



# SAACConnect

*Here's wishing Singapore a*

## Happy 58th National Day!

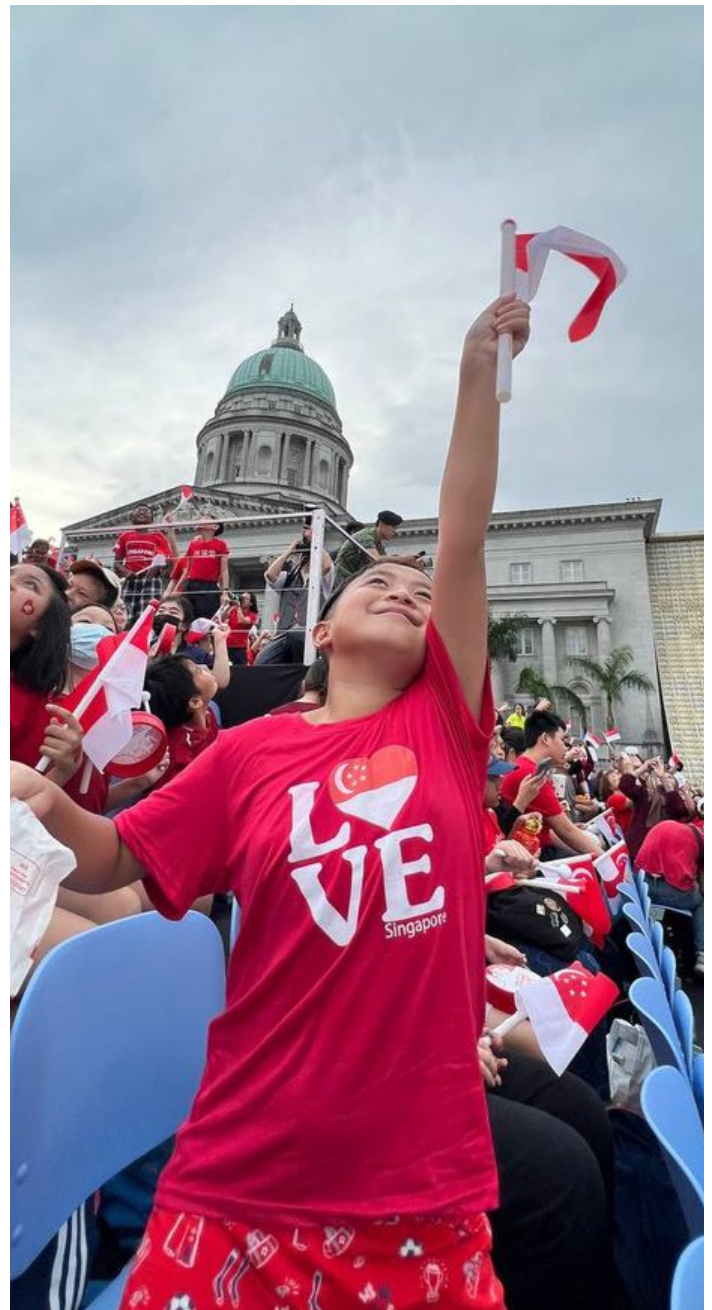
"Onward as One", this year's NDP theme is an apt one as we get into the full swing of life in the new normal post-pandemic.

It is also an opportune time to take stock on our own journey here at SAAC as we mark our 18th anniversary this October.

SAAC embarked on its mission of serving persons with autism and their families 18 years ago. What started out as a small centre on the 10th floor of St. Andrew's Community Hospital has grown into a full-fledged centre serving 460 students, clients and residents across their lifespan.

Through all the ups and downs over the years, one thing remains the same - our conviction to bring hope to persons with moderate to severe autism.

As #OneSAAC, we will forge onward to ensure that no one with autism and their families journey alone.



At SAAC, we are blessed to have truly dedicated staff who regard what they do as a calling.

Coach Kavitha is one such example. Since joining SAAC's Day Activity Centre (DAC) in October 2022, she has been so inspired by the work that she made a decision to donate monthly to contribute to the school fees of a client named Matthew.

