

Annual Report

20
18



Content

3

Message from
Co-Founder and
Executive Director

5

Programmes
Story Time
CuriousTime @FSC

11

Volunteer
Management

13

Media Publicity

15

Corporate Partners
and Sponsors

17

Board Members
and Management

19

Financial
Report

Message from Co-Founder and Executive Director



Co-founder and Executive Director,
Lydia Lok

It has been an eye-opening year as we started learning the ropes of running a charity. This year, I decided to register Curious Thoughts Giving to administer two programmes- StoryTime and CuriousTime@FSCs- to ensure their sustainability.



StoryTime is a community reading programme with the elderly living in rental flats. As quite a number are living by themselves, I wanted to encourage more members of the public to interact with this group. I started StoryTime because of my own experience. When I was in university, I was reluctant to interact with the elderly because I could not speak dialect and feared that this would impede any possible conversations with the elderly. It was my husband, Yao Shuohan, who brought me along for one of his visits to the elderly and that changed my perception. I realised that the elderly actually appreciate our presence and our company transcends any language barrier. We want to change people's perception and help them overcome their fear of interacting with the elderly.

CuriousTime@FSCs was envisaged as a community literacy programme. While there are many reading and literacy programmes in the community, I was troubled that many were not based on a structured, synthetic phonics programme. As we deal with many struggling readers at our sister Social Enterprise- Curious Thoughts Academy- we wanted to bring the same quality programme to more beneficiaries. This year, we partnered with South Central Community Family Service Centre (SCCFSC) to run the inaugural literacy programme- CuriousTime@FSCs. This partnership has allowed Curious Thoughts Giving a space to teach weekly and is a convenient arrangement as many beneficiaries usually head to the FSC for other forms of assistance. The location is also more accessible to beneficiaries as it's nearer to their homes. An important aspect of

this new programme is the assistance rendered from the Social Workers and Programme ICs. Behind the scene, SCCFSC constantly follows up with the beneficiaries' families to ensure that their socio-economic needs are met, in order for regular attendance of the literacy programme to happen.

With Curious Thoughts Giving being a new name in the sector with no IPC status (Institutions of a Public Character), it has been difficult to raise funds. Fortunately for us, we have had many members of the public coming forward to volunteer their time for StoryTime. We are also greatly indebted to Ascendas-Singbridge Gives Foundation for their corporate donation towards CuriousTime@FSCs, our literacy programme with Family Service Centres.

As a new charity, we had many hurdles. Our initial challenge was getting the first pool of volunteers for StoryTime. With no photos or videos of the sessions, many people were skeptical that we were a legitimate organisation or that the programme could work. We had to rely on friends for the initial sessions. Now as we hold more StoryTime sessions, people can see for themselves from social media, what is happening with the uploaded photos and videos. This has led to increased participation in many of our events and programmes.

We cannot wait to see what 2019 has for us. It is our wish to see more volunteers and community participation as Curious Thoughts Giving matures in the coming years.



PROGRAMMES

———— StoryTime ————

It has also been heartening to see the fruits of our programmes. StoryTime has seen great participation between local Singaporean and the elderly community. The event brought the young, middle-aged and old together. We saw many stepping forward to bring joy to the elderly. Many expatriates participated and said it was their first time volunteering with the local community. Many participated because their own elderly parents were back in their home country and they wanted to let their own kids interact with the elderly. This event showed participants that it is important to remember to give our time back to the community and it made them feel rooted to the community, fostering a sense of belonging. We received a lot of feedback from participants that they enjoyed the event and were very appreciative of the event.



102
adults



107
children



640
elderly



Since we started, we have been receiving requests from different senior activity centres and grassroots members writing in to ask to have it in their own senior activity centre or constituency. Though the demand is high, there's also a manpower issue of getting enough volunteers as well as the challenge of finding funding and sponsorship.

We will try to raise more funds for 2019 to carry on this initiative.



Session

1

Chapter 6 14 April 2018

21 Adults, 12 children, 100 elderly



Session

2

Chapter 7 26 May 2018

11 Adults, 7 children, 100 elderly



Session

3

Chapter 8 7th July 2018

7 adults, 3 children, 40 elderly



Session

4

Chapter 9 1 Aug 2018

16 Adults, 23 children, 100 elderly



Session

5

Chapter 10 12th September 2018

13 Adults, 19 children, 100 elderly



Session

6

Chapter 11 6 October 2018

20 Adults, 21 children, 100 elderly



Session

7

Chapter 12 21 November 2018

14 Adults, 22 children, 100 elderly



PROGRAMMES

— CuriousTime @ FSC —

We partnered with Curious Thoughts Academy to bring the Jolly Phonics literacy programme to beneficiaries at South Central Community Family Service Centre. This programme has been kindly sponsored by Ascendas-Singbridge Gives Foundation. With their support, we kicked-off our literacy programme on 3 September 2018 with 9 children. To date, there are now 16 children under this programme.

