



...She ^{can} laugh at her future...

Hello!

Welcome to our 1st newsletter for 2018! We hope that you will find great delight in keeping abreast of all the happenings in GEM.

We begin the year with new challenges and anticipation as we received our 1st stay-in resident to WINner's Home in February. Serving the gap and meeting the needs of the displaced and underserved is our calling. We are glad that we obeyed the call to start the home otherwise, we would not be able to meet their needs.

To cater to the residential needs, our monthly expenses has increased by 30% due to additional manpower, increased rental and meeting the WINners' essential and training need. We are not funded by government agencies and rely totally on fund-raising efforts and the generous support from like-minded individuals and corporations who share the same passion for the WINners.



GEM is actively looking for ways to generate income to fund its operational costs and programme needs. We are happy to share that *Giving.sg* is promoting *SHEROS*, a cause to support girls and women and GEM is one of the participating charities.

We look forward to your support so that we can continue our outreaches among the women-in-need to help them to be winners in life regardless of big or small achievements.

Wait no more! Check it out at <https://www.giving.sg/girlpower>

Charity Soirée

Of Women, By Women & For Women

GEM is fortunate and blessed to have Dr Ling Ai Ee, a philanthropist at heart who is moved by the works of GEM, to host a charity soiree in aid of women-in-need (WINner) on April 20, 2018. A team of dedicated women came together to organise a musical soiree themed as "Of Women, By Women and For Women". The arrangements of the pieces were specially orchestrated to unveil the inner voices of women. A baritone singer belted out a piece from Camelot soundtrack "How to handle a woman", an extract from the lyrics which goes "The way to handle a woman is to love her, simply love her, merely love her, love her, love her", which so aptly express what GEM believe in – to simply love them as who they are despite of their past.



A night attended by over 40 guests raised a total amount of \$ 15,000 including proceeds from a silent auction which was one of the special highlights of the evening. It was indeed a night to remember, thanks to all the incredible musicians and performers that dazzled the guests with their outstanding performances. Their beautiful voices pitched to perfection, belted out classical pieces and theatrical renditions from solos, duets to trios.

The repertoire and live performances was an eye-opening moment for many.

I CAN & I WILL

Building Confidence Track

“Have you tried my cup cake?”, Bonnie* asked with a beaming smile after one of the cooking and baking session. “You must try the fusion chicken I baked !!” followed by Sherry* as they cannot wait for the staff to try their masterpieces.

Both Bonnie and Sherry were proud of their achievements. We take delight in making them feel good about themselves, helping them to build confidence through a holistic programme. Among our baking and cooking volunteers, Elaine, a certified cooking and baking instructor had been coming to teach the WINners to prepare various types of cuisine.

19 years old Sherry* is apprehensive whenever we plan for non-local cuisine menu and is not receptive to food tasting. Her immediate response was usually “I will learn but I won’t eat it” but today, she has become more open and would say, “I will try”. Elaine describes Sherry as a motivated and quick learner whereas Bonnie is observed to be lacking in confidence when it comes to cooking. However, she has a flair for baking. Indeed, each girl has a different talent. In addition to cooking and baking, she taught them to do menu planning for the following week. Apart from the hands-on cooking and baking, they also learn practical skills like food presentation, budgeting and shopping for groceries.

Integration of training components (both life skills and vocational skills) and recreational activities is instrumental in helping the WINners to create a balanced sense of self and self-discovery. We also engaged volunteers to teach a variety of skills from jewellery making, handicraft to gardening which can ignite inner creativity and strengthen their concentration skills. Interestingly, they discover that a simple act of watering the plants can help one to distress and be at peace with self. Above and beyond the training components, we have a trained teacher to teach them English language. Days in GEM are never a dull moment for the WINners.

The *WINners’ names have been changed for confidentiality purpose.

My LEARNING JOURNEY

I have never done nails painting before. I am afraid of not been able to do well but as I start to practise more, I realised that I can actually do it.

This helps to build my confidence.

~ WINner Sherry

During my 2.5 months training programme with GEM, I have **learnt to be more patient** and to extend kindness to other WINners.

~ WINner Bonnie



Statistics as of 30 April 2018

WINNers’ Home

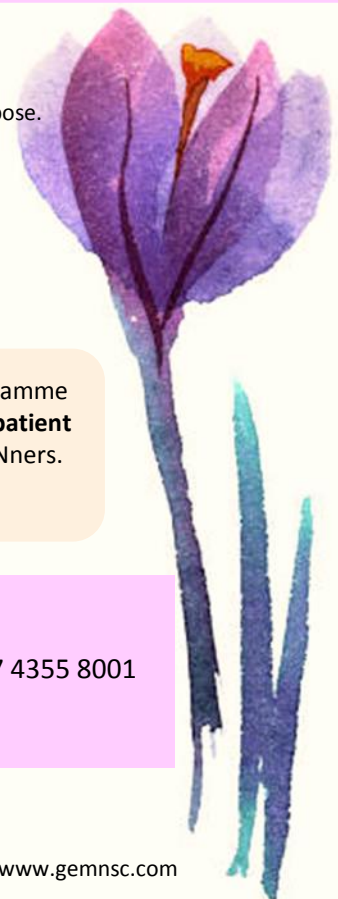
No. of referrals : 7
Stay-in : 2
Day Programme : 1

External Community Partnership

No. of participants : 9

Counselling services

Face to Face : 3
Tele-counselling : 1



TOGETHER We Can Make A Difference... GIVE Today!

Cheque payable : GEM New Start Centre Limited OCBC current account : 6477 4355 8001

Giving.Sg : <https://www.giving.sg/gem-new-start-centre-limited>

Girl Power at Giving.sg : <https://www.giving.sg/girlpower>

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