



OUR SOCIAL MISSION

BY CARITAS SINGAPORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

SOCIAL MISSION ALIVE 2009: An inspiring, blessed event

Social Mission Alive was held on Aug 22 and moved many hearts. Organising committee chairman LINDA LOW describes how it inspired her faith.

I thought it would be a simple task of reminding us all of the good work done by our Catholic charities. Before I realised it, organising Social Mission Alive grew into an intense, powerful experience over 10 months that will remain forever etched in my memory.

Social Mission Alive was an evening to celebrate the work of the member organisations of Caritas Singapore that help the poor and the needy in the community. The three-hour programme was designed to be inspirational and experiential, with insights into the lives and struggles of beneficiaries and volunteers. It was attended by about 900 people.

When Monsignor Eugene Vaz spoke with force and love of the "gift of self" after Archbishop Nicholas Chia opened the event, I felt that gift embodied in everyone who had come forward and contributed to organising the event.

More than 100 people helped make the event happen. They included volunteers from Caritas Singapore member organisations, families of beneficiaries, and friends of friends. All responded to the call, and gave their time despite the time



Representatives of Caritas Singapore member organisations had a message of love and hope, highlighting the many needs of people seeking love, care and support.

pressures we all faced.

I was inspired by the dedication and commitment everywhere I looked. From the soup kitchen volunteers who tirelessly prepared dinner for all, to the traffic wardens who ensured no one was left behind, the talented performers, creative decorators and military-precision backstage teams. No contribution was too small. There was always a willing

hand and a giving heart, and an eagerness to contribute to the call of His work. The event was truly blessed.

I was truly blessed to have Alvin, Jane, Emida, Raymond, Joseph, Debbie and Michelle on the programme team. They served with passion, pooling their talents to create videos and music performances which highlighted messages of hope and love arising

from the plight and struggles of those in need, especially the poor and the marginalised. I was especially touched by "Overcoming", a video featuring several beneficiaries and volunteers from Caritas Singapore member organisations describing their struggles, pains and prejudices faced.

Another particularly moving video testimony featured a

teenager speaking of the help he received from Brother Colin Wee at St Patrick's hostel. He said he was "cared for by none", took drugs and played truant, but through the unconditional love and care he received from Brother Colin, he "found hope in one".

Terrence and his team delivered beautiful songs of praise, uplifting our spirits throughout the evening. And how could I forget Henry, Francis and Theresa for their tireless efforts to ensure the smooth logistical running of the entire evening? Or Christopher, for his graphic talents? Also memorable were the entertaining song and dance contributions from the Migrants Community of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, acts29 and the Family Life Society.

Social Mission Alive was a God-given blessing for me to serve in a community both talented and generous. I found myself much enriched in my faith and life experience, moved by their works and spirit.

Many participants of Social Mission Alive shared how they were inspired by the event in ways they could not describe. Such is the power of the Spirit – to unite, to inspire and to move each of us towards serving others, unconditionally.

Indeed, we are many parts, and it is only through Him that we become One Body. The hand of God was evident each step of the way for the team and me, and I know that through Him, the spirit of service will continue to reign in the hearts and minds of all who were present.

Voices from Social Mission Alive



Participants were unified in song and praise during the three-hour event.



Dinner was a special experience, provided by the Archdiocese's soup kitchens.



Michelle Soliano's "Stand By Me" echoed the call to help children and families.

"The organisers did an excellent job and gathered a considerable number of Catholic leaders and interested Catholics under one roof to impart the Social Mission of our Church. Many have come out with a greater understanding of our role in society, especially that of helping the poor and needy who are still in very large numbers in Asia and throughout the world." – Brother Emmanuel Gaudette, SG

"Thank you all in Caritas Singapore for organising the event. We enjoyed ourselves in a most meaningful manner." – Magdalene Yip

"Social Mission Alive was well-planned and the atmosphere before, during and after the celebration was simply very good." – Fr Paul Staes, CICM

"The volunteers and I were inspired by the visual we saw and our beneficiaries had a good time out." – Catherine Ng

"Congrats on a very entertaining and inspiring programme. We enjoyed ourselves tremendously. Thank you for the hard work your team has put in so that all of us could reflect and think about giving of ourselves in service to our brothers and sisters." – Daniel and Shelley Ee

"Congratulations on a job well done. Members of Beginning Experience enjoyed the event and I thought it was well organised." – Sue Teo

"Congratulations for the great work done! It was enriching, inspiring and very suitable for young people." – Sr Geraldine Tan

"The Social Mission Alive was well organised!" – Teresa Hoe

Social Mission Alive Organising Committee 2009

Linda Low
Terrence Francisco
Jane Lau
Emida Natalaray
Janice Pua
Michelle Soliano
Alvin Tan
Joseph Tey
Christopher Ise
Debbie Woodford
Iona Woodford
Francis Wong / Theresa Young