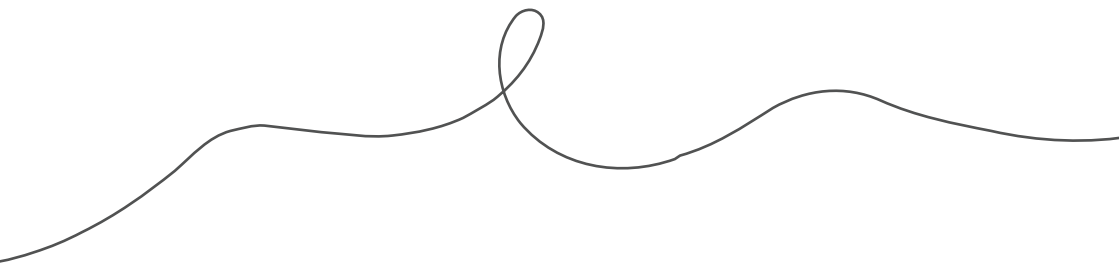


A large, stylized graphic consisting of a large orange shape with a white line that loops and curves across it, and a grey shape behind it. The text is centered within the orange shape.

CIS
30TH ANNIVERSARY
AND
AWARDS
CEREMONY

Celebrating Everyday Champions





Foreword by CEO

J R Karthikeyan (Karthik)

Chief Executive Officer, AWWA Ltd



AWWA Community Integration Service (CIS) started in 1991, and has since paved the way for integration, as well as inclusion, of children with additional needs in mainstream schools in the past 30 years.

Today, at the AWWA CIS 30th Anniversary and Awards Ceremony, we recognise the extraordinary strength and resilience that our young awardees have demonstrated in overcoming challenges, regardless of the circumstances. We also celebrate the contributions of other partners whose dedication, support and belief have empowered our clients to lead independent lives, demonstrating how differing abilities can and should be celebrated.

We congratulate all awardees and partners on your outstanding achievement. CIS looks forward to our continued partnership in this journey of inclusion and integration.

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About CIS

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION SERVICE

BACKGROUND

CIS aims to support the integration of children and youths with physical disabilities and low vision into their schools and community to reach their fullest potential.

Our team comprises Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Guidance Officers (EGO), Psychologists and Social Workers. We work closely in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social and Family Development, and the National Council of Social Services to serve our mission.

CIS currently serves over 300 students across the island and celebrates its 30th year anniversary in 2021.

CIS AWARDS

Started in the year 2000 as a means of recognising the extraordinary strength of CIS clients in their endeavour to integrate and excel in mainstream education. Subsequently, it also became a platform to acknowledge the contributions of other partners, such as supportive friends, teachers, schools and other organisational partners. Today, CIS Awards seeks to recognise the strength, empathy, and dedication of youths with disabilities, alongside those who were with them throughout their journey.

Find out more
about CIS here:



Winner of the Educational Achievement Award (Primary School)



Tan Wee Ern Javen,
Age 11

Javen misses school frequently due to his medical condition, which necessitates doctor appointments and hospitalisation. Despite missing school for the entire first half of 2021, Javen was able to obtain Achievement Levels (ALs) 3 in English, Chinese, and Mathematics, as well as AL 2 in Science. This is possible due to his high level of discipline in completing his studies while on hospitalization leave. Javen's mother and teachers have remarked on his progress, particularly in his languages. During the Circuit Breaker, he persisted in training his typing speed in preparation for his exams; Javen had previously struggled to produce sufficient information for his composition writing due to exhaustion and slow handwriting speed, leading to concerns in academic performance. He diligently cooperated with his therapists to increase his typing speed using a compact keyboard.

Furthermore, Javen has been a regular member of the Infocomm Club. He enjoys making games and has published his creations on a platform, gaining followers who are interested in curating his games. Besides that, he and his mother are prominent participants in neighbourhood events, such as volunteering to design posters for the community fridge. In his spare time, he enjoys gardening with his mother and occasionally shares harvests with his neighbours. Javen has effectively integrated into his community, with his mother's companion. Despite the upcoming PSLE, Javen is capable of managing his time between studies and active participation in community programmes.

Winner of the Educational Achievement Award (Primary School)



Kao Jhi Hung Teddi,

Age 10

Teddi has made a concerted effort to persevere and improve his academic standing. His efforts resulted in impressive academic results, as he achieved Grade 1 in all subjects in the most recent exams. In 2020, Teddi received an Edusave Certificate of Academic Achievement for his excellent academic performance and conduct. He continually strives for higher grades, with his current goal of entering

the best class next year. He takes responsibility for completing his assignments in a timely manner without reminders, and even watches videos on topics of interest (e.g. Science-related videos) in his spare time.

With weaker right-hand strength, Teddi initially had difficulty using the ruler to draw straight and accurate lines in Math constructions. Despite this difficulty, he remained positive and did not give up easily. Teddi willingly went to school during non-curriculum hours when his teacher suggested practice sessions together. With continuous practice together with his OT and teacher, he no longer required modification of the ruler and can now draw straight lines.

Besides outstanding academic results, Teddi also participates in numerous school activities. In 2020, he won the Merit award in a story-telling competition with a group of other students. Teddi contributes to his CCA (STEM club) by taking up the role of a group leader for all P4s, in addition to participating in regular activities. He strives to excel in the physical aspect by participating in the Para-Athletics Singapore and 2021 Haw Par Junior and Youth Athletics Meet, where he emerged with medals for both competitions. He is a noteworthy example of an all-rounded achiever.

