

Project Educar 7-06

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Project Type: Multi-Year

Section I: Project Overview

A. Area of Concern

According to the Ministry of Social and Family Development (2017), 5,644 young households (below age 35) received short to medium-term financial aid in the financial year of 2015, a 40.54% increase from 2012. More families are increasingly not making enough to simply satisfy their 3 meals and basic necessities. With the focus placed on fulfilling basic needs rather than enriching their child's learning experience, the children cannot afford wholesome learning experiences, widening the inequality gap, as they are not exposed to the same opportunities others their age are receiving.

B. Challenges Identified

The children supported by Care Singapore often spend their time in school completing their schoolwork, under close supervision by Care Staff, however, the staff at Care are not equipped with up to date knowledge of the syllabus. Care Singapore also has insufficient resources and manpower to fund this kind of exposure and educational experiences for the kids to develop holistically under their care, and the staff to children ratio was unsuitable and the relationships were surface-level.

C. Underlying Problem

Given that the Children-At-Risk at CARE Singapore stem from underprivileged backgrounds, and there is a lack of awareness amongst the public about the plight of these children, how might we alleviate the problem by providing them with meaningful holistic activities that would ultimately enrich their educational journey and strengthen their family bonds to develop them into well-rounded individuals, while raising awareness and funds for Care Singapore to reach out to more wayward children.

D. Plan of Action

Our plan of action is detailed in the table below which also indicates the date of completion of each action. We confirmed with Care SG that our main objective would shift from raising funds to having more interaction with the children, and raise awareness in the public sector. We have since held a plethora of activities, to achieve and solve our underlying problem.

Section II: Implementation of the Plan

A. Actions and Outcomes to Date

Date	Action	Objective
December 2018	Meetings with CareSG Admin Team	Finalise partnership details and provide a brief outline of upcoming plans and activities
January 2019	Recruitment of Volunteers	Acquire manpower
	Volunteers Meeting	Event Planning
March-August 2019	Engagement Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 sessions, same child-volunteer pairs - Carried out activities which included outdoor team bonding games, indoor games and handicrafts - Helped students with their academics nearing the examinations period - Students learn essential life skills such as teamwork, cooperation, creativity, communication and self-confidence 	Holistic and Educational Experiences
6 April 2019	NYC Young Changemakers Open Mic Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applied for funding of \$3000 	Obtain funding
27 April 2019	Youth-for-Causes Funding Selections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applied for funding of \$1600 	Obtain funding
25 May 2019	Hwa Chong Institution Open House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set-up a booth to share about the cause, and promote events - Sold merchandise to raise funds 	Raising funds and awareness
26 May 2019	Charity Frisbee Tournament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held at Bishan Active Park 	Raise Funds & Awareness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care SG and public competed with/against each other - Raised a total of \$3696.00 	
June 2019	<p>Street Sales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 locations, 5 days a week - Had a total of 122 student volunteers from various schools around Singapore - Raised a total of \$4151.20 	Raising Funds
7 June 2019	<p>Concert Kensho</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held at ACS Barker Mrs Lee Choon Guan Concert Hall - Invited ex-Care SG student to share his experiences and had Care Students to perform 2 songs - Sold approximately 400 tickets - Raised a total of \$3683.00 	Raise Funds & Awareness
14 June 2019	<p>YMCA Youth-for-Causes Citi Social Bazaar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applied to set-up a booth - Introduced our project to the members of the public - Sold merchandise 	Raise Funds & Awareness
23 June 2019	<p>Charity Carnival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held at Our Tampines Hub - Set-up games and food booths for members of the public. - Raised a total of \$583.30 	Raise Funds & Awareness
26 June 2019	<p>Day Camp 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held at Qifa Primary School - Organised a day camp for the students - Played games and had Art & Craft activities. 	Holistic and Educational Experiences
29 June 2019	<p>Expro Fitness Convention Singapore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held at Suntec Convention Centre - Helped out with the booth by Push Pull Give and Care SG - Raised funds through fitness challenges 	Raise Funds & Awareness

