Annual Report

2019

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

Time flies! With the end of 2019, Curious Thoughts Giving is almost turning 2 years old! We have been very heartened by the response to our community programmes, especially for StoryTime.

This year in 2019, we worked with South Central Community Family Service Centre as well as the Me Too! Club (MTC) from the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS). Ascendas-Singbridge Gives Foundation has generously supported the literacy programmes for both SCCFSC and MTC. After a year of literacy programme under Curious Thoughts Giving, we graduated some of the participants who saw great improvements. Our hearts were greatly touched by the results we saw from our intervention. MINDS even presented the results from our literacy programme at the The World Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Development Disabilities (IASSID) 2019.

Over here at Curious Thoughts Giving, we believe that literacy is a life-long journey. It is our hope to see more beneficiaries under CuriousTime. In the meantime, we hope to secure more corporate sponsors to allow us to partner with more Voluntary Welfare Organisations under CuriousTime.

This year was also the first time StoryTime partnered with a big organisation such as Google for their Giving Week 2019. Google employees volunteered their time to read to the elderly at Thong Kheng Seniors Activity Centre (Tanglin-Cairnhill). Besides big organisations, we have been busy working alongside the home-schooling community as well as the expatriate community. Home-schooling parents have been actively supporting all of our StoryTime programmes and with their young, cute children in tow, our elderly participants cannot wait for the next session!

As our programmes grow, we have been trying to source for more funds and sponsors. Honestly, it has not been an easy year. As we are still a new charity, many corporate sponsors (including foundations) have requested for more tangible KPIs. In spite of this all, Curious Thoughts Giving will continue to educate organisations and members of the public. We note that oftentimes, the benefits of many community programmes cannot be tied to a quantitative figure.

Community bonds, the social well-being of beneficiaries as well as literacy improvements, are all long-term goals of our charity. These areas often do not show overnight results. Hence while the public might not immediately take to our efforts now, we know that in the long-term, they will start to see how many lives have been impacted. Our hearts at Curious Thoughts Giving are full- we have received many appreciative notes and warm feedback from the community throughout the year- and honestly, this is what keeps us going.

Sadly, government funding in 2019 has also been tightened for many programmes. As the responsibilities of running the charity grow, we realise that it is not easy to run the charity with only volunteers. We spent most of 2019 meeting up with different organisations, trying to convince them of the merits of our programmes. As funding could only be secured for CuriousTime, we channelled more resources into that programme this year. As such, we have scaled back on StoryTime programmes in 2019 as it has been difficult to secure funding for expenses related to food and books for the programme.

We will not give up! Our board members have also been very encouraging and we are very thankful for that. We hope that 2020 will be a better year! We cannot thank all of our supporters enough for your trust and belief in us.

To a better year ahead!

PROGRAMMES

StoryTime

In 2019, StoryTime has seen an increase in the number of volunteers involved per session. As there is now more awareness of the programmes, we have seen more interactions between the local Singaporean (we managed to get a stable pool of local volunteers from the homeschooling community) and the elderly community. The local homeschooling community are regulars from 2018 and as such, the elderly are familiar with the volunteers and their children.

The events brought the young, middle-aged and old together. We saw many stepping forward to bring joy to the elderly. As with all StoryTime events, many expatriates came too and they said it was their first-time volunteering with the local community. Many came because their own elderly parents were back in their home country and they wanted to let their own kids interact with the elderly. The home schooling community has enjoyed the interactions with the elderly so much that they regularly rehearse for performances for the elderly. The elderly often look forward to these performances.

While Curious Thoughts Giving was not able to secure additional funding for the second half of the year, we were able to achieve a lot of awareness for what we do through online outreach.