Winner of the Educational Achievement Award (Secondary School/Junior College)



Sim Aaron,
Age 16

Aaron has never once allowed his physical disability and social challenges to limit his academic potential. Throughout his years in Victoria School, Aaron achieved distinctions in his studies, despite setbacks along the way, such as in secondary 2, when he had to take medications to support his deteriorating heart and commence the use of night BiPAP, thus causing disruption to his sleep routine. In secondary 3, Aaron gradually developed back pain due to worsening of spine curvature. His writing also became more laborious and had to adapt to typing during examinations. Despite these challenges, Aaron completed Secondary 3 with 4 distinctions and a GPA of 3.7/4. He was also awarded the Edusave Scholarship to recognize his academic achievement and good conduct. Aaron completed 24 hours of volunteering with Muscular Dystrophy Association of Singapore, raising awareness and funds for them in the process. He also participates regularly in weekly paracanoeing sessions held at MacRitchie reservoir. Despite his physical and social challenges, he continues to be actively involved in all of his school's enrichment activities, and is often a cheerleader on the side during the School's Annual Cross-country Championships and inter-class games.

Winner of the Educational Achievement Award (Secondary School/ Junior College)



Tay Yao En Zachary,
Age 19

Zachary experiences involuntary muscle control and thus finds prolonged writing or typing effortful. As such, he has to undergo scribe training with CIS OT and school personnel. Though it is not an easy option, Zachary persevered and attempted scribing for the first time last year. He advocated for his exam needs and concerns, such as varying typing speeds across teachers while scribing and the possibility of IB split exam arrangement to pace out his exam papers with time extensions. Through his proactiveness, he is coping well with the access arrangements.

Zachary has also found ways to cope academically. He relies on the shared class notes or slides due to his difficulty in taking notes quickly. He then revises by reading the information repetitively till he grasps the content. For homework, he completes them by voice recording his answers and getting his family member to transcribe. He takes part in evaluating available assistive technology with the OT carefully each time. Despite all his challenges, he has attained passes in all subjects and a commendable aggregate of 36 points in the recent year-end examination.

Zachary takes part in all other curricular activities fully in modified ways - he volunteers to teach children how to use software via online means as part of his Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS). He is also carrying out his exercises as part of the CAS (Activity).

Winner of the Educational Achievement Award (Secondary School/ Junior College)



Chloe Chua Qiao Lin,
Age 15

Chloe has demonstrated an excellent attitude and determination in her academic work. She takes extra effort in her revision and displays a willingness to learn by seeking help when necessary. Chloe acknowledges her challenges and overcomes them, such as having a structured timetable to manage her time. She has consistently performed well on all assessments. In Semester 1 assessment, she attained 5 As out of 8 subjects. Her diligence in preparing for her national exams next year is highly commendable.

Chloe maintains a positive attitude during speech therapy sessions. She has regular attendance and frequently asks questions to learn. In subsequent sessions, Chloe will demonstrate the knowledge she has gained. As a result, she has shown tremendous progress and can now communicate efficiently and independently. Besides therapy, she is also actively involved in her CCA (NPCC) and is keen on taking leadership roles. During the June Holiday CCA camp, she took the responsibility of going back to school almost daily to participate in the camp activities. As the Class Environmental Head, Chloe also enforces a clean and green learning environment for her peers.

Winner of the Educational Achievement Award (Tertiary)



Seow Gek Ting Alina,
Age 22

A consistent academic performer, Alina demonstrates clear commitment for excellence. At the beginning of 2019, she experienced a neuro-related disease that caused her legs to weaken and walk with a wobble. Despite this challenge, Alina refused to miss lessons and returned to school during the school holidays to consult her lecturers. Her latest GPA score as a student at Temasek

Polytechnic (TP) was 3.58/4. An active participant in 2 CCAs- Global Service Connect Club and Temasek Polytechnic Student Union, Alina demonstrates leadership qualities and was selected as an EXCO member for one of the CCAs, and a student supporter. Besides TP CCAs, Alina actively participates in para-cycling and horse riding. She hopes to participate in horse riding competitions in the future.

Winner of the Educational Achievement Award (Tertiary)



Tan Jie Xi Jessie,
Age 18

Jessie is a student in ITE College Central pursuing NITEC in Product Design. She has done very well, attaining a GPA of 3.92 and was on the Director List from Jan – Dec 2020. Jessie also achieved a Distinction in Design Fundamentals and 2D Illustration and “A” in 3D modelling, and Design Conceptualisation and Personal and Professional Development.

Jessie is also very active in co-curricular activities in ITE and has done volunteer work. She was involved in the orientation events for new intakes of NITEC students in Feb 2021, giving tours of the campus and running ice breaker activities. She also participated in the distribution of NDP bags in her neighbourhood as part of the Singapore National Day Parade in Aug 2020. In 2019, she volunteered with AWWA’s CIS to set up games for events such as Functional outings and Year End Party.

While waiting to start ITE Central in 2019, Jessie worked in Swensen’s as a service crew. She also has paid work experience with Keystone Cable and continues doing part time work editing and building models for them.

Jessie had to work and study to help her family through a stressful time and maintained excellent grades throughout. She is a responsible and diligent girl who puts in her utmost effort in her school work.

Winner of the Outstanding Buddy Award



Tan Xian Xun
Buddy of Sim Aaron

Described by Aaron as a compassionate and sincere friend who quietly but tirelessly helps others, Xian Xun volunteered to assist Aaron in Year 1 in Victoria School, and has been looking out for him ever since. Always the first to offer help, he pushes Aaron to places around the school compound, as Aaron has difficulties propelling himself in his wheelchair even for short distances.

