



Against All Odds



Loi Siang Hock was only one year and five months old when his mother Madam Yew had to make a hard decision. Facing financial, emotional and housing issues, his mother placed him in the care of Singapore Children's Society's Convalescent Home (now Sunbeam Place) in July 1997 although she wanted to keep her child by her side.

Despite mild learning difficulties and not having a family environment that we so often take for granted, Siang Hock has spread his wings and taken flight – trailing with him a string of awards and carving out a promising future for himself.

“The home would be able to provide a stable and nurturing environment for Siang Hock. I did not want him to be placed with a foster family as I am strongly attached to him. Also, I wanted to play a part in taking care of him. My plan was to first settle my financial and emotional difficulties and look for accommodation,” reflected Madam Yew.

Life was not easy. All she could muster in terms of employment were odd jobs and they all paid poorly. With little resources, she approached the Home and requested for Siang Hock to be taken in. With motherly love and commitment, Siang Hock and Mother faced down adversity, maintaining contact all the while.

Siang Hock entered Grace Orchard School in 2003 (when he was seven) and has never looked back. His diligence, enthusiasm, and determination enabled him to improve in his studies. He was consistently praised by his teachers and scored well in Maths and English, earning him top student in class. He was nominated for “The Model Student” award in 2005!

Not only is Siang Hock academically competent, he enrolled in the Boys Brigade as his CCA and in 2005, was conferred ‘Senior’ and had the honour of commanding his team during the school parade. His other achievements reveal Siang Hock to be an all-rounder. In 2007, he was chosen to represent his school at a robotics competition. He also received the “Best Progress Award” that year as he showed significant improvements in school work.

Last year, he achieved awards for the “Most Outstanding Prefect”, “Most Outstanding Student of the Level”, and received the “Most Outstanding Contributions to CCA (Boys Brigade and Basketball)”.

Due to his outstanding accomplishments in 2010, he was selected to join his senior school-mates for an Overseas Community Project (OCP) in Cambodia. He was the youngest student from Grace Orchard School to be selected for the OCP.

Ever modest, Siang Hock acknowledges that the Society has done much to nurture him. “I want to say thank you to the aunties and my friends [counsellors and child development officers] at Sunbeam Place. They encouraged me when I felt sad and told me not to give up,” he said.

Madam Yew is proud of Siang Hock: “He has grown up to be so brave and independent. He can take public transport by himself and he learns quite quickly. I thank Children's Society for helping him to be where he is today.”

Against All Odds	1
Sun Festival Treat for the Children	2
Retro Grooving with Long Service Award Winners	3
Off to Cambodia!	4
Tribute to Dr Ivan Polunin	5
1000 Enterprises Programme a Success	6

Jurong Youth Centre gets Graffiti makeover	7
Going the Distance for our Children	8
Freestyle Football gets the Thumbs Up	9
逆境勇者	10
裕廊青少年中心 涂鸦艺术新风貌	11
Launch of e-CSEW Directory	12

Sun Festival Treat for the Children



Our children eagerly posing for a group photo with Ruben Studdard and Clifton Murray.

October 30 was no ordinary day for 16 children from the Children Service Centre. They waited in eager anticipation to meet American Idol Season 2 winner Ruben Studdard, and Clifton Murray – a member of The Canadian Tenors.

The singing sensations were in Singapore for the UBS Sun Festival, one of Singapore's leading multi-arts and lifestyle festivals that draws talent from across the globe. Swiss Bank UBS AG, the presenting sponsor of the Festival, invited our children to meet the stars. The event saw over 130 guests attending from Singapore Children's Society, Asian Women's Welfare Association and The Little Arts Academy.



American Idol Season 2 winner Ruben Studdard

It was a true musical treat as the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, having the chance to see and hear the singers perform live and share the importance of persevering to fulfil their dreams. The highlight for the day was the opportunity to get Ruben and Clifton's autographs. Yu Ying and Valerie, from Children Service Centre, each presented a bouquet of flowers to the artistes – certainly a memorable moment for the two young ladies!

APPLAUSE FOR BIG-HEARTED PILOTS



The Air Line Pilots Association of Singapore (ALPA-S) has long been a regular patron of Singapore Children's Society, a relationship that started over 10 years ago. Members of ALPA-S serve on the Sunbeam Place Standing Committee which oversees the running of the Home.