19 June 2019	Day Camp 2 / Learning Journey 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Held at Hwa Chong Institution- Organised a day camp for the students from Wellington Primary School- Played games and had Art & Craft activities- Widened their horizons of education and motivated them to work hard and go to a good school	Holistic and Educational Experiences
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Section III: Project Outcomes

A. Accomplishments

We have raised a total of **\$21021.40** for **Care Singapore** through our street sales, merchandise sales, busking sessions, concert, carnival, and frisbee tournament. We had **260 volunteers involved** in our events, and through actively selling merchandise and sharing about the cause, both our volunteers and the public got the chance to **understand more about our cause**. For our fundraising concert, we **sold 400 tickets**, totalling to around **\$4,000 in ticket sales**, and received **300 signatures** for our cause through our pledge book. On Instagram, we have over **1200 followers** who are aware of and support our cause. We have **reached out to 80 kids** from Care Singapore and went down to the school for **10 engagement sessions**, and also held **2 day camps**, in which they managed to have **unique hands-on experiences** where classroom knowledge was brought to life.

Previously, there were **inadequate opportunities** provided for children to experience learning outside of the curriculum; we have since **empowered the children** with educational and holistic activities which **enrich their lives**. These activities help build their social interaction skills, learn important values such as teamwork and seek help in academics from our volunteers.

Most importantly, through continuous student-volunteer interaction, these latch-key children have **bonded with a caring adult figure** whom they can relate and **look up to as a role model**. The small age-gap breaks the typical “hierarchy” system that the children may feel towards the Care Staff and makes them **willing to open up** to their mentors.

B. Reflections on Outcomes

Care Singapore has alleviated the problem of latchkey children by **nurturing their mindsets**, but they may not be able to tackle the root problem - the children's dysfunctional family background, due to the sensitive and complex nature of the problem. We believe our project has empowered the children with the **optimism and resilience to persevere** through their family situations and seek a better future.

We have come to **understand and empathise** with the challenges faced by the underprivileged through **personal bonds we forged**. We may have achieved our aim of providing educational activities for the children, but ultimately, we **cannot address the systemic cause** of the problem, that is alleviating the financial situation of the needy families.

We have learnt to **focus more on the happiness** we bring into the children's lives rather than the intricacies of our events and that we should remember that every activity should be **children-centric** and cater directly to the children's needs and that numbers and statistics should be secondary to our main cause.

C. Scope of the Project

Community Impact: Members of the public could **learn more about Care SG**, as well as the plight of the children-at-risk of Singapore and could **show support for these children** through donations and assisting in spreading awareness for our cause like pledging their support in the pledge book. The children definitely enjoyed themselves thoroughly and took home **invaluable life lessons** at the end of the day. Finally, through the special bonds that have been forged, volunteers who interacted have a better understanding of the children's problems and real-life examples of those in suffering, changing their mindset and inspiring them to serve the community outside of the project's work.

Community Involvement: At the beginning of the year, we started off with 5 core team members and **260 volunteers** who helped us spread awareness and plan our events. The volunteers were key in ensuring our events **ran smoothly** and were key in **spreading our cause to other schools** and were **committed individuals** who really wanted the children to do well in life.

Resolution of AOC/UP:

Given that we have identified a lack of meaningful holistic activities, we have conducted **10 engagement sessions** and **2 day camps** to teach the children social skills and teamwork. As for our fundraising and awareness-raising aspect, we have raised **\$21021.40** and reached out to an estimated **12,000 people**. More importantly, we have sown the seeds for sustainable development of this project, by involving students from a diverse range of schools and education levels in the problem-solving process and empowering them to make a difference in the lives of the children. We hope that future team leading this project will be able to take on the mantle and **build on this foundation**, to provide a **sustainable solution** to aid the underprivileged children and tackle the cause of the problem.