

An incredibly eventful July!

In this issue, read about:

- the Barclays grant
- aidha's first-ever open house event
- Project Makan graduation
- inspiring stories from an aidha graduate and our volunteer of the month
- upcoming events, volunteering opportunities, and more!

We hope you enjoy this edition of aidha singapore. For feedback or comments, please email us anytime at communications@aidha.org. Happy reading!



(Left photo) Veronica receiving the check from Barclays representatives;
(Right photo) Barclays executives with aidha representatives, Lidia and Veronica

Barclays awards \$100,000 grant

For the first time ever, aidha has secured a major grant. In June, Barclays awarded aidha a 100k grant to fund operations for one year. The grant reflects Barclays deepening commitment to aidha's mission of providing financial education to women migrant workers in Singapore and caps an extraordinary year in which aidha and Barclays have strengthened their relationship and expanded their ties. Starting with

the Women's Initiative Network (Win) of Barclays, which adopted aidha as its official charity in February 2011, the bank's finance department has also donated money to aidha. Now Barclays' operations division has selected aidha as the recipient of its fundraising efforts for the rest of 2012.

Julie Evans (Head of WiN, Singapore) and Jeff Deck (Vice Chairman, Asia Pacific) officially presented the check to aidha on 2nd August. Both senior executives strongly support Barclay's community involvement and cited aidha as an example of the type of successful partnership the bank strives for.

Barclays' grant is a huge milestone for aidha. Not only is this the first time aidha has received funding of this magnitude, the donation adds a top global financial institution to aidha's growing list of supporters.

Thank you, Barclays!

schoolhouse events

aidha holds first open house event



Last 29 July, aidha opened its doors to welcome more than 160 domestic workers who participated in the school's first-ever open house activity. The open house aimed to expose and attract students to aidha's programs. Free workshops and trial classes on savings, computer skills, public speaking, budgeting, sales, investment and starting a business were held to give participants a taste of aidha's services. Current students and graduates were also given the opportunity to show off their communication and presentation skills as they gave testimonies during the various sessions, impressing and inspiring their peers. There were also Zumba dance sessions that proved to be extremely popular and added to the enthusiastic energy throughout the day.

Project Makan Batch 4 graduates



(clockwise from top left): Makan Managers and Makan Legends receive recognition; guest-of-honour, Chef William Campbell shares his experiences as a professional chef for international celebrities; our graduates with their certificates; Managers Diyah and Heden give their speeches.

The latest batch of Project Makan had their graduation ceremony last 1 July in Robertson Quay. Sixteen ladies who'd participated in the programme received their Certificates of Completion for aidha's

aidha would like to thank all the participants of the event - from the students who brought their friends, volunteers who mentored the workshops, Vhel and Harry from Studio 101 and Shannon Lupian of Fiesta de Fitness, and of course, Nicki Kenyon and the Barclays team for making the day a great success. Check out the [pics](#) and an awesome [video](#) from that fantastic day!

thank you, james!

For James Weston, volunteering at aidha was an easy decision as one of his many areas of interest is financial development in emerging markets. "Volunteering at aidha lets me make a ground-up contribution," he shares.

James is a regular computer workshop leader, having racked up more than 30 hours of teaching. He clearly enjoys the work and cites the stream of thank you's that he gets at the end of each class as a big reason why he keeps doing it. "The students are incredibly grateful for the time contributed by each volunteer."

While there isn't one experience that stands out during his volunteering time, he can't help but recall all the smiling faces he sees at the school every Sunday. "For the students, aidha is not just somewhere to develop business acumen; it's something they really look forward to every fortnight, and a place where they make lasting friendships," he says.

"The biggest eye-opener for me is the difference that just a small part of one's time can make to so many people," shares James, when asked about what his biggest learning at aidha was.

hands-on training programme in managing a small cafeteria.

Chef William Campbell, a professional chef who has experience catering for big international celebrities such as Mariah Carey, Kanye West, and Singapore's own Minister Mentor, Lee Kwan Yu, gave the guest-of-honour speech and inspired the ladies with advice and tips on managing a restaurant business.

