



Message from Chairman

Dear supporters, donors, volunteers, friends and staff of Life Community Services Society

I take this opportunity to thank you for helping LCSS make a difference in the life of every child from FOC, FOY, MKFC and LSC.

In the recent retreat of board members and key staff, we were overwhelmed by testimonies of improved and transformed lives among our children, and even of their families who were touched.

The key factor for that difference is you - your contribution of time and substance flowing from the HEART.

With you, we have a partnership of care, teamwork and commitment. Going that extra mile and never giving up on seemingly hopeless cases helped the children turn around when they eventually opened their hearts to receive love they never dreamt existed.

The board and staff meet to pray and give thanks, upholding each of you by name. We are very conscious of one verse in the bible - Psalm 127:1. Unless the LORD builds the house, They labour in vain who build it.

On behalf of the LCSS board, we express our heartfelt appreciation to you. May the good work continue to multiply and touch even more lives.

Goh Kng Yan

Message from Chief Executive Officer

Dear Stakeholders and Friends,

2009 was a challenging yet fulfilling year. The world economic crisis saw many companies going under. In Singapore, with more being caught in the economic crisis, inevitably more troubled families we will have to serve. As at 31st March 2010, we have served 705 clients and families - a 28% increase over the last fiscal year. However, we are pleased to report many children and caregivers have received emotional, financial, social, educational and physical support from our team of committed befrienders, volunteers and staff.

A Very Sad Story

Of the many heartbreaking cases we see, none can compare with that of *Sarah, 5, and *Peter, 7 (featured in flyer). Their father faces capital punishment for murdering their mother. Though caught in the act of adultery, he remained unrepentant, turning his anger on his wife, and physically abused her. After a final beating at a bus-stop, she was thrown off the 10th storey of a flat. Now, his death-wish is for Life Community to look after his two children and help them to university. Alas, the children are oblivious to the loss of their mother and the fate of their father. May their plight move you to fill-up the attached form to be their Befrienders and to donate not just to them but also others in our programmes.

A Strategic Way Forward

We actively seek strategic partners that can add value to our children's lives by empowering them for the future. We need partners like Lorna Whiston Study Centres who trained our teachers and staff in Phonics and Effective Writing and donated over 700 books. Another such partner, Johnson & Johnson (IT) donated computers and IT equipment to our centres, met our IT needs, and organised our children's holiday outing.

Praise God who has brought us through last year victoriously! Life Community is thankful for your contributions over the year. Without you, we would not have come so far. We look forward to your continual partnership in spreading hope and love in the community. God bless.

James Wong





FRIENDS OF CHILDREN

Friends of Children (FOC) takes on an intervention approach of providing care and support for children, between 7 and 13 years old, with parent(s) who are incarcerated. We currently serve 240 children and their caregivers under our programme.

The children are at risk when one or both of their parents are incarcerated. The anxieties of being separated from their parents and the shame of being rejected by their peers often have a serious impact on the children's emotional development. These children require strong support and guidance to live without prejudice and contempt. During the transitional care, we employ a holistic intervention approach which focuses on five components:



In addition, another distinctive feature of the FOC programme is our Volunteer Befriending Programme. Our befrienders offer long-term genuine friendship to the children while their parents are incarcerated.

Future Plan for FOC & Y

- We are in the process of enhancing both programmes to incorporate a structure to effectively work with the families of the children and youths.

Challenges Ahead and Needs for FOC & Y

- The number of our clients is growing and in order to continue to reach out to them island-wide, we need sufficient full-time staff in the field.
- We also need a place in a central location, near an MRT, to run activities for our children and youths.
- To ensure smooth continuation of this work, we need more corporations and individuals to partner us in either fund-raising or donations-in-kind.
- We require more volunteer befrienders to partner with us in befriending our children. We need befrienders who can commit a minimum of 6 to 8 hours a month, for the duration of one year, to interact with our children.

FRIENDS OF YOUTH

The programme takes on an intervention approach of befriending youths (12-19 years old) whose parent(s) are incarcerated. We celebrate their talent and harness their energy for positive outcomes.

Through interest-based activities, we befriend and impart moral values to the youths. We identify and develop their talents for the benefit of both the individual and the community. We also create a platform for the youths to integrate back to their families and society.

FOY activities-based programme employs a wholesome intervention and preventive approach through the following five components of service:-

5
components



Youths sharing how they manage their emotions

Moral Development –
impart good moral values through talks on character development and discernment of right & wrong



Youths engaged in an activity to celebrate and appreciate each other's differences

Personality Development –
develop self-esteem, forge a sense of identity and guide in formation of self-concept



Youths trying their hand at drumming

Skills Development –
nurture through interest-based and life skills development



Youths learning to relate to one another in a safe and fun environment during a BBQ

Relational Skills & Social Development –
strengthen relationships with parents, siblings and peers of same/opposite sex



Financial Assistance -

provide funds & food ration for needy families to bridge social service gap; provide or direct them to available scholarship programmes and referral of employment.