They also spend recess time together, either chatting about common online games or school work. Xian Xun fights to ensure that Aaron is included in class/group activities, and stands up for Aaron when needed, for example in times of misunderstandings. As a friend, Xian Xun often advocates for Aaron's strengths and needs, so that their peers are able to understand Aaron better. He also visited Aaron in the hospital recently after his spinal surgery. In Aaron's words, "I was touched when I heard that Xian Xun wants to study more about helping people like me on the wheelchair or people with special needs. Xian Xun has a big heart and without him, it would have been difficult for me to have friends in school. He made all of this possible and I really appreciate all that he has done for me."

Winner of the Outstanding Buddy Award



Buddies of Gwyn Lim Qi Zheng,

- Fiona Joselyne Santiawan
- Sarah Annisa Trihapsari
- Valerie Carrol Teh
- Tvisha Bandhu
- A Aarthi
- Claire Goh Jia An
- Shakirah Binte Zulfikar
- Shannen Tang Weng Fong
- Sophia Mei-En Guizard
- Yasmin Aleesha Binte Azahari

As a result of Gwyn's complex medical background, she participated in school for the first time, joining her secondary one cohort back in 2019. It took a while for friendships to develop but Gwyn is grateful to have Fiona, Sarah, Valerie and Tvisha support her on this challenging journey. As Gwyn has very limited hand and finger movement, her friends help her collect hard copies of her homework. Fiona, especially, often patiently explains questions that Gwyn might have. Beyond helping her with work, these friends provide emotional comfort to Gwyn, throughout her schooling journey. Sarah invites her for lunch in the canteen so they can chat (even though Gwyn gets most of her nutrition through a naso-gastric tube). She is also very understanding about Gwyn's caregiving situation, and thus commutes almost 2 hours during the holidays to accompany Gwyn at her home. Valerie is always offering a listening ear, and helps Gwyn to scribe out (often essay-long) letters to her 'mortal' in school. Last but not least, Tvisha supports her mentally and emotionally by listening without judgement, often providing valuable and good advice about life.

As she entered a new class in Secondary 3, her classmates, Aarthi, Claire, Shakirah, Shannen, Sophia and Yasmin supported her in many ways, especially emotionally through turbulent times.

In Gwyn's words, "They are literally the nicest, most understanding and genuine friends ever and they really help me at school a lot. I love them and appreciate their existence so much. You definitely would never regret awarding them this award. And they are so understanding, sincere, inclusive and loving. Therefore, they should win this award."

Winner of the Outstanding Buddy Award



Christeena Peter
Buddy of Low Yi Lin Jolyn

“A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal”

Christeena volunteered to be Jolyn’s buddy even though an official buddy was assigned to her by a teacher. Compassionate and helpful, Christeena does not let her hearing impairment stop her from being a source of support and help to others, especially students in the same cohort with disabilities. In school, knowing that Jolyn is sometimes unable to keep up with copying, Christeena takes pictures of these notes and sends them to Jolyn, so that she is able to complete copying at home and be up to date with school work. She also sends Jolyn’s reminders of class activities, ensuring that she is not left out. On a few occasions, Christeena spoke up for Jolyn when she had difficulties communicating with a few classmates, and also advised Jolyn not to lose her cool when upset. Christeena supports Jolyn socially, making sure she sits with Jolyn during recess, together with some of her other friends, so that Jolyn will get to know more people. In 2019, Jolyn invited Christeena to AWWA CIS’s Year-end Party and had a wonderful time together. In Jolyn’s words, “I really treasure her help. Although there are many other kind girls in my class, she is the best buddy I have. I hope that our friendship can still continue after we leave school”.

Winner of the Outstanding Caregiver Award



Judith Jane Galon Agag Dufourt, Caregiver of Gwyn Lim Qi Zheng

To Gwyn, Judith Jane is like a mother. As Gwyn's primary caregiver, she always ensures that Gwyn's daily living needs are met. Beyond that, she is also a pillar of support for Gwyn emotionally and mentally. When Gwyn confides in her, Judith Jane provides comfort as well as 'brutally honest' advice that Gwyn admires.

Judith Jane also supports Gwyn in school, making sure that she is able to cope in the classroom setting. When Gwyn faces challenges in school, Judith Jane helps to describe the difficulties to Gwyn's teachers and therapy/medical team. At times, Judith Jane helps Gwyn scribe her homework. At home, she reminds (or in Gwyn's words, 'nags') Gwyn to complete her homework, so that she keeps up with the curriculum. She also encourages Gwyn to complete her daily routines quickly, so that she has more time to study.

Judith Jane's care for Gwyn goes beyond the call of duty, exemplified through her personal sacrifices for Gwyn. She is always ready to offer Gwyn a listening ear, even when she is tired after a long day of work. She works hard to support Gwyn, persisting even when she is feeling unwell herself (fearing that there will be no one to help Gwyn).

Even though they argue sometimes, the two remain very close, and Judith Jane continues to embody love and dedication in caring for Gwyn. Their relationship is best summed up with Gwyn's own words, "I don't know what I'd do without her existence in my life and she treats me like one of her own biological children. [...] She does her best when working every day to give me the best quality of life achievable. Even though it isn't in her job, she's the best replacement mother and parent anyone could ask for."

Winner of the Outstanding Caregiver Award



Ong Kim Huay
Mother of Toh Wee Yang

Kim Huay has been a selfless caregiver for her son Wee Yang. Ever since he was in primary school, Kim Huay took it upon her to care for him at the expense of her well-being. As his condition deteriorates, Kim Huay ensures that his needs are always met before hers, such as tirelessly changing his sleeping position multiple times every night. She assists Wee Yang in performing

daily physiotherapy exercises, even though completing those exercises can be physically draining.

