

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Project Encouragement successfully launched!

10 JAN 2009, SINGAPORE ——— Based on the belief that children are instrumental in supporting their parents in times of economic recession, 9 youths from the Singapore Inter-Faith Youth Network (SIFY) organised Project Encouragement to show their juniors how.

40 children from different races and faith learnt how to build trust and resilience to face tough times ahead through interactive workshops led by 25 youth volunteers. They are from the Harmony Centre, Hindu Centre, Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery, NUS Interfaith Interest Group, Taoist Federation Youth Group, and The Church of St. Mary's of the Angels.

Addressing the youths at Project Encouragement, Mayor of Central Singapore Community Development Council and Chairman of OnePeople.sg Mr Zainudin Nordin said, "These are tough times for us. This is the time for us to show compassion and understanding by giving our family and friends love, support and encouragement. This support makes it easier for us to survive difficult times."

"I want to make a difference," said Benjamin Moh, a Baha'i and a 21-year-old facilitator from the NUS Interfaith Interest Group. "This workshop gives me the opportunity to make this difference by encouraging children to make the right decisions when their family needs support."

Said Buddhist Cheng Mun Yi, 18, "Some of the kids were a little shy at first, but the engaging activities got them singing and moving. It is my first time having fun with so many kids from other religions."

"This is excellent! We should not spend unnecessarily to help our parents save money," said Sivapriya Chandrasegaran, 10, a Hindu student from Park View Primary School.

An Encouragement Goose was chosen as the project's mascot as geese constantly give each other support by taking turns to lead the flock and caring for the sick and injured. Local indie band Black Forest even composed 'Yes We Can', a lively song to help the children find strength and hope in hard times. The youths from SIFY Network also designed brochures and fridge magnets listing useful contact information for the children and their families to turn to in times of adversity. Needy families may refer to <http://encourage.zeness.com/> for this list.

Project Encouragement is supported by Inter-Religious Organisation Singapore, TRUST Central, Central Singapore CDC, OnePeople.sg, and Young Changemakers.

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**Ice breakers!**



**Young one sharing about her creation**



**Our garden city**



**Young one and youths together**



**Having fun at group work**



**Game masters in a family skit**



Can you believe this is the first time they met?



Tag-team-brothers



**Mayor pinning down his words of encouragement for us!**



**All singing the encouragement song, Yes We Can!**



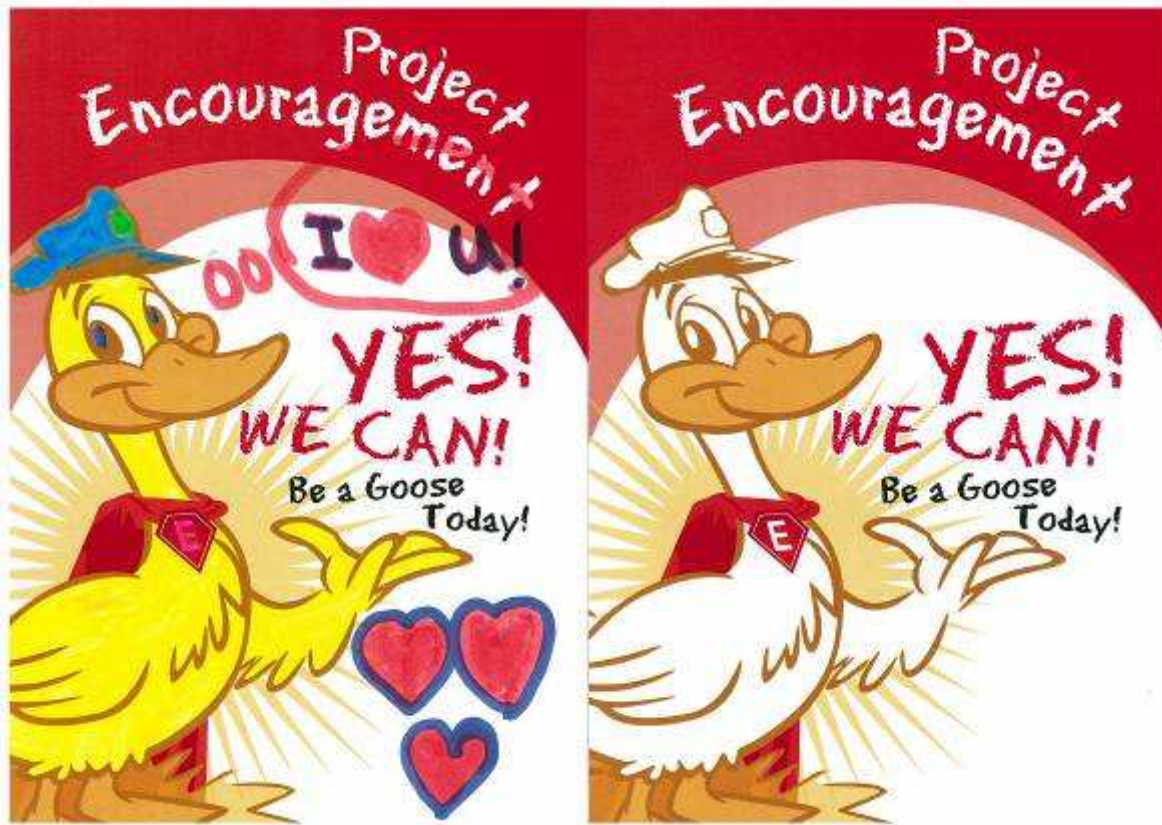
**A simple hug can make your family member smile and feel encouraged!**



**Dad, our family supports you forever!**



Encouragement Cards



Left: Mayor's encouragement! Right: Young one's encouragement for his father

If we have the sense of a goose,  
we will stand by each other like that!

Don't be sad or  
feel despair. There  
will always be good  
things that will happen  
sooner or later!  
Bad times never last  
forever. Smile!

If we have the sense of a goose,  
we will stand by each other like that!

Dad, never  
give up! You  
will find a job  
sooner ~~or~~ later.  
I ♥ U! Our  
family supports  
you FOREVER!!!

**All of us had a wonderful time together!**



**Youth leaders from 5 religious organisations and 1 student body!**

