



NEW HOPE FOR DEMENTIA PATIENTS

Singapore's first hostel-type dementia facility, Hope Resident Living Area, provides new concept of care to delay the process of dementia

17 June 2006

1. Early dementia residents can now enjoy a new autonomy and independence aimed to delay the progression of their disease and help them regain normal lives.
2. The Salvation Army, with the support of The Lien Foundation, today officially opened Singapore's first ever hostel-type facility for early dementia residents, the Hope Resident Living Area (RLA) at Peacehaven Nursing Home. The 34-bed facility in Changi provides a new concept of care for early dementia residents where they are empowered to make their own decisions and participate in activities at their liberty. This takes place in a conducive communal living environment designed to maximize independence, reinforce personal identity and enhance self-esteem and confidence – key early intervention factors to the progress of dementia.
3. "The Salvation Army and the Foundation spotted a crucial service gap in dementia care." said Lien Foundation Governor, Mr Laurence Lien. "There was no dementia facility in Singapore solely dedicated to early dementia patients. In general, most dementia residents were being treated the same, regardless of the stage of their sickness. This gave early dementia residents no chance to break out of the vicious cycle -

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- where their own initiative was eroded due to the regimented style of care and activities extended to all dementia residents. It was very difficult to arrest or deal with the progress of dementia for early cases.”
4. This model of care is novel in Singapore and The Salvation Army Peacehaven Nursing Home is the first to adopt this. This marks an important step in the area of healthcare for the elderly as the number of those afflicted with dementia in Singapore (aged 65 years and above) is expected to triple to over 47,000 in 2030 (from 15,000 in 2003). The National Mental Health Survey of the Elderly conducted by the Institute of Mental Health established the prevalence of dementia for those aged over 65 years as 6% in 2003. With Singapore’s rapidly aging population and impending increased dementia prevalence, it is vital to arrest early dementia and slow down its progression.
 5. Peacehaven Nursing Home’s Executive Director, Captain Ian Robinson said, “The degenerative effects of dementia can be arrested or delayed when managed and dealt with at its early stage. At Hope RLA, you can find a resident playing mahjong, whipping up a meal or doing his or her laundry. Some may even run their own errands, like going out for a hair-cut! Each resident is encouraged to make his or her own decision as far as possible. We encourage active communal living and the development of social networks to help patients maintain a healthy state well-being.”
 6. The aims of Hope RLA reiterate a key tenet of Lien Foundation’s mission, i.e. *enhancing excellence in eldercare*. Recognising the growing complexity of needs in this area, the Foundation is focused on boosting capability in the eldercare sector and improving the quality of life for the elderly so they may live out their last years in comfort and dignity.

7. The \$316,000 funding from the Lien Foundation will be used for start-up costs and the running of Hope RLA for up to two years. Thereafter the Salvation Army will sustain its mission to care for those with early dementia through public donation appeals, various fund-raising events as well as collaborating with various government agencies for financial aid.

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About Lien Foundation

The Lien Foundation was created by Dr. Lien Ying Chow, an eminent business leader, banker and hotelier. His influence extended beyond the private sector and Singapore, as a community leader, diplomat and philanthropist.

The Foundation drives institutional capacity building to address crucial community needs, and empowers individuals to reach their full potential. It is pioneering new ground for organized philanthropy in Singapore by convening strategic partnerships and catalyzing action on social and environmental challenges.

Besides championing excellence in eldercare, the Foundation also seeks to enhance educational opportunities for the disadvantaged and the development of nascent fields of studies; and promoting environmental sustainability in water and sanitation.

About Salvation Army

For over 70 years, the services of The Salvation Army have expanded and its outreach within the community now ranges from residential homes for children, the elderly and infirm to childcare centres for low-income families. The Salvation Army serves no less than 2,300 needy and under-privileged children, individuals and families through its 24 centres and programmes in Singapore.

The Salvation Army is self-funded. \$6.4M is needed annually in public donations to drive its mission to serve the needy in the community.

About Hope RLA

The Peacehaven Nursing Home's mission is to provide professional nursing care to its residents.

At Hope Resident Living Area, its staff is specially trained in dementia care. Its residents with early dementia are encouraged to exercise their independence through empowerment and a secure conducive communal living environment. With this new model of residential and nursing care, it is envisaged that the dementia process will be delayed.

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