



**30 Years**  
of Building  
Acceptance &  
Offering Hope

# Annual Report

For year ended 31 December 2009



Reviewing our 30th year  
Growing in God's Grace

## OUR BEGINNING

Christian Outreach to the Handicapped (COH) was founded in 1979 by Rev. Alice Shae, an American Baptist missionary. COH was registered as a Society on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1987; and also as a Charity on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1987.

## OUR PROGRAMME

The year 2009 marks our 30<sup>th</sup> year in providing compassionate care and services to people with intellectual disabilities, Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder and multiple disabilities.

COH runs two Day Activity Centres; in Tampines and Toa Payoh. Our programmes are carried out in a caring environment aimed at promoting a more fulfilling life for our beneficiaries. And we do this to help them integrate into society and gain greater independence to function in different aspects of life. We also provide other practical assistance and support to our beneficiaries who come from disadvantaged families.

Besides the usual training in activities of daily living and participation in community living skills, programmes at our centres are constantly being reviewed to offer variety and exciting challenges suitable for our beneficiaries to enjoy. So it is not unusual to have some of our beneficiaries exposed to activities that are physically demanding like rock climbing, kayaking, jungle trekking, swimming and even running the marathon race; and other creative and mentally challenging activities like dancing and singing, doing recycling art and including training at public speaking.

We provide care to families whose children are aged from 16 to 55, **regardless of race, religion and financial background.**

# VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

To be outstanding in providing acceptance and hope for people with special needs in Singapore through God's love.

## PHILOSOPHY

Each and every one of us, including people with disabilities, has unique God given worth that needs to be recognized and appreciated, and potential that can be identified, nurtured and developed.

## CORE VALUES

**C**hristian Values embracing love, joy, gentleness, compassion and humility.

**O**rganizational Effectiveness through humble teamwork, professionalism, quality and cost effectiveness.

**H**ope as there is always hope for everyone.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank all Clients, Donors, Caregivers and Staff for their support and efforts during the year. In this, our 30<sup>th</sup> year, God continues to bless COH. We have been blessed by a dedicated Staff, Executive Director and Executive Committee, who have continued the loving care of our clients.

Over the past few years, I have stressed how important it is to stick to our core values - in all that we do, in our planning and work at COH - as they are our guidelines and if we stick with them, we will stay on the right track.

We now operate from two HDB void deck centres and have had great experiences dealing with the local community. We have seen local people blessed by the Love of our Staff and Volunteers.

Since this relocation to two centres, there has been an evolution in how we are expected, as an organisation, depending on public funds, to live in harmony with the community.

As part of an increasingly plural society, it has been a difficult learning process for COH. We have had to examine our faith and relationship with God to meet the evolving expectations of our stakeholders in society and perhaps leave aside some old thinking that is not conducive to community harmony.

To quote Archbishop Desmond Tutu – *“if we could but recognize our common humanity ---- then a glorious world would come into being where all of us lived harmoniously together as members of one family – the human family”*.

After all, we are all children of God.

Let us reach out with love to and solidarity with the community, get their support and create awareness about disabilities. Our ultimate aim should be to work with the community for a common purpose of care (of special people) and to set an example of Christian love, joy, gentleness, compassion and humility.

The next 30 years presents many opportunities, and I trust that we can be steadfast and mindful of our purpose, trusting in God to see through changes in the future.

Brian Jenner  
Singapore, May 2010

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Mrs. Patricia Sabapathy - Advisor



Mr. Brian Jenner - President



Mrs. Lois Goh - Vice President



Mdm. Elizabeth Tan - Hon. Secretary



Ms. Ivy Goh - Hon. Treasurer



Rev. K. Steven - Hon. Chaplain

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

## RELOCATION TO TOA PAYOH

Hot on the heels of our first move into Tampines Town about a year earlier, the rest of COH moved (out of 29 Jalan Tembusu, Katong) into Toa Payoh Town on 16 February 2009. COH now operates Emmanuel Activity Centres at Tampines and Toa Payoh. It marks our continuing journey out from old disused government school buildings in isolated places to now occupying modern and purpose designed facilities in the heart of the community dwellings.



*i. Former premises at 29 Jalan Tembusu*



*ii. EAC @ Toa Payoh - Multi-Purpose Hall*

*iii. EAC @ Tampines - Multi-Purpose Hall*

## TREE OF LIFE PROJECT

A collaboration with Central Singapore Community Development Council, National Environment Agency, corporate bodies, schools & institutions of higher learning as well as the community at large. Now into its third year since being awarded with a grant by Central Singapore Community Development Council in February 2007, COH has successfully involved clients, staff and volunteers participation in bringing the message of reducing waste through reuse and recycling of plastic bottles into beautiful and eye catching art pieces into the community at large and schools.

