

## **CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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Children's Wing Project Chairperson: Mr Ng Thye Ann

East Point Project Chairperson: Mr Gerald Ng

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## **INTRODUCTION**

At 35 years old, MYG had just celebrated her rich history of creativity, energy and passion, as a tightly connected community of trainees, parents and volunteers, in December 2007. Having grown from a small group of young volunteers serving MINDS clients back then to a huge organisation of dedicated volunteers of all ages serving persons with intellectual disability at seven different project centres in Singapore, it was also timely for MYG to adopt her new name – MINDS MYG – as she looks to growing beyond 35 in the years ahead.

With MYG's infinite passion, limitless energy, boundless creativity, and never-ending belief in the potential of all trainees, all of which have kept MYG going all these years, MYG has implemented various new key initiatives and changes in her aspirations, programmes and structure.

## **REVIEW – FY07**

### **MYG's Aspirations**

#### MINDS MYG

MINDS Youth Group started her formative years from 1972 with a group of young and passionate volunteers, focused on fund raising, under the previous setup of MINDS – the Singapore Association for Retarded Children. Ten years later, MYG started her first direct service project in Ang Mo Kio to provide training to persons with intellectual disability living in the area and she has not looked back since. Today, with the continued strong support of MINDS, MYG has grown and evolved into a well-structured and well-oiled organisation with three key focuses – service development, outreach management and volunteer management.

In the light of her constant renewal of services for her trainees, her pursuit of continuous relevance to their needs, and her infinite level of volunteerism spirit, MYG took on a new name – MINDS MYG, with the tagline "Serving Persons with Intellectual Disability". Just using the acronyms of her old name, this new name is an enduring one that symbolizes continuity and yet at the same time, with the additional tagline, better defines the services MYG provide. It will preserve her historical beginning and maintain her relevance as a forward-looking organisation. This new name will lead the organisation's aspirations beyond 35, and toward the years ahead.

## **MYG's Programmes**

### Children's Wing

Children's Wing was formally integrated into the structure of MINDS MYG this year, increasing her pool of clients to over 170. This increased MYG's reach to children with intellectual disabilities, as only two MYG projects were previously serving children with intellectual disabilities, and hence expanding the profile and age group of clients served under MYG.

### 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

MINDS MYG celebrated her 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary with these objectives: to celebrate the past 35 years of MYG's efforts in serving her clients, to equip clients with social and performing skills required in making public performances, to provide an avenue for clients to display their potentials and capabilities, and to provide a platform for public awareness.

MYG had an initial Celebration Concert on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2007 in Lee Kong Chian Gardens School. This concert was catered specifically for past MYG volunteers, in appreciation of their past efforts, as well as a positive projection of MYG's progress for her past volunteers. The finale Anniversary Concert on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in HDB Hub Auditorium was a public concert targeted at the clients' family members as well as members of public.

The anniversary celebrations, with the theme of "Past, Present, Future", not only marked the recognition of all the hard work that everyone had put in for the event or the commemoration of the 35 years of legacy that MYG had built up, but more importantly celebrated the potential of all persons with intellectual disability. The celebration's theme song, "I Walk My Pace", both highlighted the courage and fortitude that the trainees display as they progress in life, acquiring necessary skills at their own pace, as well as reflected the significance of the belief that they can as MYG shares in their journey towards the common dream. At both concerts, the MINDS MYG community came together to rejoice in the hope for a future of total social inclusion for all persons with intellectual disability.

## **MYG's Structure**

### Inter-Project Funds

In an effort to promote inter-project synergy, so as to create opportunities for cross-project interaction and learning, a sum of inter-project funds was set aside for projects to tap on to collaborate with other projects to organise various outings and activities.

### Outcome Management

OMS measures the performance of a Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO) in Singapore, with an emphasis on the quality of the service provision of the VWO. It aims to establish quality service of consistent standards and management in the social service sector, through clear outcomes, progressive milestones and effective assessments, hence achieving measurable outcomes in the quality of life of the clients. MYG has implemented OMS as a performance indicator since April 2007 and has since then been committed to the various projected targets for each milestone set, with the most challenging targeted outcome being 30 clients participating and learning skills in five social programmes. A small step taken to achieve this was having two of her trainees to represent Team Singapore at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai.

