



annual report  
2007/2008



## from the executive director

Year 2007 saw some encouraging development in our programmes and services.

Through our Welfare Assistance Programme, the Centre reached out to many needy families experiencing financial difficulties. These families received tangible support especially for their children's schooling expenses. This helped them to stay afloat despite their trying circumstances. The children from these families also received tuition support made possible by the dedicated service of our many volunteers.

For those who needed help on their relationship issues, we continued to provide them counseling service including premarital counseling through the marriage preparation programme.

Evangel Kindergarten enhanced her curriculum with the implementation of the SPICE Programme. This programme aims to strengthen the children's proficiency in both the English and Chinese languages especially in developing a keen interest in reading and writing in the children.

Our two Student Care Centres received good response and feedback from families who needed before and after school care for the children. The Centre at Canberra continued to operate at near full capacity throughout the year while the Centre at Woodlands achieved her target to raise enrolment by 40%, which is also close to full capacity.

I wish to thank the Management Board of WSC, leaders and members of WEFC, donors, volunteers and staff for all your encouraging support and service rendered that made the delivery of our services and programmes possible. I also wish to thank our clients and service users who gave us the opportunity to serve them with services that met their needs. We are also very thankful that NCSS has approved the renewal of our IPC status from 1 September 2007 to 31 August 2012.

Looking ahead, our organisation's priority in the coming year is to continue in our efforts to be responsive to meeting the needs of individuals and families in the community, be they educational, social or financial, through further development of our programmes and services.

Mrs Evelyn Chong  
Executive Director

## Mission Statement

Woodlands Social Centre  
exists to  
provide integrated  
social and educational services  
to meet the needs of residents  
and strengthen families  
in the Woodlands Community  
to the Glory of God.

## Vision Statement

A caring and responsive  
social service provider,  
touching and enhancing  
individual and family life in  
Woodlands and beyond.



# Management & Staff Team

## Management Board

The following members were elected to the Management Board for the 2007/2009 term of office.

Chairman	:	Rev Dr Kenny Fam
Vice-Chairman	:	Rev Edward Chau
Honorary Secretary	:	Mr Ling Lek Suan
Honorary Treasurer	:	Ms Phyllis Chong
Assistant Treasurer	:	Dr Liu Te Chih
Member	:	Mr Raymond Wong
Member	:	Ms Liu Oi Choo
Member	:	Ms Chang Yok Siom
Member	:	Mrs Felicia Tan
Member	:	Mr Cheong Mun Sang

## Staff

Executive Director	:	Evelyn Chong
Principal, EK	:	Alice Chan
Supervisor, ESCC (W)/ Administration Manager	:	Spencer Tan
Supervisor, ESCC (C)	:	Anna Xiao
Programme Executive: Social Worker	:	Tam Huiyi (till 28 Mar 07) Wong Yoke Yee (wef 1 July 07)
Learning Support Officer	:	Priscilla Law (till 8 June 07)
Programme Coordinator	:	Puspparani Kannan(wef 1 Oct 07)
Administrator	:	Irene Ng

Evangel Kindergarten Teachers	:	Sharon Chai Cocoanna (wef 1 Feb 08) Maira Siow Jennifer Wong (till 29 Feb 08) Teresa Lee (till 16 Nov 07) Serene Leo (till 16 Nov 07) Sherlyn Ong (wef 2 Jan 08) Jexseca Khoe Diana Tok (wef 1 Feb 08) Shirley Chan(till 16 Nov 07) Jasey Poh (till 31 July 07) Ng Keng Lang Stella Lim Tan Bee Bee (wef 1 Aug 07) Angeline Tan
Teacher Assistants	:	Josephine Tay Suganthi Doreen Tay

ESCC (Woodlands) Teachers	:	Chia Geok Hin Eileen Ong (wef 4 June 07) Mark Tan Tan Guat Lee (till 13 June 07)
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ESCC (Canberra) : Amelia Au  
Teachers : Josephine Ho  
Terence Huang  
Saraswathy Bai (till 31 Oct 07)

Cooks/Assistants : Chew Cheng Ten  
Chin Ahi Tin  
Ho Meng Phang  
Loh Choon Eng  
To Lee Kwee

**EVANGEL KINDERGARTEN**

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Evangel Kindergarten provides a holistic Christ-centered educational environment for every child's learning and development.

**ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS**

Level	Number of Classes		Average Monthly Enrolment	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Pre Nursery	2	2	32	24
Nursery	4	4	80	80
KI	4	4	80	80
KII	4	4	81	79
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>263</b>

**CHILDREN'S OUTINGS IN 2007**

Term	Date	Venue
Term 1	1 & 2 March 2007	Watch Children's Play – "I Think I Can" at DBS Art Centre (Nursery to K2)
2007 Term 2	17 & 18 May 2007	Visit to Singapore Discovery Centre (Pre-Nursery to K2)
2007 Term 3	23 & 24 August 2007	Visit to Animal Resort (Pre-Nursery to K2)
2007 Term 4	3 Oct 2007	Shopping Trip (for K2 only)



## A GLIMPSE OF 2007

### **Activities for Parents and Children**

A mooncake making session organized for parents and their children on 22 September 2007 was conducted by a parent volunteer with teachers' assistance. This event was also opened to parents and children from Evangel Student Care Centre.



### **Teachers' Training**

Seven teachers attended the workshop "Material with Staedtler: Traditional Drawing Techniques" on 4 September 2007. This workshop helped teachers in their delivery of art lessons at the Kindergarten.

Ten teachers attended the Pre-school Education Seminar on 6 September 2007. The topic for the seminar was "Emotional Learning for Young Children". The teachers gained much insight from both the local as well as foreign speakers and indeed have helped them in assisting the children to learn.

A briefing on fire safety by the Singapore Civil Defence Force was conducted for all the staff of the Kindergarten. This briefing promoted the awareness of safety in both the Kindergarten and at home. There was also a demonstration to help teachers familiarized themselves with the use of fire extinguishers.

### **Enrichment and Holiday Programmes**

Various enrichment classes were arranged for children of Nursery to K2 levels after school hours on weekdays. Classes included English and Mandarin Speech & Drama, Chinese Characters Made Fun, English creative writing, Science, Mathematics, Art and Critical Thinking.

Special programmes were also conducted during the year-end holidays for the K2 children. These were Primary One Preparatory Classes which included English, Hanyu Pinyin and Mathematics.

### **Eye screening**

In conjunction with the Eye Care Week 2007, the Pre-school myopia screening team was in the Kindergarten on 21 to 23 March 2007 to do eye sight tests for the K1 and K2 children. Our teachers also highlighted the importance of good eye care and conducted various related activities with the children.

### **Meet-the-Parents Day**

On 24 & 25 May 2007, parents were invited to the Kindergarten to meet with the teachers. Children's development, progress and goals were discussed. Parents were shown the children's portfolio which included samples of the child's work, some photographs, teachers' documentation and a checklist. Parents gained a better understanding of their children's development. Parents gave positive comments on the use of this portfolio as a means to assess their children's progress.

### **Fire Drills**

Fire drills were conducted in Term 3 of 2007 to better prepare the children in times of emergency. The SCDF participated in the Kindergarten's fire drill and firemen were at the scene to put out a mock fire.

### **Graduation Concert**

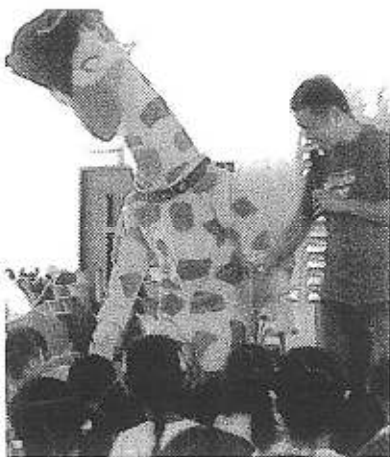
Children of all levels performed at the graduation concert on 16 November 2007. 80 K2 children proudly graduated from the Kindergarten on completion of their pre-school education. Parents of all the children were invited to this special year-end event.

### **Growie**

Growie, the mascot of a milk powder, was at the Kindergarten on 22 February 2008. Children learned about healthy life style, the importance of nutritious food especially the goodness of milk, and about giraffe and its habitat.

### **Total Defence Day**

On Feb 15 2008, in conjunction with Total Defence Day, police officers from Woodlands Police Station were invited to talk to our children about the role of the Police in protecting the country and the people. The police officers helped the children to understand the danger of being approached by strangers.



## LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

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The Programme provided learning support to children with mild to moderate learning difficulties so that they were able to cope better academically in mainstream school.

The teaching and learning activities carried out in the year focused on academic and literacy coaching using a multi-sensory approach. Twelve students attended the programme in 2007. Each child received individually tailored one-to-one coaching.

We saw the children made small but definite progress through this programme. Positive feedback received from parents is an indication that this programme has indeed benefited their children.

## READING PROGRAMME

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This programme:

- Targets children from low-income, non-English speaking families.
- Aims to build a strong foundation so that they will eventually read and write English well.
- Uses fun and experiential learning tools.
- Uses phonics to help children to read faster and better.

The programme focused on developing vocabulary, grammar and reading skills in the children. Our aim was to develop the children's interest in the language and use it confidently.

Twelve children ranging from ages 4 to 8 attended the programme in the year. Children received individual or small group coaching.

## EVANGEL STUDENT CARE CENTRES

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At Evangel Student Care Centre (ESCC), we aim to provide a cozy environment where children enjoy being at. ESCC is a daily care and guidance programme for primary school children who would otherwise go back to an empty home. We focus on instilling character and discipline in the children.

### ENROLMENT

#### ESCC (Woodlands)

Average monthly enrolment in 2007:	54
No. of students served:	84
No. of students withdrew during the year:	37
No. of students received fee assistance:	22

#### ESCC (CANBERRA)

Average monthly enrolment in 2007:	59
No. of students served:	77
No. of students withdrew during the year:	16
No. of students received fee assistance:	10

Families who were on the North West CDC's fee assistance scheme received a further fee subsidy of \$20 from ESCC.

### HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

During the mid and end of year school holidays special activities and outings were organized. Here are some highlights of the year.

#### At ESCC (WOODLANDS)

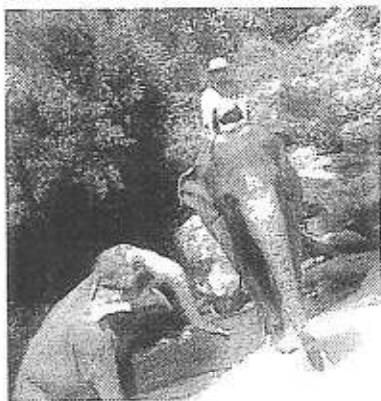
##### *Sungei Buloh Wetlands Reserve*

The Sungei Buloh Wetlands Reserve is home to a wide ranging flora and fauna population. Sitting on 87ha of wetland, the Sungei Buloh provided much fun and learning for the students as they trekked through the reserve.

##### *Night Safari.*

The students had a unique experience of exploring wildlife in a tropical jungle at night. They visited the world's first wildlife park – The Night Safari. Through the use of subtle lighting technique, the students were able to view many different nocturnal animals, and thoroughly enjoyed the animal show!





### *Singapore Zoological Gardens*

The Singapore Zoo is a model of the 'open zoo' concept. Animals are kept in spacious, landscaped enclosures, separated from the students by dry or wet moats. This natural looking environment allowed the students to appreciate the animals in a setting close to their natural environment.

### *Singapore Discovery Centre*

Singapore Discovery Centre. Is it a museum? An art gallery? A science centre? Well, it is a combination of all 3 if you ask the students who went for the visit. With the interesting and interactive exhibits, the students were truly able to hear the past, see the present and touch the future.

### *Bukit Timah Hill Hike*

Bukit Timah Hill, literally means 'tin-bearing hill' in Malay, stands at an altitude of 164m and is the highest point in Singapore. Although the students did not climb the hill, they used the paths to explore the areas surrounding the hill.

### *Swim at Woodlands Swimming Complex*

This is the first time that our students visited the Woodlands Swimming Complex. What was more exciting was that the facility had undergone some renovations and included new structures for the students to play. They had a splashing good time!

### *Tour around North and West Singapore*

The visit to Kranji War Memorial, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Jurong Frog Farm was a first for most of our students. They had a better understanding of World War 2, toured around NTU and finally learnt more about the delicious frogs that they eat.

## **ESCC (CANBERRA)**

### *Chinese Culture Club and Art & Craft Club*

These clubs promoted Chinese culture and values through games such as Chinese chess, computer games and Chinese calligraphy. It also fostered teamwork, peer bonding and leadership qualities among the students. The students had more in-depth knowledge of Chinese culture and craft through the club's activities.

