



A Lifetime of Caring

December 2009

Catholic Welfare Services Singapore Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary



CWS 50th Anniversary celebration: (From left) Sister Assunta Leong FMM, Sr. Marilyn Lim, FDCC, Mrs. Khaw Boon Wan, Eugene Tan, Archbishop Nicholas Chia, Thomas Tan, Bro. Emmanuel SG, Minister Lim Boon Heng, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, James Chew, Minister Khaw Boon Wan, Monsignor Francis Lau, Mrs. Irene Loi, Michael Thio

50 *Years of Caring*

Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) celebrated its 50th Anniversary on 19 August 2009. Celebrations began with Holy Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour with the main celebrant being Archbishop Nicholas Chia and co-celebrant His Excellency, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio among several other priests. This was followed by a dinner at the Bliss Garden Restaurant with Guest-of-Honour Minister Lim Boon Heng and special guest Minister Khaw Boon Wan.

The Board of Governors of CWS had decided upon a theme of thanksgiving for the celebrations. We at CWS are extremely grateful to God, the Singapore government, benefactors and the general public for their support over the past 50 years. They have made it possible for us to love and care for the needy in Singapore. With your support, we know that we can do even more in the 50 years to come, and beyond.

Long service awards of 25 years and above were handed out to 12 staff from CWS and its agencies, by Archbishop Nicholas Chia and Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio.



Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio presents an Apostolic Blessing for CWS on its 50th anniversary, and a souvenir medal from the Vatican to Bro. Emmanuel, chairman of CWS.

50 Years of Caring

Catholic Welfare Services Singapore (CWS) was founded in 1959 by Dr Ee Peng Liang and Mr Cyril Chew, with the support of Archbishop Michael Olcommendy to help the poor in Singapore.

CWS started with the provision of food relief to the poor of all races and religions in Singapore. Resources were mobilised and funds raised from within the Catholic community. The food relief programme continues to today, with food items and shopping vouchers being given out to the needy and other charitable organizations.

Aside from social & welfare services at HQ, CWS also serves the elderly through its three nursing homes - St. Joseph's Home, St. Theresa's Home and Villa Francis Home for the Aged; and two shelter homes, St. Vincent Home and the Gift of Love Home for the destitute.

CWS also operates Good Shepherd Centre which is a sheltered home for abused women and children, as well as YouthReach, comprising of Poverello Teen Centre (PTC), a drop-in centre for youths and youth outreach services. Youth services have been enhanced as elaborated on the next page.

A new project, Hearts@Work, was launched in November 2009 to provide vocational training for the intellectually-challenged. CWS hopes to work with the Catholic Business Network and other agencies to arrange for employment opportunities for this disadvantaged group.



Food distribution at CWS



Breadline: Sr. Rosaline distributing bread



Food distribution at Kwong Wai Sui free hospital



Elderly home in the old days



Sewing class



Cooking class for women at the Social & Welfare Centre at Jalan Kayu

CWS Services at a Glance

Social & Welfare Work (at HQ)

- Financial Assistance
- Scholarship Aid
- Information & Referrals

Nursing Homes

- St Joseph's Home
- St Theresa's Home
- Villa Francis Home for the Aged

Sheltered Homes

- Gift of Love Home
- St Vincent Home
- Good Shepherd Centre

Youth Services

- YouthReach
- PTC drop-in centre
- Youth outreach services
- Hearts@Work



Development Plans for Nursing Homes

Discussions are being carried out for Villa Francis Home for the Aged to move to new premises by 2011, next to the new Khoo Teck Puat Hospital in Yishun. The new building and facilities will increase bed capacity of Villa Francis from 139 to 250.

Besides facilities and bed capacity, CWS is also looking into developing a different focus for each of these three nursing homes to better cater to the needs of our elderly community. St. Theresa's will focus on dementia patients, St. Joseph's on hospice care and Villa Francis for psychiatric patients.



X'mas fun at Villa Francis



Dog therapy at St. Joseph's Home



Music time at St. Theresa's Home

Enhanced Youth Services

Poverello Teen Centre (PTC) was established by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in 1999 as a drop-in centre for youth-at-risks from 12 to 21 years of age. It aims to help youths develop their potentials and skills. For the past decade, the Catholic Welfare Services has owned and provided support for PTC to run its various programmes.

As of June 2009, Catholic Welfare Services and Boys' Town collaborated to expand the services of the CWS youth arm and formed YouthReach. Through its various programmes, students learn values of self-worth, discipline and responsibility that prevent and reduce delinquency. YouthReach offers comprehensive services to reach out to youths at risk and help them utilise their strengths and resources to achieve their desired goals.

With this expansion, PTC continues to be the drop-in centre for YouthReach.



New Service: Hearts @ Work

CWS launched its new project, Hearts@Work, in November 2009. This project aims to establish a self-sustaining community for adults with intellectual challenges, where they are encouraged, nurtured and given a sense of dignity and belonging, thus empowering them to live and work independently to their highest potential. The community also seeks to recognize and affirm the gifts of each special person. This charitable, catholic-based centre welcomes intellectually challenged persons aged 18 years and above regardless of their race and religion.

The programme will offer job coaching skills in basic work skills, such as customer service, dishwashing, area cleaning or even simple production-line type of work. Besides work skills, the program will help develop other important skills such as self-help, social communication, money and literacy as well as fitness, community living, discipline and proper work attitudes.

Job opportunities may be arranged to enable the trainees to earn a living.

For more information on Hearts@Work, please check out our website www.catholicwelfare.org.sg.

A Lifetime of Caring



Our Mission

to promote human dignity,
to highlight the preciousness of life,
to encourage people to live fully, and
to help people integrate better into society.

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For cheque donations, please make payable to "Catholic Welfare Services Singapore". DO NOT SEND CASH BY POST.

Please be advised that we DO NOT practise house to house collections. Any person doing so is unauthorized. All donations are tax exempt. Please give us your full details so that we can notify IRAS of your donations which will be automatically tax-exempt.