

Building a future of caring for others

Youth is not lost on the young, if they know how to harness it well, as young Aloysius and Dr Pravin demonstrate in their desire to help patients in palliative care in their own ways.

One of the cornerstones of character building is the ability to recognise the transformative power of empathy and caring for others. Nurturing youths as they explore the various paths for future careers is something that HCA Hospice Care (HCA) has long invested in. One of our fundamental beliefs is the need to raise awareness among the young about eldercare issues as, in time, they will become the next generation of caregivers. It is this belief that led HCA to establish the Young Caregivers Programme. The programme aims to inculcate in our youths the values and benefits of building meaningful relationships with the elderly and aged who are sick. HCA has fostered many young people in their career paths in palliative care. We are proud to have journeyed with these young persons as they continue in their paths and align their aspirations with their career goals.

ALOYSIUS LIM: YOUTH NOT WASTED

Whoever said youth is wasted on the young never got the chance to meet Aloysius Lim. With his cheerful and congenial demeanour, one never would have known that this 18-year-old has endured many hardships. His is a



Aloysius never thought that spending time with elderly patients in hospice care would change his life.



remarkable story of endurance, resilience and indeed, a testimony to the triumph of the human spirit. Aloysius came to be a part of HCA Hospice Care (HCA) through the Young Caregivers (yCG) programme. ITE College East had arranged for Aloysius to spend 10 weeks with HCA, and it was here that he was introduced to the world of palliative care at the Kang Le Day Hospice Centre.

A TROUBLED CHILDHOOD

Aloysius speaks openly and candidly about his early life, seemingly unaffected by the trauma he suffered. As a child, he saw his family torn apart by his parents' acrimonious relationship, which ended in divorce when he was barely five years old. His single mother ended up being a drug mule, and was soon arrested in Japan for her illegal forays. She was sentenced to six years in prison, leaving Aloysius and his siblings in dire straits. His father in Singapore also went in and out of prison for gang and drug related offences. Eventually, Aloysius became a ward of his maternal aunt after his mother signed over her parenting rights.

WORDS AND PHOTOS COMMUNITY RELATIONS TEAM, HCA HOSPICE CARE

“These patients became such a source of inspiration to me. I witnessed how they were still happy and jovial on a daily basis, even though they knew their days were numbered.”

