

SAS NEWS

OB-SAS WITH US

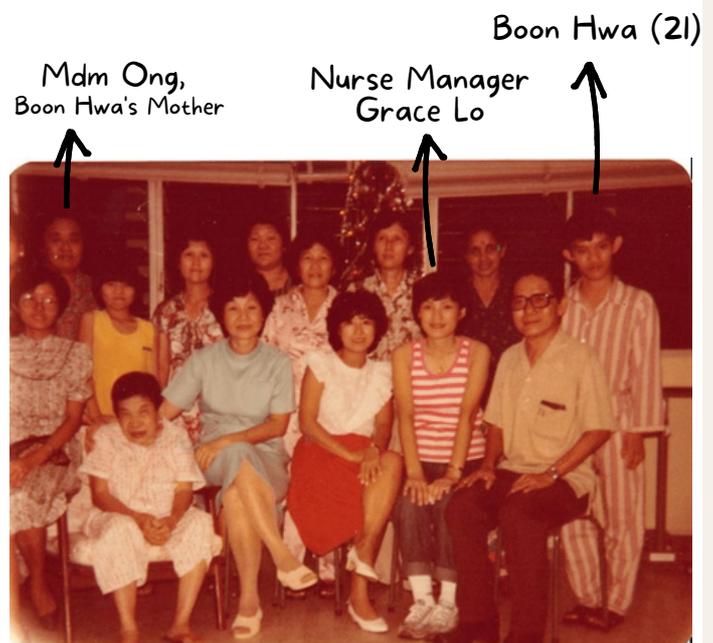
This month's newsletter is dedicated in loving memory of our resident, Tan Boon Hwa, who for the past 42 years, has called SAS his home.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF TAN BOON HWA

Boon Hwa and His Mother - Their Early Years

Life dealt him with many challenges from the very beginning. Boon Hwa was born intellectually challenged and with aphasia, a disorder that impairs his ability to speak, read, write and understand language. An only child, he grew up in a small family after his father passed away at a young age.

SAS' relationship with the mother-son duo began way back in 1981, when Mdm Ong, Boon Hwa's mother, found work and began residing with us. With nowhere else that he could go, SAS took the then 19 year old Boon Hwa in as a helper and lodger too, so that he could live with his mother. Boon Hwa would help with simple chores around our Home during his earlier years.



Staff Gathering for Xmas Celebration, 1983

As the years progressed, Boon Hwa helped with odd jobs around SAS and even worked the security. His mother, Mdm Ong was also a steadfast and friendly helper at our Home.

She worked with us for many years before becoming a resident herself in 2000. During that period, Boon Hwa also began to fall ill. His condition took a drastic turn for the worse and he was diagnosed with chronic renal failure in 2005. In that year, he was admitted to SAS as a resident as well.

His well-known love for dogs

Boon Hwa always found solace in his dogs. It is commonplace for people to have emotional support animals, but unlike others, Boon Hwa's dogs were multi-talented. They could sing songs, dance ... and were battery-operated! His adorable furry friends lined up by his bedside, all lovingly named and well taken care of. Some of their names include: Annie, 小公主 (little princess), Ping Pong, Hong Hong, Ah Hui, Ah Boon, Ah Meng...

Boon Hwa's love for dogs began in his younger days at SAS. It all started with a stray black puppy that used to roam the streets of Hougang. He took "Lucky" in and for years, he would feed and play with the dog.

Unable to keep a real dog at our Home, Boon Hwa began collecting toy dogs instead. When asked why he keeps these dogs, he says he can talk and play with them when it gets a bit lonely.



A New Family

After nearly 20 years of working at SAS, Mdm Ong became a resident at our home. Boon Hwa's health also began to suffer and he was admitted to SAS as a resident. Mdm Ong passed away in 2007, entrusting her only son in our care. With no close relatives to rely on, he was physically and emotionally dependent on our staff.

While Boon Hwa's speech may be hard for most to understand, he thoroughly enjoyed forming connections with others. Our staff had grown to understand him and embrace him as part of the SAS family. Internally, he is known affectionately by the nickname "Ah Hwa".

Over the years, though Boon Hwa's mobility suffered, he still made his way to the Medical Social Services (MSS) office to have a little chat. Three times a week, our nurses would also accompany him for his treatment, and of course, his little dog companions always tagged along. Our MSS and Nursing team also brought him on personal trips to the shopping mall (to buy his toy dogs) as well as to the church's columbarium to pay his respects to his mother.