54 adults

31 children

160 elderly

Starfresh
Starfresh

Session 1

Chapter 13
20 Mar 2019

19 Adults, 31 children and 50 elderly

Session 2

Chapter 14
12 June 2019

14 volunteers from the homeschooling community and 50 elderly

Session

3 Chapter 15
14 June 2019

21 Google employees and 60 elderly

PROGRAMMES

— CuriousTime @ FSC —

This year in 2019, we worked with our literacy partner Curious Thoughts Academy and South Central Community Family Service Centre as well as the Me Too! Club (MTC) from the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS). We have continued using the Jolly Phonics programme- a structured, synthetic phonics programme- for our beneficiaries.

In 2019, we taught 27 beneficiaries under South Central Community Family Service Centre (SCCFSC). Many can now read simple sentences, however we hope to continue extending the programme beyond 2019 to work on their reading fluency and comprehension, as well as writing.

Ascendas-Singbridge Gives Foundation has also generously supported the literacy programmes for both SCCFSC and MTC. MINDS presented the results from our literacy programme at The World Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Development Disabilities (IASSID) 2019. Their report noted that adults with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities can learn to read at any age. Under the partnership with MTC, we taught 20 clients weekly in a 75 min class

.

We hope to extend CuriousTime to more Voluntary Welfare Organisation and beneficiaries in 2020.

27 children

37 sessions

flag

h

gr

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Despite our limited operating budget, Curious Thoughts Giving has been receiving more sign-ups from volunteers. With the help of a strong volunteer task force, we had a total of 3 StoryTime sessions and 89 volunteers in 2019. We had to cut back on StoryTime sessions in H2 as we were not able to secure funding for food and book costs for StoryTime sessions.

This year, we partnered with the American community (a volunteer group with 2500 members, comprising of expatriates with young children), as well as the Spanish community's Catholic Catechesis group for our StoryTime sessions. The expatriate community often prefer volunteering on the weekends due to work commitments.

We also partnered with a new group this year- the Homeschooling community in Singapore. As they are able to bring many children for the sessions, the elderly are often very excited at these sessions. The homeschooling community serve another time-slot on the weekdays as they often have enrichment commitments on the weekends.

For 2019, we stuck with our usual StoryTime format, but also introduce interactive games that were well-received by the elderly.

10.20 am Distribution of volunteers to different tables of elderly

10.30 am Start of StoryTime reading to the elderly (with table games Jenga, connect 4, memory games)

10.50 am Chit Chat with elderly

11.10 am Sing-a-long session with elderly

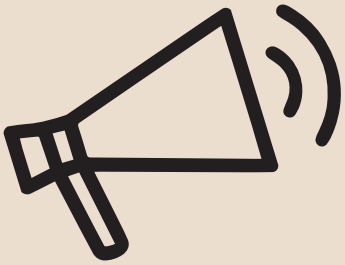
11.30 am Game- "The price is right" and other interactive games

11.45 am Lunch

12.30 pm End of StoryTime event

The elderly love playing our version of "The price is right" after which they get to bring home prizes sponsored by members of the public. The interactive games increase interactions and bonding between the young and old, as they often strategise to win the game. We also played musical chairs (where we passed out balloons) as well as art and craft sessions where we made paper lanterns.

We are still looking for long-term volunteers for CuriousTime. We saw great success in the parents' involvement for the MTC group. As they can revise more with their children, we saw great improvements in a short period of time. As such, due to client confidentiality, we have accepted volunteers only for StoryTime.



MEDIA PUBLICITY

Featured on Morning Express (Channel 8) on 8 January 2019.

CORPORATE PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

NCSS
National Council
of Social Service

ascendas
SINGBRIDGE

SOUTH CENTRAL
COMMUNITY
FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE

Curious Thoughts
Academy

Google

THONG KHENG WELFARE SERVICES SOCIETY

ME
TOO!
CLUB
minds

mccy
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

our SG fund

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	2019	2018
INCOME	$41,927	$24,621
Expenses on Governance	$11,259	$13,147
Expenses on Charitable Activities	$19,144	$5,182
Total Expenses	$30,403	$18,329
Net Profit/(Loss)	$11,524	$6,292
Cash Reserves at Year End	$17,816	$6,292
General Fund	$17,816	$6,292

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

UEN: 201718734C