Last year, ALPA-S raised \$50,000 in aid of Children's Society as part of its annual fund-raising efforts. ALPA-S members donated generously, and a cheque was presented by ALPA-S President, Capt P James, to Dr Siew Lai Keun, Director of Sunbeam Place and Mr Chia Boon Kiang, Director of Fund Raising, on 14 December 2010.

In recognition of ALPA-S' tireless contributions to Singapore Children's Society, the association was presented the Gold Award (for fund-raising) and Gold Service Award (for 10 years of voluntary service) during the Singapore Children's Society Awards Dinner 2010.



Sunbeam Place hosts Minister's visit

Sunbeam Place was honoured to host a visit by the Western Australian Minister for Child Protection, Community Services & Women's Interests.

The Honourable Robyn McSweeney toured the home on 4th November 2010. Dr Siew Lai Keun, Director of Sunbeam Place, hosted the Hon McSweeney and provided insights on the running of the home.

RETRO GROOVING WITH LONG SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

The staff of Singapore Children's Society took a trip back in time during the annual Kachan Club staff lunch, held on 20 November 2010 at Yishun SAFRA. The year's theme was "Retro Groove" and many enthusiastically dressed up in the signature fashions of the '60s, '70s and '80s.

The event was an ideal opportunity for staff from the Society's various centres to know each other better and have fun. And indeed, it was a fun-filled time, right from the start!



The carnival atmosphere saw many delighted faces, as staff participated in 'old-school' amusements like paper balloons, bubble-blowing, five stones and "chaptah". To top it off, there was a selection of "kacang putih" snacks to keep hunger at bay.

This day was also special for seven of our staff, who were conferred Long Service Awards in recognition of their years of dedicated service. The recipients were:

- 20 Years – Ms Hong Kim Beng, Head, Student Care Centre (Henderson)
- 20 Years – Ms Lee Beng Lay, Administrative Assistant, Student Care Centre (Henderson)
- 20 Years – Ms Ng Sok Lay, Programme Assistant, Student Care Centre (Henderson)
- 20 Years – Mr Zuraini Bin Ali, Despatch Clerk, Corporate Services Department
- 5 Years – Ms Ann Hui Peng, Head, Children Service Centre
- 5 Years – Ms Oh Chui Har, Counsellor, Children Service Centre
- 5 Years – Ms Zaiton Binte Abdullah, Administrative Assistant, Youth Service Centre (Toa Payoh)

Children's Society thanks all staff for their commitment to uplifting the lives of children and youth!



Recognition at Inaugural Family Service Centre Seminar



Photo courtesy of the National Council of Social Service

At the inaugural Family Service Centre Seminar organised by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), our Family Service Centre (Yishun) was recognised for its commitment to information management through the use of NCSS' electronic case management system.

The seminar, held at the Concorde Hotel on 13 January 2011, was organised with the intention of capability-building within the social services sector, with the focus on family service centres and VWOs that work with families. Director of Family Service Centre (Yishun), Ms Koh Wah Khoo, received the certificate of appreciation from Dr Vasoo, one of the pioneers in the concept of family service centres.

Off to Cambodia!



Bowen Secondary School's CABIN Club is the first to be sent on an Overseas Learning Journey (OLJ). 16-year-old Jeremy Lim, a Secondary Four CABIN Club member, shares his experience with us.

Our CABIN Club went to Cambodia for a 5-day OLJ, from 10th to 15th November 2010. Among the many places, we visited Siem Reap and the country's capital, Phnom Penh. We picked up many meaningful lessons and enjoyed the hospitality of the locals.

Our visit to Angkor Thom was memorable. The temple has high structures, which caused some of our CABIN Club members to be afraid, as they were scared of heights. But the brave amongst us encouraged our friends to put their fears aside and travel together as the trip was a rare opportunity. Despite some being fearful, all of us completed the programme at Angkor Thom.

Another stop was Kandang Primary School, where we stayed for two days to teach the students English and Mathematics, construct a kitchen and dining area, decorate washrooms and repair tables and chairs. We experienced first-hand the values of perseverance, compassion and responsibility – a few of us were injured during the construction. But with great team spirit, we endured and completed our tasks.

On the day of our departure, we were rewarded with a great farewell from the students who lined the road and waved as we departed: a simple yet touching way of bidding us goodbye.

