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ASJSM PROJECT
Spring - Winter

Newsletter

2/2016

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The Right People, The Right Time

Currently, no facility yet exists in Singapore with integrated programming for the very young and the very old. As part of design and planning research for PSW, a small team travelled overseas recently to learn from pioneering intergenerational facilities in the field.

On 6 - 13 April 2016, Project Executive Director Michael Wong led a team to visit Providence Mount St. Vincent in Seattle and Kotoen in Tokyo. The team comprised of representatives from PSW's sub-committees for Preschool, Nursing Home, and Building, as well as a representative sponsored by

St Andrew's Nursing Home and 2 senior architects sponsored by RSP Architects Planners & Engineers Pte Ltd.

Located in Seattle, Providence Mount St. Vincent is a 5-storey facility that started off as a nursing home set up by the Sisters of Providence. The team had the opportunity to study their operations and the various innovative programmes that Mount St. Vincent had implemented. The residents retain the control and dignity they have known all their lives in the warmth of a socially-based community. The childcare centre and the nursing home's

intergenerational art classes also help spark creativity in this truly intergenerational facility.

Kotoen in Edogawa Ward in Tokyo, Japan, is a 4-storey facility (with 1 storey below ground) built on an area of 3,550 sqm with a built-up area of 1,840 sqm. It is much smaller than Mount St Vincent. It is run by a very lean team of full-time staff with only 7 trained nurses, and a pool of highly dedicated volunteers. Their philosophy of care is also quite different. Kotoen also has another care centre in Tsubaki, 10 minutes' drive from their main centre. This centre serves both the mentally-challenged elderly

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The Right People, The Right Time

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and special needs children.

Originally starting as a conventional nursing home in 1962, Kotoen began to host occasional visits from the nursery school built next to it in 1970. The nursery and childcare facility is now licensed to coexist and to be managed alongside the elder care facility. The two facilities are integrated, and interaction between the younger day visitors and the older permanent residents happens regularly. Joint activities and visits are also organised everyday for wheelchair-bound senior residents.

Typically, daily interaction sessions between children and elderly are organised (though there was no intergenerational activity during the visit as an influenza infection had broken out among the children). The team was told that children are allowed to play and exercise bare bodied to strengthen their immunity. They even saw one volunteer teaching the children sumo wrestling!

Snapshots of children engaging with the elderly in Kotoen



Study Trip Objectives

- To learn the model of operations of established integrated child care centres/nursing homes.
- To establish relations with them. This will pave the road for future interactions that will be informative and useful (ideally, we would like to send someone for a short term attachment in the future)

Throughout the trip, it was clear to the team that the Lord's hand was guiding them all the way. In Seattle they had some problems finding suitable accommodation near to their host. As Michael shared this during his cell meeting, one of the cell members Kaye said that her husband happened to be in Seattle and they got in touch. The next day he personally went to West Seattle (where their host is located) and booked a hotel only four minutes walk from Mount St Vincent. While in Tokyo, Ho Teng Fai, an SJSMer who speaks fluent Japanese and was on business trip, unexpectedly came to help the team find their way to Kotoen. Thanks be to God for his provision!

Perhaps the biggest takeaway from the trip was getting an understanding of the benefits of intergenerational activities. Based on the successful programmes in Mount St Vincent and Kotoen, these interactions go beyond just cost saving. They help establish meaningful relationships, which bring joy, happiness, and many other benefits to the lives to both the young and old.

The team has already made presentations to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA). Both agencies viewed the proposal positively, and were highly receptive to the idea of the integrated facility. Please continue to pray for the Lord's blessing over PSW.

Development Updates

A mini-exhibition of the draft designs was held over two weekends (9/10 and 16/17 April) to gather feedback from SJSMers. The response was generally positive and there were some helpful suggestions on how to improve the design. Along with the information gathered from the recent study trip, the architects are in the process of refining the designs for final approval. The finalised designs will be presented at the EGM on 17 July.

Coming Soon!

PSW FORUM - 2 & 3 July

PSW forums will now be held on 2 July (at Youth Service) and 3 July to address questions or feedback you may have about the designs, so mark your calendars and plan to come!

CHURCH EGM - 17 July

The Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) which was originally scheduled for 22 May will now be held on 17 July. This is to provide more time for design refinements. This EGM will be held to approve the final designs for the PSW building.

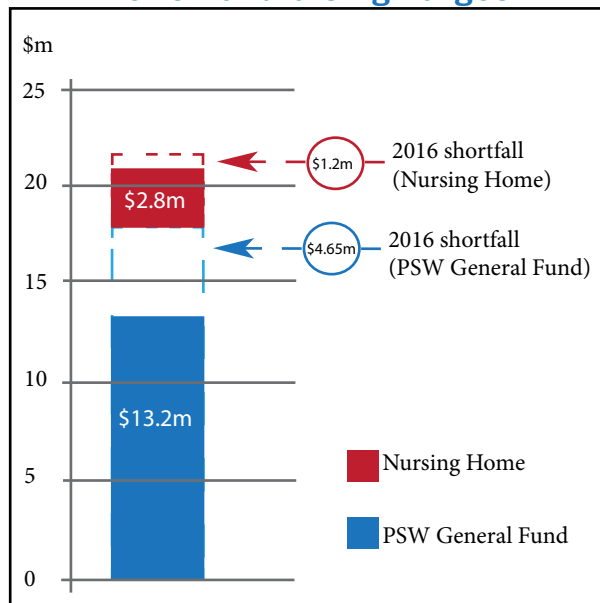
FUND RAISING Update

By the end of 2016, our target is to have **\$21.85m** total on hand for PSW (for land lease renewal, construction of nursing home, childcare facilities and additional church facilities). Breaking this down, we need \$17.85m for the PSW General Fund and \$4m for the Nursing Home. Out of this (as at end-April), we have raised \$13.2m and \$2.8m respectively (solid coloured portion in the accompanying graph). This leaves a total of \$5.85m left to raise for this year.

