

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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**Children's
Cancer
Foundation**

Because Life is More Than Just Receiving

HOW YOU CAN VOLUNTEER
Roles & Responsibilities
Play Personnel: Engage cancer-stricken children in structured play activities at the hospital ward, outpatient clinic or cancer centre.
Tutor: Provide tuition to a cancer-stricken child or sibling who comes from a low-income family.
Befriender: To befriend, interact, and play with the cancer-stricken child or sibling.
Programs: Work with staff and other volunteers to plan and execute activities for the cancer-stricken children and their families.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE REFER TO <http://www.ccf.org.sg>

The International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) was declared by the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organisations (ICCCPO) in Luxemburg in September 2001. The objectives of the International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) are, to educate the public about childhood cancer, and to support local fund-raising by member nations.

The gold ribbon is the official ribbon of children with cancer worldwide, supported, recognised and promoted by hundreds of organisations and treatment centres related to childhood cancer. Singaporeans can show their solidarity by wearing the gold ribbon pin on 15 February 2005, the actual day of ICCD and submitting their pledge online at <http://www.ccf.org.sg/iccd/makeApledge.html>. The target is to reach out to 100,000 Singaporeans who will place their support for these children.

CHILDREN'S CANCER FOUNDATION (CCF)
CCF was set in 1992 to address and look after the needs of the children with cancer and their families, and in helping them to improve their quality of life through the enhancement of their emotional, social and medical well-being.

CCF is an independent organization, solely funded by public and corporate donations. CCF is staffed by a team of trained professionals and has a group of committed volunteers. To date, CCF has helped more than 1,100 families since 1992.

Among the free services CCF provides are Counselling and Casework, Parents Support Groups, Financial Assistance, Back-to-School Program and Bereavement Program.
The Children Cancer Foundation can be reached at:

Mailing Address
Orchard P.O. Box 0157
Singapore 912306
Telephone: 6835 6465
Facsimile: 6835 0032
Email: admin@ccf.org.sg

Because Not Everyone Will Make it This Far

Darryl Leong

February 15 is International Childhood Cancer Day. Here, Darryl Leong writes on Childhood Cancer: The loss it brings to the world, and the hope that YOU, the reader, can bring to the children.

The faces of these children look just like the faces of every other children: twinkling eyes, bright smiles, and full of hope for the future. But they are also facing what most of us have never come close to experiencing before - cancer - the one word that we associate with 'the end'. The end to meaning in all that we do. It is a word we think can only lead to a single outcome, one of unavoidable finality.

At seven years of age, we were still in front of the television watching "Transformers", "Care Bears", and "Ninja Turtles" on early Sunday mornings. What different battles these children of the same age have to wage! We talk about the injustice and unfairness in our lives, but to these stoic parents and children, it is simply a fate that they must accept. There are no known causes of childhood cancer, and no reasons as to why

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This is something I really wanted to say
But the time was never right
I just want to tell you if I'm not here for you
today
And if I'm forever out of your sight
You don't have to worry about a thing
'Cause everything will be all right
If somewhere deep down in your heart you
miss me
Look out your window every night
You can't see me but I am there
Smiling, twinkling and shining bright
For a moment you can forget everything that's
bothering you
And smile with me tonight
Remember that I'm with you in every little thing
you do
I'll be the little fire when you need a guiding
light
if there's a storm and it won't stop raining
And you feel that life is not worth living
Hold on...just keep on waiting if you can do
nothing
For the rain will stop soon
And the sun will shine again
You'll find your problems are already washed
off by the rain
Freed you from pain
You'll pull through like you always do
For your will is strong.
If you feel the need to cry your eyes out
Throw a tantrum or yell and shout
Please do if only it will get it off your system
And if you feel lost and angry at life for being
unfair
By taking away the person you love and care
Don't be. I might not be there
But the pain you feel I will share
If you have the love and time to spare, sent me
a prayer
To tell me that you remember
The days.....
When I was here.
Nur Ayuni, 12th March 2003(Nur Ayuni was
diagnosed in July 2002 with Acute Myeloid
Leukemia (AML), and passed away peacefully in
May 2004, after a brave battle with cancer.)



they occur. They could range from leukaemia, brain tumours, or cancer of the lymph glands. The trauma that they go through include nausea and vomiting, mouth ulcers, and hair loss, among others. Looking at children with cancer at such a tender age is not an easy reality to accept, especially for the parents. We look into the eyes of these children, and we embrace the innocence that the world has lost and the hope that it must find. Perhaps that is why deaths of children always touch a chord deep within us.

However, this is a world that still harbours hope, a hope for another tomorrow. We are often reminded that it is within the darkest of moments where the faintest flicker of light shines the brightest. Hope is frail, but it is indeed hard to kill. Fortunately, the battle that these children wage are not lost ones, they are battles that can be won, diseases that can be cured, and many of these children go on to lead normal and fulfilling lives when they are given the help and care that they deserve. For these children, their light has been shining ever so brightly, even within the envelope of darkness that they face. Each smile shines like a beacon, a gravid message that tells us "I believe in tomorrow", and today, that innocence and belief is the child's, and the world's greatest strength.

In Singapore alone, there are over 120 children diagnosed with cancer annually. Children like you and I were, only they have to battle an unseen enemy that you and I have never fought. The Children's Cancer Foundation in Singapore is helping both the children and their families to cope in their battle against cancer. It offers services such as Counselling and Case work, Parent Support Groups, Financial Assistance, etc. in a bid to lessen the burden that these families face. The Inaugural Tulip Hearts Day, an annual fund-raising event in September has always garnered tremendous support, both from volunteers and donors, with the collar pins or silk-cocooned tulips well received by the public.

International Childhood Cancer Day on February 15th is a day the world recognises the unique courage that these children exhibit, and the lessons that they can teach us. International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD), was declared by the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organisations (ICCCPO), and is a day set aside to educate the public about childhood cancer, as well as to support organisations in their bids to help these children in their battle against the disease. This year marks the first time the Children's Cancer Foundation is organising the Gold Ribbon Campaign in conjunction with International Childhood Cancer Day. The Gold Ribbon is the official ribbon for children with cancer worldwide, inspired by the short, but fulfilling life of Kelsey Nicole Thorsen (1989 - 1996). The Gold Ribbon represents the purity of the children's heart, how precious this purity and innocence is, as well as the strength of the children and their families. It is the very same gold ribbon that you find attached on this issue of The Ridge.

As you read this article, wherever you might be, the bus, the train, in the library, the canteen, or in your room, take a moment to appreciate where you are, and how far you have come, because not everyone will make it this far. It's much easier to close one eye, than to do a little something. But then, do we need another lesson to remind us how fragile and unpredictable life can be? Take the pin, pin it somewhere, and go online to pledge to wear the pin on 15 February at <http://www.ccf.org.sg>. It might not be much, but it shows that you care.

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