She shares more with us why she felt compelled to do so, "I didn't come from a financially well-off family and have faced many setbacks growing up as a student due to my financial circumstances. I promised myself that one day, when I'm financially able to, I will help another student in some way."

Her time as a coach has been a meaningful one she explains, "It has been a great experience and exposure working with adults with autism. Everyday I go back home with a sense of satisfaction that I have made a difference in an individual's life. I also get the opportunity to learn great things from parents and fellow coaches which I can apply in my personal life as well."

She also considers the DAC service essential in making a difference in the lives of her adult clients with autism, "The DAC is a safe space for our clients to learn daily living skills, emotional and behaviour management and community skills, all of which help them lead more independent lives. I feel so privileged to be able to not only help Matthew but also work with him side by side and watch him grow day by day."

## CULTIVATING GROWTH THROUGH SELFLESS GIVING



*Kavitha helping Matthew learn daily living skills.*



*Kavitha on an outdoor walk with Matthew.*

*Your support helps us uplift the lives of our clients with autism like Matthew. Donate today and make a difference by scanning the QR code below.*



**Give**



# FINDING GROWTH AND MEANING IN VOLUNTEER WORK



*Denise Gay (far-right), Volunteer  
at St. Andrew's Autism School*

After spending a decade as a stay-at-home mom, Denise made the decision to embark on a new chapter in her life by becoming a volunteer at SAAC.

According to Denise, it is one of the best decisions she has made, "When I first embarked on this volunteering journey, I had no related background or experience with children on the autism spectrum. I learnt by observing how the teachers conduct the lessons and interact with the kids. Witnessing the love languages used by teachers in engaging with the students motivated me."

Greatly inspired by her experience as a volunteer, it has fuelled her commitment to the cause, explained Denise, "Every class that I am assigned to, I discover new ways to value-add to the class."

The learning never stops. I tell myself to carry out my duties to the best of my abilities, showering every kid with love. For the few hours I'm there, I treat them like my own and in return, I'm always rewarded with a heart filled with joy and gratitude.

Moments like when the kids call out your name make you want to come back every week just to spend time with them again! I have been blessed to be given the opportunity to be part of this family."

**"The learning never stops.  
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*Inspired by Denise to join us as a  
volunteer? Find out how you can make a  
difference in the lives of our beneficiaries!*



**Volunteer**



# CONGRATS TO OUR PROMOTEES & SPOTLIGHT WINNERS

Please join us in wishing this year's promotees and SpotLIGHT 2023 Award winners a hearty congratulations!

A big THANK YOU for enabling SAAC as an organisation to deliver quality education, care and services to all our beneficiaries.



*Our Promotees.*



*Our SpotLIGHT Award winners.*

# CONGRATS TO OUR TEACHERS

Teacher's Day was an opportunity to honour and celebrate a special bunch of colleagues - our wonderful teachers and coaches! Each day, our frontliners give their best to our students and clients by making learning fun and meaningful for them.

On that note, our heartiest congratulations to seven of our teachers for successfully completing their Diploma in Special Education (DISE)!

Your commitment to continuous professional growth so that you can better serve our beneficiaries sets an example for all of us at SAAC. May you continue to touch lives for many years to come!



*Presenting our recent graduates!*

# GEAR UP FOR THE WALK OF A LIFETIME!



We are excited to announce SAAC's inaugural Walk of a Lifetime this October!

Through this charity fundraiser, we are rallying all our friends, families and wider community to support us in our mission to empower individuals with autism, allowing them to live lives filled with dignity and purpose.

Autism lasts a lifetime. Come join us as we walk in support of persons with autism in Singapore, and their families. Can't wait to see you there!

- Date: 14 October 2023, Saturday
- Time: 4 to 8pm
- Venue: St. Andrew's Junior College
- Distance: 5km
- Scan the QR code on the left to sign up!

Let's also support our CEO Mr Bernard Chew as he conducts his own fundraiser in conjunction with SAAC's 18th anniversary. Scan the QR code to make a donation towards his fundraising campaign!



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