At the recently concluded AGM, we announced that an external donor has pledged \$1m towards PSW annually for the next five years (2016-2020). We thank the Lord for moving people to give generously.

Taking this into account, we have a shortfall of **\$4.85m** left to raise this year (i.e. \$600,000 monthly over 8 months). We have slowed down significantly in giving towards PSW this year. Let us persevere in giving faithfully and generously!

2016 Fundraising Target



Interview



In this issue, we feature Sarah Yong, an SJSM member who has counted herself in for PSW.

Tells us a little about yourself.

I've been a member of SJSM for more than ten years. I serve in the children's ministry and Special Needs group. I am a speech therapist by training and now lead a multi-disciplinary group in the area of Assistive Technology (technology that enables people with disabilities to overcome obstacles they face).

What led you to volunteer with PSW?

I have worked with quite a few elderly, children and those in the community. And so I thought that I could provide some practical perspectives of how the PSW facilities would impact the clients. One thing led to another, and now I'm in the Nursing Home

Sarah Yong, Nursing Home Management Committee Member

Management Committee.

In making my decision, I also recalled the verse in the Bible that says you shouldn't hide your light under a bowl!

How have you seen God work in PSW thus far?

I am constantly grateful for how much of this project has been undergirded by prayer. Being in the committee I have had the privilege of seeing how PSW isn't just about floor plans, timelines and meetings. Rather, it's also about seeking God for what He wants to do through us. In fact, just recently, during an important committee meeting, we spent a substantial amount of time praying and worshipping before diving into the technical details!

I also heard about how it all started with wanting to develop a "roof top garden". Who would have guessed that it would lead us to this stage where we are building the first inter-generational centre in Singapore. Indeed, His ways are so much higher than ours.

What are your thoughts about PSW? What excites you?

Unlike most previous building projects, we are now building something not for ourselves but

for "other people" - those in need - the young and old in need of care.

We have the opportunity to truly make a difference and an impact on our community. I believe that the process will be challenging but it will also be transforming.

God could have called smarter, more qualified people to build PSW. But He didn't. He gave the task to us...to me and to you. And I believe that as we step forward and offer our five loaves and two fishes, God will accept and use them.

'Lord Jesus, I'm ready. Count me in today!'

Thank You!

Mr Michael Wong has officially taken over from Mr John Suan as PSW Project Executive Director from 1 May 2016. Please uphold both Michael and John in prayer as they begin a new season in their lives - John as he returns to join his family in Canada, and Michael for strength and wisdom as he continues to lead the project through various challenges.

Job Opportunities

PRINCIPAL-DESIGNATE, PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE Project Spring-Winter

The successful candidate will assume the role of Principal 6 months ahead of the proposed Integrated Inter-generational Childcare Centre which is slated to be operational in 2019/2020. However, the early appointment is initiated to involve the Principal-Designate to be involved in the conception of the physical design of the set-up as well as to formulate and plan for the model of Integrated Childcare to be implemented in relation to its Philosophy, Mission and Vision, Curriculum and Programme. The Principal-Designate's buying in to the proposed Integrated Childcare with the Nursing Home in the same premises is crucial to the long-term sustainability of the Project.

PREREQUISITES:

We welcome applicants who are bible-believing Christians committed to the holistic nurture of the child in a Christ-centred learning environment. He/she should share in the vision that the inter-generational integration will positively influence both the young and the elderly.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Leads and manages an upcoming Integrated Childcare Centre that nurtures the whole child in a Christ-centred environment
- Plans and implements the Integrated Childcare Curriculum
- Empowers staff through training and development
- Conducts regular curriculum and operational audits to maintain and enhance the level of progress and service quality in the Centre
- Believes in the role of the SJSM community in helping shape and enhance the child's learning capability and character formation and takes active steps to engage the Church through her Chaplaincy involvement, meaningful consultation and partnerships

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Possesses a Degree in Early Childhood/Diploma in Pre-School Education - Leadership (DPE -L)
- Candidates who are currently pursuing the DPE - L may also apply for the above post
- Has at least two years' experience in a key role managing a Pre-School Centre

We welcome all who are interested to submit their resumes to hr@sjsm.org.sg or call 67739449 for more details. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Volunteer

Volunteers are still needed in various areas including secretariat support and graphic design. Do visit the SJSM website for more details.

What is Project Spring-Winter?

Project Spring-Winter, or PSW for short, covers:

- the development of a pre-school facility and services (Spring)
- eldercare services including the construction of a nursing home building (Winter)
- the enhancement of our facilities for worship and ministry; and
- the renewal of lease for our existing land parcel by a further 20 years from 2022.

WHY PSW?

SJSM has been serving the Dover community since our earliest days. PSW is the next stage of community service that God is clearly and specifically leading us into and consists of a holistic family ministry that will provide opportunities for young and old to meet and bond. The new Spring and Winter services will help meet the needs of the Dover community and the nation. They make tangible SJSM's mission to be "a witnessing community of praying and caring worshippers"

Testimony?

If you have a testimony to share concerning PSW, please send it to info@sjsm.org.sg, or together with your cash or cheque, either with your name or anonymously. Your stories will help us understand how the Lord is moving in our midst, which we hope we may share with the congregation in future updates.

Next Issue:

PSW NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter will be published on a bi-monthly basis. In the coming months, special issues may also be published where time-sensitive updates need to be given.



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