### *Visit to Unicurd Food Factory*

Our students benefited a lot from this outing. Through this visit they learnt about the process of making bean products, the various uses of soya beans, importance of protein intake and having a balanced diet. Some students' impression of soya products and their benefits changed for the better after this trip.

### *Christmas & New Year Celebration Party*

The students had great fun during these celebrations. They were given a chance to showcase their artistic talents that boosted their confidence.

### **COMBINED ACTIVITIES**

#### *Jurong Bird Park*

The Jurong Bird Park is a 20.2ha open-concept park. It is the largest in Asia Pacific and the best in the world. It has a collection of more than 9000 birds. The students had a good time viewing the exhibits and even feeding the birds.

#### *Science experiments by ACS and Visit to Orchidville*

Mrs Wong Li Nap from ACS (Independent) was at both the Evangel Student Care Centres to demonstrate interesting science experiments to our students. The children were intrigued by her 2 hour demonstration. Later that day, we paid a visit to Orchidville. The visit included an educational slide show and a tour around the orchid farm. The Orchidville tour gave the students lots of valuable knowledge on our national flower. The children learnt about orchid cultivation and development. They also found out more about the history of Orchidville and its status in Singapore as the leading exporter of premium commercial Orchid.



### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

#### *Daily interaction with children*

Our children enjoy the interaction time organized by supervisor and teachers. They were given a chance to speak out their thoughts and problems faced. Teachers quoted examples to teach them problem solving skills. The students learnt much from these interactive times on handling and solving difficult matters effectively and appropriately.

#### *Encouragement and New Year's Day Card*

This was a means of communication staff had with parents which enhanced a closer bonding between parents and their children to the centre and the staff alike.

#### *Tuition by student volunteers.*

ESCC continued to enjoy the commitment of student volunteers from National Junior College who came to the centre to coach our children in their studies. In so doing, we were happy to see that the lives of the volunteers were also enriched.

## family & welfare service

### CASEWORK & COUNSELLING

Through the Welfare Assistance Programme, the Centre served a total of 50 families in this year. Majority of these families had financial difficulties due to low wage employment or unemployment. Furthermore, some of their children were not performing well in school. The help rendered to the families included school and transport allowances, allowance for buying books and uniform, monthly food rations, short-term cash assistance and tuition for their children. Other areas included connecting them with employers for permanent job placement. The assistance given helped the families meet their needs.

In our effort to promote self reliance and maximising the talents they have, we partnered with Woodlands Evangelical Free Church to engage 5 families in different projects where they worked to earn extra income to support their families. These projects included baking cookies for Christmas 2007, catering food for breakfast and other events. These projects created opportunities for family bonding while working together. The desire to be more self reliant became a shared responsibility as each family member chipped in different ways to accomplish the tasks. The families experienced a sense of hope through these projects as they were able to put their skills into good use.

Through walking with them in their efforts to regain self reliance, meaningful relationships were built with these families.

In this year we also provided counselling to 19 cases. 17 of these were new cases registered between March 2007 and February 2008. Relationship issues were often cited as their main concern when they called for appointments. Others included parenting concerns and mental health issues such as depression. The profile of the cases remained the same as in previous years. Among these cases 89% were Chinese, 95% were self referred and 74% were female.

## ANNUAL BURSARY AWARD



The Centre continued with our Bursary Award Scheme, extended to students from low-income families who have attained satisfactory academic results. The scheme aims to help them pay for school fees, uniform, stationery, transport and other school-related expenses.

WSC received 54 applicants referred from 8 primary schools, 6 secondary schools. From these applicants, 27 primary and secondary school students were new applicants from Qihua Primary School, Evergreen Secondary School and FuChun Secondary School. The remaining students were our existing clients.

About 21 volunteers conducted home visits to interview and assess those families new to our Centre. A total of \$7,850 worth of bursary awards were disbursed to 15 primary school students and 28 secondary school students at the "Christmas with a Difference" community event organized by Woodlands Evangelical Free Church.

On top of the bursary awards, \$1200 was given out as School Expenses Assistance to students who needed help to prepare for the new school year.

