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Handicaps Digest

FORGING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY



IN THIS ISSUE

- | | | | |
|--|--------|--|--------|
| • True Colours | Pg. 04 | • The HWA Gentleman with the Fighting Spirit | Pg. 10 |
| • Thank you for your service, Mdm Kyi Kyi! | Pg. 06 | • 34 th Annual Wheel, Walk or Jog | Pg. 12 |



Message from Subrata

Dear Members and Friends,

Financial Year 2017-18 has proven successful in terms of our efforts to uplift the quality of life of the physically disabled and elderly in our society. I am pleased to inform you that with the generous support from various Ministries, donors and well-wishers, HWA managed to raise sufficient funds to cover its operational cost and accumulate a moderate surplus.

We have collated reports of various departments and will present these to you soon through our annual report, which were made available during our 49th Annual General Meeting on 25 August 2018.

I am pleased to inform that since 1 April 2018, our Home Care Services has been subvented under Ministry of Health (MOH) funding. Our clients now enjoy subsidies for Home Care Services depending on their financial situation.

Please keep note of the following important day:

1. HWA's Flag-Day 2018 – 15 September 2018, Saturday island-wide.

We will be sending you details of the Flag day events through a separate circular. Do rally your loved ones, friends and colleagues for this, as we would be needing all the help we can get!

Look out for our circulars, and join our community in our upcoming events and on Facebook. Let us stay connected, and grow as one!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Subrata', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Subrata Banerjee
Executive Director

Our Executive Committee

Our Executive Committee comprises 12 Members of the Association. Elected every two years at the AGM, these dedicated men and women serve on an honorary basis.

The Executive Committee oversees, and advises on, the management of the Association, and ensures its compliance with sound governance practices so that its objectives are attained.



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Committee Member



True Colors





HWA is happy to have been a part of the True Colours exhibition held at the Festival Village in March 2018. We showcased the newest addition to our fleet of Driving Instruction cars. The car, kindly donated by the Land Transport Authority (LTA), was retrofitted with hardware allowing People with Disabilities to regain their freedom to drive. It features the Over Ring, an electronic control ring mounted over the steering wheel that can be pushed to accelerate the vehicle. This makes it easier for the disabled to manoeuvre the car. Visitors were amazed and impressed by how easy it was to use the device and how it accommodated the needs of people with different kinds of disability.



Thank you for your service, Mdm Kyi Kyi!



Mdm Kyi Kyi Ohn has been with HWA for 20 years and was a manager with the HWA Jurong Point Rehabilitation Centre until July 2018, when she retired after a long career in physiotherapy.

Mdm Kyi Kyi stumbled onto physiotherapy by a stroke of luck. When she was a fresh graduate majoring in Physics in Myanmar, her sister submitted her details in an application for a physiotherapy course thinking it was related to physics. It was during the orientation programme that Mdm Kyi Kyi realised physiotherapy was her dream job.

After graduation, she was assigned to a community hospital as a junior therapist. Initially, she worried if her experience was enough to care for her patients. But her resourcefulness and quick thinking to adapt the treatment to the patient led her to do well. One case that remains ingrained in her memory is the time she had to use hot towels, in the absence of heat pads, to warm up the joints of a young man at Yangon General Hospital.

Mdm Kyi Kyi also remembers one case where a young man and an old man had attended a similar recovery programme. Despite being older, the elderly man's determination and





discipline to exercise resulted in him recovering and regaining mobility faster than the young man.

She attributes her vitality to the importance of exercise. While admitting that bodily aches have become a part of her life, she says that exercises such as stretching have been helpful in alleviating them.

Her advice to new therapists?

Communicate effectively with patients to understand their needs before, during and after therapy sessions, evaluate the problem, and change the treatment

intervention whenever necessary. She emphasises that learning is never-ending. As treatment interventions are always advancing, one needs to upgrade his/her knowledge and skills through continuous learning, sharing and case discussions. Lastly, always put yourself in the patient's shoes and treat them wholeheartedly.



In & Around HWA

Staff Appreciation Dinner 2018



On 2 March 2018, HWA held a Staff Appreciation Dinner to thank its Executive Committee and honour its Long-Service Award recipients.

We congratulate, for their five years of dedicated service to HWA thus far, Ms Vasantha Thevi (Fundraising Executive), Mr Tan Bok Khoon (Senior Driver), and Mr Chan Chee Kwong (Senior Driver).

We congratulate, for their 10 years of dedicated service to HWA, Ms Joyce Wang (Human Resource

Manager), Ms Angela Zhang (Social Worker), Mr Johnson Yeo Tiong Seng (Senior Driver) and Ms Sabia Baanu d/o M Barick (Healthcare Assistant).

We congratulate, for his 15 years of dedicated service to HWA, Mr Lum Lin Kwong (Senior Driver).

And, last but certainly not least, our sincere kudos to Mr Subrata Banerjee, our Executive Director, and to Mdm Kyi Kyi Ohn (HWA Jurong Point Rehab Centre Manager), for their tireless work and whopping 20 years of service to our Association!

Inclusive Service Delivery Press Launch in January 2018

SMRT has continued its efforts to improve services and ensure that staff are trained to assist passengers with special needs with the launch of its “Inclusive Service Delivery” programme.

This programme endeavours to provide SMRT staff with the requisite hands-on training needed to help passengers who are wheelchair-bound, visually impaired, with dementia and/or generally less mobile. This is intended to help such passengers access facilities easily as and when they ride on SMRT’s trains and/or buses.

HWA, as one of SMRT’s partner Social Service Organisations, was specially invited to the launch of this programme on 25 January 2018 at the Ang Mo Kio MRT Station Crew Room. Our inputs were sought in line with ensuring better accessibility for passengers with special needs.