Besides meeting Wee Yang's high care needs, Kim Huay supports her husband with his business and manages the household by herself. She has proven to be a self-driven and resourceful caregiver by sourcing alternatives to get him a motorized wheelchair when financial resources are tight due to high medical costs. Mindful of Wee Yang's well-being, she initiated the idea of him pursuing his interest in cosplaying. Together with some palliative nurses and transport arrangements, she enabled Wee Yang to attend Anime events with tailored costumes. Kim Huay would dress up alongside him so that he does not feel anxious.

Kim Huay has advocated for persons with disabilities and their caregivers through various platforms (e.g. Club Rainbow abstract, Mothership.SG). She actively attends meaningful activities in Muscular Dystrophy Association Singapore (MDAS), Club Rainbow and CIS together with Wee Yang. Through these opportunities, she was able to form supportive networks within the community that they both need.

Winner of the Outstanding Caregiver Award



Glenda Evardone Capacite,
Caregiver of Lim Ern Rong Shalom

“Do small things with great love”

Glenda has been taking care of Shalom for more than 10 years. She has displayed exemplary qualities through her actions. Shalom felt loved and cared for with Glenda’s support. She understands Shalom’s condition and has proven to be competent in managing his complicated medical needs by learning how to use the different medical equipment effectively and efficiently. Her presence has definitely provided emotional support for Shalom during tough times by providing a listening ear.

Glenda has selflessly given up the opportunity to return home to live with her family back in 2016, and chose to stay with Shalom until he graduates from university in 2021. She was afraid that Shalom will have difficulties adjusting to new school and helper at the same time. Glenda has been supporting Shalom’s advocacy cause as a person with disability, which gave Shalom tremendous encouragement to pursue what he wants to do. She is definitely someone who is always present to witness every little milestone Shalom makes, be it small or big.

Winner of the Outstanding Community Partner Award



Devi Chandra,
Paracycling coach at Paracycling Federation of Singapore

“Love conquers all”

Devi’s passion for volunteering dates back to when she was a student, where she committed to volunteering with a group of para-athletes training with hand bikes two to three times a week. When she returned as a volunteer for the Paracycling

Federation of Singapore (PCFS), she continued to contribute for 3 years before she was offered to coach the Junior team. Devi has been a dedicated coach for our CIS clients participating in paracycling ever since. She values how the sport can improve one’s confidence, social circle, sportsmanship and personal growth. Her willingness to serve and inspire young athletes kept her going as she volunteers to spend her weekends to train children with physical or multiple disabilities. As a coach, she takes the responsibility in nurturing the clients despite their disabilities and recognise their strengths.

She actively consulted AWWA Physiotherapist for warm up exercises to strengthen the clients’ upper limb. She accepts feedback positively, and shows her encouragement by going through what each client did well during the session. She is humbled by the support from PCFS and she acknowledged their receptiveness to her suggestions. She works closely with parents and volunteers to manage the Junior team.

Winner of the Outstanding Educator Award



Christine Tay,
AED (LBS) of
St Margaret's Secondary School

Christine is known to many CIS therapists because she supports numerous CIS clients and collaborates with their respective therapists. Despite facing clients with varying conditions and needs, Christine is systematic and organized in planning each client's support and strongly believes in expanding their unique strengths. She ensures that the communication for each client is clear between CIS team, teachers and parents. Moreover, Christine is consistent in following up on recommended strategies by therapists with clients during their free periods. Her dedication stands out whenever she provides detailed feedback or initiates discussions with therapists when issues arise. Besides the routine follow-up with strategies, Christine also takes it upon herself to train CIS clients with decision-making and problem-solving skills essential for independence.

Christine understands the aim of AWWA CIS thoroughly and aligns her action with the team. She acknowledges the importance of fair opportunity and initiated contact with SDSC (Singapore Disability Sports Council) to engage clients in modified sports. This is also possible through encouraging clients based on their strengths and working closely with parents and the school. Furthermore, Christine proactively advocates for client's access accommodation for internal and national examination as she ensures clients are not disadvantaged when performing academically. Her nurturing and compassionate nature stimulates the holistic growth of clients.

Winner of the Outstanding Educator Award



Alice Koh,
AED (LBS) of Hong Wen School

"It takes a village to raise a child. I commend the partnership by CIS in helping our students integrate into the classrooms. Students are really blessed by the dedicated work of their therapists. The classroom observations, case discussions and timely feedback on strategies and recommendations are valuable to the students' teachers and parents in aiding the students' inclusion. Thank you very much for providing this service to them."

Alice supports multiple CIS clients and has shown her dedication by understanding each client in detail, through direct interaction with clients and stakeholders involved. During the Circuit Breaker and Heightened Alert, she advocated for logistical support for our clients to continue receiving ST sessions through tele-platform and dedicated her time facilitating during these sessions. Alice seeks professional advice from CIS therapists and follows up with the recommended strategies. Thereafter, she updates the therapists regarding its effectiveness and clients' progress. She also ensures that client therapy goals and strategies were communicated to the teachers to facilitate the generalisation of skills.

Alice is efficient in her work, arranging meetings promptly between involved parties and providing timely feedback on the progress of CIS clients to therapists. She is also highly involved in case discussions – sharing clients' difficulties in detail and brainstorming strategies collaboratively with teachers and CIS therapists, thus proving that she observes and is aware of clients' needs. Having a clear understanding of CIS service models, Alice makes appropriate referrals for students who would benefit from the service even if she has to call parents to advocate. Alice is an invaluable asset to CIS work in Hong Wen School, given the amount of support she provides for the students.

Winner of the Outstanding Educator Award



Jenny Wong,
AED (LBS) of
Cantonment Primary School

Jenny is a highly professional and dedicated Allied Educator who works collaboratively with CIS therapists, teachers and parents to support the client holistically in school. She actively updates school events to parents and CIS and encourages teachers to consult CIS therapists so that the client can be involved maximally based on his abilities.

