

Giving HOPE For all Seasons

(Not Just at Christmas!)

As we approach the year end and the Christmas season, our thoughts naturally turn towards celebration and giving, especially Christmas presents! This is the season people feel more festive, thus more congenial and generous.

The theme for Lakeside's Charity Dinner 2017 was "Hope for All Seasons" (see page 1 & 6), as we believe that while Christmas and the festive season might be the time that hearts are most open to giving, the needs of those we take care of at Lakeside are however, always present, regardless of seasons.

Take for example Madam Tay (not her real name), a 73-year-old widow with Parkinson's Disease. In this season of her life, she is frail and needs care from both family and the community. A recent health checkup revealed signs of brain deterioration. Even though she needed daily physical and cognitive stimulation, she withdrew from friends and remained housebound. She was afraid that her immobility was a burden to others, as such loneliness and loss of connectivity to the world set in.

Through the encouragement of Lakeside staff and a fellow senior, she began to participate in the Lakeside Kaki Kampong Senior Wellness Programme. Special arrangements were made to transport her to a variety of activities. Now, she is open to volunteer visits and is even willing to

be taken out for outings, her journey back to the community well underway.

On the other end of the spectrum, 4 year-old Marco (not his real name) is in the very first season of his young life. However, as his parents do not speak English at home, he could not recognise many of the English alphabet. Lakeside Educational and Psychological Services (EPS) help children from low income families to read so that they can learn. After 6 months with the "I can Read" programme, he was able to read independently, to the delight of his teachers!

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At Lakeside, we care for persons in need, whatever season of life they may be in. Last year, almost 1300 families in need came to us for assistance. Often they are unable to cope because of financial or family relationship issues. Our youth programmes rehabilitate young offenders as well as develop their resilience through service learning.

We need your support to continue walking with the needy through all seasons. Consider giving this season, so that they can live well for all seasons.

Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

