

# GEM LINK

FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATIONS ONLY.

**She**  
**CAN**  
**LAUGH**  
**at**  
**her**  
**FUTURE**  
*Proverbs 31:25*





# BEING INTENTIONAL

One heart, one mind for GEM

Caroline Kwan, President of GEM shared her journey with GEM since the day she started the women's outreach together with her sister, Lilian Tng.

## What are your ongoing challenges and rewards in running GEM for the last 5 years?

**CK** It's in having to ensure we have sufficient funds to sustain the operations and that mean I have to be 'thick-skinned' to appeal for financial support. Over the ensuing years, friendships and connections that I never imagined would have been possible were forged, which I'm deeply honoured and grateful for. All these would not have been possible without the hands of God who pulls the string for like-minded ones to come together in reaching out to women-in-need (WIN).

Despite the challenges, seeing the girls being transformed from day 1 to the day they graduated from the program is my greatest reward.

## What keeps you going despite your busy schedule of having to juggle between being a business woman and family life?

**CK** I used 2 words to summarise, that is 'HEART' and 'INTENTIONAL'.

Each time I witnessed the WIN doing well in their jobs and having good relationships with their families, it encourages me. It is the love I have for the WIN that keeps me going.

Also to me, I treasure the things that matters to God and for God. Above all, I drew strength from my loving & supportive husband who releases me with his blessings to head this women's ministry.

In today's fast-paced society, having to keep up with work commitments and family life can leave us feeling time-crunched and overwhelmed. I learnt that it is important to be intentional about how we use our time, otherwise we can get easily distracted by life's realities. Hence, I am purposeful in setting time for work, ministry with the WIN & church, for family and last but not least, time for self-care.

## What are your plans in the next 5 years?

**CK** In the coming year, I would like to start a transitional home to provide a safe dwelling place for the WIN while they undergo the program. Where vocational training is concerned, I am looking at expanding beauty skills beyond just nail care and make-up to include other aspects of beauty industry like hair-styling or even skin care.

*"It is the love I have for the WIN that keeps me going."*

# Paying **tribute** to our *UNSUNG Heroines*

**Volunteers** are of huge value to a non-profit organisation and serve as key pillars because they help to build organisational strength. Especially so for GEM, where we work with limited resources. They not only bring their expertise or experiences to the organisation but most importantly, they shared our vision and passion in this work. Looking back, this work would not have been possible without their selfless spirit and pair of committed hands extended to GEM and the WINs.

There is never enough words to express our gratitude to these unsung heroines. Hence we want to pay tribute to them who have been instrumental in making a great difference in the lives of the WIN.

We trust that you will be blessed and inspired in your faithful journey with us.

Doreen Lim  
Centre Manager



GEM New Start Centre Limited is registered as a charity under Charities Act with effect from 20 June 2016!  
**UEN : 201314600E**





## In-side Out Beauty Program @The Turning Point

A group of 15 joined the 1<sup>st</sup> training session at Turning Point in April 2016.

Bringing with her a wealth of experiences in teaching and ministry works, Dianna, GEM's part-time trainer delivered her lessons to the residents in interesting and engaging ways. Besides sharing her personal life experiences, she reinforced the learning objectives using objects and illustrations. Everyone looked forward to these object lessons because to them, it's like a magical moment where the truth ignites their heart.

There were also small group sharing and discussion at the end of each session. The residents were very open in sharing their problems and struggles and it's during such times of sharing that we have the opportunities to minister to the individual needs of each one.

As part of GEM Inside-Out Beauty Program, the residents were also taught basic pedicure beauty skills by our beauty trainer, Jean Marie. Though not all of them express an interest in nail painting, we motivate them through group participation and challenge them to learn a new skill.

At the end of the 8 weeks, we were encouraged to receive feedbacks from the residents that they have learnt useful skills like communication and conflict resolution, which help them to change their mind-sets and to be better equipped to build good relationships with people. They thoroughly enjoyed the program and looked forward to have us back to share more with them.

