

SIWEC NEWS

Sikh Welfare Council, Singapore

April - July 2012

Welcome to yet another issue of our SIWEC newsletter!

The primary goal of our newsletter is to engage and share with you SIWEC's recent & forthcoming events and look forward hear from you on how you may want to volunteer and get involved in our activities. SIWEC was awarded IPC status by the Commissioner of Charities on the 5th November 2009. Besides the Food on the Table program, other SIWEC activities include Prison Visits, Counseling, Bereavement and Financial Assistance. About 10% of our needy clients are non-Sikhs, in keeping with our IPC status.

Highlights of this Issue

Vesakhi 2012



Flag Day



Success Story



AGM



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jagjit Singh Sekhon
Chairman

Amarjit Singh Wasan
Vice Chairman

Inderpal Singh
Secretary

Amritpal Singh
Asst Secretary

Gurmit Singh Grewal
Treasurer

Jaspreet Singh Chhabra
Asst Treasurer

Committee Members
Manmohan Singh
Dinesh Singh
Sarjit Kaur Gill
Gurmit Kaur Sroya
Manjeet Singh Rikhraj

What We Do: *The Sikh Welfare Council (SIWEC) is a charity with an IPC status ("Institutions of Public Character"), which formulates overall policies in respect of welfare services in Singapore. A comprehensive detail of SIWEC's functions and activities can be found on our website at www.siwec.org.*

Lunch with Minister, Ministry of Community Development Youth and Sports

Representatives of Sikh institutions met with Mr. Chan Chun Sing, Minister of MCYS on 3rd July 12 at a lunch hosted by the Sikh Advisory Board at Khalsa Association. The MCYS delegation included Senior Parliament Secretary Sam Tan and Permanent Secretary, Chan Heng Kee. A wide range of Community concerns were discussed during the session.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

- Vesakhi Mela – Health Screening on 22nd April 2012
- Flag Day held on 14th July 2012
- AGM held on 21st July 2012

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Vesakhi Celebrations

SIWEC would like to express its deep gratitude to all donors for donating generously and for the volunteers who assisted in the distribution of the Vesakhi goodie bags on 6 April 2012. The 25 needy families who received these goodie bags were very appreciative of your support and participation.

We hope that during the distribution the volunteers were able to get a better understanding of how SIWEC continues to assist these needy families.

A special thanks goes out to the volunteers from Khalsa Dharmak Sabha and Katong Gurdwara who assisted SIWEC on Good Friday in preparing and distributing the goodie bags.

Your time and support to Sikh Welfare Council is very much appreciated and we look forward to further collaborations with you on such projects in the future.



Vesakhi Mela took place at KHALSA Association on the 22nd of April 2012. Health screening was organized by SIWEC. A total of 16 volunteers from Diabetic Society of Singapore (DSS) supported this event. 12 other volunteers from SIWEC's Health Care Ambassadors program assisted the Nurse volunteers from DSS in conducting the screening and primarily acting as translators for the Punjabi speaking participants. Total of 226 participants of all ages took part in the screening. Blood pressure and Blood sugar checks were done. Soy Joy graciously donated 300 muesli bars to be given out to the participants. This was further supplemented by giving out 5 apples to each participant.

SIWEC Mentorship Programme

It is our pleasure to announce that the first batch of Youth Mentors have completed four full days of rigorous training and passed the competency-based assessment. Mentors who attended the programme said it was well structured and organized. They also felt that concepts and skills presented would be useful and relevant to their personal development. The practical experience during the sessions not only prepared the mentors for mentoring but they also formed close bonds with each other.

See what our mentors had to say about the training programme:

"The skill sets that I have learnt can be applied to different relationships I encounter in my life."

"It was great, lots of fun and an awesome learning experience."

"I think everything I have learned would be used in the mentoring relationship."

We have arranged for the next training session for Youth Mentors to take place in November/December 2012.

If you are between 16 yrs and 25 yrs and keen in making a difference, do get in touch with SIWEC at 62999234 or drop us a message at our website.



Find out more at our website: www.siwec.org

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

FLAG DAY 2012



SIWEC is pleased to announce that it conducted its Flag Day on Saturday, 14th July 2012.

This year, we had about 900 volunteers with numerous non-sikhs supporting us and this is an encouraging development. We had 22 schools, all Sikh institutions and Gurdwara's participating had given us full support to raise fund islandwide from 7am till 8pm. The number of volunteers this year had increased.

We also had individual volunteers and well-wishers who were part of it to make it a successful event.