We stopped at Les Enfants De La Riziere Orphanage for a few hours. Although it was a short visit, we were moved by the sincere love and acceptance by the children there. A young boy took an instant liking to me, following me around and insisting on sitting beside me! All too soon, we had to leave. The little boy who stuck to me chased the bus for a little while and waved goodbye. I almost could not hold back my tears.

We bid an emotional farewell to our Cambodian tour guide, Mr Hasnivath, who took care of us during the trip. We will miss the sincerity and warmth of the Cambodian people.

The OLJ for CABIN Club is a very meaningful activity as we were able to build friendships, get out of our comfort zone and learn to adapt to different situations. Hopefully, this will be an annual event so every CABIN Club member can benefit from this experience!



Tribute to Dr Ivan Polunin

Dr Ivan Polunin, one of the Society's longest-serving volunteers, passed away on 21 December 2010.

Singaporeans know him as a man of diverse talents and he was lauded for his contributions to natural sciences, anthropology and Singapore's history. This is our tribute to Dr Polunin, who witnessed the Society's evolution to what it is today.

Sunbeam Newsletter had the privilege of interviewing Madam Fam Siew Yin, Dr Polunin's wife, and Ms Olga Polunin, a Belgium-based painter and one of Dr Polunin's two daughters. Dr Nadya Polunin, a radiologist, lives and works in Birmingham.

When asked to describe Dr Polunin, Olga replied, "My father was a person who loved people. Whether you were a professor, a student or a street vendor, he extended the same respect to everyone. He genuinely cared for people, and was always interested in sharing his knowledge or learning something. He was concerned about the plight of the under-privileged, especially children, and always did what he could to help."

Added Madam Fam, "When Ivan was interested in something, he would immerse himself fully in it. That is the kind of person he was."

In 1966, Dr Polunin volunteered at the Society as a member of the Convalescent Home Standing Committee, which



Photo courtesy of Mr Stephen Yong

oversaw the running of the Home that took in malnourished or ill children. Volunteers who knew him often recall the numerous times he dressed as Santa Claus during the Home's Christmas parties. As Santa, he was a constant source of amazement and delight.

Madam Fam played a quiet but nonetheless important part in bringing joy to the children: "I made the costume that Ivan put on. In those days, you could not easily find such a costume at the shops."

For 44 years, Dr Polunin served in the committee, now known as the Sunbeam Place Standing Committee, after the Home moved to its current premises at Choa Chu Kang in 2006. He also served in the Society's Executive Committee and the Research and Advocacy Standing Committee. Later he was advisor to the Sunbeam Place Standing Committee until his death in December 2010.

Singapore Children's Society bids farewell to Dr Ivan Polunin, who dedicated four-and-a-half decades of voluntary work to help bring relief and happiness to children in need.

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1000 Enterprises Programme a Success



During the lean times of the recent economic crisis when families faced financial and employment uncertainties, an idea was born to rally businesses around a platform to enable them to make yearly contributions in aid of children and youth in need and their families. This idea came to fruition in February 2009, with the launch of the 1000 Enterprises for Children-in-Need programme, which aimed to gather 1000 or more companies to donate amounts from \$1,000 and above annually.

Now in its second year, the programme has surpassed \$1 million in annual donations from businesses. This was made possible with the support of 382 corporate partners, a 38% increase in participating companies compared to 276 last year.

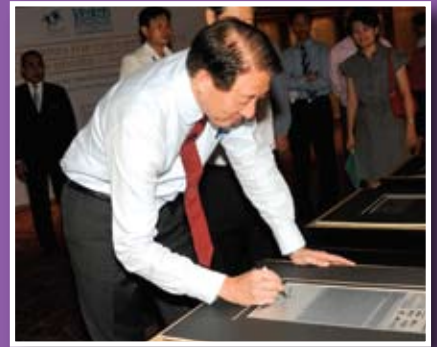
On 10 March, Singapore Children's Society held an Appreciation Dinner at Marina Mandarin to thank the 382 corporate partners in this fund-raising initiative. Among them were the Presenter of the initiative Noble Resources Pte Ltd and the Society's Community Partner, OCBC Bank. The event was graced by the patron of the 1000 Enterprises programme, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Mr Teo Chee Hean.

On his arrival, DPM Teo penned his autograph on commemorative plaques bearing an advertisement that appeared in the Straits Times thanking all participating companies for their support. These plaques were put up for silent auction that evening.

