



# LifeComm

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The Guest of Honour for Life Community's annual appreciation luncheon held on 11 April 2015 at the Raffles Town Club was a lady with a big heart for the community, who despite her busy schedule took time to encourage and challenge the donors and volunteers to continue their support for the children and their families of LCSS. She is none other than the Mayor for Central Singapore District, **Ms Denise Phua**. Her inspiring speech on how each of us is to add life to this earth won the hearts of the 300-strong guests. She also mentioned that we are all blessed so that we can bless others; everyone is precious and each boy and girl wonderfully made, hence they are not to be objects of our pity or someone we want to fix. Rather they are someone we want to groom because all of us alike, have achieved what we have because someone helped us. She encouraged the guests to continue to let love drive us to serve, for true love comes from giving our life to others!

CEO, Lam Moi Kwai

## FOR THIS CAUSE

"SHARING, SHAPING, EXPERIENCING"

Appreciation Luncheon 2015



Chairman Mr Goh Kng Yan & CEO Ms Lam Moi Kwai of Life Community presenting a token of appreciation to the GOH, Ms Denise Phua designed by children of Life Student Care.

This gift expresses the theme of our Appreciation Luncheon – *Sharing, Shaping, and Experiencing*.

This gift is a potter's wheel. It symbolizes how each mentor through investing their time and resources on the child, moulds the child and serves as a model for the child. This relates to our work at Life Community which is to reach out to the community through care and mentoring.

The end product is the beautiful pot, which symbolises the lives of the children.

This potter's wheel is specially designed by a team of two children at Life Community during a 3D printing workshop sponsored by Seagate Technology International. [The design is printed from a 3D printer with a specialised thermoplastic, PLA (Polylactic acid), as the print material. The printing for the gift took about 7 hours.]



Our beneficiary from MightyKFC program appointed as a co-host at the luncheon. He was a hot favourite!



An inspiring love story of a befriender volunteer, Simon Tan who almost gave up his befriending journey 8 years ago. He looks back now with tears of joy seeing how the love he shared with his child has transformed his own life as a volunteer.



You are never alone in the journey. Our staff, Ms Gayle Gan with her child serenaded the audience with song "You can count on me like 1-2-3."



The Friends of Youth' Dance Interest group proudly presents their Dance Debut which won rapturous applause from the audience.



Expressing their love for the nation as we celebrate Singapore's Jubilee Birthday, children from all four core programs of Life Community came together in joint performance.

# FOR THIS CAUSE

"SHARING, SHAPING, EXPERIENCING"

Appreciation Luncheon 2015

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Mr Nicholas Goh, Board Member of LCSS presenting tokens of appreciation to faithful donors, Grandiose Pte Ltd (Mrs Jenny Goh on behalf of Mr Philip Goh) and Alliance LLC (Mr Stanley Gan & Mr Wong Meng Yeng)



Mr Gilbert Tan, Board Member of LCSS presenting tokens of appreciation to committed and inspiring volunteers (from left to right, Ms Rebecca Lee, Mr Steven Lee, Mrs Sarjit Vij)

## FEATURED STORY

# JOURNEYING FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE



Andy\* had first stepped foot into MKFC centre when he was ten. Having just lost his mother to cancer, he felt sad and lonely and shuts himself off from his peers; he cries whenever he thought of his mother.

Andy's father works as a lorry driver and has to leave early for work, many a times even before Andy wakes up. Due to his hectic work schedule, he often does not get home in time to see Andy return from school. Despite not having a conducive environment at home, Andy managed to find one in the form of MKFC that provided Andy a place of comfort, a positive contrast to what were days often filled with loneliness and despair.

Initially, Andy did not get along well with the other children in the centre and often reacted in uncontrollable fits of rage when provoked. Fights between Andy and the other children were common, and he would sometimes turn to self-harm as well as hitting himself in the head. He detested reading, homework and

anything related to academics. He believed that he was an underachiever, and that he did not have the ability to excel in his studies.

Under the nurturing and holistic care of our MKFC staff, Andy learnt to **take control of his emotions and be responsible for his actions and behaviours**. The MKFC Star Kids programme gave Andy the **motivation to develop an interest in reading, better concentrate on his studies, and complete assignments on time**. He has developed academically, and has even begun to assist his teachers by playing a "big brother" role to the younger kids.

The Andy of today reflects a very different disposition from that of the past. He is cheerful and respectful, and attests: "If I did not come to MKFC, I would not have made any **improvements in my studies**. I would at the same time also have remained a lonely and angry person. Coming here has made a **positive difference in my life!**"

\* Not their real names





## INVITATION TO PRESENT AT CARE NETWORK WORKPLAN SEMINAR 2015

CEO Ms Lam Moi Kwai presented Life Community's framework of **Supporting Offenders & Families** at the Care Network Workplan Seminar 2015, **Forging Ahead, Advancing Reintegration** on 20th April



Without the right support, offenders and their family members can become some of the most vulnerable and excluded people in society (Care Network, 2015). Friends of Children (FOC) and Friends of Youth (FOY) programmes serve children and families during the Incare, pre-release and reintegration phase. We believe strongly in building resilient children and supporting families in our society.

## HOPE



Charlie's\* father was imprisoned for drug-related offences. His mother is also an ex-offender and since her release, has determined to start anew. She now works as a laundry assistant, but struggles to support her family financially and meet her children's emotional needs. Charlie lives in a 2-room rental flat together with his mother, siblings, a brother-in-law and two nephews. Charlie's sister is expecting a third child.

Charlie's father is feared for his harsh disciplinary methods. Charlie's brother took on some of his violent practices and Charlie soon became an innocent victim of aggression. While Charlie loves both his father and brother, he shares mixed feelings at the same time. He confides in and seeks protection from his mother when she returns from work.

At the age of five, Charlie was unable to converse in English or express himself. He did not know his ABCs, was unfamiliar with numbers, and could not identify colours. This worried Charlie's mother deeply.

Life Community helped Charlie and his family by providing monthly food rations and essential items like stationery and schoolbags to alleviate their financial burdens. We also visited Charlie regularly to help him cope emotionally with



his father's incarceration and release, as well as with his conflictual relationship with his brother.

We reached out to Charlie through events and outings that promote pro-social behaviours and enhance socio-emotional competency. Through home visitations, we worked with Charlie on identifying colours in more interactive environments like the playground; we also facilitated creative expression through the use of art, such as drawing and colouring.

When Charlie started going to kindergarten, we worked with his childcare centre and principal closely to further support his learning and development. As part of the programme, we also introduced a befriender to support Charlie on a deeper, more personal level. The befriender, who is a speech and drama teacher, has been helping and guiding Charlie in creative ways to meet his learning style and needs. Through her, we discovered that Charlie is very good with numbers and mazes. He is now able to speak more confidently in simple English, count proficiently, and is great at problem-solving.

As we walk this journey with Charlie, much remains to be done. Life Community needs your help to continue supporting Charlie emotionally, developmentally and socially as he transitions into a new learning environment – primary school.

*\* Not their real names*



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