### Service Management & Development

To facilitate client-related issues to be addressed at the entire MINDS MYG level, a new Service Management & Development role was created in the Central Committee. This new role would be crucial to the renewed emphasis placed on the services provided by MYG to

her clients, in line with the new standards of service provision defined by NCSS. Such a role would ensure a certain standard of her services be maintained and even improved on across MYG, as well as ensure new services beneficial and relevant to her clients could be developed.

## **LOOKING FORWARD – FY08**

### **S<sup>3</sup> ACG Plan**

In FY08, MINDS MYG will be embarking on a plan focused on three key strategic areas – Strategic Alignment, Strategic Capacity-building and Strategic Growth. After 35 years of serving persons with intellectual disability, and the adoption of her new name, it is timely for MYG to address these key strategic areas, so as to position MINDS MYG to move forward in the years ahead, to better serve the needs of her trainees.

#### **Strategic Alignment**

##### Alignment with MINDS

With MYG's rapid growth, especially over the recent years, and the corresponding increase in her budget, MINDS MYG will start looking at aligning herself with MINDS more, to identify the appropriate fit for MYG within the MINDS ecosystem. Moreover, with the setting up of the Volunteer Management Committee, MINDS MYG will also be aligning herself to meet the terms of reference of the VMC.

##### Integrated Programmes

Following the introduction of the inter-project funds to encourage cross-project interaction and learning, MINDS MYG will focus on the development of integrated programmes that will bring suitable clients from various projects together for activities. This will facilitate the alignment of individual project's programmes to one common purpose – to maximise the value of the time that the clients spend with MYG and to engage them as meaningfully as possible during this time.

##### Aging Taskforce/Exit Policy

Many of the clients that have been with MYG since the early years have continued to be a part of the MYG family till today. These clients have aged over the years and the programmes that have to be catered for them will have to be adapted accordingly as well. MINDS MYG will thus look into aligning the various relevant projects to better meet the needs of this growing group of aging clients. In parallel, MYG will also study the development of a suitable exit policy for her clients.

#### **Strategic Capacity-Building**

##### Volunteers' Recruitment

The profile of volunteers has changed gradually over the years, especially with respect to their commitment duration. More and more, the new volunteers will tend to stay committed with MYG over a shorter period of time. To circumvent a potential shortage of volunteers in the short- to medium-term, MINDS MYG will go on a pro-active drive to recruit suitable volunteers to ensure sustainability, as well as to prepare a group of young volunteers ready to take over the MYG leadership.

##### Learning

Ensuring that her volunteers are equipped with the necessary skills to take care of her clients has always been a key emphasis of MYG every year. Creating a culture of learning among all volunteers, whereby they will hopefully pro-actively take charge of their own learning

journey, will build up the capacity of MINDS MYG, so as to continually improve the quality of services that MYG provides for her clients.

### **Strategic Growth**

#### Guillemard Project

The setting up of Guillemard Project will increase the number of clients that MYG serve to beyond 190. This MYG's eighth project will extend the strategic depth of MINDS MYG to cater to children with intellectual disability, by offering potential young clients to be admitted the choice of three different projects to choose from.

#### Strategic Alliances

MYG will explore various opportunities to work with strategic partners who are willing to collaborate with her on a long-term basis. An example of collaboration can be the co-organising of MYG-wide events such as MYG Sports Day. Such strategic alliances will expand the pool of volunteers that MINDS MYG can leverage on over the long-term.

### **CONCLUSION**

FY07 had been a very significant year for MINDS MYG, with numerous new initiatives implemented with the intention to improve the services that MYG provides for her clients. With her new name and her S<sup>3</sup> ACG Plan for FY08, MYG will continue to walk her pace, as one MYG, beyond 2008 into the years ahead.