group reached Singapore at around 10pm. Everyone was tired but happy and pleased at having been able to snap up good bargains. It was indeed a fun and memorable durian eating and shopping experience for the enthused staff!
THANK YOU YWCA!

June Holiday Roundup

By Nicole and Alice Chua

It was activities and events galore at the YWCA this June for children and youths alike!



Youth Centre: Programmes, Purses, Paints, Pizzas and Peanut Butter

The holiday excitement at the Youth Centre started off with a two-day 'Scratch is Fun!' workshop where 10 youths had hands-on experience creating their very own animated programmes utilising software developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The following week's highlight was an intimate two-day Sewing workshop where four girls produced a small purse and bag each. Modern Batik Painting drew 11 youths who did their own experimental spin on colours using simplified techniques.

The Pizza Making workshop on 18 June drew the highest attendance, with 21 children and youths turning up to get their hands dirty rolling up their personal pizzas. The food theme carried on with a Cookies Baking workshop in the last week, and eight youths came to bake creamy and yummy peanut butter cookies. Other notable workshops included mochi making and notebook design.

The youths who attended at least five sessions in the June holidays were treated with an outing to the Youthphoria festival at the Singapore Discovery Centre on 29 June. It was a day of excitement and fun where the youths met stars from 'Ah Boys to Men', played carnival games and watched 'Monsters University' on the massive 3D screen. Have a peek at the excitement we had in June at our Youth Centre Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/YWCA-Youth-Centre/621798561182353>



Kids' Club: Engaging Youths to Engage Children

Since March, the Kids' Club has pursued a new direction away from common tuition programmes to an enrichment-based focus. Beginning in May, a youth group from Raffles Junior College Dance Club began a bi-weekly dance workshop for the children. With popular hip hop moves imparted by these cool older teens, attendance before the June holidays increased from eight to 15 children in the first two sessions. More youth groups also started approaching Kids' Club to run events and special programmes.

Events

In June, the sister of the Dance Club youth representative approached YWCA on behalf of her Raffles Girls' School class to do a weekly reading programme too. Aimed at increasing literacy amongst the Kids' Club children, it saw these Secondary 2 girls borrowing dozens of English library books each Wednesday to read and share with the kids.



Friday afternoons were reserved for the latest animated movie screenings with brief reflection sessions at the end to help the kids learn moral values from what they watched. Kids' Club Saturday activities also ran every week just for June.

Another youth class from Dunman High came down en masse on 15 June to run a half-day Amazing Race event at the YWCA Outram premises and even provided lunch out of their own pockets for the 23 children who attended. It was the most popular Kids' Club event in June and children who attended three of these holiday sessions were treated to the crowning Universal Studios outing on the last Saturday, 29 June.

Read more about how Kids' Club in June opened and ended with a bang at Resorts World Sentosa on our feature article on page 7.

Community Services

Grocery Shopping with Chanel

By Alice Chua

Chanel Pte Ltd has coupled one of their favourite pastimes with charitable giving by sponsoring needy children for grocery shopping. In April, YWCA was approached by Chanel with this innovative Corporate Social Responsibility project, and we in turn engaged Telok Kurau Primary School (TKPS) and New Town Primary School (NTPS) to select students under the Financial Assistance Scheme to participate in this fun and practical exercise.

20 TKPS students partnered Chanel staff in a shopping trip to the Giant hypermart at Tampines on 9 April. Each child was given a budget of \$100 to buy groceries for their families, with staff having the option to top up an extra \$20. A balloon artist was invited to entertain the students while they enjoyed Macdonald's Happy Meals for lunch after the shopping spree.

Feedback from the children was positive, as they got to learn about community support beyond the essential items purchased. They were made aware of the value of being responsible and caring not only for themselves but also others. Some even bought items for each of their family members. We hope that one day, they will be in a position to give back to others as well.

Following the success of the first outing, 22 NTPS students were accompanied by another Chanel group to the Giant hypermart at Vivocity on 23 April. The children were asked to prepare a list of household needs beforehand with their parents and design a 'thank you' card for their individual volunteers to express their appreciation. Many were joyfully lugging their heavy loads back to school and sharing some snacks with their friends.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Chanel Pte Ltd for sponsoring these 42 children on the shopping trips. In addition, we would also like to thank Mr Wong and Madam Ng, the principals of TKPS and NTPS respectively, for being so supportive of the two events.