*Lim Yan Yan  
Trainer*





## Befriender Program @The Turning Point

**On** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, both the volunteers and residents always look forward to come together for a time of learning, fun and bonding over lunch.

To journey with the girls is never easy and it takes more than just commitment. **Commitment without love is just accomplishing a task without an end goal in mind.** Margaret, who has been serving faithfully as a befriender for 4 years recalled that when she first started volunteering, it was a challenge for her to step out of her comfort zone as she learned to relate with the girls. Today, she finds it to be a soul satisfying and spirit fulfilling experience that she deems precious and priceless. I had the opportunity to share on the topic “New Purpose” with the residents and incorporated my sharing with my personal life changing encounters. I never expected my sharing to actually encourage the girls to share on their own struggles and determination to live a purposeful life. I am thankful to be given the privilege to be of encouragement to them.

**To the volunteers, thanks for being a part of this team to bring hope and blessings to the women-in-need.**

***“I count it a privilege that I can play a small but significant part in their lives.”***

*Julie Gan  
Committee Member & Volunteer*



I came to know about GEM program while I am in AG Home. I decided to join GEM for a simple reason – I want to be a better person and to learn a skill.

### *WIN'S Testimony*

It is challenging for me to wake up early and comes in on time for class everyday but I did it. I enjoyed coming to GEM because I feel accepted and loved by the staff. Though I am just 2 months into the program, I have learnt the virtue of humility and what it meant to say ‘Sorry’ and ‘Thank You’. To me, I wouldn’t want to ‘lose face’ by saying ‘sorry’ as it also make me look like a weakling. But through GEM, they taught me that saying ‘Sorry’ is taking responsibility for the wrong things that I have done and the value of showing respect to others when I hurt their feelings. Today, I am glad that I am making small progress and I am looking forward to a better me.

WIN - JW



Official opening on 9 August 2011



# Highlights Of 5 Years Journey

Girls in action at NCWC Conference 2013



Girls' Seminar 2014

Graceful  
Empowered  
Masterpiece



WIN Sharing of personal experiences with SPS 2014



Nails training at Providence Care Centre 2015



Conference 2011



Gem Beauty Outlet Opening 2012



Community Project at SCWOC 2015



Community Project at St Hilda's Community Services 2015





# Celebrating Years



*Founder of GEM, Lilian  
and husband, Richard*

**Come** 26 August 2016, we are all excitedly looking forward to celebrate GEM New Start Centre's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with 300 friends, supporters, partners, staffs and volunteers at the Charity Dinner to be held in Holiday Inn Hotel. It is no coincidence that GEM started on 9 August 2011 which is also Singapore's National Day.

The work of GEM is not just about a few ladies coming together to reach out to girls in crisis. The big picture is about raising a generation of holistic healthy young girls who confidently know their identity and destiny not only as an individual, but also as a citizen of this nation; being able to contribute to the community to build a safe and healthy environment and to have a positive impact and influence to families and peers. We do not celebrate just because we are successful as success is an on-going journey.

In these last 5 years, we celebrate:

- **Each girl for their willingness to step out from their mistake** and shame and having the guts to admit that they need help. This in itself open the door for them to see hope and to start a new journey to their successful destiny.
- **Every person who share our vision and passion** and who have been faithfully supporting and journeying with us through ups and downs in our work by stretching out their hands to touch the hurting hearts and giving generously to meet the needs of this work and praying for us unceasingly.
- Our **faithful and committed staffs, volunteers, board members n working committees** for their time and effort put into the planning and daily operation of the centre to make things happen, whether it's a small or big job.
- Above all, we celebrate God's Love which never fail!

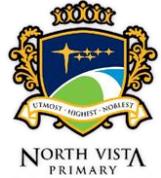
*Cheers to all. To God be the glory.*





Community Partnership

# Career Guidance for young students



For the second consecutive year, GEM was invited to do a presentation at the career fair organised by North Vista Primary School. Jean Marie, our beauty trainer, shared with the group of about 40 students in two separate sessions. She introduced the students to the various sectors under the beauty industry but focused on our core forte; the nail care industry. More than just sharing about the required skills to be a manicurist, Jean Marie also shared with them the **importance of having good attitude in particular, perseverance** which is the key to success in any profession.