Jenny has strongly advocated for the client on multiple occasions, such as taking time to explain inclusive values to peers and teachers. Jenny ensured that the client's physical and social environments are well supported for him to participate in activities with equal opportunities. In the process, she explored various modifications with the therapists and client. With her efforts to seed inclusive values in the students, peers have slowly come to accept the clients with physical disabilities and even offered to help them move around. Jenny even went the extra mile to ensure that Primary 5 camp was planned with our client in mind (due to his physical disabilities), thus ensuring that the location is wheelchair accessible and activities were suitable for him.

Besides collaborating between teachers and CIS therapists, Jenny makes sure that our client's voice is heard. She listens to our client's concerns and addresses them accordingly by bringing them up during case conferences or consulting CIS therapists. Furthermore, she instils good character development traits in the client so that he learns to care for and appreciate people who have helped him. She often praises and encourages him to foster a positive schooling experience. Under her care, parents were clear about the support school is providing, making it a positive experience for the client and his family.

Winner of the Outstanding Educator Award



Candy Lee
AED (LBS) of
Bukit Batok Secondary School

“I believe that listening to the students and learning from them shapes my work as an Allied Educator.”

Candy provides support readily for clients to ensure that they can participate in all school activities despite their difficulties. She took extra care to understand the clients' needs and created additional resources (e.g. communication board/cards) so that the client can manage in the school environment. For example, she created simple visual cards for a child with selective mutism, in order for him to participate in class and for self-expression. In addition, she displays understanding and patience, such as patiently waiting for the same student to write down his thoughts.

After therapists or parents raises any difficulties that the client faces in school, Candy quickly problem-solves and comes up with creative ways to support him/ her. She would take initiative to be present when implementing the strategies, and slowly weaned off the support once the client was able to perform the tasks. She will also consistently give regular updates to CIS ST on her intervention and the clients' progress on her own accord.

Winner of the Outstanding Educator Award



Diong Qiheng,
AED (LBS) of
Corporation Primary School

Qiheng's care for his students is exemplary. He makes an effort to understand his students thoroughly and supports them in meaningful ways. For example, when one student had an emotional outburst, Qiheng was called down but he was not quick to scold him. Qiheng calmly asked the child to name all the people who care for him, followed by asking him to consider how those people would feel about his behaviour. This helped the child calm down and discuss his feelings.

Qiheng's lessons are also meaningfully tailored to the needs of his students. Once, his student had been bullied but could not describe the incident given his cognitive and language difficulties. In response, Qiheng began teaching the child bullying-related vocabulary so that the child will be able to describe any future incidents. He also goes the extra mile by bringing his gaming console during social play sessions, resulting in a significant change in behaviour for one of the clients.

Qiheng relentlessly advocates for his students. He strives to ensure his students receive the appropriate support services. Even when parents are reluctant to enrol their child in therapy services, Qiheng persistently advocates during each parent-teacher meeting, occasionally seeking information from the CIS ST to substantiate his points. This has resulted in many students in the school being supported by CIS. During case consultations with teachers, Qiheng often draws attention to the student's strengths and progress, not just their challenges. He attests to the character of his students and considers how the condition would have affected students.

In 2019, Qiheng participated as a panel member in the CIS NIE Learning Journey forum. Qiheng overcame his initial nervousness to share with future AEDs about his experiences supporting students, working with parents, and collaborating with CIS therapists.

Winner of the Outstanding School Award



Cantonment Primary School

Cantonment Primary School (CPS) has made several attempts to increase awareness of PWDs, such as with P5 camp instructors and directly with their students. Occasionally, the AEDs give talks to raise awareness of SEN/PWDs.

CPS has worked closely with caregivers of clients to ensure the smooth transition into Primary 1, such as having the relevant furniture in place. Teachers also took initiatives to consult with parents to find out their concerns and rectified them quickly. During most of the initial school visit meetings with CIS, all the subject teachers will make an effort to join so that they can understand more about the newly enrolled student. Their care and concern are apparent as they raised relevant and forward-thinking questions that suggested future planning for the student.

CPS has graciously allowed for AWWA therapy sessions to be conducted in schools. Additionally, school visits are usually arranged according to planned and to the client's needs. Teachers are open to adopting strategies according to recommendations by the therapists. Caregivers are also allowed to sit at the back of the classroom to offer assistance promptly.

CPS ensures smooth mobility around the school by allowing lift access to all wheelchair users. They make intentional efforts in assessing physical accessibility, such as classroom locations, accessibility for learning journeys and participation in camps. This ensures that all students are not left out. Fire evacuation plans for wheelchair users will also be explored starting this year.

Lastly, teachers and AEDs make it a point for the PWDs to be assigned roles and tasks that they can do within their abilities to ensure meaningful involvement and inculcate a sense of responsibility and leadership among their peers.

Winner of the Outstanding School Award



Princess Elizabeth Primary School

Princess Elizabeth Primary School (PEPS) spares no effort in ensuring that all students receive fair opportunities to learn and participate in school. Class talks are provided to ensure a better understanding of PWDs and there is a great emphasis placed on psychosocial support. This is evident from how the counsellor readily shares information of her therapy methods, and the effort put in to design the room with a multitude of play materials and toys.

PEPS ensures that all relevant parties working with the child are aligned and working towards a common goal. In every case consultation, a whole team of school staff will join and readily invites external parties to attend where relevant.