Special thanks to SSEF, YSA and Whitley Secondary School Principal, Mr Harphal Singh for their continuous support.

Lastly we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to every individual for joining us in making our Flag Day a success each year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



SIWEC conducted our Annual General Meeting on 21st July 2012, Saturday at SKA. Council members from Gurdwaras' and Sikh institutions were present to review our progress and also provided us their concerns on the needs of the community.

ALSO Upcoming:

- Tea Appreciation Session for Lawyers
- SIWEC Office Relocation



Success Story

Sat Sri Akal

The Sikh Welfare Council has played a vital part in my life since a very young age. The consistent help rendered by the selfless people at the Sikh Welfare Council for years is priceless, for what I am today is partly due to their effort. Last year, 2011, when I had to take my Ordinary Level ('O' Level) examinations, I was rendered great help by the very same group of people. Being the concerned lady she is, Ms Indrejit Kaur, asked about my academic status yet again. After having known I was not doing as well as I could for my English Language and Mathematics, she immediately took action to get help for me in these subjects.

Soon, I was attached to Ms Raspal Kaur and Ms Narin Kaur, my English Language and Mathematics tutors respectively. The weekly two hour sessions were not only helpful for me academically, but provided me with a platform to meet new people such as the teachers and classmates. Overtime, the relationship I had with the teachers and classmates bloomed as we felt more like a family. Ms Indrejit Kaur would always ensure that we were doing well in the classes by speaking to us over the phone as she was extremely concerned for our 'O' Levels. Despite teaching us for the respective subjects, the teachers also ensured we paid sufficient attention to the other subjects we had at hand.

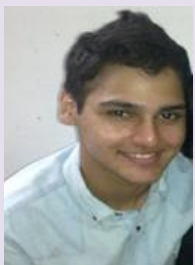
As the weeks went by, the weekly affair proved to have taken effect when my English teacher in my Secondary School noticed the change in my comprehension results for the better. As a matter of fact, I was passing the comprehensions well. She was very impressed by what Ms Raspal Kaur had managed to accomplish within a few weeks.

In early January 2012, I received my 'O' Level results and I was euphoric. I've gotten an A2 for both my English Language and Mathematics. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Indrejit Kaur for always putting in a whole lot of effort for her clients. She is a rare individual who believes in taking care of others before herself. She is an angel in disguise of a human.

I would also like to thank Ms Raspal Kaur, for taking time off every Saturday to teach us and marking the stacks of papers I would submit. The well planned lessons are all truly appreciated.

Ms Narin Kaur is more like an older sister I never had. She would occasionally joke around and instead of a class it felt like a group of students studying together. She never fails to ensure we understand our work before the session ends. Given her tight schedule, we're touched that she was willing to teach us every Saturday. Sometimes even extending it by half an hour or so.

Thank you Sikh Welfare Council for all these years of support. On behalf of my family, I would like to thank you for the sincere support rendered to us over the years. Getting fully prepared for 'O' Levels was not an easy task. I was having a lot of problems with Maths and English and since my family was not financially well to do I could not afford to take up private tuition. But thanks to Sikh Welfare Council for providing me with tuition classes for Maths and English, thanks to this assistance I manage to pass both my English and Maths which were the two most important subjects with good results. Today as I embark on my journey for the next phase of my life in Nanyang Polytechnic doing biomedical Engineering, I really want to thank the Sikh Welfare Council and Miss Indrejit for their help and assistance in achieving my goals. Thank you very much!



Written by: Harmith Singh

How You Can Help

The Sikh Welfare Council is a Volunteer Welfare Organization (VWO) that depends on the community for volunteers as well as the funds necessary to carry out its various assistance programmes. We are presently assisting more than 30 deserving families on a regular basis so that they can tide over difficult times. Obviously, this requires a great deal of resources on the part of SIWEC. We would therefore like to appeal to the community at large to help us by support the less fortunate. You can do this in various ways, including:

- Giving a one-off donation (e.g. on-line via PayPal, cheques, bank drafts, etc).
- Making a GIRO application to provide a monthly (recurring) donation. Please contact us for a GIRO Form.
- Making a Bequest (Will).
- Giving a Memorial Donation - a thoughtful way to remember a loved one while giving support to others.
- Volunteering your time and participating in other activities. Such as ferrying elderly/disabled Sikhs to and from Gurdwaras'.



**Know someone who can benefit from this newsletter?
Please help to forward this newsletter.**

**If you are in crisis and need help urgently,
call our 24 hour Hotline Number for
assistance, 6299 9234.**