We are grateful to SMRT for partnering us and continuing their endeavour to ensure their services are well-attuned to the needs of all Persons with Disabilities in our community.



(P.S. Not in the picture here are Long-Service Award winners Mr Lim Hwee Hua and Mr Sim Wee How, both Senior Drivers, who could not join us for this Dinner.)

The HWA Gentleman with the Fighting Spirit

by Chuan Chen (A member of HWA)



Despite facing physical challenges, the late Timothy Ang Kia Seng was a role model to emulate, given his never-give-up, indomitable spirit.

Born on 17 August 1955, Timothy became paralysed at seven after a bout of tuberculosis which attacked his spine. His parents were advised to bring him for surgery, but they were against it. As a result, his condition deteriorated.

Growing up, Timothy faced difficulties getting around and spent most of his time in the Mistri Wing of Singapore General Hospital. Upon turning 14, he was moved to the Singapore Cheshire Home. There, a teacher named Ms Judy Tan would visit him regularly, bringing storybooks to encourage him to read and write. He was released from long-term hospitalisation only in the 1970s.

Timothy was well-read. However, his medical condition and lack of academic qualifications posed challenges to employment. He could only do home-based data entry, which paid lowly. His doctor recommended approaching HWA for help in finding a job.

In 2010, Timothy became one of the first students to enrol for HWA's architectural draughtsmanship course. Timothy was the only student who remained in the programme. His determination later proved worthwhile.

Some HWA Members shared that Timothy was always spirited and full of joy. I vividly remember how eager he was, at a Christmas Party once, to receive a digital architectural drawing (AutoCAD) that I had done. While the rest of us were busy enjoying the feast, he was eager to help with my work. I was very touched by his kind efforts!

In 2013, HWA set up a computer laboratory at its Jurong Point Branch Rehabilitation Centre. Timothy conducted architectural training sessions there, along with four other trainers from the Building & Construction Authority Academy.

In 2014, the laboratory was registered as a social enterprise known as the HWA Building Information Modelling (BIM) Studio. On 22 December 2015, BIM Studio was relocated to the Enabling Village in Redhill. Timothy was appointed Co-Trainer.



I first learnt about BIM Studio in January 2016 during a HWA outing at Labrador Park. BIM Studio was where I got to know Timothy better.

Ever the jovial soul, he would welcome me to class with a joyful smile on his face. I often went to class feeling lost, as I was the only female among 17 trainees. Nonetheless, Timothy would often approach me, easing me into the learning process, and teaching me the basics of AutoCad. He coached me at a pace I found comfortable and conducive, and made sure that I could understand every concept.

Once, I called Timothy and shared about the difficulties I faced in drawing. He assured me that he would explain to me more during the next lesson. True enough, he did. He made learning skills easy. I am very thankful for all that he has done for me. An inspired learner would certainly remember the greatness of a truly dedicated teacher.

On 16 January 2017, I went to the BIM Studio to pass him some festive goodies. We chatted for more than an hour. He told me about his plans for my learning in the future. Unfortunately, that was my last time seeing him face-to-face...

The fateful day came in March 2017. Timothy was rushed to the hospital after experiencing great discomfort and pain. Doctors found kidney stones and successfully removed them. Timothy was discharged from hospital in May. However, he started experiencing a quicker heartbeat, and was told to rest at home.

He suffered a stroke in his brain on 8 June and fell into a coma for 10 days before passing away peacefully on 19 June. Timothy's passing saddened many, as he was a source of encouragement to those around him.

Let us all cherish him in our thoughts and hearts, most of all his positive attitude and glowing qualities. Timothy, you will certainly be remembered - dearly, deeply and fondly.

34th Annual Wheel, Walk or Jog



HWA held its 34th annual “Wheel, Walk or Jog” charity and family carnival event at Marina Barrage on 21 April 2018. The event was graced by Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development, Mr Desmond Lee. We thank Mr Lee for his warm interactions with our members and for joining us in the 5-kilometre route despite the humid weather.

The family carnival would not have been possible without the support of various schools and corporations. We thank the many HWA members who came and participated wholeheartedly in this event.

We are also very thankful to **Tote Board, Aerospec Supplies, www.tianlu.sg, Holland & Barrett, Microsoft, Rico Engineering Works, Apro Asia Protection, Aim Heng Car Services**, along with our many generous supporters and valued partners, for making this event possible.

HWA is very grateful to all involved in this event and for making it a resounding success.





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A Year in Photos



The Handicaps Welfare Association (HWA) was founded to encourage and foster the ideals of self-help and mutual assistance among people with disabilities, and to promote their welfare. All members of the Executive Committee are persons with disabilities, elected to lead and serve in the Association's running.

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EVERY THOUGHT COUNTS!

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS:

For 48 years, HWA has responded to the call of Singaporeans with disabilities, providing programmes and services specially tailored to their individual needs. However, we humbly seek your help, to continue helping them. Please pledge us your kind support.

Do complete and return the form below, to offer hope to our fellow community members in need. ***As HWA is an Institute of Public Character (IPC) charity, all donations to HWA will enjoy a tax exemption of 2.5 times the amount donated.***

Help us make Singapore an even more inclusive and caring society. Donate to our cause.



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Have a QR reader installed on your smartphone? Simply scan the QR Code, to access our mobile website.



Introducing our Corporate Communications Executive Eugene!

Eugene has joined HWA as Corporate Communications Executive and has experience working in the social enterprise sector and the theatre industry. He was a trainer in Service Learning and believes in the transformative power of Volunteerism. In his spare time, he enjoys baking and is a chorister with Sing Mens Chorus.