





News Release

APSN beneficiaries showcase their abilities, tenacity and employability at Charity Dinner

From practising skills after hours to doing beyond what's necessary at training set-ups, many eager to prove their competence, diligence and positive work attitude to get hired

Singapore, 23 July 2019 - Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN), a social service agency, will hold its annual APSN Charity Dinner on 2 August 2019 at Sands Expo and Convention Centre at Marina Bay Sands.

The event is organised as part of the integrated resort's Sands for Singapore Charity Festival 2019. Copresented by Marina Bay Sands, APSN Charity Dinner 2019 will be graced by Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and attended by guests comprising corporate partners, donors and APSN beneficiaries across its four Schools and adult-training Centre.

Themed "Powers Uncovered", APSN Charity Dinner 2019 will feature stories of beneficiaries who have demonstrated immense resilience and perseverance to excel in their respective fields in spite of their intellectual disability. The programme will also feature an inclusive dinner service and exciting line-up of performances by APSN beneficiaries.

All proceeds generated from the event will be channelled towards education and training programmes to continue empowering and preparing APSN's beneficiaries for open employment, all year round.

With the right support, many APSN students and trainees have already gone on to secure jobs. Some are even putting in extra effort to prove their mettle in this uncertain job climate, enhancing their employability within the workforce.

In the past financial year, 111 APSN beneficiaries found employment (both supported and open employment). This is an increase of 15.6% from the previous year.

At one of APSN's vocational training institutes, APSN Delta Senior School (DSS), 84% of the student cohort advanced with a Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) and found employment in 2018.

Community Hub, Singapore 409074







Here are three profiles of beneficiaries who exemplify the tenacious, never-say-die spirit the Association hopes to instill in all its beneficiaries (they will also be featured at the Charity Dinner exhibition showcase):

(1) Angie:

After 25 years of dedicated support, training and education with APSN, Angie Hoe, 33, moved on to her first job ever at Astons Singapore in June.

As a part-time crew, Angie is responsible for clearing, wiping and setting of tables, as well as housekeeping duties such as wiping of chairs and benches.

She has a lot of initiative – she arranges the sauce and table elements so they are aligned during her free time. This is a work ethic she brought over from her time training at APSN Café for All.

There, Angie also won over many customers with her winsome smile and never-ending stream of compliments, such as "you look very beautiful today".

(2) Enver:

Driven to excel, 19-year-old Enver Cheong stood out for his hard work in Year 1 at APSN Delta Senior School (DSS) – staying back four hours extra every Friday to practise and perfect his baking skills.

Piping and creaming requires a lot of discipline to stand there and do it, but Enver is able to persevere throughout those long hours, said Mr Vincent Koh his form teacher.

At APSN schools, form teachers take on a mentoring role and spend time coaching students in their academic skills, vocational abilities as well as their personal development. This is to help improve their quality of life and job prospects.

Enver benefited from Mr Koh's coaching too. The form teacher says that the teen responds well and is motivated by words of affirmation. Mr Koh also highlighted ways the youth could improve in his pastry skills.

After 2.5 years at APSN DSS, Enver started his new job at Hilton Singapore in July this year as a Trainee in the pastry kitchen.

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(3) Chloe:

Chloe Hor's diligence and never-say-die attitude shine through in everything that she pursues.

She strives to one day be an active contributor to support her single mother, who works 3 jobs. "I must, I must work hard, so that (one day) I can help my mother pay bills and save for the future," Chloe, 12, told her form teacher, Mrs Fazillah Yousoff, at APSN Chaoyang School.

When she was appointed Head Prefect this year, she worried about performing her duties well due to her challenges in oral expression.

However, after reassurance from her teachers, she is determined to overcome her fears and deliver a good job. She demonstrates the same resilience towards her studies and sports.

During Mathematics lessons, for example, she is also governed by the discipline of "I want to do it and try more" when she faces difficulties.

"As teachers, we assist in nurturing the child by developing their academic competence, enhancing their emotional well-being, inculcating the school values (like resilience) and nurturing their talents and strengths," Mrs Yousoff says.

Chloe's persevering spirit is an inspiration to many who have seen her progress through the years at APSN.

APSN Chief Executive Officer Dr Christopher Tay says, "Year after year, APSN has strived to bring out the best in our beneficiaries as they are capable of taking ahold of their future. By imbuing traits of tenacity on top of the necessary skillsets, they become more employable and their talents and strengths can shine through."

For more information on the event, please visit: https://www.apsn.org.sg/portfolio-item/apsn-charitydinner-2019/









Angie Hoe has moved on to her first job at Astons Singapore after years 25 of training support from APSN.



Chloe Hor strives to one day be an active contributor to support her single mother, who works 3 jobs.



Enver Cheong benefited from one-on-one coaching from his form teacher. Today, he is working in the pastry kitchen at Hilton Singapore.







About Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN)

Established in 1976, Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) is a social service agency providing special education for persons with mild intellectual disability (IQ 50-70). Today, APSN operates four Special Education (SPED) Schools (APSN Chaoyang School, APSN Katong School, APSN Tanglin School and APSN Delta Senior School) for students aged 7 to 21, an APSN Student Care Centre for children aged 7 to 18 and an APSN Centre for Adults for persons aged 16 and older, benefiting over 1,200 beneficiaries each year.

The APSN Schools and Centre adopt a holistic approach in its curriculum, comprising academic, vocational and social skills which are important for open employment and lifelong learning. APSN seeks to enable persons with special needs to be active contributors of the society and is committed to inspire and build capabilities of its partners and community to lead and advocate an inclusive society.

To date, APSN's growing database has more than 5,000 beneficiaries, comprising students, trainees and alumni. The Association is constantly expanding its network to reach out to and understand the needs of its members to better support them.

For more information on APSN, please visit www.apsn.org.sg

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