The grant which was called the E3 Grant **E**nables VWOs to **E**nhance self-development of people with disabilities and to **E**ngage them to interact meaningfully with the rest of the community. The E3 Grant has more than lived up to its core objectives. COH was enabled through the financial assistance to enhance our clients' self-development and in the process engage them to integrate with the community.

These take the form of presentation talks followed by demonstration workshops showing how to make the art pieces out of discarded plastic bottles to the public in the community and students in the schools. Much awareness has been generated resulting from the close interaction between the public and students with our clients.



*iv. Our client, Guang Wei, demonstrating to students how it is done.*

And starting in the year 2009 a small but steady stream of income was generated through collection of fees from participating partners and through the auctioning of the art pieces. We pay out to our clients for their effort through this income making it a reality for our clients to “earn” some pocket money for themselves through this project. This is a remarkable achievement by our clients besides also earning themselves the title of “Green Ambassadors”.



## OVERVIEW 2009

### Tree of Life Events



*v. A workshop conducted at the Singapore Zoo*



*vi. A beautiful display done by our volunteer, Khor Tuck Kwan and Shekinah Assembly of God*



*vii. A giant chandelier being auctioned off at a designer furniture shop, Piece Of Mine*



*viii. Our staff and clients perform at a community event at Toa Payoh Hub. Organised by Central Singapore Community Development Council.*



*ix. Our clients were invited to visit the Tampines Regional Library for a tour and a story-telling session*



*x. Our volunteers from Saint Andrew's Junior College set up a booth at the carnival to raise funds.*



*xi. Tampines West Community Centre use their balloon-sculpting talents to raise funds for COH*



*xii. Our talented performers smiling excitedly before their dance item*

Visit from the crew of Doulos | 23 October 2009 and 9 – 11 December 2009



*xiii. Crew members from the ship Doulos came to spend time with our clients during their stopover in Singapore*

Youth Got Heart | 28th February 2009



*xiv. The guest-of-honour, Mr Teo Ser Luck, Senior Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, intrigued by the lamp made of used plastic bottles*

## Collaborations with YMCA



*xv. YMCA and their volunteers organize nature walks to Sungei Buloh Nature reserve on 30 May 2009 and Sentosa's Imbiah Trail on 28 November 2009. Volunteers include the staff from PriceWaterhouseCoopers.*



*xvi. Volunteers with YMCA's Y Chorus leading the sing-a-long session at EAC @ Toa Payoh.*

## Vocal Heart



*xvii. Vocal heart - A group of singers who volunteer their time to teach our clients to sing and perform classic songs.*

## Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA Singapore)



*xviii. Our clients had the opportunity to attend 6 sessions of free therapeutic horse-riding.*



*xix. Flag Day 2009 was held at various locations in the central business district.*

Outings to Singapore Flyer and Marina Barrage



*xx. Students from Ngee Ann Polytechnic help to plan an outing to the Marina Barrage.*



*xxi. A separate group of students from Ngee Ann Polytechnic bring clients from both centres to the Singapore Flyer.*

## Special Olympics



*xxii. (Left) Our client Shaun, torch-bearer taking over the torch for his section of the run. (Right) Nicholas and Johnson posing with their medals.*

## SATS visits



*xxiii. Singapore Airport Terminal Services (SATS) sent their trainees to interact with our clients. In their own words, they wanted their trainees to learn valuable lessons of humility and compassion. We were glad to oblige.*



# RESERVES POLICY

Our reserves position:

	Current Year \$	Previous Year \$	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Unrestricted Funds (Reserves)	1,301,318	1,321,006	(1.49)
Restricted / Designated Funds:			
Benevolent Fund	52,136	44,905	16.10
Building Fund and Expansion Work	857,944	770,178	11.40
Renovation Fund	13,089	13,089	-
Deferred Capital Donations / Grants	650,014	360,450	80.33
Total Funds	2,874,501	2,509,628	14.54
Annual Operating Expenditure	1,525,054	1,658,635	(8.05)
Ratio of Reserves to Annual Operating Expenditure	0.85	0.80	6.25

For better financial stability to run our programmes effectively, we continue to aim at building up our unrestricted reserves to achieve a ratio of unrestricted reserves to annual operating expenditure equal to 2.

COH is dependent heavily on public donations to run our programmes and services; so we need this minimum level of reserves to cushion us against periods of prolonged economic downturn.

Our reserves will be used in the following manner:

1. To cover any deficit in the current year of operation
2. And to top up shortfalls in the various funds under the restricted/designated funds.

The Executive Committee will review the amount of reserves regularly at least once a year to ensure that they are adequate to fulfill our continuing obligations.