Both schools are our pioneers in bringing the Hungry No More: Meals-on-Wheels for Children programme to schools from Term 3 in July onwards. An estimated 50 needy students from each school will be enrolled in the programme to receive our free meals.

Community Services

Sustenance with Avnet

By Sharon Regina

On Saturday, 15 June, the Sustenance for Families programme welcomed a new group of corporate volunteers from Avnet, one of the largest distributors of electronic components, computer products and embedded technology globally. It was their first time volunteering with the YWCA and they elected to distribute rations to 83 underprivileged families living in two blocks of rental flats at Toa Payoh.

Their excitement could be seen in the punctuality of all the Avnet volunteers. The employees were also joined by their Regional President (South Asia & Korea), Mr Terence Tan and Mr James Tan, Vice President of Human Resources (Asia Pacific) as they collectively braved the heat and humidity to pack and deliver dry rations for these needy families. Besides volunteering their time, Avnet employees also donated provisions such as instant noodles, biscuits, Milo and cooking oil, amounting to over \$1200.

At the close, the Avnet group felt a sense of fulfilment as their service to the families was greatly appreciated. The activity wrapped up with a group breakfast which further strengthened the bonds of teamwork and camaraderie.

Avnet has expressed keenness to participate in future charity drives and looks forward to more of such fulfilling times together.



WoW Workshops with OBS Alumni

By Alice Chua



The YWCA Workz-on-Wheels (WoW) is a programme launched in August 2012 to impart essential life skills to at-risk children and youth. Between March to May this year, we worked with the Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home, running bi-weekly arts and crafts sessions; and with the AG Home for Girls, conducting weekly jewellery-making and home economics workshops, which include cooking, baking and sewing.

Recently, the programme expanded to children with the Prison Fellowship Care Club, Singapore Children's Society Sunbeam Place, New Town Primary School and Canossaville Children's Home. To meet their range of needs, special curriculums have been designed to address issues of self-esteem, relationship management and sexuality.

From 'thank you' cards utilising abstract art techniques, to mini sculptures using recycled materials to Easter bunny frames created in time for Easter celebrations, our workshops could not have been possible without the dedicated support of volunteer groups from Outward Bound School (OBS) Alumni.

During the June holidays, 13 OBS Alumni youths helped facilitate a sewing workshop for 15 Canossaville children at YWCA Youth Centre. The children, aged between seven to nine, could choose to make either their own five stones set or a felt bookmark; older children aged between 10 to 12 could make either a rabbit pouch or flower hairclip.

The youths came an hour earlier to learn basic sewing skills such as needle threading and various kinds of stitching so they would be prepared to mentor the kids. Both groups had a fun and educational experience, finishing the session with a lunch prepared by two new volunteer cooks.

Other youth groups are also coming forward to work with us, such as Ang Mo Kio Secondary and Temasek Secondary under tutelage of the Halogen Foundation Singapore. If you have the passion to interact with vulnerable children and youth, please contact Ms Alice Chua at alicechua@ywca.org.sg or 6223 1227 for more information.

Community Services

Kids' Club with Resorts World Sentosa

By Ling Goh

Kids' Club in June opened and ended with a bang at Sentosa!

aRWSome Kids' Date Sleepover

The June holiday programmes kicked off with 17 of our Kids' Club children attending the annual aRWSome Kids' Date, run for the first time as an overnight Sleepover on 3 June. We even made it to the headlines as one of our girls was featured on primetime news sharing her enthusiasm about the groundbreaking camp.

Being the first kids to sleep in front of the world's largest oceanic window at the S.E.A. Aquarium was the last thing on their minds however, as the day was jam-packed with amazing and educational activities at the Marine Life Park.

Programme highlights included a shipwreck simulation at the world's first 4D multi-sensory typhoon theatre, touching starfish and small sharks at the aquarium, attending a feeding session of the giant rays and a treasure hunt through Adventure Cove Waterpark. The children were educated on nearly everything ocean-related from maritime routes, to marine species and the importance of marine conservation. One of the children was even overheard exclaiming, "I wish I could stay here forever."

