

HCSA HAPPENINGS

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Reliving the Good Ol' Days for a good cause

HCSA celebrated our signature annual fundraiser – Night of Hope Gala – on 20 September at One Farrer Hotel, graced by President Halimah Yacob, a strong supporter of our cause.

Themed 'Good Ol' Days', the Gala saw close to 400 guests coming together in support of HCSA's programmes for abused teenage girls, single parents in need, ex-offenders and their families, and other vulnerable individuals.

Radio DJ Denise Tan, the dynamic host for the evening entertained guests with her bubbly personality, along with the original parodies of singing group *Peranakan Sayang*, 16-year-old soprano soloist Lauren Yeo who sang *Memory* from the musical "Cats", and a live band.

The highlight of the evening was the live testimonies by two beneficiaries, Feroz and Natasha from HCSA Highpoint Halfway House and HCSA Dayspring Residential Treatment Centre respectively. There was not a dry eye in the ballroom as they bravely shared their stories and the struggles they experienced as they journeyed to where they are today.

We also had the opportunity to show our appreciation to the many supporters who contributed significantly to HCSA over the years. To do so, we invited Madam President to present the M.A.D. Awards (Making A Difference) to 12 deserving recipients who made a difference in the lives of HCSA beneficiaries and who also gave towards the sustainability of our programmes.



HCSA is grateful to all our supporters who made this Gala a success and we look forward to seeing you again next year!



HCSA Community Services is a charitable organisation with the Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status and a member of the National Council of Social Service. As a family of dedicated staff, volunteer teams, corporate and community partners, we continue to serve some of the most vulnerable in society, to give them a future and a hope. Our beneficiaries include ex-offenders, single parents facing limited support and teenage girls who have experienced the complex trauma of abuse.



Find out more about us and what we do at www.hcsa.org.sg

Highlights from Night of Hope Gala 2019

President Halimah paints with HCSA Beneficiary



Our Guest-of-Honour President Halimah Yacob adding the finishing touches to a painting specially created by Hana, a beneficiary of HCSA Dayspring Residential Treatment Centre, to produce a memorable one-of-a-kind masterpiece titled 'The Strength To Rise Up'.



The Dream Team

HCSA Board members, Dayspring Management Committee and staff all working together to make the Gala a fun and memorable night for all.



Pre-Dinner Activities

Our guests enjoyed a variety of pre-dinner activities ranging from old-school snacks, childhood games, dress-up booths and more!

Live Testimonies

Feroz, an alumni of HCSA Highpoint Halfway House, shared the inspiring testimony of his road to recovery and reunion with his wife and family.



Natasha, an alumni of HCSA Dayspring Residential Treatment Centre, brought tears to everyone's eyes with the heart-warming story of how she overcame her abusive past.



Performances



Lauren Yeo, 16-year-old soprano soloist, sings *Memory*, from the musical "Cats" by Andrew Lloyd Webber



The live band, 10.seconds, kicked the atmosphere up a notch with their fantastic live music.



Peranakan Sayang got everyone up and dancing with their fresh take on local Peranakan folk songs and pop classic oldies.

Token of Appreciation for President Halimah

To thank President Halimah for gracing the event, HCSA's CEO Kim Lang presented her with this beautiful painting created by a beneficiary who grew tremendously during her time at HCSA Dayspring Residential Treatment Centre.

Titled 'Beyond Love Birds', the two birds represent the young girl's hopes and the attitude she hopes to have in every moment of her life.



A law firm's mission to empower single parents

Without knowledge of their legal rights, single parents often struggle to make informed decisions. But CHP Law LLC is on a mission to change that!

On 5 October, they conducted their first workshop to expose our SPIN members to important legal matters frequently faced by single parents like themselves. The session was extremely beneficial to our members, many of whom were previously unfamiliar with the topics raised.

Covering four broad categories – Custody, Care, Control and Access, Maintenance, Change of Circumstances and Death, the workshop educated our members on how to exercise their legal rights when approaching these issues.

We are thankful to our volunteers who assisted with childminding so that our members could meaningfully participate and get the most from the workshop.

