

The Red Feather News

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The Editor, The Red Feather News, Singapore Cheshire Home, 159 Serangoon Garden Way, Singapore 556056, Tel: 62809673

From The Editor

Dear readers,

It's been two years since we last published our Red Feather News. In that time, some things happened and some things changed. Take, for example, the Sars period, when everyone was afraid to venture out. Then, there was the bird flu and the fight against terrorism, the ceaseless bombing and the number of casualties as a result of human's mindless activities as well as natural disasters. Through it all, there's one thing to be learnt. Don't take anything for granted.

Things may change, for the better or for worse. In fact, changes happen all the time. But if we can adapt to changes, than we can move forward with it and veer towards a better future.

I'm happy to work on the Red Feather News again. But I would not be able to do it without contributions from my writers. In this issue, our articles come from two new residents, whom we have recruited as members on our editorial board, as well as a Day Care client.

The Red Feather News is going on-line. Soon you'll be able to access our Red Feather News on our Home's website at www.cheshirehome.org.sg

Happy reading, everyone.

Yours,

A Tribute To Mrs. Molly Cheng

Our deep condolences go to the family of the late Mrs. Molly Cheng.

We are saddened by the sudden passing of Mrs. Cheng who was a much cherished member of the Management Committee of the Home.

Mrs. Cheng had given more than 40 years of dedicate service to the Home. She had been with the Home since its early years and was instrumental in the planning of the Home and the organising of its day care centre. She was Chairman of the Day Care Centre since its opening in 1992.

Mrs. Cheng loves gardening and was especially good with bougainvilleas. She could make a little shoot come out in full bloom. She enjoyed and spent much time with the residents and the day care clients in their gardening activity and delighted in implanting her knowledge and skill.

Nothing was too small for Mrs. Cheng to do. She would remember the lemon flavoured hacks that John loves and would bring some for him ever so often when she come.

Though the dear lady is no longer in our midst, she would be remembered and missed by all who had seen her smiles and heard her sweet and gentle voice.

The Great Red Feather Sale

While the shopping centres were having the Great Singapore Sale, we too have our own Great Red Feather Sale. Our Great Sale was on from 21st June to 25th and was so popular that it was extended to 1st July.

For this great sale, we had lots of goods that were mostly new. There were cotton clothes, children's wear, pants, ceramic mugs and toys besides other things. Prices ranged from 10 cents to 50 cents per piece. Residents, staff, day care clients and visitors were the main customers. Many of them bought a lot of goods for their friends and relatives. There was a lady volunteer who bought many bagfuls of goods to donate to the poor in Indonesia and Cambodia.

It was a busy period for the five of us who took turns manning the shop. Fortunately, some other residents came and helped us to give us a break. But all of us were happy the Red Feather Sale was a success. I enjoyed looking after the Red Feather Shop and look forward to helping out in the next big sale.

~ Loke Peng Mun

[N.B. The Red Feather Shop was set up in 2001. Its proceeds go into the Exigency Fund, which is used for necessary expenses which are not covered by any other funds the Home receives.]

Editorial Board

Editor: Miss Elizabeth Tan

Members: Mr. Stephen Sng

Mr. Michael Lim

Mr. Loke Peng Mun

Mr. Chan Yu Leong

Layout: Mr. Neo Ah Her

Cheshire Home - My Second Home

I'm Josceylin, a day care client, at the Singapore Cheshire Home. I had a bus accident in 1998. Because there were blood clots in my brain, I had 2 operations in 3 days. The brain injury resulted in the inflexibility of my hands and legs. My speech was also affected.

I was referred to Cheshire Home in March 1999 after my discharge from Ang Mo Kio Hospital. Back then, I could neither talk nor eat. I communicate through writing with a marker and a book, and was milk-fed through a tube to my stomach. I would bring along the prescribed milk in mineral bottles and all the necessary equipments needed for the therapists to feed me. Then gradually in year 2000, the tube was removed. Initially I was on soft-diet, but now I can eat rice. After a throat operation in 2001, I was able to talk a little.

