

Lakeside-News

Lakeside Family Services is a Member of NCCS
Charity Registration No: 1294 / IPC No: IPC000214 / UEN: S975S0022B

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July 2017

BE THE CHANGE

Couple Volunteering = FREE DATING!



Jeremy Loh and Samantha Pay

Alex Lee and Sherie Wong

“Really! You get to do something meaningful for the underprivileged, spend time together... Plus, it’s free!” Jeremy Loh is refreshingly candid. Jeremy and his girlfriend Samantha Pay, volunteer for Lakeside’s *I Can Read* programme on Saturday mornings.

They are not the only couple at this reading programme to help preschoolers gain age-appropriate reading skills. Volunteering gave Alex Lee and his fiancée Sherie Wong new topics to talk about. Discussing how they can better manage the children revealed new insights about their relationship. Sherie shared, “I realized I’m not as patient as Alex, so I’m learning to be better. Very helpful as we plan for our own family.”

Volunteering introduces worthwhile goals couples can share and work towards together. It is Alex’s third year as a reading volunteer. “There will never be an ideal situation to see the impact of the work,” he observed, “the motivation to volunteer comes from progressing with the children as they learn their phonics and grow in their liking and ability to read. The occasional thanks from their parents warm the heart too.”

Jeremy and Samantha echoed the same sentiments. “We learn from the children too. Their innocence and cheekiness have brought us passive working adults back to the basics of life – just being happy and carefree.”

Some advice from our couples: Don’t treat it as just volunteer work. Take it as a glimpse into your future life together as you work and motivate each other as a couple. Let the children (and your partner) surprise you!