Like any other talks, the most exciting segment is the 'live' demonstration and needless to say, they were eager to 'have a taste' of what it is like to be a manicurist and to paint on each other's nails.

We were privileged to be able to contribute to their learning journey and helped them to gain a deeper understanding as well as to widen their perspectives on the numerous job opportunities awaiting them when they grow up.



# volunteer Experience



“It’s my *honour* that I can play a role in the healing journey of the WIN!”

*Dianna Koh*

I was **motivated** to partner with GEM President, Mrs Caroline Kwan who has a burning passion to rally compassionate ladies to touch and mentor younger girls to become people of good influence in our society as well as to become ambassadors of love to others.

I was encouraged that I can be a part in bringing healing and encouragement to those who are in their transition toward experiencing new beginning in their new found journey.

Indeed, being a volunteer demands from us “TIME” and the need to prioritise our schedules so that we can avail ourselves. Often times, unforeseen needs or events may quickly squeeze out of those times.

I recognise that when we volunteer and make sacrifices, it entails our time, energy, efforts and even our finances. **BUT all these are tangible investments that will make a difference in someone’s life.**

Till today, I firmly uphold the belief that God can use ordinary people like me and you to be his agents of love to strengthen and encourage those in need.

As a volunteer, my soul enriches through the joy and fulfilment I received through my giving.





## A Day out Training Program@AG Home



**We** have been running program with AG home since 2015. Organising outdoor activities is an integral part of GEM program where we believe it can be a powerful stimulus for learning to the young ones.

23 May 2016 was not an ordinary day for the group of young girls from AG Home as they took a rare glimpse into the living conditions experienced by the early pioneers in the 1950s, at the revamped Chinatown Heritage Centre.

More than just an educational tour, through this visit, we hope to instil in them a sense of gratitude and appreciation for the hard work put in by the Pioneers generation, which help us to be where we are today. Many of them were grateful that they do not have to squeeze into an eight feet by eight feet space area supported by thin wooden planks which serves as a housing cubicle and their home of those days.

One girl was astonished to see how a family of eight could actually eat, sleep and play within the small cubicle and is thankful that the HDB flat that she stays in is more spacious and comfortable. The tour at the centre also gave the girls an overview of the physical transformation of Chinatown in the olden days to the modern Chinatown of today.

Right after the tour, we brought the girls to Breakthrough Café, which is a social enterprise run by the residents of Breakthrough Mission, who were former offenders. We used the life transformation of these residents as examples to share with the girls that their past do not form their identity and they can be responsible and contributing citizens of the nation just as what these residents are today. It is our hope that they will find encouragement to persevere and work towards their dreams.



**What do you think makes Chinatown unique?**

“It is full of rich heritage and culture.”

Emmanuel Assembly Of God



# Women's Conference

*She is a Daughter & Princess  
She is Confident & Beautiful  
therefore...*

# She Can Laugh

...in her days to come!

**8th October 2016**  
**Emmanuel Assembly Of God**  
**9 am - 5.30 pm**

Registration  
opens August  
2016.  
More details  
to come!

165 Upper East Coast Road  
Singapore 455266

In collaboration with





## VISION

To help teenage girls and women with a dysfunctional past to become a woman of destiny and live life to its fullness.

## MISSION

We are committed to bring restoration to the women in need and help them to re-discover the value of womanhood so as to have a new start in life.

## HOW TO REACH US



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GEM.NSC/

You can partner with us to be part of the life-changing mission by donating today!



- ✓ Please make cheque payable to **GEM New Start Centre Limited**
- ✓ Sign up as a GIRO Donor by filling up the form  
(Form can be downloaded from [www.gemnsc.com](http://www.gemnsc.com))
- ✓ Bank Transfer

**OCBC corporate account : 6477 4355 8001**

**Swift Code : OCBCSGSG**

**Bank Number : 7339**

**Branch Code : 647**

*Thank you for your giving!*

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