Boon Hwa passed away on May 5 2023 with his dogs lined up next to him and an album full of memories of his time here at SAS. His funeral expenses were covered by Ms Melissa Liew, who is the daughter of our former Board Member, Mrs Liew Soo Wah. He is now laid to rest next to his mother at the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

To our staff at SAS, thank you for being his support and his family throughout the years. And to Boon Hwa, thank you for being that warm ray of sunshine in our daily lives.

We will always remember him fondly as a much loved resident, a loyal friend to his doggy companions, and a big part of our family here at SAS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE FAVOURITE MEMORIES OF BOON HWA BY HIS FAMILY (OUR SAS STAFF):

For Ahwa, I know you're always in our hearts, watching over and guiding us. We miss you so much.
- Jayson.

Ah Wa,
We don't stop loving. We don't forget. We hold them in our heart until we're together again.
- Myint -

Hua, I think of you when I eat chicken rice or see toy dogs at the mall. Last time we met, you look really smart in that formal outfit, all ready to go meet your mother in some place really nice I imagine. I'm so happy for you, it must have been a long-awaited and sweet reunion. Your smile & moments we shared will forever be etched in my memory. Thank you for being U!
- Daphne (RCA)

Seeing you made me wonder what life is truly about. You had loved well and were well loved, perhaps this is what really matters in life.
Thankful for your life. You will always be fondly remembered.

For those who know him :
-I sincerely wish that while you are having a meal of hawker center food or seeing a toy dog in the shopping window it will make you remember TAN BOON HWA
- SSN Loh Chiew Wah

With love,
Ya Hui
Head of Medical Social Services

Ah Wa,
Thank you for sharing your smile to the world. We will always remember how you touch our lives. I will keep the Christmas card that you gave to me. You will never be forgotten.
Joy 😊

CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE MEMORIES



Thank you for teaching us to enjoy the simple joys and pleasures in life and to always be easily contented with whatever you have.
Thank you for waiting for us, allowing us to bid a final farewell to you and have a proper closure on that very day. Thank you for being part of this big SAS family. We will miss you dearly, the pure innocent and kind-hearted soul. You'll always live in our hearts and never be forgotten.
- Edna (MSW)

FUNDRAISING GOLF & DINNER



Our charity golf tournament and dinner was a great success! We had a fantastic day raising funds for our beneficiaries in need.

A big thank you to our Guest of Honour, Mr Seah Kian Peng and special guest, Mr Alex Yeo.

Thank you once again for all the outpouring support. Let's continue striving together to give quality care and quality life to our elderly in need.

NAGOMI ART EXHIBITION & WORKSHOP @ KOVAN HUB



Our residents Nagomi Art pieces were exhibited at Kovan Hub. Organised by Paya Lebar Community Arts and Culture Club, our residents were invited to have a whale of a time viewing their art pieces on display and creating more art pieces with students and volunteers at the workshop!

A big thank you to Saw Hoon and family for sponsoring and facilitating our residents!

LIVE PERFORMANCE FROM TENG COMPANY ENSEMBLE



The Teng Company came down to our Home and brought to life many of our residents' favourite oldies! Using instruments from eastern and western culture, these talented musicians really captured the hearts of our residents who were over the moon when the songs they always listened to over the radio was reimagined and performed right before them.

SG POOLS' MEGA ISHINE EVENT @ GARDENS BY THE BAY



Thank you to Singapore Pools for inviting our residents to join their Community Day at Gardens by the Bay!

We are so grateful to be part of their 55th celebration and the long partnership we have shared through the years.

PHOTO BANK OF OUR MAY HIGHLIGHTS



Mass Birthday Celebration with Tokio Marine staff



Donation in-kind and performances from Gongshang Primary School



More photos from the Nagomi Art Exhibition & Workshop outing



Photos from volunteer groups and schools

UPCOMING EVENTS



PEKING OPERA PERFORMANCE

19th July 2023

Established in 1995, the GuoGuang Opera Company, in conjunction with the Esplanade, will be performing 拾玉鐲 (Picking Up the Jade Bracelet) – a light-hearted Peking Opera – for our residents!



CELEBRATING NURSES' DAY

28th July 2023

To thank our nursing and care staff who tirelessly care for our residents, we have performances and a spread in store for them!

Do contact us if you would like to contribute to their gift.



GRANDPARENTS' DAY

2nd September 2023

This is a day dedicated to spending time with friends, family, and loved ones. Come down to view our residents' handicrafts, watch their drumming performance!

Register for free at: bitly.ws/GetK