



## Viriya Community Services

### Annual report for the year ended 31 December 2009

ROS registration No	110/2001/WEL										
Date of registration as a society	08 March 2001										
Charity registration No	1511										
Date of registration as a charity	03 July 2001										
UEN	T01SS0059B										
IPC status	0154 - until 30 September 2012										
Management committee	The management committee was elected at the annual general meeting held on 17 March 2009										
	<table> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Chia Eng Soon (aka Ven Sek Meow Ee)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice President</td> <td>Lim Yin Nee, Jenny</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hon Secretary</td> <td>Tham Khuan Heng</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hon Treasurer</td> <td>Ng Mui Siang</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Members</td> <td>Ho Kok Pooi Han Wong Thin Hee, Alan Lim Kah Hoe, Desmond Sim Eng Kiang Koh Ming Feng, Abner</td> </tr> </table>	President	Chia Eng Soon (aka Ven Sek Meow Ee)	Vice President	Lim Yin Nee, Jenny	Hon Secretary	Tham Khuan Heng	Hon Treasurer	Ng Mui Siang	Members	Ho Kok Pooi Han Wong Thin Hee, Alan Lim Kah Hoe, Desmond Sim Eng Kiang Koh Ming Feng, Abner
President	Chia Eng Soon (aka Ven Sek Meow Ee)										
Vice President	Lim Yin Nee, Jenny										
Hon Secretary	Tham Khuan Heng										
Hon Treasurer	Ng Mui Siang										
Members	Ho Kok Pooi Han Wong Thin Hee, Alan Lim Kah Hoe, Desmond Sim Eng Kiang Koh Ming Feng, Abner										
Bankers	United Overseas Bank Limited DBS Bank Limited										
Auditors	H W Soo & Co										

**Objectives:** Our Society's principal charitable activities are aimed at bringing joy and enhancing the quality of life by providing care and assistance to families and individuals in need of support regardless of race and religion. These were rendered through its community projects including Children's Club @ My Centre, Dreams @ Kolam Ayer, LHCST-NKF Dialysis Centre, Lights of Hope Centre, My Centre @ Moulmein, sharing and caring for you, Viriya Children's Welfare Fund, Viriya Children's Medical Fund, Viriya-KK Children's Hospital HomeCare Programme and Whispering Hearts Infant & Child Care Centre. Whispering

Hearts Family Service Centre and Whispering Hearts Student Care Centre are a separate society which prepares a separate set of financials and report. They are however regarded as our community projects.

**Finance and funding:** The Society receives funding from the government and the public in the form of donations. The public includes corporates, foundations and individuals. In addition, two of its centres collect school fees for provision of child or student care services but the families receive subsidy from the government depending on their household income. The Society also collects nominal fees from participants.

**Financial results:**

**Receipts**

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Donations received – tax exempt *	9,000	234,000	243,000
- non-tax exempt	156,000	410,000	566,000
Government funding	0	315,000	315,000
Programme fee	0	37,000	37,000
School fee	0	276,000	276,000
Investment income	0	27,000	27,000
Job credit	0	52,000	52,000
Miscellaneous	0	74,000	74,000
	165,000	1,425,000	1,590,000

**Expenditure**

Cost of charitable activities	24,000	411,000	435,000
Governance and other admin costs	0	33,000	33,000
Finance	0	1,000	1,000
Staffing costs	0	500,000	500,000
	24,000	945,000	969,000

**Surplus for the year**

**141,000      480,000      621,000**

**Reserves**

Restricted funds	262,000
Unrestricted funds	2,137,000
Endowment fund	2,582,000

**Total reserves as at 31 December 2009      4,981,000**

**Unrestricted funds / total operating expenditure      2.3 years**

\* - excludes a sum of \$22,000 donated to an endowment fund

It is the Society's desire to build up its reserve of unrestricted funds to meet five years' operating expenditure.

**Society's assets:** The Society does not own any properties. The Society operates the Lights of Hope Centre (which is owned by Leong Hwa Monastery) and in the year under review, it ran programmes, which were aimed at promoting active aging and thus, allow the elderly to continue to engage with the society.

The Society owns a van used largely to provide transport to our chronically ill children under the Viriya-KK Children's Hospital HomeCare Programme.

**Activities and events:** It was a year of consolidation. We continue to run programmes which focussed on the second part of our mission, namely “*to enhance the quality of life*” of the people whom we served. In this way, we hope to have a positive impact on the lives of these people who are less fortunate than us.