The school makes accommodations to meet the needs of clients, with exceptional decisiveness, unity and efficiency, at the expense of their convenience. After a consultation for a client with significant literacy challenges, teachers immediately tailored a modified curriculum for him. It involved new literacy goals every week, taught by the AED during individual pull-out sessions, and reinforced by all his teachers through modified worksheets for each subject. A buddy has been assigned for social support. These were efficiently implemented within a week.

Additionally, PEPS proactively seeks specialised support for their students where appropriate. For example, they hired a speech therapist to conduct assessments for their students when they noticed that parents had difficulty accessing such services.

Winner of the Outstanding School Award



Zhenghua Secondary School

Besides modified curriculums and enhancing school accessibility, a buddy system for PWDs to ensure peer support was an integral part of enhancing inclusion in Zhenghua Secondary School.

The school has been responsive to AWWA's requests for school visits and communicates with them to explore best arrangements to support the student. In addition, they have worked with caregivers on arranging transport (for learning journeys) and examination needs (time and venue).

The school places huge emphasis on increasing its accessibility for its students on wheelchair, so that their social interaction and school participation are not compromised. This includes areas such as the canteen table, optimal classroom layout and modified furniture to allow maximal participation. Staff in the school were also efficient in dealing with emergencies, such as when one of the client's ventilator stopped working. When the aforementioned student could not attend school temporarily due to caregiving issues, the school immediately followed up with alternative arrangements. During the initial phase of mandatory mask-wearing, the school was also proactive in working with AWWA and caregivers in finding the most appropriate face shield for the student.

Teachers and AED display exemplary and outstanding characteristics in supporting PWDs within the school by seeking ways to include the students as much as possible and going the extra mile to problem-solve for solutions alongside with the AWWA therapists.

Winner of the Perseverance Award



Caleb Lee Jia Xuan,
Age 16

Due to his medical condition, Caleb experiences some learning difficulties (i.e. visual perception, processing of information, motor planning) and other limitations due to his physical disability. However, this does not stop him from working hard. Caleb completes his work ahead of time, does extra worksheets and checks in with his teachers regularly. Despite having stage fright, he accepted the challenge of reading a poem in front of his peers to the best of his abilities.

Teachers describe Caleb as self-motivated and always perseveres through challenges. He submits his work on time, and even supports classmates who are struggling during lessons. Caleb has great rapport with his classmates, which led them to trust him. He was nominated by his classmates to be the Class Chairman last year and executed his duties well. This year, even though he is no longer the Class Chairman, he continued offering assistance to the current Class Chairman such as assisting with collection of forms. He goes above and beyond by also offering help to his teachers, even when he is not required to do so. He tries his best to participate in PE activities, even if he had to trial various strategies. Caleb also participates in Table Tennis sessions twice a week. Diligent in carrying out his exercises regularly during physiotherapy, he is keen to learn how he can improve in his techniques.

Winner of the Perseverance Award



Emma Tan Hwee En,
Age 16

Emma had to undergo a major operation in 2019, which left her experiencing post-operative pain. However, that did not stop her from undergoing intensive rehabilitation to work towards walking with bilateral crutches. Besides undergoing rehabilitation with NUH and AWWA fortnightly, Emma independently does her exercises every day, keeps track of all prescribed exercises and ensures that she does them correctly. She also noted down areas of improvement when given feedback. Within half a year, she was able to reach her goal of pre-morbid status.

Part of Para-canoeing program with Singapore Canoeing Foundation for a few years now, Emma only resumed canoeing sessions after post-surgery recuperation. Before her surgery, she attended sessions regularly and participated in various canoeing events. Emma finds joy in canoeing and is well-loved by the volunteers and coaches.

Besides sports, Emma is diligent in academics, and strives to do well in her studies. Even though she was on medical leave from school for 3 months to recuperate, she still puts aside time for daily revision and took her O-levels in 2020. She also advocated strongly for herself to ensure that she would be assessed fairly in school. Despite some classmates having difficulty understanding her needs and special arrangements, Emma continues to work diligently and tries to explain her condition and rationale for accommodations to peers.

Winner of the Perseverance Award



BB

Madan Saravanapavan,
Age 21

Madan completed his lower primary education in Malaysia before emigrating to Singapore. In Singapore, Madan went through several operations and was not able to attend mainstream schooling until 2015 (13 y/o). He started schooling again at primary 5, with the support from AWWA CIS. Despite missing Primary 1 to 4 curriculum and the age differences, Madan blended in well, persevered through primary education and progressed to Normal Academic stream. Madan enjoys the company of his friends and also actively participates in CCA - multimedia club and student council. He recently joined a photography competition -- a hobby he had developed.

Madan missed 6 months of school due to keloids and wounds on his lower limbs from prolonged periods in the wheelchair. When Madan went back to school, he put a lot of time and effort with the intensive help of tuition support from SINDA to not let his academic performance suffer.

He is a pleasant and polite boy who is always cheerful. When asked about the secret to his positivity and outlook, he mentioned "If I am sad, my mother will also be sad. I want my mother to be happy and proud of me."

Madan currently uses a motorised wheelchair and looks forward to be able to support his mother, and be independent for her sake. Madan sat for his GCE 'O-level' examination in 3 subjects and has joined a part-time ITE course.

Winner of the Perseverance Award



Muhammad Aaron Bin Irwan,
Age 18

Aaron underwent spinal surgery in 2018 and missed several months of school to recuperate. He went back to school with a modified timetable (shorter hours). During his post-operative recovery, he cooperated with therapists fully and kept a positive outlook. As his endurance improved, he continued pursuing his studies. He was able to score well for his class tests through determination and perseverance. He was able to sustain his endurance capacity through positive attitude towards learning and attending school fully, despite challenges in his respiratory functioning. By the end of 2019, he was able to stay through a full-day in school and stay after-school to revise or spend time with friends. He also attained good results in the 2019 end-of-year examinations. Aaron readily tried out full exam papers as he understood the importance in preparing for national examinations.

