

radiance

Inspiring volunteerism,
one issue at a time



Hello Everyone!

It is another new year for Radiance, and we are looking forward to capturing beautiful memories from volunteers and trainees, and publishing them in a reader-friendly and fun format to share the love and continue inspiring volunteerism!

Headlines

- ❖ **Global Village**
- ❖ **Fresh Insights**
- ❖ **Ole!**
- ❖ **ACID shirts through the ages**



Mark Your Calendars!

- MYG Training:
3 Oct 2015
- MYG Training:
4 Nov 2015

GLOBAL VILLAGE

By Tan Zan Hao from Westend



Acid camp has always brought immense joy and fun to all of us, especially the beneficiaries. It was my 2nd year in the acid camp, awesome as usual. This year, the camp was held at RJC, a conducive and beautiful garden-like environment which depicted the Global Village theme exceptionally well.

To further enhance the theme of Global Village illustrating the whole world as closely connected, games were introduced based on different countries such as the China, Japan, France, and Hawaii. Each station was nicely decorated and the station masters were dedicatedly guiding the beneficiaries through the games. All of the beneficiaries were having lots of fun!

One most sensational part of the camp was the disco night! Disco night is always the highlight of the Acid camp, long awaited for by all the trainees. We were gathered in the field, where the most hype songs in the town were played. All the trainees were seen in their high spirit. Especially those beneficiaries who are usually seen to be quiet were surprisingly dancing happily to the songs! Seeing how the beneficiaries were enjoying their night really brought a smile on my face too.

On the second day, the energetic Aerobics team were invited to start off a brand new day with morning exercises followed by a mass DIY breakfast. Every trainee was seen busy spreading their eggs on the bread and enjoying their delicious breakfast. Although, this was just a 2 days 1 night camp, it provided the trainees a different kind of involvement and experience, definitely a great and memorable one.



GLOBAL VILLAGE

By Silvia Sim from AMK



An Alternative Experience

I can't write much about the activities that the ACID committee painstakingly prepared for us, because, well, I spent the bulk of the first day touring the school with my dear little trainee RY instead.

So, I am going to write about the 'alternative' ACID experience instead. The camp started off beautifully. RY was behaving like a little angel and enjoying herself. I was really impressed with how enthusiastic the student facilitators were and marvelled at all the beautiful props that the committee prepared painstakingly. Unfortunately, in the afternoon RY started to get tired, and very, very cranky. She started pulling all sorts of pranks on me and our new volunteer Wei Li, in a curious attempt to get our attention even though it was already on her all the time. Our little battle resulted in three exhausted zombies and a wrecked water bottle, to say the least.

However, as night fell and the weather became more cooling, RY's crankiness was very much reduced. After a restful dinner, we talked to RY again, firmly but calmly. She was evidently a lot better behaved at night.

What was most gratifying to me as a volunteer, though, was not that we finally got to enjoy some peace, because that's not what volunteers are here for. It was something that happened during the night bazaar. RY won a prize at the night bazaar's lottery and guess what, it was a water bottle! I told her nicely that she would have to give that to teacher Wei Li since she ruined her water bottle. It was of course met with much resistance. However, after explaining the reason behind my request to her, RY felt guilty and finally consented to the arrangement.

It is never about just stopping our trainees from wrecking trouble. It is about the learning process of getting them to understand why they should or should not be doing something, and improving from there.

The day ended well and we went to sleep peacefully.



GLOBAL VILLAGE

By Silvia Sim from AMK



An Alternative Experience

I would be lying, though, if I said the story ended here. And any volunteer would know that, because the teaching and learning process is never so simple. Volunteering is not always all about sunshine and rainbows. The next day, RY remarkably managed to send half of the female trainees wailing even before the sun rose.

The process of counselling was repeated, and RY was much more obedient for the rest of the day.

Sometimes it seems like this cycle keeps repeating itself. But it is important to remind ourselves that growth is a very lengthy and slow process.

It takes a very long period of time to inculcate good habits. But with perseverance and patience, improvements will slowly but surely take place, little by little.

RY does get into mischief quite often, especially during long and tiring activities, and I know that wasn't going to be the last time. But with every round of teaching and learning, she is slowly improving. I look back at the time when I first joined AMK, and I see a very marked improvement in her behaviour. I believe that, love and patience from all our caregivers and volunteers can go a long way in supporting our trainees to grow and shine, to become the best that they can be.

And that, I think, is what keeps us volunteering. 😊



FRESH INSIGHTS

By Rachel Leong from RO



Having signed up alone with no prior experience with PWIDs, I remember stepping into RO with uncertainty and trepidation one year ago. “Would it be awkward?” and “What do I do?” were some of the questions that ran through my mind. Fortunately, the friendly volunteers and a few extroverted trainees quickly dissipated my apprehension. A whole new learning journey then began for me.

Of all the MYG projects, RO was chosen because of practicality – close proximity to my home. I had wanted to volunteer at a children’s project because I like kids and had encounters with them. So, I was unsure how well I would cope with the adult PWIDs at RO. Very soon, I realized that while it is a different ball game, interacting with the adult trainees has enriched my life in the most meaningful ways.

