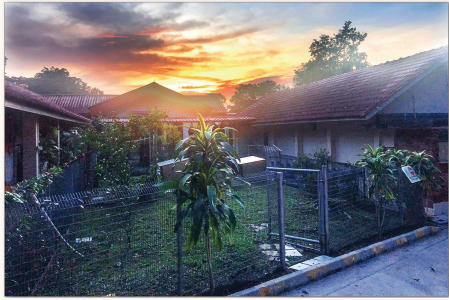


Being Christ to our HIV+ brothers and sisters

CARE operates under the purview of CARITAS Singapore, the social and community arm of the Catholic Church in Singapore.



A shelter, a safe place for PLWHA to live as a community.

Catholic AIDS Response Effort (CARE) serves people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). We are one of more than 20 social mission organisations that come under the CARITAS umbrella. CARE currently provides a residential shelter for men with HIV/AIDS. In addition to housing, pastoral services and opportunities to contribute to the CARE cottage industry, CARE also provides non-residential services to men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Many of you, may not be aware of CARE as a Catholic charitable organisation despite the fact that we have served the community for over 30 years. Part of our “invisibility” is self-imposed – due to the need to protect the identity of our beneficiaries. Unlike other charities which look to increase the profile of their cause and their beneficiaries, CARE is often in a difficult spot of weighing between furthering the cause and plight of those with HIV whilst protecting their identity and ensuring they are not further discriminated against.

The continuous social repercussions of someone with HIV is palpable despite the fact that

there is more understanding and knowledge of HIV and AIDS, the stigma against those who have contracted it remains. Perhaps its due to the infectious nature of the disease but our experience has been that when someone is suffering from HIV/AIDS, it is often due to the fact that contracting HIV/AIDS is seen as something that only happens to those who make questionable lifestyle choices.

Scripture reminds us not only to love all including the least amongst us, but also not to judge lest we ourselves are judged. Sadly, our experience serving with CARE, point to PLWHA having experienced rejection from society, both at the workplace and unfortunately, also within their own family and friend circles.



A dignified send off for Paul.

One such recent example was the journey of Paul (not his real name). Paul was a resident of CARE for nearly five years. Unfortunately, earlier this year, he was diagnosed with end stage cancer and within a few short months, had to be moved to a hospice.

Whilst CARE journeyed with him, we encouraged Paul to touch base with his family so that they would have the opportunity to see

him before his passing. Paul was adamantly against it, largely because he did not want them to know about his HIV diagnosis. No amount of advice would persuade him otherwise. He felt that his HIV diagnosis was a “stain” that he did not want to share with his immediate family. Paul did however choose to be baptised. His baptism was a special celebration of life, faith and fellowship, attended by his friends, CARE staff and Board members. Paul has since returned to the Lord. His journey further chiseled in our hearts, the continued stigma, fear of rejection and need to protect the living that the PLWHA face.



To champion the cause of the Universal Catholic church and to coincide with World AIDS Day (that takes place on 1st December each year), we are launching the “**I Dare to CARE**” campaign to encourage our Catholic community to come together to declare “**I Dare to CARE**” about PLWHA. We are selling tote bags with the tagline – **I DARE to CARE**. With this campaign, all of you as our Catholic brothers and sisters can join us in breaking the social stigma around PLWHA.

We pray that you will join us at the Church of St Mary of the Angels on Sunday, 1st December at the 11 am mass to commemorate World AIDS Day. Please visit our booth at the foyer to learn more about our services and also show your support by purchasing our crafts and the tote bag. As we as Catholics embark on our Advent journey to welcome the baby Christ to the world, we hope that all of us will embrace PLWHA and see them as we see ourselves – all sinners deserving of grace, mercy and forgiveness.

WE CARE ACT NOW!



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To claim tax deduction for your donation, please indicate your email address in “Bill Ref” for us to contact you for more details.



Bank Transfer to DBS
Account no. 033-901125-8



Cheque to Catholic AIDS Response Effort



Cash donation



Tel: 6353-5440
(10am – 6pm, Monday – Friday)
Email: administrator@care.org.sg

To find out more



www.catholicaidresponseeffort.com