### **Highlights for the year:**

#### **Children**

##### Viriya-KK Children’s Hospital HomeCare Programme

- Since our adoption in February 2004, about 450 children have benefited financially, socially and emotionally from the programme.
- In year 2009, VCS contributed \$240,000 to KK Children’s Hospital in support of the Programme, making a cumulative donation of \$1.72 million in the six-year period.
- A homecare nurse was engaged and ensured that the children received appropriate medical attention at home. Volunteers made home visits to provide emotional support to the families.
- The children and families were invited to bi-annual gathering in June and December sponsored by Applied Materials and Sanofi-Aventis respectively.
- About 200 people from 30 families and volunteers took part in each gathering

##### Whispering Hearts Infant & Child Care Centre

- Maintained full enrolment of 66 infants and children from 2 months to 6 years of age with an average of 30 children on the waitlist.
- Recognised by the Ministry of Community Development Youth and Sports for its quality service and was awarded a two-year licence.
- Carried out developmentally appropriately curriculum to promote well-rounded learning with evidence-based practices.
  - Full range of developmentally appropriate activities to promote infants’ physical, cognitive and emotional development on a daily basis
  - Implemented thematic approach in curriculum to promote progressive and reinforced learning
  - Set up a minimum of three learning centres in each class to promote active learning
  - Reading programme for children aged 4 to 6 years old
  - Experiential learning activities to enhance learning
- Implemented programmes to involve parents
  - Fortnightly reports and quarterly newsletters for parents
  - Half-yearly parents teachers conferences
  - Parents resource corner
- Organised the following events to enrich the learning of our children
  - National Day Celebrations
  - Children’s and Teachers’ Day Celebrations
  - Chinese New Year Celebrations
  - Deepavali Celebrations
  - Hari Raya Celebrations
  - Christmas Day celebrations
  - Visit to Hydroponic Farm and Butterfly Lodge
  - Love and Harmony year end concert
- Quality of services by teachers was ensured through weekly internal meetings and training sessions

##### Whispering Hearts Student Care Centre

- Provided before and after school care to more than 75 children aged 7 to 4 years old. 30% of these children came from underprivileged families and were granted government subsidies.

- Carried out programmes to promote holistic development in our students with emphasis on character building, emotional wellness, physical health and cognitive abilities.
- Regular enrichment activities included speech and drama, reading, debating, newspaper clipping, reading classes and fitness and wellness sessions.
- Our supervised study time helped 80% of the students improve in at least one academic subject. More than 15% of the class achieved Band 1 in all their subjects and these 13 students were awarded the Viriya-Shih Ping Scholarship.
- To enhance the emotional wellness of our students, 65% of the students demonstrated observable improvement in their emotional management after attending our life skills classes.
- 11 students attended Living Values to build on their moral development.
- Conducted experiential project work to incorporate fun in learning and promote active learning.
- Organised exposure and immersion opportunities to institution of higher learning to stimulate interest for learning:
  - 80 students participated in a sports day at Raffles Institution in June
  - 75 students joined a two day camp at the Nanyang Technological University
  - 80 students benefited from the Science Project by Hwa Chong Institution and attended a guided tour of the Singapore Science Centre

#### Children's Club @ My Centre

- Recruited 231 members and obtained an average visitation of about 20 children per day.
- Provided conducive environment to cultivate interest in reading and offered 10,000 books for loan.
- Organised a reading competition, the Great Candy Mystery and attracted 40 participants.
- 17 children cultivated an interest in handicraft through the art and craft lessons.
- 10 children received guidance in the study partner programme.

#### Youth

##### Dreams @ Kolam Ayer

- Recruited more than 250 members through its various services and programmes.
- Conducted regular weekly gathering for children from low income families to build up their resilience and impart essential life skills.
- 35 children participated in 22 hours of Character First programme and improved on their academic skills, social interaction and character development. Their parents participated in focus groups discussion to share on parenting skills.
- 15 children participated in 18 sessions of reading programme and learned foundational literacy skills.
- 35 youths received more than 150 hours of counselling in working on their personal issues.
- Each month, 50 families received food ration and attended gatherings to increase their social support and community resources.
- 115 members attended a total of four outings.
- 40 children benefited from our annual camp, Camp Sola, co-organised by City Sunshine Club .
- Organised HomeCreation 2010 in partnership with Raffles Institution and City Sunshine Club
  - 500 students visited more than 300 one-room rental flat units
  - 40 one-room rental units were refurbished by 200 volunteers
  - 500 needy residents were treated to a dinner

#### Senior citizens

##### My Centre @ Moulmein

- Has a membership of 460 senior citizens.
- 97 members participated in 3 festive celebrations.