### Information at a Glance

1. Bursary
  - 15 PS students – \$2250
  - 28 SS students - \$5600
2. School Expenses Assistance
  - 6 PS students – \$600
  - 4 SS students - \$600

## TUITION PROGRAMME

The Centre provided free weekly tuition to children from low income families to assist them in their school work. These children were given personal coaching or placed in small groups depending on their learning abilities. We were encouraged to see these children so motivated to learn. Some of them just needed that extra time and help to understand their school work. However, there were also some children with very poor foundation who could not do well as they progress up the education system. We desire to help these children improve in their studies so that they will not be disadvantaged due to financial constraints at home. Having good academic results will eventually serve as the long term means to get their families out of the poverty trap.

We had a total of 46 students on the tuition programme. 30 were Primary level students and 16 Secondary level students. These students came to the Centre weekly for the tuition.



We salute and extend our heartfelt gratitude to our 59 faithful volunteers who contributed time, effort and passion in nurturing these young lives in their academic work. These volunteers came from different sources: 15 from National Junior College, 7 from JP Morgan, 3 from Innova Junior College, 2 from the public and 32 from Woodlands Evangelical Free Church.

## Marriage Preparation Programme



Five courting couples successfully completed the Marriage Preparation Programme, "Building A Healthy Marriage" during the year. Every couple who attended the individual couple programme had to come for three four-hour sessions.

Through the Counsellor's facilitation, couples discussed aspects of relating in the marriage, clarified their expectations and developed a better understanding of themselves and their relationship. Each couple had an evaluation of their current relationship, using the PREPARE inventory. Couples who were already facing some difficulties in their relationship were helped to look at ways to resolve them.

Based on the positive feedback given by the participants, this programme has achieved its outcome of setting the foundation for beginning the journey towards building healthy and committed marital relationships.

## Parenting Programme

A health talk on "Common Children Complaints – Skin, Eye and Ear Conditions" by Dr Charity Low held on 3 March 2007 was organized for parents of children attending Evangel Kindergarten and Evangel Student Care Centre. Dr Low shared with participants the common complaints, how to identify them, when to seek treatment and care for their children when sick with the different conditions.



One parenting seminar was also organised on 30 June 2007. Mr Anthony Yeo, the Consultant Therapist at Counselling & Care Centre was invited to share with 91 parents on the "Challenges of Parenthood". A father of two young adult sons, Mr Yeo used his life experiences as a parent to encourage parents on how to nurture, support, guide as well as discipline their children at different stages of growth and development.

## our grateful thanks

### TO OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS

Chang Yok Siom

Cheong Wan Yin Caleb

Chew Soon Lee

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Sew Kwai Yip Marc

Skillsquest

Studio J

Tan Boon Beng Bernard

Tan Chuan Wei Jonathan

Tan Gek Heok Sheila

The Mapping

Voo Yau Onn

Wong Weng Yin Raymond



**To our faithful volunteers**



Caryn Quah  
Cheong Suzanne  
Chew Jia Chi  
Chia Geok Hin  
Chng Lena  
Chow Cheok Ying  
Choy Chun Kong  
Chua Eric  
Chua Janet  
Chua Vera  
Eliathamby David  
Eliathamby Irene  
Fam Abel  
Fun Kok Leong  
Ho Hamiza  
Ho Hiang Kwee  
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JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
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Koh Peter  
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Lam Yoke Peng  
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Leow Marcus  
Leow Shermin  
Lim Eunice  
Lim Kee Oon  
Ling Yoke Fong  
Loh Eliza  
Loh Renfred  
Low Claire  
Mok Faith  
Ng Francis  
Ng Jenny  
Ng Lily  
Ng Pak Shun  
Ng Weng Chuen  
Ngerng Jennifer  
Ngoh Farand  
Nur Adlin Haque K  
Nur Hanisah Hasnan  
Pereira Theresa  
Puspparani Kannan  
Seah Lilian  
Seng Wan Chin  
Sim Mui Liang  
Sng Wan Lu  
Sum Lai Fun  
Tan Ai Suan  
Tan Alfred  
Tan Helen  
Tan Yee Pin  
Tay Lucille  
Tay Paul  
Tay Zoey  
Teo Shun Bin  
Tong Jessica  
Tsen Leslie  
Voo Mi Mi  
William Koh Wei Liat  
Winston Sng Bew Meng  
Yam Xinyi  
Yap Aik Seong  
Yee Peggy  
Yee Tony  
Yong Betty  
Yu Jerry  
Yu Una

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