After a full 24 hours of watery action, the kids returned home exhausted but fulfilled with their neon orange activity packs and signature RWS Bluub vests worn with pride from this unforgettable and enriching experience.

Universal Studios Outing

A generous RWS employee heard that our official appeal for Universal Studios tickets sponsorship fell through. Feeling for our underprivileged Kids' Club children, he decided to round up a group of his colleagues to sponsor 20 child tickets so we could bring them out for a day at the movies!

Having had the sacrifice his group was making out of their own pockets explained to the children, he was greeted with warm thanks and hugs from them, along with a personal 'thank you' card from each child when he met to pass us the tickets on the day. The Association also sponsored five adult tickets as appreciation for faithful Kids' Club volunteers to join the outing. Although the haze scare brought the threat of postponement, the weather cleared up enough by 29 June for the outing to proceed.

Each volunteer was assigned two children to bring around and they were given the freedom to explore the huge park and choose whichever rides to take. As expected, many groups made a beeline for the widely popular Transformers and Battlestar Galactica rides as they wove through the crowds to accomplish as much as they could in half a day. After a quick lunch rendezvous at Far Far Away, the groups split up again to squeeze in a few more exciting adventures.

At 3.30pm, our kind drivers made the special trip to pick us up again and we loaded up three buses of tired but ecstatic children. It was a wonderful bonding experience between the volunteers and children and the latter also made 'thank you' cards for their volunteers on the way back.



Community Services

The last group of children was left with unused meal and merchandise coupons so we challenged them to approach park visitors to hand them out. While no one took them up on the offer, it was heartening to witness these young disadvantaged children trying to pay it forward and gamely asking passersby if they would like the free vouchers.

One of the children said that in the future, he would like to grow up to do the same too, and sponsor his family and other needy children to another memorable day at the movies at Universal Studios.

Food Glorious Food at Youth Centre

By Nicole Chua

Food is a binding experience that bonds people together, and this can be seen in the food theme running through the Youth Centre workshops.

Food Revolution Day

The objective of famed chef, Jamie Oliver's Food Foundation is to change the way people eat by educating every child about food, empowering families by arming them with the skills and knowledge to cook, and inspiring everyone to stand up for their right to better food which in turn will fight the epidemic of diet-related diseases.

As part of their campaign, volunteer ambassadors dedicated to real food are selected from around the world to run Food Revolution Day in their individual countries. For Singapore, we are privileged to have Ms Way Ling Wiesser who approached the YWCA to participate in this premiering event.

In support of Food Revolution Day 2013, Way brought a friend, Nathalie, to facilitate a cooking session for seven of our youths. The youths learned to make two different kinds of pasta using fresh and healthy ingredients with Way's trademark panache at cooking without a recipe. Equipping them with easy cooking and nutrition tips, she was really an inspiration to these budding chefs. After all the pan action, the youths sat down together and relished the meal, marvelling especially at how Way made vegetables suddenly tasteful.



Junior Masterchef Event with AG Home

Since January 2013, we have been conducting a series of culinary workshops with the girls from AG Home. On 19th June, we challenged them to prepare and cook a meal for five YWCA Board members and their family members to showcase what they have learnt. Eight girls took up the challenge to prepare a main course and an appetiser or dessert.

It was indeed heartwarming to watch the girls put in their best effort to prepare and present their dishes. Many chose dishes they were most comfortable preparing such as baked pasta and cookies, but some ventured into new territories with chrysanthemum konnyaku jelly and honeydew sago drinks to name a few. It was surely no easy decision for our YWCA judges!

Most evident was how far the girls have come to learn and grow with us. Their newfound maturity could be seen at the skillful way they mastered their own kitchen counters even when time was running short. The girls further had a great bonding session with their family members (some are estranged) over their home-cooked meals.

The event concluded with Ms Tan Kee Leng, our YWCA President presenting a set of recipe cards to all participants as a form of encouragement. Two winners were identified by the Board members for putting up the best dishes, and they each received the YWCA 'Sharing from our Hearts' cookbook to inspire them to greater culinary achievements.



Choose Joy

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”
– Philippians 4:4

When I was a young Christian, I used to memorise Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice!” As I grew up, I found that this verse is not easily applied because it is simply not easy to be joyful when every day is not a perfect 10! Someone could make me angry; some unfortunate events could take place such as the loss of a relationship or a loved one. I thought: “When these things don’t make me feel good, how can I be joyful?” Yet, the Bible instructs us to be joyful in Philippians 4:4.