Commending the participating companies for their generosity amidst Singapore's economic recovery, DPM Teo encouraged more companies to step forward and contribute: "I am heartened to note that the 1000 Enterprises for Children-in-Need programme is growing year-on-year. While Singapore enjoys a robust recovery, let us not forget that there will always be those who need help. What the 1000 Enterprises programme has achieved is testament to the spirit of philanthropy and volunteerism in society. I encourage more businesses – large and small – to join and be a part of this programme."

Over 150 guests attended the event, representing their companies who were presented tokens of appreciation by DPM Teo and the Society's Chairman, Mr Koh Choon Hui.

The lighter touch of the evening was provided by well-known jazz saxophonist Nicole Duffell and two of her associates who were the guest entertainers. The trio's light and breezy tunes drew much appreciative applause.



JURONG YOUTH CENTRE GETS GRAFFITI MAKEOVER



The Society's Youth Centre (Jurong) was given a dazzling new makeover on Saturday 8 January 2011. Over 70 volunteers from OCBC Bank's Group Operations and Technology Division were joined by 10 youths from the Centre to participate in a graffiti workshop conducted by art education specialist Mr Kamal Bin Dollah.

Getting a trendy makeover has been on the Centre's wish list, with the view that a vibrant new look would relate to and attract more youth visitors.

OCBC Bank stepped forward to fully fund this project. The Bank has been the Society's Community Partner since 2004, with a Corporate Social Responsibility programme focused on helping children and youth realise their full potential.

Bright and early that Saturday morning, OCBC volunteers and the Centre's youths worked hand-in-hand at preparation work for the painting – masking doors, windows and signs with plastic sheets.



During a briefing, everyone listened with keen attention as Mr Kamal explained the origins of graffiti as an art form, the various techniques and the use of graffiti for self-expression. Participants were given an opportunity to hone their spray-painting skills on practice boards, before working on the walls of the Centre.

Volunteers and youths alike enthusiastically painted their assigned sections, before moving on to assist others. Measuring approximately 18 metres wide by 2.5 metres high, the painting was completed in just under two-and-a-half hours.

Participants and staff were clearly delighted with the finished product – with many lingering on to take photos of their creative handiwork after the event. We are certain that regular visitors to the Centre will like this bold, new look.

Thank you OCBC Bank for all the hard work!



A Helping Hand from Mizuho Bank



The Singapore branch of Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd raised more than \$16,000 for Singapore Children's Society. The bank adopted us as their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) beneficiary this year. During the bank's CSR event, staff were encouraged to give generously to children through various means – via cash, cheque, credit card or payroll deductions.

Mizuho Bank's employees have been giving generously in support of education for the less privileged, in the past two years raising over \$82,000 for student bursaries at NUS Business School, and more than \$36,000 in support of the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund.

On Mizuho's culture of giving, the bank's Senior Joint General Manager Mr Y K Guan explained, "In each of us lives a dream. Some of us eventually get to make that dream come true. Others need help along the way. But all of us can help make someone's dream come true if we only take a little time to care. That's what CSR means to us at Mizuho."

420 Mizuho staff raised the \$16,000 within a few hours, and the proceeds will go towards helping Children's Society's 57,000 beneficiaries.

GOING THE DISTANCE FOR OUR CHILDREN



Photo courtesy of Nike Singapore Pte Ltd

The Nike City 10K SG vs KL Challenge took place on 24 October 2010, where runners from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur competed to accumulate the longest combined distance covered. The city that clocked the most kilometres stood to win US\$30,000 for a charity of their choice.

Singapore Children's Society was nominated as the beneficiary by Singaporean runners, while runners from Kuala Lumpur chose Hope Worldwide Kuala Lumpur.

Staff from Singapore Children's Society also participated, joining local runners who enthusiastically hit the tarmac in support of our charity. The Singapore team emerged victorious after the total distance was tabulated (170,820km), making Children's Society the recipient of the prize.

American Olympic legend Carl Lewis presented the cheque to the Society's Fund Raising Director, Mr Chia Boon Kiang, at the Nike flagship store (Wisma Atria) on 5 December 2010. In return, we presented the legendary Lewis with a commemorative CD of the song *One Heart, One Love for Our Children*, written for Children's Society by local singer-composer Clement Chow. A drawing by one of our beneficiaries was presented to Nike Singapore. Children's Society thanks our local runners and Nike Singapore for their generosity and support!

