

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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INTRODUCTION

In FY08, MINDS MYG accomplished various developments and initiatives in MYG's aspirations, programmes and structure. One of the key developments was the setting up of the eighth project – Guillemard Project – which increased the number of clients served to beyond 190. Some of the new initiatives include developing coherent integrated programmes and developing a common MYG Client Registration Card.

In FY09, MINDS MYG will emphasize on three key areas – focusing the past efforts thus far, strengthening the existing processes and positioning the organisation to move forward in the years ahead, so as to better serve the needs of her trainees.

REVIEW – FY08

MYG's Aspirations

Aging

Many of the clients that have been with MINDS MYG since the early years have continued to be a part of the MYG family till today. These clients have aged over the years, resulting in a growing pool of clients transiting into the aging phase of life from adulthood. A study was initiated to understand the impact of aging clients to MYG as an organization, identify the main issues of the impact, focus on key areas in managing the issues, conceptualize directions in each key focus areas, and specify steps in implementing the directions in a sustainable manner. A list of means with short-, medium-, and long-term milestones to address this aging issue had been developed as a framework to guide MINDS MYG in managing this issue in the years ahead.

MYG's Programmes

Guillemard Project

With the official integration of Guillemard Project, the number of clients that MYG serves increased to beyond 190. This MYG's eighth project will expand the reach 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. With this integration into MINDS MYG, Guillemard Project has also relocated its weekly classes to Katong

Community Centre with the support of Mr Lim Biow Chuan, Member of Parliament for Marine Parade GRC, as well as Katong CC's Community Centre Management Committee and Women Executive Committee.

Integrated Programmes

This year, MINDS MYG started exploring the development of integrated programmes that will bring suitable clients from various projects together for activities. As a start, MYG focused on the areas of Sports and Art. For Sports, MINDS MYG registered a team of 10 clients to represent MYG for the Special Olympics National Games which will be held in Singapore in June 2009 for the first time in MYG history, and sent a team of 4 clients to participate in the NTU Vertical Marathon. In the area of Art, MYG started exploring with Very Special Arts (VSA) on the possibility of a long-term art programme for suitable MYG clients. In addition, HSBC also supported a combined Children's Camp for two of our children's projects – East Point and Children's Wing.

Special Projects Collaborations

This year saw the first MYG Sports Day organised by Raffles Junior College (RJC) Interact Club, a collaboration to explore a long-term partnership between MINDS MYG and RJC Interact Club. The experience was not only beneficial for MYG's clients, but was also a great learning opportunity for RJC's student leaders.

MYG's Structure

Learning

Ensuring that her volunteers are equipped with the necessary skills to take care of her clients continues to be a key emphasis of MYG every year. Following a successful first MYG Sharing Day in 2007, MYG organised a second Sharing Day this year, with a special coffee-table style, for volunteers to come together to discuss various issues surrounding MINDS MYG. Following up from one of the recommendations from the Sharing Day, MYG organised an MYG Learning Day run by the Red Cross Society for volunteers to learn about first aid.

Volunteer Management

MINDS MYG continues to ensure a strong focus on recognising volunteers for their valuable contributions. During the CCA Annual Award Presentation 2008, Mr Lee Wah Fong and Mr Lim Tze Beng were awarded the MINDS Distinguished Service Award, while Mr Lee Theng Ngee, Mr Ong Choon Seng and Ms Tan Wei Yan were awarded the MINDS Meritorious Service Award. As for the Long Service Awards issued by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), two volunteers were awarded the 15-years award, 16 volunteers were awarded the 10-years award, and eight volunteers were awarded the 5-years award.

Outcome Management

Following the second year of implementation, MINDS MYG has fine-tuned the Outcome Management System (OMS) for the new financial year. The outcomes and milestones have been modified with more emphasis on social interaction, focused on centre-based settings, small-group activities, external partnerships and community service. In line with NCSS' requirements to include a caregiver survey in the OMS submission for the new financial year, MYG has also developed a Caregiver Satisfaction Questionnaire unique to our programmes.

Service Development

MINDS MYG developed a Client Registration Card with dual objectives – to serve as formal registration for clients following probation, and to serve as an Identity Card that will be useful for the public to contact police when the client is missing.

LOOKING FORWARD – FY09

Focusing

MYG Coffee Table Book

Having celebrated her 35th anniversary two years ago, MINDS MYG will be planning to publish a coffee table book aimed at documenting her rich history of volunteer inspirations. MYG hopes to gather the thoughts and experiences of all her volunteers and through these reflect the many milestones and memorable events that had been part of the MINDS MYG journey. The planning and publication of this book has been made possible by a donation from the family of the late Dr Lee Kum Tatt.

Strengthening

Learning

MINDS MYG will continue to ensure that her volunteers are equipped with the necessary skills to take care of their trainees. Beyond sourcing for more relevant courses, MYG will collaborate with Allied Health Professionals from MINDS to develop unique relevant courses relevant to the volunteers in their weekly interactions with their trainees. Creating a culture of learning and sharing among all volunteers will build up her capacity, so as to continually improve the quality of services that MYG provides for her clients.

Volunteers Management

With the number of projects growing over the last few years, the volunteers have not only grown in numbers significantly, but have also grown in diversity considerably. To continue to ensure sustainability in volunteer numbers and engage existing volunteers in her services, MINDS MYG will review and strengthen her volunteer management system. Processes to screen potential volunteers, assign them to the most suitable project, keep them engaged and motivated while volunteering, recognise them for their contributions, etc, will be improved.

Outcome Management

With the transition to an Outcome-based Funding Agreement (OFA), our outcomes and milestones within our Outcome Management System (OMS) that have been jointly established with NCSS will become part of the new OFA and its schedules. With the fine-tuned OMS and the new Caregiver Satisfaction Questionnaire, MINDS MYG will build on the experience of the previous two years of OMS implementation to ensure the optimal utilisation of the resources put in.

Positioning

Vision and Mission

MINDS MYG is the new name adopted, with the intention to preserve her historical beginning and maintain her relevance as a forward-looking organisation, to lead the organisation's aspirations towards the years ahead. MYG is therefore embarking on a timely effort to align the organisation's vision and mission to the direction that the new name is meant to move the organisation towards, in line with the vision and mission of MINDS.

Volunteers Recruitment

The profile of volunteers has continued to change over the years. More and more, the new volunteers will tend to stay committed with MYG over a shorter period of time and look for alternative avenues to serve. To circumvent a potential shortage of volunteers in the short- to medium-term, coupled with the growing need for more volunteers from the larger number of projects, MINDS MYG will continue on the pro-active effort to recruit suitable volunteers to ensure sustainability.

Leadership Renewal

MYG's strong emphasis on continuity has ensured that a new competent team is always ready to take over to continue the quality work. The growth of MYG till today is a powerful testament to the value of continuity through all the generations. To sustain the flow of new leaders in the team, MINDS MYG will make a continuing effort to carry out systematic leadership self-renewal, empowering young volunteers and eventually letting them take over the running of the organisation, progressively and steadily.

CONCLUSION

FY08 had been another significant year for MINDS MYG, with numerous new developments and initiatives implemented with the motivation to improve the services that MYG provides for her clients. With her FY09 plans to focus the past efforts, strengthen the existing processes, and position the organisation for the future, MINDS MYG will continue to grow as one MYG into the years ahead.