Children ranging from age 3 to 7 years old attend the 75 min sessions weekly and learn to read through a fun and engaging approach comprising of body movement, songs and games.

For the upcoming year, we hope to bring on board more sponsors to expand our programmes' outreach.



16
children



13
weeks





VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Curious Thoughts Giving managed to run its two programmes with the help of a strong volunteer task force. Hence despite a small operating budget, we have been able to run many successful StoryTime events as well as strong literacy programme under CuriousTime@FSCs.



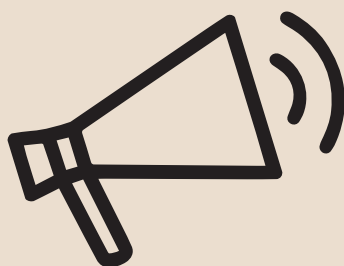
In 2018, we had a total of 7 StoryTime sessions and 209 volunteers in 2018. At the StoryTime session, our volunteers are assigned to a table of 4-5 elderly. We try to distribute mandarin-speaking volunteers with non-mandarin speaking volunteers. From experience, this helps bridge any language difficulties.

After the distribution of volunteers, adults and children start reading for 20 to 30 minutes to the elderly. This is usually followed by casual conversations where volunteers will ask after the elderly. To facilitate bonding with the elderly and to break the ice, we introduced table games this year such as Jenga, Connect4 and jigsaw puzzles. We found that these activities helped young children to overcome any social awkwardness and also gave both the young and the elderly to hone their hand-eye coordination.

A StoryTime session would not be complete without our usual Sing-a-long session with the elderly. We have many willing volunteers from the elderly and we have come to realise that singing help reduce any stress that might come from language difficulties!

At the end of the StoryTime session, volunteers love distributing lunch bento boxes to the elderly. This is usually an opportune moment for parents to teach their children to care for the elderly by first distributing the food to them.



Due to client confidentiality, we accept volunteers only for StoryTime. In 2019, we hope to find volunteers with longer-term availability. This would be more ideal for CuriousTime as we do not want to subject beneficiaries to a constant change of volunteer teachers.



MEDIA PUBLICITY

← → ↺ 🏠 Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth [SG] | <https://www.sg/en/oursingaporefund/project-showcase/CuRioUS.aspx> 🔍 ☆ ⌂ T

our **SG** fund Learn More Projects Showcase Apply Now Our Funding Partners FAQs Contact Us 🔍



CURIOUS: COME ON AN UNFORGETTABLE READING JOURNEY WITH US!

Lok Min-Ai Lydia & Yao Shuohan


📅 27 May 2017 - 27 May 2017

"CuRioUS: Come on an unforgettable READING journey with Us!" is a series of mass reading sessions to promote intergenerational bonding between elderly in homes, children and their parents. These families volunteer their time to care for seniors and make them feel that they are still a part of our community.

A typical reading and interaction session will involve a child reading out their favourite English children's book to an elderly, alongside with translation by his/her parent. Thereafter, parents and child will engage the elderly by discussing their thoughts about the book, as a starter for deeper conversations, between all 3 generations. The parent's main role would be to bridge the gap between the child and elderly generation, nurture and enable intergenerational bonding to take place. The series of mass reading engagement sessions are designed in such a way that an elderly will get to interact with both parent and a child.

To find out more and sign up for the event, please visit storytime.sg.

Do also like us on [Facebook](#).



CuRioUS: Come on an unforgettable READING journey with Us!

Feature on Our Singapore Fund Website



CORPORATE PARTNERS AND SPONSORS





BOARD MEMBERS AND MANAGEMENT



Lam Yi Min Jevan
Board Director



Tan Wei Kane Reuben
Board Director



Eng You Yi
Board Director



Lok Min-Li Lena
Board Director



Lok Min-Ai Lydia
Board Director



Yao Shuohan
Board Director



FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR	2018
INCOME	\$24,621
Expenses on Governance	\$13,147
Expenses on Charitable Activities	\$5,182
Total Expenses	\$18,329
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$6,292
Cash Reserves at Year End	\$6,292
General Fund	\$6,292



Curious Thoughts Giving
261 Waterloo Street, #03-33 Singapore 180261
giving.curiousthoughts.sg

UEN: 201718734C