MIGHTYKIDS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

Children today are inundated with tuition, co-curricular activities, supplementary and remedial classes, leaving them stressed out and looking for breathing space. So whenever they drop by our Activity Centre they are welcomed with a big smile, fed with delicious home-cooked food and are de-stressed through lots of fun and healthy activities under the supervision of our volunteers.

Through social and emotional support, within a loving and learning environment, we seek to affirm each child and motivate them to Lead Intentional Fruitful Empowered lives.

During our SHARE Carnival last year, we created opportunities for community bonding as families from different races came together for a fun-filled time of games and food. Our games were also aimed at parent-child interaction through team partnership, thus strengthening family relationships.

Commencing May 2010, MKFC will be running an 8-month KidsRead programme for children aged 4 to 8 years old. This is in collaboration with the National Library Board to promote the love of reading and to lay the foundation for reading, speaking and writing English.



LIFE STUDENT CARE

Life Student Care seeks to provide a safe and congenial “home” environment for children while their parents are at work. We believe in providing every child who comes under our care an opportunity to discover his/her talents, regardless of his/her race, language or religion.

The children enjoy “SPICES” in their daily lives at the centre. “**SPICES**” is an acronym for our holistic programme which focuses on the needs of students in the areas of **S**ocial, **P**hysical, **I**ntellectual, **C**reative, **E**mootional and **S**piritual development.



Currently there are 3 centres located in the heartland of Hougang, Sengkang and Yishun with approximately 290 students in total. Children from lower income families can apply for subsidies from MCYS (Ministry of Community, Youth & Sports). Besides MCYS’ subsidy, families who require additional support can also apply for further provision under LCSS’ financial assistance scheme.

Plans for Life Student Care

- To partner with enrichment centres to provide more enrichment classes for students
- To work with parent volunteers to conduct interesting classes for students, such as baking and speech & drama
- To help the academically weak and needy students through tuition programmes

Challenges and needs

The centre needs structured teaching in phonics for children with weak language foundation and mild dyslexia but are unable to afford lessons at private centres.

- With more schools going single session and many students attending the centre in the afternoon, the centre needs more volunteers to assist teachers in supervision of homework and during field trips.

Educational Partners

St. Peter's Church and Yishun Methodist Mission – Character Building Partners

Members of both St Peter's Church and Yishun Methodist Mission have been very faithful and committed in partnering with Sengkang LSC and Yishun LSC respectively. They have organized educational field trips, conducted regular character building lessons and imparted values and love to our students. We are thankful to have partners like them.



AJC Students – A Young Partner

A group of 17 AJC students chose to fulfill their Service Learning time with FOC. They were introduced to our programme by one of their fellow-classmates who signed up as a befriender with us. The activity they organised gave the children a chance to interact with their peers as well as refine their team-building skills in a fun and safe environment at the Telok Blangah Rise (TBR) Centre.



Nanyang Polytechnic Community Service Club – A Multi-Talented Partner

A few groups of students from Nanyang Poly contributed their time to help Yishun LSC in the following areas:

- painting a new mural for the centre with more vibrant design and colours;
- assisting the teachers to bring the students out on an educational field trip
- conducting balloon sculpture lessons for the students

Ultimate Project Group – An Enthusiastic Partner



Ultimate Project Group comprised of 20 youth volunteers who touched the hearts of our children by, painting the exterior walls of Block A & B to give a new look to the entrance of our Student Care Centre. They did a spring cleaning to our Sponge Bob Library at Block B. They conducted science project for the whole centre

during orientation. They also organized day camps in our centre with a variety of fun and exciting activities, during the June and December 2009 school holidays. The children participated actively and they look forward to more sessions with Ultimate Project Group.

NTU - Project Angels in the Making – A Passionate Partner

A group of 12 students from an informal club known as Caretalyst of NTU, volunteered at one of our Telok Blangah activities held once a month for the children of FOC. Led by Wei Liang, each child created a customized name plate out of 'angel clay' which is improvised clay using Japanese nanotechnology. During the activity, the children learned the virtue of sharing when they shared materials, tools, poster colors and such with their peers. They also learned to appreciate and respect one another's work.



Scriptwriting and Drama Activity – A Creative Partner

A befriender who runs educational activities in school, planned and prepared an activity that taught the children moral values - honesty, courage and compassion - through contemplation of moral dilemmas. Through scriptwriting, the children practised the English Language, and through a drama activity they learned to openly express themselves.



