

# Alive Community Network - Annual Report for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009



Alive Community Network was set up in 4<sup>th</sup> October 2002 as a society.  
It was registered under the Charities Act on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

**Charity Registration Number:** 1804  
**ROS Registered Number:** ROS 290/2002 WEL  
**Registered Address:** 291 Oriental Plaza New Bridge Road, #02-12 S(088756)

**Management Committee:**

- 1) Mathew Mathews, President
- 2) Leong Yoong Hwa Terence, Vice President
- 3) Chong Jack Sheng, Secretary
- 4) Chew Ban Chuan Victor Mark, Asst. Secretary
- 5) Lai Sock Le Shirlie, Treasurer
- 6) James Yin Kah Ho, Committee Member
- 7) Khoo Chong Kiat, Committee Member
- 8) Ho Choon Kiat, Member
- 9) Esther Lavinia Lim Ai Chern, Member
- 10) Leonard Oh Chia Ju, Member

**Banker:** DBS Bank Ltd  
**Auditor:** John Navamani & Co.

## Objective:

- a) To increase awareness among young professionals of the needs of the community and the ways they can contribute.
- b) To harness the support of medical professionals and other interest or professional groups or volunteers to develop social, welfare and community programmes and activities for the community.
- c) To have all such other objects and do all other things as are complementary or incidental to the attainment of the foregoing objects, or any of them and particularly as follows:
  - Provide talks, seminars, workshops, symposiums and conferences on family, marriage, youth, singlehood and other related topics, matters and social issues.
  - Provide counselling therapy, social and educational programs to members of the public.
  - Conduct fund raising activities
  - Lease, purchase or build premises where such objects can be carried out.

## Finance & Funding

The funds of the Society are mainly derived from free-will donations and income generated from counselling/educational courses run by the Society. Any additional fund required for special purposes are raised from members with the consent of the General Meeting of the members.

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## **REVIEW OF YEAR FROM AUGUST 2008 TO JULY 2009**

Throughout the year, the society carried out various activities to promote its aims. A brief write up of these activities are as below.

### **Educational Endeavours**

#### *Counselling education*

Both our Diploma and Advanced Diploma programmes are registered with Ministry of Education. Only the Advanced Diploma in Counselling is certified by the Australian Counselling Association. Since its launch in April 2006, the network provides good quality counselling education by lecturers with postgraduate qualifications and counselling experience. The network uses a rolling admission system to enrol students into the program. To-date, 35 students who are from various helping agencies have benefited from this programme and some will graduate in 2010.

#### *Tuition/Enrichment classes*

The network had run 5 tuition classes to students living within the vicinity of Cantonment, Everton Park, Spottiswoode Park & Queenstown. With the relocation of the network to Mountbatten Road in 2010, these classes will be terminated.

The ultimate intention of these tuition and enrichment classes is to offer classes of a high quality to those who cannot afford fees associated with such programs. The network engages qualified tutors at affordable rates to ensure high standards of tutorial help. Class size is kept small at a maximum size of 4 students to ensure effectiveness.

### **Counselling Endeavours**

#### *Personal Counselling*

Counselling was given weekly on the premises by one counsellor and one youth worker. Counselling cases presented included issues related to marriage, relationship issues, emotional distress, depression and delinquency. The youth worker also counselled youth dealing with gender identity issues and difficulties handling emotions. In all approximately 50 persons benefited from counselling help through the year with several receiving intensive help during this period.

#### **Community Befriending**

During the course of the year, network members befriended 20 families who were identified as in distress either because of very low income or having a family member who is incarcerated. Network volunteers visited these families regularly to provide:

- To bring some small assistance from the network in the form of a voucher.
- To check on the family to see how they are coping
- To give a listening ear to family members who may want to talk to someone who is obviously there because they care.
- To provide basic guidance, advice, counsel or to make appropriate referrals
- To bring care and encouragement

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## **REVIEW AND EXPLANATION OF ALL MAJOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

Most of the funds received this year were frequent donations from an educational institution, Camford Business School as well as the Society of Tourist Guides. Alive Community Church donated largely to pay for the office rentals of the network and the staff salaries.

Other expenses went to the administration of the counselling programmes. These costs included registration fees with the Ministry of Education, accreditation fees and instructor fees.

## **FUTURE PLANS AND COMMITMENTS**

For the coming year, we hope to submit our application for IPC status by the end of 2010.

We foresee the following benefits if we are to be given IPC status:

- ❖ Ability to obtain public donations with double taxation exemption for donors.
- ❖ Availability of government grants to tap for our programmes.
- ❖ Development of good corporate governance to enhance efficiency & transparency.

We also plan to start some general new initiatives.

### ***Certificate in Counselling***

A course that we will be starting in 2010 will be a shorter programme – Certificate in Counselling. This is a 3-month programme which provide an exposure to helping skills that will be taught by members of our training team for the Adv Dip programme. This course will be a useful one for those who are involved in community work who do not require a very thorough understanding of counselling theory but who will benefit from a basic overview of counselling.

Course participants will be charged a minimal fee, as many who attend will unlikely to have financial resources for the hefty payments. It is anticipated that this will be a introduction to individuals interested in embarking in volunteering and befriending help to community members in need.

### ***Discovering You!***

The network has designed a youth outreach programme entitled 'Discovering You!' that has began by end of July 2009. It allows young persons to gain greater awareness of their potential and the needed avenues to reach this potential. It has 3 components that are stated below: -

#### **Component 1: Discovering Yourself**

Youths will get to discover their talents and abilities through various activities.

#### **Component 2: Finding Your Niche**

Youths can choose between several industries that may cater to your interest such as the beauty industry, creative industry, hospitality industry or health and wellness industry. You will also get to experience actual work environments and hear from professionals about the various tasks involved in these different careers.

#### **Component 3: Mentorship**

Network members who are experts in the various industries will volunteer as mentors. This way, a youth can be mentored personally or in groups under our volunteers.