I studied the Scripture to understand how to live victoriously as a Christian. There is a difference in meaning between happiness and joy. Happiness depends on happenings. It comes from the root word hap, which means “luck” or “circumstance.” For example: I am happy today because my children visited me and gave me my allowance. I am happy because someone commented that I am still looking good. Joy, on the other hand, goes deeper. Joy is an attitude and so it is a personal choice. Joy is an inner attitude that is not dependent on circumstances. It is one’s choice to rejoice. The Bible commands in Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” The Apostle Paul instructs that one can choose to be joyful regardless of the circumstances one is in.

This command in Philippians 4:4 comes with three foundational truths. Christian joy is not dependent on one’s feeling; it is based on the foundation of our Christian faith. Foundation that it is, it is unshakeable. There are three reasons why we can be joyful no matter what happens to us.

1. We have hope in Christ

Hope is the most important element for our survival. Some people place their hope in good stocks, good looks, good health or even good children. But none of these things can be guaranteed! What is Christian hope all about? Christian hope is based on the faith that we are reconciled with God through Jesus Christ. It is a hope that God is standing at the door step to welcome us as His friends. And nothing can change this grace, position and stand. We have hope because in Jesus Christ, God sees us as His friends. Imagine the holy and loving God giving a sinner a warm firm handshake of acceptance. And, God is not fickle about this friendship. This is the first reason why Christians can rejoice.

2. We have a purpose for living

Many people, young or old, rich or poor are lost and lonely. However, Christians can be joyful because we are saved by Christ’s blood and become the most blessed people on this planet Earth. The thing is: there is a purpose for us even in the midst of sufferings. When my late father was dying of cancer, I witnessed blessings from the Lord. He brought unity, salvation and hope into the family as we reached out to our father suffering from a terminal illness. I cannot say that I was happy about it but I rejoiced in my parents’ salvations through this difficult event. A right Christian’s perspective about life

and suffering will make a difference in how one responds to problems in life.

3. We experience God’s presence and love

The greatest gift a Christian ever receives from God after conversion is the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we can constantly experience God’s daily companionship and love. Isaiah 43:2 echoes this assurance for all believers:

“When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.”

This assurance is very deep for all believers who have experienced God personally. Do you remember the last time you felt God’s presence and love in your life?

These three reasons are more than enough for us to say, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: REJOICE!” (emphasis mine; Philippians 4:4) These reasons are anchored upon God’s Word in Romans 5:1-5 which reads:

“1Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this
grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope
of the glory of God.
3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because
we know that suffering produces perseverance;
4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.
5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s
love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy
Spirit, who has been given to us.”

Let us choose joy no matter what will happen today! The world will see the difference of what it means to have Christ as our Hope!

Article is contributed by Pastor Janet Yan, Abundant Life Baptist Church.

Spotlight

Interview with Brandon Wang

Brandon Wang is a familiar face at the YWCA Kids’ Club (KC), having volunteered with us since its early years. Brandon has been a facilitator, volunteer leader and Milo-maker for the children and he will be sadly missed as he leaves Singapore for further studies in July.

How was your first time volunteering at Kids’ Club like?

A bit awkward, to be honest. I didn’t know anyone at all, except for my friend, but the other volunteers there were this cheerful and friendly group of people who made me feel welcome and willing to continue!

What is your most memorable experience at Kids’ Club?

Having a BBQ with the other volunteers outside the KC room one evening. After KC that day, we went shopping for the stuff needed at Tiong Bahru Plaza, then brought it all back for our BBQ. Played games inside as well...that was really fun! I think the Universal Studios trip would have been the most memorable though, if I had been able to go!

How have you seen the kids grow over your years of service?

A lot of the kids present when I first came have left, but some still remain, and it’s amazing just being able to see them grow

up over the years. One thing that strikes me is the changes the quieter kids make, from being the introverted person sitting in one corner to a more self-confident person who is able to express himself.

Why do you volunteer?

I think the main reason I regularly go for KC is because I know the people there, both volunteers and kids. Those who go regularly tend to be more familiar with the kids, and of course, the kids will be familiar with them, so it’s easier to work with them. In my 3+ years with Kids’ Club, I’ve had the joy of watching some of them graduate from primary school and even come back to KC to help out!



