

# A Slice of S-L

## Launch of Civic Internships to deepen Service-Learning

Civic Internships (CI), where students get placements in organisations with a social mission or cause, will pave the way for them to develop further to become active citizens with the capacity and desire to work with others to achieve common good.

Special features of CI include an Inspirational Start, to create the right mind-set in students; a Fireside Chat, midway, where they will get to hear from a social leader; and a Civic Challenge at the end of the internship. Students will also receive a certificate of achievement upon completing their CI.

### Hear from 3 of our civic interns...



"This has been such a meaningful internship! I've learnt that every cord blood donation counts because it increases the chance for someone out there to find a suitable match. Through the events I help to organise, we bond cord blood donors and beneficiaries; we share stories with the younger community. And all these may increase the number of donations in the future."

**Jakelyn Yong**  
Chinese Media & Communication, HMS  
Marketing Intern at Singapore Cord Blood Bank



"My internship has given me personal and deeper insights into the spectrum of beneficiaries employed at Dignity Kitchen. Their unique stories and journeys have helped me appreciate many things I used to take for granted. While I've learnt many new and useful skills, I'd like to also believe that my IT work there, from simplifying manual tasks to digitalizing certain pen-and-paper processes, makes life easier for them."

**Raymond Tan**  
Information Security & Forensics, ICT  
IT Intern at Dignity Kitchen



"Dialogue in the Dark Singapore (DiDsg) challenges and trusts interns a lot by giving us big projects and even money to manage. Although sometimes the working hours are long, the blind guides, my fellow interns and staff at DiDsg make it fun and continuously keep me going. I've learnt to be more responsible and to empathise with the people around me."

**Gui Wen Jie**  
Chinese Studies, HMS  
Programmes & Operations Intern at DiDsg

## Two new training programmes rolled out



Participants candidly conversing with DiDsg guides

### Cultural Quotient in Service-Learning Modules

This half-day training programme was conducted several times, reaching more than 110 NP staff. Conducted with DiDsg blind guides, the training enables staff to equip students to become aware of and work better with different sub-cultures. Additional resources such as reflection prompts and articles for background information were also made available to participants.



NP Student Development Office staff in active discussion during their training

### Designing Co-curricular Service-Learning

OSL's first CET Service-Learning (S-L) training programme geared for Student Development staff had 11 participants from SP, TP, RP and NP. They visited two community partners, both offering a safe shelter for youths, and were challenged to think about how to better frame and prepare for co-curricular S-L programmes with these partners.

## Learning journeys to make a difference



### S-L Xplorer

The S-L Xplorer enables staff to get close with a community or organisation and think about what they might do to create positive impact, via S-L or community service projects.

For our inaugural S-L Xplorer in May, STEM staff visited engineering company, HOPE Technik, whose CEO Peter Ho shared candidly on projects, culture, training and hiring practices. Several possible collaborative projects were surfaced for S-L.

### AA Learning Journey

In August, a journey was arranged with Yong-en Care Centre for Academic Affairs (AA) staff, part of their workplan meeting. AA staff got a better understanding of S-L in NP before heading to Jalan Kukoh to meet low-income families there. They were tasked to shop for these families with a budget of \$60. But, their shopping lists changed after they had bonded with the families over lunch and had found out what items were really wanted. A key takeaway? Avoid making assumptions and have conversations to understand others better. Staff were also inspired by the dignity and resilience of these families.

