



新加坡聋人协会

THE SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF

The Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf) aims to be the leading organisation in advocating equal opportunity, in all aspects, for the Deaf, Hard-of-hearing, and DeafBlind community, enabling them to achieve a better quality of life and supporting them to reach their full potential.

SADeaf is a member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), and is supported by Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), Ministry of Education (MOE) and SG Enable (SGE).

Seven decades of serving the Deaf, Hard-of-hearing, and DeafBlind community in Singapore.





Wen Qing:

Wen Xi is an 8-year-old girl born with one kidney coupled with hearing loss and deformed fingers. She is much smaller in size for her age, and also has Fanconi anemia, which is a rare bone marrow disorder. She has undergone bone marrow transplant and requires frequent hospital visits for treatment of her various medical conditions. She is unable to walk properly, and requires assistance for movement and transportation.

The mother brought Wen Xi to the Little Hands Bilingual Bicultural Programme, which is an early intervention project run by the Association for the Deaf (SADeaf). Despite her numerous challenges, Wen Xi enjoys painting and art, and is good at reading. At the SADeaf programme, she attends classes in phonics, English and math, and participates actively in speech and drama activities. Wen Xi also receives art therapy, and learns the Singapore Sign Language.

She has exhibited a great appetite for learning, and SADeaf's social engagement activities helps her explore new horizons. SADeaf has also helped to seek funding to alleviate the family's financial difficulties and is continuing to support their various needs.



Mdm Parimala:

50-year-old Mdm Parimala is Deaf and a client of SADeaf. Five years ago, Mdm Parimala experienced intense psychological stress that caused her to cope maladaptively. Her son, Anan, and her mother tried their best to encourage her to change her habits but faced communication difficulties in supporting her.

In 2022, they decided to reach out to the Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf) to seek help in managing Mdm Parimala's psychological stress. With the support of SADeaf, Mdm Parimala was equipped with healthy coping skills. It allowed her to tap on her resilience and to flourish despite challenging times.

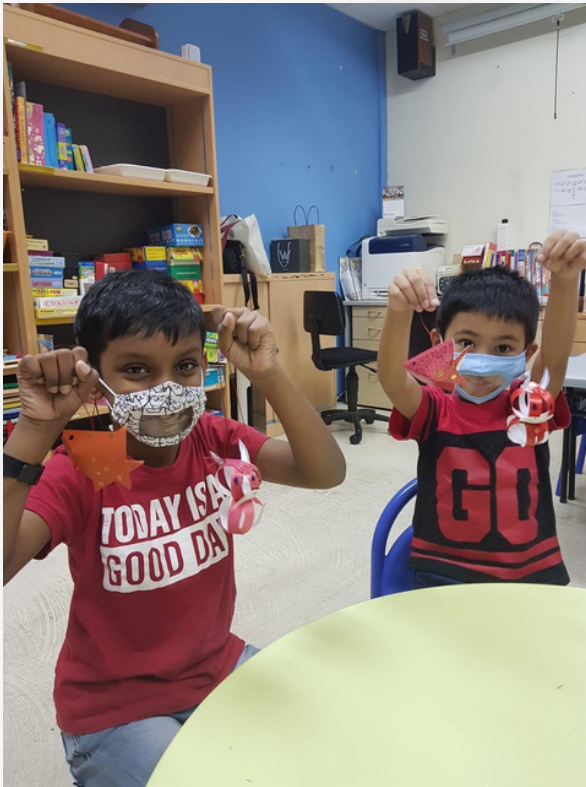
Through counseling and her family's continued support, Mdm Parimala is now part of a wider support system she could lean on for help. She has also since stepped up to become a key volunteer among her fellow Deaf peers, in organizing SADeaf's social programmes.



Elisa:

Elisa's educational background began in 2008 at the Singapore School for the Deaf, where she initially struggled with communication due to her deafness. As a shy and reserved girl, she found it challenging to interact with others. However, through the school's support in Sign Language and Speech Therapy, Elisa has undergone a remarkable transformation. Today, she is a sociable, helpful, and vibrant young lady who has overcome her communication obstacles.

Elisa is now enrolled at SADeaf's Mountbatten Vocational School (MVS) and has been engaged in Work-Based Training at Tanglin Club as a requirement for her ITE Skills Certificate in F&B Service. Elisa has a passion for dance. She actively participates in MVS's Hip-Hop dance group, which allows her to indulge in her love for dancing.