Fun on Two-wheels at OCBC Cycle!



Fourteen children from Singapore Children's Society treated a part of the Formula One Track as their very own as they gleefully zipped away at the F1 Pit Building. They were participating at the OCBC Cycle Singapore 2011, held from 4 to 6 March.

OCBC Bank, the Community Partner of Children's Society, had invited our children to take part in the Mighty Savers children's race.

Our Executive Director Mr Alfred Tan and Fund Raising Director Mr Chia Boon Kiang were given the honour of flagging off three of the children's races. The young ones were clearly delighted to receive a gold medal for their participation, and a goodie bag brimming with delicious treats!

Our Executive Director Mr Alfred Tan (left) signalling the start of a race

Appreciation from the Subordinate Courts

On 12 November 2010, the Subordinate Courts presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Singapore Children's Society for its youth-related work, specifically the Buddy Care Programme and Youth Family Care Programme, which are designed to provide positive role models to mentor wayward youth and reduce their likelihood of reoffending.

The Society has been collaborating with the Juvenile Court on the Youth Family Care programme since 1998. In 2008, we started collaborating with the Juvenile Court and Cornerstone Community Services Centre on the Buddy Care Programme.



FREESTYLE FOOTBALL GETS THE THUMBS UP



RoundBox recently started a Freestyle Football Clinic with trainers from Urban Street Team, the only organisation in Singapore to conduct such classes. Right from the opening whistle, young boys of RoundBox took to the class very enthusiastically, and within weeks they were showing off their newly acquired balancing and juggling skills.

The boys eagerly participated in the "King Of The Streets" street soccer tournament held at *Scape Youth Centre on 19 December 2010. Coincidentally, we met two teams from our own Youth Centre (Jurong) as they were also competing. However, our teams from RoundBox and the Jurong centre were not pitted against each other.

It was a long and hard fight, but our boys lost to the team from Singapore Sports School during penalty shootouts. However, we made it to the top 8 out of 32 teams. Well done!

After hard training, the team showed off their moves at two different events in January this year – at a fund-raising event by Ngee Ann Polytechnic students, and at the launch of *The Read*, Asian Geographic's newest magazine for teenagers.

Freestyle Football is definitely well-received at RoundBox. The boys love it so much, they have requested to increase the sessions to three times a week!



The team training hard for the tournament.



Performing at the launch of *The Read*.

逆境勇者



当黎翔福只有17个月大的时候，他的母亲尤女士必须作出一个困难的决定。面对经济、情绪和住屋问题的情况下，母亲决定在1997年7月，将孩子交托新加坡儿童会的儿童之家（晨曦之家前称）寄养。

尤女士回想说：“儿童之家能为翔福提供一个安稳、抚育的环境，也让我有机会能照顾他。”

尽管面对轻微学习障碍，也无法享受到一般人拥有的家庭环境，但翔福依然茁壮成长。2003年，翔福在7岁时，进入恩园学校就读。凭着努力、毅力和对学习的热忱，他的学业成绩优秀，并获得老师们的赞赏。他不但成为全班第一名，还在2005年获提名为“模范学生”！

此外，翔福参加了少年旅，作为课外活动。他在2005年获擢升为“学长”，并率领团队参加学校的检阅礼。2007年，他代表学校参加了机器人比赛，并在同一年，因为学业成绩明显改善，而获颁“最佳进步奖”。

2010年，他也获颁3个“最杰出”奖项。有鉴于去年的出色表现，他获选到柬埔寨，参与“海外社区服务计划”，成为参与这项计划最年轻的恩园学校学生。

谦虚的翔福对儿童会为栽培他而付出的一切，表示感激。他说：“我要感谢晨曦之家的阿姨和朋友（辅导员和儿童发展员）。我难过的时候，他们鼓励我，并叫我不要放弃。”

尤女士也为儿子感到骄傲。她说：“他已变得勇敢、独立……我要感谢儿童会，让他有今日的成就。”

“千家企业”

