



• **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROFILE** •

***Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) : Pastoral Care Programme***

Launched in 1988, the programme has been highly commended by the Ministry of Education. Weekly curricular periods allow teachers to help develop their students' appreciation for self and society. Visits to welfare homes, as well as participation in charity drives and community service projects, introduce students to volunteerism and community service. Teachers and students work closely with the various adopted Voluntary Welfare Organisations, such as Tampines Home, Lee Kong Chian Gardens School, Singapore Children's Society and The Haven. The programme initiated Mervyn to value his community above himself, and encouraged him to serve his community, particularly through the provision of care and concern for the underprivileged in our society.

***Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) : Peer Support Programme***

Incepted in 1990, the programme aims to help the Secondary One students to adjust to the new environment and the demands of secondary school education. Selected Secondary Three students serve as Peer Support Leaders for the Secondary One students. As a Peer Support Leader, Mervyn guided Secondary One students to discover the social values of friendship, family, communication, self-awareness and group dynamics. Besides providing the opportunity for him to be a mentor to the Secondary One students, the Peer Support Programme helped him to develop his leadership skills.

***National University of Singapore : Students' Union Volunteer Action Committee (NVAC)***

Formed in 1990, the NVAC is the only student organisation in NUS solely dedicated to doing volunteer work. Prior to Mervyn's appointment as an Honorary Fellow for the NVAC, he had the timely opportunity to commemorate the International Year of Volunteers as the NVAC Chairperson in 2000-2001.

• **Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS) Guillemard Project**

As a senior volunteer at their Guillemard MINDS Project, Mervyn actively befriended intellectually disabled children. Every Saturday afternoon, Mervyn accompanied them through reading, art, tea, music and games sessions. These activities are organised to provide the children with an additional avenue to learn important life skills. Monthly outings to places of interest are a highlight that the children and volunteers alike look forward to.

• **Freshmen Volunteer Orientation Camp 1999**

The camp serves to promote volunteerism to the participating freshmen. The main highlight of the inaugural camp, which was held on 17-19 June, saw freshmen individually accompanying the elderly for lunch and a trishaw ride around the Bugis area. As the Camp Secretary, Mervyn successfully helped the committee to rent trishaws, secure the services of Cisco outriders and an ambulance, as well as seek approval from the relevant authorities. The project received much compliment from the elderly and youth participants.



- **Charity Fiesta 1999**

Held on 21-23 July 1999, Charity Fiesta is an annual fundraising bazaar, carnival, exhibition and recruitment drive aimed at helping the participating welfare organisations. Over the years, Charity Fiesta has helped more than 40 homes and welfare agencies financially and in promoting social awareness about their scope of voluntary work and the services they provide. As the Ticketing Vice Head, Mervyn assisted the Ticketing Head in the production and distribution of the fundraising tickets, as well as in the collection and accounting of ticket sales.

- **Freshmen Volunteer Orientation Camp 2000**

Mervyn volunteered to lead the freshmen camp committee from 15-17 June 2000 as its Project Director (Operations). To open the hearts of the freshmen to volunteerism, special visits were made to MINDS Yio Chu Kang Employment Development Centre and the Institute of Mental Health. The main highlight of the camp was *Heartworks – A Carnival For Mentally Disabled Children*. As a platform for the freshmen to interact with mentally disabled children, the unprecedented carnival in the NUS Forum was filled with colourful balloons, gigantic inflatables and game stalls, all in the shared purpose of bringing joy to the 50 young children.

- **Community Service Week 2001**

Held on 21-25 February during the recess week, the annual Community Service Week has always proved to be a success. As the Vice Project Director, Mervyn organised activities to encourage undergraduates to have their first volunteering experience. An interactive visit to the Moral Welfare Home, a general cleaning session at the Moral Home for the Disabled, telematches with intellectually disabled children from the MINDS Guillemard and Yio Chu Kang projects, and a newspaper collection at Clementi, were organised with strong support from the undergraduate community.

***Ulu Pandan Constituency : Meet-the-People Session***

Every Monday evening since 2003, Mervyn has been spending his time serving as a grassroots volunteer. He assists Mr Christopher de Souza, Member of Parliament (Holland-Bukit Timah GRC), to prepare letters of appeal for the residents in the constituency. This community service activity allows Mervyn to have a better understanding of the problems faced by the heartlanders, while providing him the opportunity to put his listening, interviewing and letter-writing skills to commendable use.

***Other Contributions***

Besides conducting sponsorship workshops for student organisations in NUS, Mervyn inspires youths with his experiences as a youth leader and volunteer. He also contributes his time in the following avenues:

- Honorary Secretary, NUS Alumni Photographic Society
- Board Director, NUS Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd
- Student Advisor, NUS Photographic Society
- Honorary Secretary, NUS Science Computer-Based Learning Centre Alumni Association
- Committee Member, Community Care/House, F&B/Membership Subcommittees, NUS Society
- Vice Chairman, Ulu Pandan Youth Executive Committee, People's Association Youth Movement
- Committee Member, Youth Committee, Singapore National Co-operative Federation Ltd
- School Delegate, Singapore Teachers' Unions
- Vice Chairman, Youth Functional Committee, South West Community Development Council