As part of an ongoing partnership, CHP Law LLC will continue supporting HCSA Dayspring SPIN through low-bono legal assistance to SPIN beneficiaries, education and training from SPIN staff, and fundraising/sponsorship assistance.



Running for a second chance

On 15 September, the residents and staff of HCSA Highpoint Halfway House took part in the annual Yellow Ribbon Prison Run – a distance of courage and determination in support of ex-offenders.

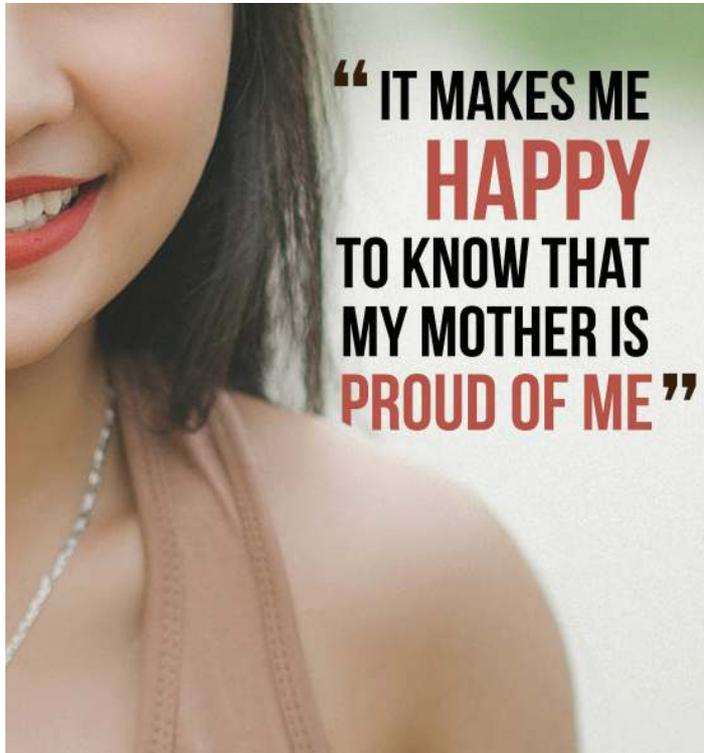
It was an especially meaningful time for our residents as they had the opportunity to run in support of their own cause and inspire others to give ex-offenders like themselves a second chance at life.

Our residents also had the privilege to run in brand-new sports shoes, purchased using the Decathlon vouchers gifted by supporters of our sports fundraising campaign last year! These vouchers were made possible by the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour who adopted HCSA Highpoint's sports fundraiser as part of their Christmas Wish Upon A Start project last year.

We are thankful to have been a part of this year's Yellow Ribbon Prison Run once again and even more grateful to the supporters who have made it possible for our residents to represent their cause!



The Academy's first female graduate!



"I first decided to sign up for HCSA Academy's culinary course because cooking reminded me of the times I spent back at home with my mother, before landing myself in a girl's home. My first day felt slightly uncomfortable as I did not expect to be the youngest and the only girl!

Being surrounded by girls most of the time, I was not used to it at first. But I soon realised that the other trainees were easy to get along with and I wasn't treated any differently from the rest. In fact, I didn't feel as though being a girl was a disadvantage at all. I would definitely encourage other girls to join the course too.

The course boosted my self-confidence tremendously which made the entire experience worth it. When I first went in, I felt unsure of myself especially when I was the last to finish preparing our first fried rice dish. But now, I can confidently cook a dish on my own – even if people are watching me. Whenever I go home over the weekend, I make an effort to help my mother cook.

It makes me happy to know that my mother is proud of me for taking this course - especially because there were many times when I didn't think I could make it through. Knowing that I did makes me confident of my ability to achieve things when I put my heart and mind to it. After all, if I can take away something valuable from this course, everyone else can too."

- Mandy, graduate of HCSA Academy

There's no place like home



Home means something different to everyone. But what about those with a history of abuse or incarceration?



Scan the QR code to watch our beneficiaries describe their ideal 'home'.

Make A Difference Today



Scan the QR code to donate

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