筹款计划成功！



“千家企业”筹款计划自2009年2月发起，目标是要召集至少1千家企业，每年捐献至少1千元善款，帮助新加坡儿童会的儿童、青少年和他们的家庭。

计划迈入第二年，来自企业的常年捐款，至今已超越1百万元。目前，共有382家企业伙伴积极响应和支持这项计划，同去年的276家企业相比，增幅达38%。

为答谢参与计划的所有382家企业，儿童会于2011年3月10日，在滨海大酒店举办一场感谢宴。计划的名誉赞助人——副总理张志贤，是晚宴的特别嘉宾。

张副总理在晚宴上，赞扬参与计划、慷慨解囊的企业，同时也吁请更多企业共襄盛举。他说：“‘千家企业’筹款计划逐年扩大，令我十分欣慰。随着我国经济强劲复苏之际，各位千万不要忘记社会上还需要帮助的一群。‘千家企业’筹款计划所取得的成就，体现了我国社会的博爱与奉献精神。在此，我鼓励更多商家，无论规模大小，加入这项计划。”

超过150名企业代表出席了晚宴。张副总理与儿童会主席许俊辉先生也颁发纪念品给所有企业代表，聊表谢意。



裕廊青少年中心 涂鸦艺术新风貌

2011年1月8日(星期六),新加坡儿童会属下的裕廊青少年中心迎来了70多名华侨银行集团营运与科技部的义工。他们与中心的10名青少年,参加由艺术教育工作者Kamal Bin Dollah先生指导的涂鸦艺术工作坊。

中心职员希望中心外观能变得更时髦,以吸引更多青少年到访。这个愿望获得了华侨银行赞助而得以实现。

当天早上,华侨银行的义工和中心的青少年先做好粉刷前的准备工作。接着,Kamal先生向大家解释有关涂鸦艺术的起源和技巧,以及如何用涂鸦表达自我。参与者也有机会练习喷漆技术,然后才开始为中心外墙粉刷、喷漆。

在义工和青少年的齐心协力下,大约18米长、2.5米高的壁画,在两个半小时内大功告成。

参与者和中心职员都对壁画相当满意。在此,感谢华侨银行及职员的鼎力支持和协助!



柬埔寨之行



博文中学的集装箱活动社是首个参与“海外浸濡学习旅程”的学校。以下是16岁的中四社员林宇强,同我们分享他的旅程经历。

我校集装箱活动社的会员从2010年11月10日到15日,到柬埔寨展开5天的“海外浸濡学习旅程”。游览的地方包括:暹粒和柬埔寨首都金边。

我们走访当地的历史古迹——吴哥通。这座高耸的古寺,不禁让一些惧高的团员害怕。幸好,在朋友们的鼓励下,大家终于克服挑战,完成这段行程。

另外,我们在当地一所小学住了两天。除了负责教导校内学生英文和数学外,我们也协助建造厨房和食堂、布置厕所及修理桌椅。

我们也探访当地一家孤儿院。在短短几小时内,我们都被孤儿院里的小孩子的真诚所感动。

这趟旅程对集装箱活动社来说,别具意义。我们不但建立了深厚友谊,也让我们脱离原本习惯的舒适环境,学会如何适应新环境。



花式足球乐



圆厢近期推出“花式足球教室”,由本地组织“都市街头队”的导师负责执教。圆厢的孩子们上课时都非常认真。经过几个星期后,他们都迫不及待地展现自己所学到的平衡和运球技巧。

2010年12月19日,孩子们参加了在Scape青年活动中心举行的“街头之王”街头足球锦标赛。巧的是,儿童会属下的裕廊青少年中心也派出两支球队参加比赛。不过,圆厢队没有在比赛时,同这两支球队较量。

圆厢队员使出浑身解术,但最后还是在点球大战中,败给新加坡体育学校的球队。尽管如此,他们能从32支参赛队伍中,跻身8强,实在值得嘉奖!

另外,圆厢队员也在今年1月间,分别在两项活动上,呈献精彩的花式足球表演。

圆厢的孩子们都很喜欢花式足球,他们甚至希望每个星期能上三次课呢!





Launch of e-CSEW Directory

Searching for suitable programmes for your child amidst the choices offered by local social service agencies? Then the e-CSEW Directory is the answer. e-CSEW (Children's Social and Emotional Well-being) Directory is a new initiative by Children's Society. Similar to a search engine, the e-Directory consolidates programmes and publications targeted at children, youths and their caregivers by local social service agencies. Users can search based on subject matters and/or target audience/ beneficiaries, or search for programmes and publications specific to the individual organisation. This free directory can be found at: <http://csewdirectory.childrensociety.org.sg>

Agencies interested in submitting their programmes and publications to the e-Directory can reach us at info@childrensociety.org.sg

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