

# IN THE KNOW

by AWWA Corporate Affairs

Let's take a look at some of the recent highlights across AWWA!

## AWWA SCHOOL @ BEDOK OFFICIAL OPENING

On 6 October 2022, we officially opened our second special education (SPED) school, AWWA School @ Bedok, which will cater to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) aged 7 to 18. We were honoured to have Guest-of-Honour President Halimah Yacob grace the opening ceremony.

continued below



AWWA School @ Bedok offers various facilities that can better support students with ASD, including a hydrotherapy pool, larger therapy rooms with specialised equipment, a classroom designed for students with ASD, and features such as an iCUBE room with an interactive art wall to ensure an immersive experience for students.

Through AWWA School @ Bedok, we hope to better support students and their caregivers with personalised interventions and resources so that they can have the opportunity to maximise their potential to thrive in the community. Our AWWA School @ Bedok team will walk this journey with our students and their loved ones and celebrate every success and milestone with them.

All these are made possible through the support of the Ministry of Education (MOE), SG Enable and corporate donors.

Scan the QR code to follow our social media channel





## AWWA TRANSITIONAL SHELTER YEAR-END CELEBRATION 2022

On Saturday, 10 December 2022, we celebrated the accomplishments of AWWA Transitional Shelter (TS) families who have "graduated" from our shelter at the AWWA TS Year-End Celebrations (YEC). The YEC shone the spotlight on our families as we banded together to celebrate their achievements of securing stable housing.

We were honoured to have special guest Ms Irene Ang, founder & CEO of FLY Entertainment, grace the event and share her passion as the voice for homelessness and her personal life story.

Corporate partners who walked this journey with us over the years have helped over 200 AWWA TS families attain confidence and independence through meaningful programmes and activities planned by our social workers.

### CLIENT STORY: GERARD LEOW

Time sure flies! Gerard Leow has just graduated from AWWA School @ Napiri (School) and is currently working as a flexi-time kitchen assistant with Sushi Express.

The various school-based attachments and work experience programmes offered by the School helped prepare him for employment. Of course, the dedication of his teachers who supported him along the way gave him the much-needed assurance he needed to enter the workforce.

His strong social skills have helped to build positive relationships and enable him to work effectively in a team. Critical thinking and problem-solving ability were second nature to him as he learned them through structured learning activities. He manages time effectively and prioritises his tasks with ease!

With his strong family support, Gerard has developed independent living skills such as personal grooming, budgeting, and travelling independently. His teacher, Ms Zengzi, shared that Gerard has displayed grit in learning, especially when facing challenges in his educational journey. His growth in maturity is inspirational, as he constantly seeks to understand himself and others around him, as well as improve himself to be better. She hopes that Gerard will continue to chase after his dreams in life and stay curious about the world and people.

All the best, Gerard!





## FAMILY VIOLENCE DIALOGUE GROUP APPRECIATION AWARDS

Introduced in 2008, the Family Violence Dialogue Group (FVDG) Appreciation Awards aims to promote inter-agency recognition of individual and team contributions in managing family violence cases and motivating professionals to improve service delivery and to work towards a coordinated response in such cases. This year, the FVDG Appreciation Awards were presented during the National Family Violence Networking Conference 2022.

We are delighted that AWWA Family Service Centre (FSC), along with Singapore Indian Development Association and Kampong Kapur FSC, were among the Group Award Recipients for their close collaboration with Rochor Neighbourhood Police Centre in handling over 230 cases of family violence in 2021.

The FSCs were commended on their regular and timely updates to the police officers during intervention with the families. They also continued with the necessary follow-ups and ensured that they took care of the family's well-being.

In a particular case that involved a familial dispute, through the support and strong collaboration from both AWWA and police officers over six months, the family finally put aside their differences and reconciled.

Kudos to AWWA FSC for your hard work and dedication to serving families!

(L to R: Michele Gan, Peh Li Ping, Tan Farahlina, Lim Hui Ying)

## ONE STEP AT A TIME VIDEO SERIES

One Step at a Time is a series where we feature the voices of our caregivers and clients. Hear from them about their journey of hope and how they benefitted from AWWA's services through the expertise of our professionals.

We hope their stories can encourage everyone and inspire the caregivers in our midst to push on knowing that they are not alone in their journey.

Scan the QR codes to watch the videos.



This is Zachary's story  
and Geraldine's journey

# FEATURE STORY: AWWA CONTINUUM OF CARE

Gunaseelan was a student at AWWA School @ Napiri (AWWA School). His brother, Mr Suresh (left), shared that the teachers at AWWA School supported and equipped him with important skills such as communication. In fact, Gunaseelan enjoyed language class the most as he got to learn language in meaningful and engaging ways through various communication systems such as the Picture Exchange Communication System.



Upon graduation, he was assessed and was eligible to receive intervention support at AWWA Home Personal Care Service (HPCS), which aims to prolong the ability of home-based clients to stay integrated within the community. Through HPCS, Gunaseelan received maintenance exercises and minds stimulating activities. Not only did this service give him the much-needed day-to-day assistance, Gunaseelan also made many friends with the home care associates, who were there for him every step of the way!

Gunaseelan moved from HPCS to our newly opened AWWA Day Activity Centre (DAC). The DAC provides daily living skills and community living skills to persons with disabilities in order to maximise their independence. This helps give Gunaseelan's brother a much-needed relief and respite.

'While my brother may not be the most verbal of people, I understand him well, and I can tell you that his small smiles speak loudly of how happy he is with AWWA' - Mr Suresh.



## NEW YEAR, NEW DREAMS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The 'New Year, New Dreams' campaign aims to make a difference in supporting thousands of AWWA clients. These include early intervention for pre-schoolers, education and integration support for children and adults with additional needs, social assistance for vulnerable families, and care services for seniors.

Your contribution enables transportation for our children with special needs to attend school, balanced meals for our seniors to keep them nourished, mobility training and basic daily living skills for clients with additional needs, and food rations for vulnerable families.

Your support will allow us to continue to empower the disadvantaged to maximise their potential to lead dignified and independent lives.

This campaign aims to raise \$250,000 by 30 June 2023, and Tote Board Enhanced Fund Raising Program (EFR) will provide 40% matching, capped at \$100,000 for this campaign.

Scan the QR code to donate today!