He participates in school activities in a graded manner despite his physical limitations, and takes part in all lessons (including practical), as he views them as learning opportunities. When individual science practical started this year, Aaron tried all the different accommodations before deciding to apply for exemption due to his condition.

Recovering from surgery and integrating back to school was challenging, and Aaron persevered through the difficulties. He is humble and acknowledges his peers and others who have helped him in his journey.

Winner of the Perseverance Award



Raphaella Renanthera Gautama,
Age 17

Raphaella experiences stiffening at her joints, and with progression of the condition, movement is seemingly hard. In Secondary school, she occasionally had to miss lessons due to the excruciating pain. Despite that, Raphaella demonstrated great determination in overcoming her pain by going to school whenever she could; only when she was unable to endure the pain, she would alert her teachers and/or buddy. Prior to sitting for O-level exams, Raphaella's tenacity was evident especially when the progression of her medical condition remained uncertain - she worked with her CIS therapists in thinking of ways to sit for exams in consideration of her pain tolerance. Raphaella's determination in pursuing academic achievements is certainly commendable and her hard work paid off, giving her a variety of schools to choose from.

Following the exams, Raphaella and her therapists explored the use of a motorised wheelchair, which she has diligently practiced in various settings. Being resourceful, she/mother loaned another powerchair to practice the skills prior to receiving her motorised wheelchair, knowing that she only has limited time to practise before her new school starts.

Despite many physical obstacles, Raphaella remains positive and active throughout her school years. She does not give up easily and strives to achieve her goals. She is a good role model for her peers and as a student councilor (in secondary school), she embodies the values of resilience and a positive outlook in life.

Winner of the Young Talent Award (Arts and Sports)



Wong Zhi Wei,
Age 19

Since young, Zhi Wei showed an interest in swimming despite his severely limited vision. However, his parents struggled to find a swim coach who would teach him. Determined to help his son pursue his passion, his father became his first coach. Zhi Wei was disciplined and kept a rigorous training schedule. Every day without fail, he would train at 5am in the morning, and 7pm at

night.

His first competition was the National Para Swimming Championship in 2013. Four years later, Zhi Wei went on to be Singapore's first gold medallist at the Asian Youth Para Games 2017. He has clinched numerous other achievements representing Singapore in Asia/Asean region, across many different swimming strokes (Freestyle, Butterfly and Backstroke).

Despite his many achievements, Zhi Wei remains humble and respectful to others. Once, his teachers recommended that he put his swimming training on hold as it was close to his exam period. In response, he shared with them his sporting aspirations and assured them that in spite of his training schedule, his academics continued to remain a priority. Zhi Wei stayed true to his word, never letting his sporting pursuits get in the way of his studies, and eventually performed well in his exams.

Zhi Wei's contributions to the nation were recognized when he won the Goh Chok Tong Enable Award in 2019, receiving the prestigious award from President Halimah Yacob. When interviewed by CNA, he had this advice to share - "Dare to dream and dare to live."

Winner of the Young Talent Award (Arts and Sports)



**Muhammad Nur Amsyar
Bin Abdemanaf,**
Age 16

Amsyar started paracycling at the age of 9, taking part in it as a CCA in Primary and Secondary school. His goal was to eventually join TeamSingapore, representing the country as a para-athlete on the world stage. While this is not an easy task, Amsyar met the challenge with dedication, discipline, and resilience.

Amsyar's training attendance was stellar, and he gave his best efforts during each session. He was praised for his focus and determination as he worked towards smashing his personal records time and time again. In 2016, he was promoted from the Junior team to the Development team, and began participating in national competitions. During the pandemic, he continues with his training on Zoom every week and may train on the road on the weekends. His discipline in training, seen through his regular attendance, is remarkable.

Amsyar also displayed exemplary qualities on the track – kindness, positivity and proactiveness. He keeps an eye out for his teammates, and was quick to seek help whenever his friends ran into trouble. He also transfers independently onto his bike whenever he can.

In 2019, Amsyar represented Singapore at his first regional competition in Thailand. In 2020, he also represented Singapore at the IWAS World Games in Thailand. He has made numerous achievements in competitions locally as well. Amsyar is an inspiration to many of his peers in school and in the community.

Winner of the Advocate of the Year



Lim Ern Rong Shalom,
Age 25

Shalom's advocacy journey began with himself, at the age of 7. As a child with a disability, he struggled to sustain meaningful friendships. Yet, with social awareness and maturity beyond his years, Shalom was empathetic to his peers, recognizing the barriers to friendship. He wrote a poem, titled 'Reaching Out,' which urged people to look beyond his condition and get to know him for who he is.

Shalom loved to paint, and in 2007, him and his older brother Isaac released a compilation of their paintings in an inspiring book titled 'Live Your Dreams!'. Through their book sales, they raised over \$100,000 for the upkeep of a wheelchair-accessible van at MDAS.

Due to loss of his upper limb functions, Shalom is no longer able to paint, but he continues to find other avenues to advocate. Every year, he conducts talks in his university to share about his condition, advocate for support, and spread awareness of PWDs in the community. Shalom also completed a 12-session course on becoming a motivational speaker, and shared his life story at the Human Library (since renamed "Stories from the Heart") in 2018 and 2019. In 2019, Shalom was a panel member in the CIS NIE Learning Journey forum. Speaking to the graduating batch of AEDs, Shalom shared his measured thoughts about his experiences, challenges and support received in school.