There is a spectrum of trainees at RO – some are so effusive with their affection for volunteers that they start holding my hand even though we had only met for a few weeks, while others take a longer time to warm up to you. It takes patience to build trust and once that trust is forged, their affection for you is unwavering.

A few months ago, I took on the role of being the Personal Development programmer for RO. This was alien to me. I was never one to lead anything in school nor have I ever regarded myself as a good teacher. To me, teaching is a skill – either you have it or you don’t. A teacher does not only take care of her students, but also ensures that they learn new skills and enjoy the process. Initially, I felt daunted by this but thankfully I have a friendly and experienced co-programmer to help organize the weekly sessions. At times, it involves a lot of effort in the preparations. However, the encouraging comments received thereafter have made it all worthwhile.



FRESH INSIGHTS

By Rachel Leong from RO

I recently attended ACID for the first time and it really left a deep impression on me. It certainly will not be my last. Through ACID, I realized that RO is not alone but actually part of one big MYG family. It opened my eyes to the varying support levels of the trainees across the different project groups. I love how ACID allows our trainees to socialize beyond RO. It wasn't easy for them to step out of their comfort zone but I'm glad ACID provides them opportunities to make new friends.

It's not all work and no play in RO. I was made to feel part of the family at an early stage.

After our regular sessions, there would usually be dinner outings to various parts of the island (usually the west haha) in search of good food. It allows me to know the other volunteers better and anyway, who doesn't love a good meal??

I am glad to have taken that first step to join RO because it has been a thoroughly enriching experience. My Saturdays now seem more fruitful with the trainees and volunteers laughing, eating and learning together.



OLE!

By Xiang Hui from AMK

A group of 13 young-at-heart chaps turned up on a bright sunny morning 28/6 at Kovan Sports Centre. For two hours they formed teams of 5, huffed and puffed, and ran each other ragged while chasing after a ball.

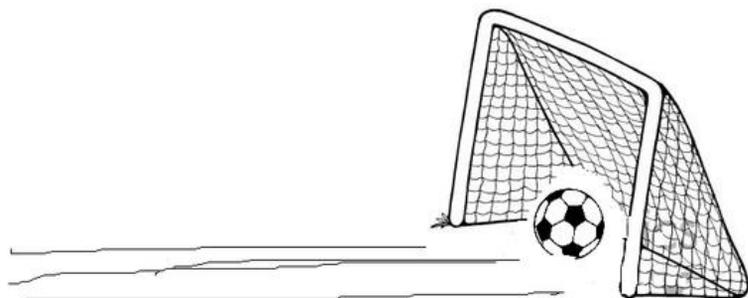
Welcome to MYG's Soccer Interest Group, a small and growing community of volunteers across different projects who share a common interest - chasing and kicking ball.

Interest groups like this are informal setups, only involving adding volunteers into a whatsapp group and asking them to invite their fellow project peers to sign up for kickabouts or join the group. From there, like-minded strangers whose paths under the same MYG umbrella rarely cross became friends, and friends became better friends thanks to the opportunity to catch up with one another.



It was not a relaxing stroll in the park either, with some volunteers turning back the years as they slalomed up and down the length of the pitch such as Yehui from Terra Hope and Samuel from Fernvale. Our young guns also showed off their slick moves, such as Clinton from Ang Mo Kio and Guo En from Basic Knowledge Training Group.

When not playing, these guys could be seen engaging in conversations from the sidelines; maybe the topic revolves around the action on the pitch.. but it could also be more about themselves.



Such talk were often interrupted by spectacular moments on the pitch, such as Chen Yang (BKTG) unleashing his inner Groot and making a timely clearance with his lanky frame or Xiang Hui (AMK) revealing his newbie-ness with a blatant miss after being put through.

As the clock ran down, so did the combatants' energy levels, and also their shoes for a particular Zhihao's (AMK) case. The one glowering stand-out exception was Yehui, who was still storming up and down the pitch like an electric lawnmower.



"I think I scored more than 10 goals today!" He quipped matter-of-factly as everyone started doing their cooling down when it was over.

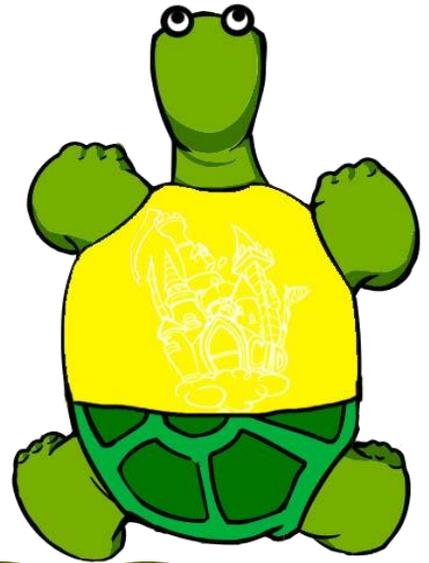
If anyone is interested to join us for future sessions, please drop me a message at 98246757. Girls are welcome too.

Disclaimer: Picture is a file photo during ACID as we didn't take any picture that day. Lol!



ACID SHIRTS

THROUGH THE AGES



WHERE'S YOURS?
Send in a picture of your
oldest ACID shirt to
publicity@myg.org.sg.
Let's see how many different
shirt designs we can collect!