I love coming to Cheshire Home where I have many friends who do not mind my 'physical disabilities or looks'. Thomas, who bought me an organizer, is one of them. He had spinal injury that left him half-paralyzed. I'd also made two new friends, Peng Mun and Elizabeth. I feel great chatting with them.

Another thing I enjoy at the Cheshire Home is the hydrotherapy. I would pray hard for fine weather so I can do hydro. I really love it. It's the only way I can tan. Because of my disability, you can't expect me to be running around in order to get tanned, right?

I also enjoyed the outings organized by the Home. I'd been to the Zoo, Jurong Bird Park, Discovery Centre, Sentosa, Chinatown and the goat farm. I like going to Chinatown best because I love shopping, and I hadn't been shopping since my accident. I bought some special 'muah chee' at Chinatown. They tasted very nice and you can't buy them anywhere else. They come in many flavours: chocolate, strawberry, red bean, green tea and many more.

In conclusion, I enjoy going to Cheshire Home. I treat it like my second home. I look forward to Wednesdays at Cheshire Home where I get to do hydro and meet and chat with friends.

~ Josceylin Toh, (Day Care Client)

The Treatment Room

When I first came to this Home on 10th of February 2004, I always sat near the "Convalescence Room". Having observed the room for quite some time, I felt that the room is better utilized now that it had been turned into a Treatment Room with effect from the end of February.

The purpose of setting up this Treatment Room was to help the residents do daily dressing of wounds as well as to apply medication or ointments for them when required. The size of the Treatment Room is about the size of the resident bedroom. The facilities include a washroom within the room itself. There's a hospital bed with long curtains that can be drawn around the bed and a cabinet for the storage of bandages, ointments and medications. Care attendants mop and sweep the room everyday. It is then locked up and the key is given to the Sister for safekeeping.

Two of the residents currently using the treatment room are Hock Seng and John Sim. The room is air-conditioned and is conveniently located near the bedrooms.

~ Chan Yu Leong

Newsflash!

- ✔ We welcome 2 new residents this year. Mr. Chan Yu Leong, 25, came in on 10/2/2004 and Mr. Loke Peng Mun, 33, joined us on 10/3/2004.
 - ✔ 21/04/04 - Day Care Outing - Goat farm and Avifauna.
 - ✔ 15/05/04 - Cleaning, Interaction and McDonald's Lunch by Goldman Sachs Asset Management Group.
 - ✔ 23/05/04 - Tea Time with Andrea De Cruz.
 - ✔ 02/06/04 - Vesak Great Joy Party at Orchid Country Club by Singapore Buddhist Welfare Services.
 - ✔ 19/06/04 - Painting of Day Care Centre by Goldman Sachs.
 - ✔ 26/06/04 - Volunteer day event with the Singapore Infocomm Technologies Federation by Starhub Pte Ltd.
 - ✔ 27/06/04 - Shopping at Parkway Parade and Dinner at East Coast park by SCH's volunteers.
 - ✔ 15/07/04 - Day Care Outing - Bengawan Solo and Kikkoman Factory.
 - ✔ 30/07/04 - National Day Celebration at Singapore Indoor Stadium – Concert by Singapore Chinese Orchestra.
 - ✔ 14/08/04 - National Disability Games - Opening Ceremony and Bowling – by Singapore Disability Sports Council.
 - ✔ 18/08/04 - National Disability Games – Boccia – by Singapore Disability Sports Council.
 - ✔ 31/08/04 - Outing to Newater Plant Dow Chemicals.
 - ✔ 02/09/04 - Lantern Fantasy at Chinese Gardens.
 - ✔ 24/09/04 - KPMG Community Day.
 - ✔ 28/09/04 - Visit by Johnai High School (Japan).
- ✔ For more updates of events, you can look up our Home's website at www.cheshirehome.org.sg and follow the link there.

"Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."

---- Pope John XXIII