Afterwards, graduates and guests enjoyed a simple buffet catered by El Toro restaurant.

Congratulations to our Project Makan ladies and we hope that this experience has given everyone a glimpse of what's possible for them as future leaders and managers of their own business.

marilyn magbuo student of the month



Mayen proudly posing outside her new bakery which opened earlier this year in the Philippines.

Marilyn has always been a talented baker. So it was only natural that a bakery seemed like the first choice for a business. But would you believe this is already the *second* business she has opened since joining aidha?

His message to fellow volunteers? "To those who are hesitant about committing, aidha is not just a place to educate others; becoming a leader at aidha is an extremely beneficial personal experience as well."

volunteering opportunities

Besides these, there are many other exciting projects available at aidha. Just approach us to find out how you can help!

fundraising

The aidha fundraising team is looking for volunteers! Can you help us make a convincing pitch to potential donors? Can you think about innovative ways we could raise money for aidha? Do you have project management skills you could put to good use for our fundraising events? Do you enjoy writing and want to help us write our grant applications? If so let us know, we'd love to have you on our team!

compass and leadership club mentors

as aidha take in more and more students more mentors are needed to facilitate our various clubs. As a mentor, you will have an important role in our students' transformation since you will have a direct impact on their aidha experience. Certainly the most fulfilling use of your time at aidha, join any of our training schedules:

compass club: **august 7 and 14,**
2012 from 7:30 to 10 pm
leadership club: **august 7 and 21,**
2012 from 7:30 to 10 pm

project manager for communications

Halfway through her courses, Mayen already braved the world of entrepreneurship and opened up a small business. "It was an internet cafe called 3G Internet Shop in my hometown located in Batangas, Philippines. It had three desktop computers and we offered fast internet connection for surfing, gaming and printing services." It wasn't as lucrative as she wanted it to be since it was only open part time to accommodate the manager's schedule: her own sister who could only look after the shop in the afternoons.

So Mayen kept studying and saving for her true dream: to open her own bakery. And in January 2012, construction began on the plot of land she bought for her business. "I used up most of my savings since the opportunity to buy the land and build the bakery came unexpectedly, I just couldn't let it pass me by." Just 2 months later, they had the official opening of "Mayen's Bakery". And since then, business has been growing.

"We sell around 7 different kinds of bread. My regular costumers include the mini-store in our village, the school canteen (since we live close to a school), and now, we even have people asking us to deliver bread to their homes," she proudly shares. "In fact, most of the time, we finish all the bread we make. There are no leftovers!"



Mayen and one of her bakers preparing

the communications team is looking for individuals who are interested to do project management to handle ad hoc communications projects for aidha. These projects usually entail executing and producing brochures, flyers and posters used for aidha's fundraising and student recruitment activities. If you're someone who is proactive, resourceful, has good organisational skills and is detail-oriented, you just might be what we're looking for!

If you want to volunteer but cannot come on Sundays, you can also come on weekdays or join us on our Tuesday 'late nights at aidha'! Please send an email to info@aidha.org if you're interested.

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the day's goodies.

Mayen currently employes seven people: three who do the baking, three salespeople and one in-charge of the cash register. But she already has plans to move her business forward. "In the near future I want to offer drinks such as coffee and sodas. I also want to add display cases for my pastries, as well as sell jams and jellies."

Mayen is grateful she was able to maximise her time at aidha, fully absorbing the money management skills she learned in the Compass Clubs. She sees the 9-month Entrepreneurship Course (now known as the Venture Club) as "the first step to a new beginning" in her journey.

While her life as an entrepreneur isn't without challenges (most of her income is still going to funding her fledgling business), Mayen is determined to succeed. "It is something I learned from my mentors and the volunteers at aidha. Everyone was very generous with their time to help us domestic helpers and determined to see us succeed. I also owe it to them to keep going."