

Of Coffee, Woodcraft and Workouts – Experiencing the All New St Joseph’s Home

17 May 2017

Barely two months since we moved back, we’ve had many curious passers-by saunter in to ask us if this was a hotel and whether they could take a walk round. So we decided to throw our gates open for you to just walk in and get a taste – literally and metaphorically – of the all new St Joseph’s Home.

On 22 April, the day of our Open House, we turned the grounds into a carnival of sorts, with 4 different zones that offered visitors the chance to LAFF – LEARN (more about us and our admission criteria), ACT (volunteer / donate), have FUN and most importantly, eat (FOOD).

We didn’t expect the response to be so good! More than 200 of you - parents and grandparents with (grand) kids in tow, youngsters and aunts / uncles looking to volunteer and adults of all other ages - dropped by to say hi and to ask how you could get involved.

We let the tasting begin right at the entrance...

...with freshly brewed cups of cappuccino, latte and other coffee variants made by our neighbours – the boys from the Singapore Boys’ Home. Trained to brew coffee using a barista-grade machine, they diligently churned out cup after cup of black gold from raw beans, milk and water. And they’ll be back to run the Night Café on weeknights soon so this was a teaser for the real deal. Did they make the cut? Many of you gave them the two thumbs up but it was the donations you made that said it all. The boys give Starbucks a run for their money!





Complimenting the coffee the boys made was a new technology that redefines the term 'coffee art'. With the whirr of an electronic pen that zig-zags across the top of a coffee cup comes the face of the person whose photo was just captured seconds ago. One has to see it to believe it, this one.

Another stall popular with the young ones especially was woodwork and carpentry – a quick introduction to similar workshops that will be conducted at St Joseph's Home in the near future. 'Wood-smiths' were on hand to show kids and their parents how houses, boats and shelves could be built from scratch by using simple tools. An eye-opener for the young and the older!



Can you spot the toy boat on the pond?

For first time visitors, the top-of-every-hour mini guided tours also gave a sneak peek into the inner rooms and philosophy of the home. They got to understand why an infant and childcare centre was being sited within the home and the reason for having the Peace Rooms side by side with the entrance.





Visitors were also treated to a 'Square dance' by the ladies who live in the area and who meet regularly to perfect their art. They've excited to come back and exercise regularly with our residents and the larger community. So do join us!



And lunch that day wouldn't have tasted as good without our kind sponsors - Goodwood Park Hotel, Pasta Fresca Da Salvatore, NTUC Foodfare and members of the Guru Nanak Sat Sang Sabha – a Sikh temple in Katong.

We hope those who visited had as much fun as we've had putting this together. We've many exciting projects happening soon and would love for you to join us. Who says you have to need our services to get involved with a nursing home? Help us change the way people view ageing, seniors and eldercare spaces.

Get on our mailing list by emailing us at volunteer@stjh.org.sg with your contact details (email and mobile phone number) and availability (e.g. best days and time for you to participate in our activities)