Despite being bound to his wheelchair and bed, Shalom never allowed himself to be imprisoned by his condition. On the contrary, his positive outlook in life is a constant encouragement to those around him to live life to the fullest. Shalom aims to be a Christian disability advocate and publish his own book. According to him, community participation is the effective social integration and active engagement of PWDs in the public sphere, where respect is measured through personal identity, rather than achievements or performance.

Special Mention of Nominations

Educational Achievement Award (Primary School)

Lim John

Nicholas Fong Kun Lam (Feng Guanlin)

Educational Achievement Award (Secondary School/Junior College)

Tiruveedula Dhanush

Lee Hayes Kerr

Zhuang Jiawei

Aw Juncheng Jaden

Educational Achievement Award (Tertiary)

Ong Xin Yu Isabel

Ivan Sombrado Chiang Ee Onn

Outstanding Buddy Award

Jie Lun and Ilhan Haziq (Madan Saravanapavan's buddies from Sec 1-4)

Leroy Lim (Muhammad Aaron's buddy from Sec 1-2)

Outstanding Caregiver Award

Elizabeth Paul

Wong Khee Choong and Chu Lee Lee

Outstanding Community Partner Award

Singapore Canoe Federation

Danial Bohan, Senior optometrist in NUH

Special Mention of Nominations

Outstanding School Award

Kranji Secondary School

Frontier Primary School

Outstanding Educator Award

Sitragandi A Arunasalam, AED (LBS) of Jurong Primary School

Nadia Lye, AED (LBS) of Xinghua Primary School

Thaahirah Bte Abu Bakar, AED (LBS) of Xinghua Primary School

Chermaine Chua, AED (LBS) of Blangah Rise Primary School

Bai Huixin, AED (LBS) of CHIJ Our Lady of Nativity

Ching Zai Ting, AED (LBS) of Anchor Green Primary School

Why Wok Eng, AED (LBS) of Woodlands Ring Primary School

Perseverance Award

Tng Yue Hang Reagan

Chew En Ning Nicole

Cheng Ewe-Hsuen

Kho Divine

Young Talent Award (Arts and Sports)

Tan Leyin

Ivan Sombrado Chiang Ee Onn

Advocate of the Year

Jacqueline Woo

Tan Weijun Ryan

Poems by Client Advocates



Every road we walked,
Every bridge we crossed,
And every mountain we climbed,
Made us all champions of the world.

- Ong Xiang Yu (2021)



You are who you are
No one can change you,
except you.
For you can and you will,
if you have the will to,
to listen to your heart,
and strive for the best.
For these are little steps to success,
little steps to make a difference,
to your life,
and perhaps, unknowingly, someone else's.

- Tan Leyin (2021)

Poems by Client Advocates



REACHING OUT

Don't just look at me with questions in your eyes
But look my way again,
Let me catch your eye
And ask, if you would be my friend.

I may have lost a gene,
But I have not lost my dreams
And like you, I long for beauty
That true friendships can bring.

I want to love and be loved,
I can be strong for you,
I have the faith that conquers;
The ability to enjoy life, same as you.

Only look beyond my wheelchair,
Come near and discover me,
Look not at me with pity
But reach out –
And ask, if I would your friend be.

© **Grace Lim-Ngo and Shalom Lim (2002)**

**Art work
by Clients**



by
Ivan Sombrado Chiang Ee Onn,
Age 18

by
Tan Weijun Ryan,
Age 19



Art work by Clients

by
Chew Yu Ying Megan,
Age 15



by
Kyra Lim Yee Hanz and Wong Hui Yin Lydia,
Age 11 & 14

Hope

CIS Awards 2021 Song co-produced by CIS clients

We can do this
We can fight together
Hand in hand
Forever

Never will I give up
I know I'mma find my way aye

I will never back down
I will keep on fighting
I am who I wanna be
I am strong and will not lose hope

Struggled many moments and at times I feel like
Overwhelmed by my thoughts tryna give up the fight
Momma told me don't you ever stop don't you ever quit
You can climb up to the top you gotta push a bit
Action to the motion do your best
Believe in yourself let the magic do rest
All you gotta do is really try
Aim for the sky forreal

Never will I give up
I know I'mma find my way aye
I will never back down
I will keep on fighting
I am who I wanna be
I am strong and will not lose hope

All you gotta do is really try
Aiming for the sky forreal (x2)
(Everything will be alright)

I will never back down
I will keep on fighting
I am who I wanna be
I am strong and will not lose hope

Fight for life to see through it all
I'll figure out my way now
I know I won't back down now

Special Thanks

Guest of Honour

Ms Sun Xueling, Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social and Family Development

Nomination Panel Judges

- Mr Albert Chia, Director, Psychological Services, Ministry of Education
- Ms. Liza Goh, Deputy Director / MSF Disability Office, Ministry of Social and Family Development
- Ms. Mabel Loy, Head, Community Development, Communications and Community Engagement Division, SGenable
- Ms. Beatrice Chen, Board Director, AWWA

Singers and lyrics team

Faith Cenaro Naval

Tan Leyin

Mohamed Syukur Bin Mohamed

Gwyn Lim Qi Zheng

Veeravel s/o Shanmugavel

Wheelsmith

CIS Video casts

Karthik

Ye Yu Qi Lezann

Theresa Goh

Tan Weijun Ryan

Amanda Mok

Emcees

Chua Ze En Nathan

Alister Ong

Programme

Team LEWIS (*Photoshoot, Social Media Campaign*)

Alpha Plus Gifts & Souvenirs Pte Ltd
(*Trophy*)

Blue Mango (*CIS Video*)

Luxe Print Pte Ltd (*Programme Booklet*)

Wheelsmith (*Song Production*)

TruePrint Pte Ltd (*Certificate Printing*)

Storyteller Productions (*Music Video*)

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People Giving to People



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