Corporate Social Responsibility

Johnson & Johnson – An Exciting Partner

Johnson and Johnson (J&J) Asia Pacific IT department, headed by Mrs. Kerrie Ann Hoffman, VP & CIO, Information Technology, adopted LCSS as a charitable cause, and has been meeting our needs in the area of information technology. They have provided IT support to our 3 student care centres as well as to the corporate office. They are ever-ready to provide IT assistance over the phone and often make trips to our centres and office to provide technical support. Yishun LSC is privileged to have J&J set up a computer lab for them, much to the delight of the children, of course!



Last year during the June school holiday, J&J sponsored over 80 children from Friends of Children on an outing to the SAF Yacht Club. This year, we are again the privileged beneficiaries of J&J for the June 2010 school holiday outing – this time, to Universal Studios Singapore!

Seagate Technology Int'l – A Committed Partner

Seagate have been very committed in helping the underprivileged students by sponsoring outing, programmes and giving tuition to the weaker students of Life Student Care in the past year.

At the beginning of this year, the volunteer team from Seagate helped to do a "makeover" for the home of a single-parent family of Hougang LSC. The family is very grateful for the "new look" and better living condition in the home. Thank you Seagate for this "Lunar New Year present" to the family!



Lorna Whiston Study Centres – An Enriching Partner

Life Student Care teachers have been fortunate to be given the opportunity to be trained by the professional staff of Lorna Whiston in "Phonics" and "Strategies in Writing".

Through the parent support group from their pre-school, Lorna Whiston also initiated a food charity drive and donated the goodies to the needy students in LSC during the Lunar New Year. In addition, Lorna Whiston Pte Ltd donated many lovely story books to the children of FOC at the Christmas Party.



SAP (Asia) Pte Ltd – A 'Robotic' Partner



The 'Robotic' Four from Sengkang LSC had an invaluable and exciting experience participating in the first Lego League 2009 competition.

The FIRST Lego League, an international education programme for children aged 9-16, is a hands-on, interactive robotics competition conducted under a sports-like atmosphere. The students were given this rare opportunity by SAP (Asia) Pte Ltd, who was one of

the main sponsors. Besides sponsoring the team, SAP also provided volunteers to coach the students.

DG Packaging Pte Ltd- A Faithful Partner

We really appreciate DG Packaging partnership; they have donated 83 bags of food ration to our FOC & Y's clients. The families find the items such as rice, oil, noodles and sugar very practical and helpful for their monthly usage. We look forward to have more partners like DG Packaging to support us in this area.





Heart-Breaking News



The Truth

When was the last time you faced a truth? Two young lives will soon need to face the ugly truth of their family situation.

*Peter and *Sarah are 7 and 5 years old respectively. Three years ago, their mother passed away and their father was incarcerated for a homicide. Since then, their only relationship with their father has been built within the four walls of the prison. Their current caregiver, their aunty, is struggling to be a support to the children both emotionally and financially.

Peter and Sarah have yet to be told the truth that their mother was murdered by their father and as a result he has been sentenced to

death. Struggling to cope with the changes in their family; Peter has been displaying behavior problems at home and at school.

LCSS heard the plight of these two young children and responded by supporting Peter and Sarah's caregiver through this trying time. We provide monthly food rations and emotional support to the caregiver. We also support and provide the caregiver with skills to guide Peter and Sarah as they go through this fragile developmental age. With our support, Peter has begun showing improvement in his behavior at school.

Peter and Sarah have yet to be informed about their father's possible death. The challenges that lie ahead include preparing the children for the loss of their father even as they continue to cope with the loss of their mother.

They need our support, love, care and concern to overcome the scary, unknown path that lies ahead of them.

Heart-Warming News



A Ray of Hope

*Ahmad, 10 years old, joined our programme in March 2009. His mother is in prison and the whereabouts of his father is unknown. Upon our first meeting, he had not seen his mother for over 6 months as his birth certificate had been misplaced. He was not regular in school, and had problems submitting to authority. He currently stays with his mother's boyfriend's mother.

With the help of LCSS staff, Ahmad was transferred to a school nearer to his home to overcome the challenges that stopped him from going to school regularly. The school graciously gave Ahmad a chance to prove himself despite his poor school record. We assisted Ahmad by applying for the necessary financial assistance to overcome any form of obstacle that may hinder him from going to school.

It is important for Ahmad to remain connected with his mum and so after obtaining a true copy of his birth certificate, we have been bringing him for his monthly visitations to his mother. He is always eager to share his life with her and ensures that she is doing well inside.

Ahmad has come a long way in the past one year. Within 6 months, Ahmad progressed from a child at-risk of dropping out of school to a student who has passed all his exams and strives to excel in his studies. In his latest tests he did extremely well for at least 2 subjects. He attends school regularly and has set out goals to achieve as he continues to improve in his studies. Ahmad's journey is long but filled with hope. With your support, we will continue to motivate and encourage Ahmad to break out of the cycle of poverty and crime.



**Not their real names.*