- Organised 17 talks and workshops with a cumulative attendance of 637 to impart physical, emotional and social wellbeing knowledge and skills.
- Organised 10 outings attended by a total of 295 participants to various attractions in Singapore and Malaysia.
- 2,770 students from 10 institutions learned basic conversational dialect through our Learn My Dialect Programme.
- Obtained a cumulative attendance of 897 participants in over 300 sessions of the following regular activities to promote active ageing:
  - Gardening
  - Foot reflexology
  - Swimming
  - Aqua aerobics
  - Brain games
  - Laughter club
  - Cooking class
  - Handicraft sessions

#### Lights of Hope Centre

- 300 participated during the Open House on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009.
- Over 1,000 packets of 5kg rice were given out during the Open House as part of Singapore Red Cross “Project Rice”.
- Started weekly karaoke sessions to build friendships among members.
- Provided a fully furnished environment, including the lobby area, bedrooms for resting, multi-purpose cum Karaoke room.

#### Families

##### Whispering Hearts Family Service Centre

- Attended to and successfully linked 710 clients to appropriate services.
- In 2009, 379 new families received casework and counselling services to deal with their challenges and improve their quality of life.
- 177 families achieved successful resolution to their challenges and managed to achieve their set goals through our services.
- Disbursed School Pocket Money Fund assistance to 468 primary and secondary students from low income families to help with their schooling expenses.
- Organised three Family Life Education programme to build strong and healthy families
  - 100% of participants in the public talk ‘Partners in Parenting: Teen Focus’ were satisfied with the programme and indicated that they learned new skills and knowledge to handle their teenage children
  - 30 couples participated in the annual ‘Luv-a-thon’ and expressed satisfaction with the programme
  - 114 participants participated in Charithon Day at Sentosa and spent quality time with their families and friends as a community
- Selected by MCYS to deliver the new enhanced STEP-UP for students at risk of premature school leaving and out-of-school youths.
- Joined the Jurong Family Violence Workgroup to provide assistance to families who have experienced violence in the family.
- About a total of 300 clients attended ten workshops as part of the ‘Enhancing Positive Changes’ programme to impart skills and knowledge to build strong family relationships and improve communication.
- 65 youths registered to be part of ‘Club Fidentia’ and benefitted academically from the weekly study and mentoring sessions, emotionally from the workshops and developmentally from the leadership training programmes.

- 48 children from low income families benefitted from 'Bright Owl Project' and received academic assistance as well as emotional support from the volunteers.
- 14 pre-schoolers from underprivileged families attended 'Treehouse Club' and 75% of the children expressed increased interest in reading.
- Introduced 'Project Towgay' to help housewives generate income from their homes to supplement the family income.

**Corporate Governance:** The management committee met three times during the year under review. In addition to reviewing and refreshing its strategic thrusts, the committee also assessed its compliance with the code of governance for the evaluation period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. As at date of this report, the Society had significantly complied with the various areas required in the governance evaluation.

In the year under review, the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) engaged KPMG to review our compliance with seven specific areas set out in the Charities (Institutions of a Public Character) Regulations. There were no significant findings though five recommendations were made to enhance our regulatory compliance and financial management standards. We have implemented all the five recommendations.

With regard to conflict of interest policy, the Society adopts the NCSS paper of October 2005, requiring Management committee members and staff to disclose areas of conflict and abstention from discussion and decision – making on the matter. During the year under review, there were no such conflicts that required disclosure and action.

**Future capital commitments:** Based on existing activities, we do not have any future capital commitments. Nonetheless, we will continue to stay relevant with the needs of the society and where it helps to forge ahead with our mission, we may consider implementing new programmes or submit proposals to MCYS/ NCSS for additional projects.

**The road ahead:** We will continue to focus on our community projects, to enhance the quality of the lives of the people whom we serve. More importantly, we will adapt and keep pace with the needs of the community and in the face of extreme challenges in the current volatile economic landscape, we will remain guided by the teachings of Buddha, in particular in embracing and practising compassion for the less fortunate in society.

**Acknowledgement:** We are very grateful to many of you who support our mission and goals. In particular, we appreciate the advice and guidance from Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Patron of Dreams @ Kolam Ayer, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Patron of My Centre @ Moulmein and Mr Cedric Foo, Patron of Whispering Hearts Family Service Centre.

Report by: Venerable Sek Meow Ee  
President

10 March 2010

### ***Our Mission***

***Viriya Community Services aims to bring joy and enhance the quality of life by providing care and assistance to families and individuals in need of support regardless of race and religion.***

***Corporate office  
72 Shrewsbury Road  
Singapore 307837***