Zahin

Zahin is a 9 year old boy born with bearing loss in both ears. The early intervention programme at SADeaf enabled him to express himself confidently in both sign language and English. The programme prepares Deaf children well for mainstream education. The financial assistance offered by SADeaf helped relieve the financial strain on the family. Zahin is now enrolled in Mayflower Primary School and is coping well and happily mingling with other children.



Arika

Arika has moderate to severe hearing loss and has C.H.A.R.G.E Syndrome.

Since enrolling in LHBBP at SADeaf, she has acquired Singapore Sign Language (SgSL), which assists her to communicate and learn more effectively. Through the use of SgSL, Arika is constantly learning to understand others and respond to greetings and questions. Her happy interactions with teachers and peers contribute to developing her socio-emotional and cognitive skills as well.



Putri:

Loneliness, lack of appreciation, and sadness were some of the challenges I faced. I was hesitant to wear my hearing aids out of fear of being mocked and feeling like the odd one out. However, after meeting Miss Joan and attending ISS sessions, my confidence grew. I started participating in storytelling competitions and delivering presentations without fear.

Putri faced loneliness and reluctance to wear hearing aids, but through ISS sessions and support from Miss Joan, she gained confidence and improved her communication skills. SADeaf's programs transformed her perspective, illustrating the association's role in fostering self-esteem and inclusion. To further support individuals like Putri, SADeaf expands ISS sessions and mentorship programs while organizing awareness campaigns to reduce stigma around hearing aids.



Mdm Elayne:

Twenty years ago, I began noticing difficulties in hearing people properly. They would often complain about having to repeat themselves, and sometimes I couldn't even hear the phone ringing. It was upsetting, and I struggled to accept it. Thankfully, a friend recommended the SADeaf Association to me. The person in charge there explained the steps I needed to take to access subsidies. Their clear explanations and patience helped me obtain a pair of hearing aids at a much lower cost than what I would have paid in the private sector.

Facing communication challenges due to her hearing impairment, Mdm Elayne found a lifeline in SADeaf. The association provided affordable hearing aids, offering her a clearer and more accessible way to engage with the world. SADeaf's ongoing support, including regular check-ups and adjustments, continues to optimize her hearing aid experience.



Hock Sik:

Throughout my university years, I received minimal assistance from both my hearing classmates and lecturers. I had to rely on self-reading and study independently, without the aid of an interpreter. It was a challenging period, but I persevered. Hock Sik faced a lack of support during university, highlighting the need for accessible resources and assistance for individuals with hearing impairments.

Advocacy for improved accessibility in higher education, including the provision of interpreters and support services for students with hearing impairments. SADeaf works with educational institutions to create a more inclusive environment for students like Hock Sik.



Rashidah

Rashidah, a 28-year-old Deaf individual, faced significant challenges after her father's passing from cancer in 2007. As the eldest sibling, she took on the responsibility of caring for her two sisters and her Deaf younger brother, Zainul, who is completing his PSLE. To support the family, Rashidah's mother worked permanent night shifts as a security guard.

At the age of 22, Rashidah entered the workforce in the F&B industry to alleviate the financial strain on her family. Despite these challenges, her greatest satisfaction in life comes from being able to provide for her family. SADeaf, an organization supporting the Deaf community, played a crucial role in Rashidah's life.

SADeaf provided continuous support by offering financial aid, social support, provisions, and a tuition program for Rashidah and her brother. The assistance provided by SADeaf not only eased the family's financial burden but also offered educational and social opportunities for Rashidah and her brother.



Isaac:

In the field of illustration, group interactions were always challenging for me. Throughout my life, I've grown accustomed to feeling left out. The services provided by the association were not available to me during my secondary school and polytechnic years, which made accessing resources even more difficult. Most of my learning was through self-study and hard work, which was incredibly tough.

SADeaf's services became a lifeline for Isaac, aiding him in overcoming social challenges during secondary school and polytechnic. The association empowered him with resources and assistance, showcasing the transformative impact of community support on academic and personal growth. Social inclusion programs, workshops, and events provided by SADeaf continue to enhance Isaac's interaction skills, connecting him with like-minded individuals and fostering a sense of community.