Announcements

Welcome on Board

The YWCA is pleased to welcome new staff to the team. We welcome Huang Yonghong as Para Educator and Andal Kayriel Czarina Samote as Teacher at BDK; S Umah Devi as Teacher at BGB; Leong Moi Lin as Attendant at BSN; Bolivar Clarich Mae Calay as Teacher and Lim Mui Eng Hazel as Senior Teacher at ORCC; Nurasyikin Bte Amran as Para Educator, and Consemينو Maria Jave Aguilar and Rochelle Paraiso Gallarde as Teachers at WCC; Ling Goh as Executive (Community Outreach), Melinda Ng as Senior Executive (Programmes), Sim Kiang Peng as Attendant, Tan Beng Ann as Driver and Juliana Tan as Administrative Executive at National Office.

At Fort Canning Lodge, we welcome Yeo Thian Poh as Assistant Director of Sales, Tan Joo Lee and Yeo Chin Hock as Guest Service Officers, Nazrul Azhar Bin Bendiamin as Duty Manager, Michael Loh Yong Heng as Room Sales Manager, Wong Yoke Fong Candy as Purchasing Officer, Tan Kah Hao and Teo Kim Kee as Cooks, Chan Kin Hou as Technician, How Hung Choong as F&B Supervisor, Adrian Sim as Head Chef and Sharon Seong as General Manager.

Child Development Centre

Continuing Excellence in Education

The YWCA has always placed emphasis on the importance of continual professional development in women. As the Association believes quality education for our teachers in turn leads to quality education for the students at the centres, we take value and pride in upgrading the knowledge and skills of our teachers in the field of early childhood education.

In June, Ms Tracy Er of the Bukit Gombak CDC successfully earned a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education on a scholarship by the Ministry of Social and Family Development with support from the Association. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to learn and continue to grow as an early childhood professional with the YWCA.



Child Development Centre

Friendship Party at Ang Mo Kio CDC

By Delphine Lim

A group of students from ITE College Central visited us on 27 May to conduct a 'Friendship' themed party for our K2 children. It was part of their Event Organisation & Publicity



project. The activities included story-telling, photo-taking, craft activities and song and dance.

The party kicked off with the story of 'Rainbow Fish' on a storyboard designed to look like the sea with cut-outs of featured characters. The children learnt the wise moral of sharing and not being selfish from the tale. They were then divided into two groups for the puzzle pool where they took turns to run and choose a correct piece from one of the puzzles before passing it on to another member of their team.

Finally, the children were taught how to make a friendship card. They first took Polaroid photographs with their best buddies and were instructed to decorate their cards with the Polaroids and a variety of foam collage materials. Their creativity shone as they frequently communicated and freely shared ideas with one another. At the end, they exchanged friendship cards with their best friends and learnt the value of sharing and expressing friendships.

The ITE students closed the party with a meaningful reflection time which summarised what friendship is and what they had learnt. A chart of their favourite aspects of friendship was also drawn up. The party ended with a Music and Movement session featuring a special friendship song they all sang together. Goodie bags were given out to the children for their participation and a token of appreciation was presented to the Senior Teacher who received it on behalf of the Centre.

Compliments

YWCA Kids' Club

Dear YWCA,

This was certainly one of the most meaningful events which I have participated in so far. I certainly hope that the kids have enjoyed themselves thoroughly during this amazing race and it was really a great experience for us! Thank you and I hope that you will continue to help and make others' lives better!

~ Claire, 4J'13, Dunman High School



Dear YWCA,

I had a great time and I'm sure I would remember this day for years to come. It gave me the opportunity to interact with many children from different backgrounds and with different

personalities. I hope the children enjoyed themselves and I would love to see them again. Thank you ~

~ Gigi, 4J'13, Dunman High School



Dear YWCA, <3

I'm very grateful for you to allow us to have such a great opportunity to interact with the kids. They are very lovely kids with super pretty hearts. Same to all of you. Thank you for accepting our request and welcoming our ideas openly. It has been a very great experience! Special thanks for being patient with our proposal. THANK YOU! And I hope to work with all of you next time!

~ Jie Yi 4J'13, Dunman High School

