



Sree Narayana Mission (Singapore)

DARSHANAM

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MediaCorp Celebrates Deepavali 2024 with SNM Residents

On 2 October 2024, our residents were excited to welcome MediaCorp's team of volunteers, artistes, radio DJs, singers, and news reporters at our Nursing Home for a special Deepavali celebration.

The team engaged our residents in hands-on activities such as painting and creating traditional rangoli designs, and enjoyed a lively performance by L. Vijayendran, a well-known singer at Vasantham as well as a lovely meal sponsored by Gayatri Restaurant.



Christmas Pasar Malam at SNM Nursing Home



On 14 December 2024, a Christmas-themed Pasar Malam event organised by volunteers from the Indian Muslim Social Service Association (IMSSA) was held at SNM Nursing Home@Chong Pang. The volunteers helped set up food stalls and exciting game booths, adorned with Christmas decorations.

Our residents and their next-of-kin thoroughly enjoyed the festive atmosphere and the delicious food, savouring the tasty spread of rojak, crispy chicken wings, and golden fries prepared by SNM's kitchen staff, as well as satay provided by the volunteers.

Beyond its festive cheer, the event also embodied 'social prescribing' by fostering community engagement, reducing social isolation, and enhancing our residents' social well-being and quality of life through interactions with fellow residents, volunteers, and family members.



Our CEO, Mr. S. Devendran, expressed his gratitude to IMSSA, stating, "I am a Roman Catholic, but I haven't had time to decorate or even experience the Orchard Road 'Hitachi' Christmas displays. However, today I felt the Christmas spirit by watching young Muslims celebrate Christmas with seniors of all religious backgrounds."

He also emphasized that the event is an example of Singapore's national treasure—its *racial harmony and religious tolerance*—and how it also reflects Sree Narayana Guru's message: "*Whichever the religion, it suffices if it makes you a better man.*"

Seniors' Sport Challenge

On 17 October 2024, our seniors from SNM AAC (Care)@Woodlands took part in the Seniors' Sport Challenge at Clementi Sports Hall, where they were awarded the Bronze Medal in Seated Floorball!

This challenge was part of a week-long National Celebration of Seniors (NCOS) event organised by the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) and was supported by SportSG, NLB

and C3A which ran from 14 to 18 October 2024 across five sports venues.

Our seniors demonstrated incredible camaraderie and teamwork, and we couldn't be more proud of their collective effort.

Congratulations to the team for their achievement!



Aqua Fun & Fit with ActiveSG

Our seniors from SNM AAC (Care) @Woodlands attended the Aqua Fun & Fit programme at Bukit Canberra Swimming Complex over 12 weeks.

The programme is a collaboration with ActiveSG, which focuses on low-impact exercises that are gentle on the seniors' joints while providing an effective workout, with the buoyancy of the water supporting their bodies to improve strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular health, all while minimizing the risk of injury.

Our seniors had fun following the instructor's lead with the movements, leaving them feeling refreshed and energized, and they look forward to attending future sessions.



Breakfast With Love



On 26 October 2024, our seniors from SNM AAC@Race Course was invited to be part of the Breakfast With Love programme at Kent Ville.

Breakfast With Love is a signature monthly programme run by Mayor Denise Phua and her team in the Kampong Glam Division. Volunteers served breakfast and joined elderly residents for various activities, including breakfasts, exercise, entertainment, conversation, language learning, and information sharing by government and community agencies.

At the event, our senior volunteers led a laughter yoga session for the residents of Kent Ville, while our seniors dazzled the audience with their dance routine. We couldn't be prouder of our 'Dancing Queens,' who delivered an unforgettable performance!



We also set up a booth to provide information about the activities and services at our centre, reaching over 100 seniors and addressing their inquiries.

While addressing the crowd, Mayor Denise acknowledged the positive impact that SNM AAC@Race Course has made in such a short time, as well as the benefits our activities bring to seniors.

We were deeply touched by her heartfelt support and her belief in our cause. Thank you Mayor Denise for inviting us to be part of this memorable event.

Staff Appreciation Dinner 2024



As 2024 reached its tailend, we wrapped up the year in style! This year's Staff Appreciation Dinner was celebrated with a 'Safari Night' theme, where everyone embraced their wild side in animal costumes and adventure gear!

SNM President, Mr. Anil Sarasijakshan, delivered a heartfelt statement of gratitude, recognizing the staff's hard work and contributions in ensuring SNM's continued success.

The celebration featured a delicious buffet dinner, lively song and dance performances, fun games, and a best-dressed competition, with the evening's emcee, Raveen, engaging the audience with his vibrant personality. In addition, 55 lucky individuals won fabulous prizes in the lucky draw, adding an extra layer of excitement.

We also honoured those who have been with us for many years with the Long Service Awards, and presented awards to staff who had achieved special accolades for their work.

On a special note, we also held a special segment where we bid farewell to two of our staff members, who have retired after many years of dedicated service.

As the evening concluded, we reflected on our shared achievements and thanked our fellow staff members for their dedication and support. Here's to another year of continued success for Sree Narayana Mission!

Pope Francis Pays Homage to Sree Narayana Guru!

Dialogue between religions has ancient roots in the heart of Asia. Pope Francis showed this again November 30 when he received in audience at the Vatican the participants at a meeting promoted by the Indian foundation Sree Narayana Guru, an association that continues the work of a great Hindu leader who a century ago had the intuition to bring together representatives of different religions in his ashram.

That conference – organised in 1923, at a time when Kerala was shaken by serious tensions between religious groups – has become a tradition that is repeated every year and, in collaboration with the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, on the occasion of its centenary, the idea of bringing it to the Vatican was born. The event offered an opportunity to rediscover the figure of Sree Narayana Guru (1856-1928), a great Hindu religious figure who dedicated his life to the struggle to overcome the caste system. In 1925 even Gandhi, visiting his ashram, was impressed by the place where even Dalit children studied the Upanishads along with everyone else. And from then on, the caste issue became an important element of his political proposal.

«Sree Narayana Guru,» said Pope Francis in his audience at the Vatican to participants at the interreligious meeting promoted by the foundation, «dedicated his life to promoting social and religious redemption with his clear message that all human beings, regardless of their ethnicity or religious and cultural traditions, are members of the one human family. He insisted that there should be no discrimination against anyone, in any way and at any level. His message is very apt for our world today, where we see increasing instances of intolerance and hatred between peoples and nations. Unfortunately, manifestations of discrimination and exclusion, tensions and violence based on differences of ethnic or social origin, race, colour, language and religion are a daily experience for many people and communities, especially among the poor, the defenceless and those who have no voice».

Pope Francis emphasised the closeness of Sree Narayana Guru's message with the Abu Dhabi Document of 2019 and the recent Istiqlal Declaration, released in September during his trip to Indonesia: documents he signed with representatives of the Muslim world that put fraternity at the heart of interreligious dialogue. «All religions,» the Pontiff commented, «teach the fundamental truth that, as children of the one God, we must love and honour one another, respect diversity and differences in a spirit of fraternity and inclusion, taking care of one another and of the earth, our common home. Failure to respect the noble teachings of religions is one of the causes of the troubled situation in which the world finds itself today. Our contemporaries,» he added, «will rediscover the value of the lofty teachings of religious traditions only if we all strive to live them and to cultivate fraternal and friendly relations with all, for the sole purpose of strengthening unity in diversity, ensuring harmonious coexistence among differences and being peacemakers, despite the difficulties and challenges we face. In this way,» he concluded, «we can contribute to defeating the culture of individualism, exclusion, indifference and violence that is unfortunately spreading».



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