



A month of new beginnings

In this issue, read about:

- our new campus at Bras Basah
- heartwarming fundraising stories
- past and upcoming events
- inspiring stories about our students and volunteer of the month
- volunteering opportunities

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

The most important event in the aidha calendar is here once more!

aidha

graduation ceremonies 2012

Sunday, 25 November 2012

3:00 to 5:30 PM

INSEAD Campus in Asia

1 Ayer Rajah Avenue

RSVP to info@aidha.org

\$25 for employers and friends

\$10 for children above 12 years old*

*Children under 12 are free of charge

schoolhouse

Loving our new campus...

events

Amidst the chaos of moving to a new campus and office, September saw aidha's work continue uninterrupted as we managed to participate in these events that brought the aidha story and mission to an expanded audience.



Students help set up school materials at the new Bras Basah campus.

So, what does everyone think of our new campus? We went around the school last Sunday and asked...

"We are really excited about the new classrooms! They're so cosy, private and we feel like executives." - **Analina and Norma, current students**

"I love how sunny and bright it is here. It gives a really good energy. I can see that the students are thrilled and motivated by this place as well, it's a good change!" -**Stephanie Tremeaud, Compass Club mentor**



Mentor, Vikram, and students in one of the many professionally set-up classrooms

"This place depicts a very conducive learning environment, and learning here means more than knowledge transfer, it is also about empowering people", **Ian Zambora, volunteer for operations**

"aidha is more than just a classroom

Agri-business Livelihood Forum

Early in September, some of our aidha graduates, together with executive director, Veronica Gamez, attended a forum hosted by Philippine Ambassador, Hon. Minda Calaguian-Cruz. The forum featured a talk by Philippine Secretary for Agriculture, Mr. Proceso J. Alcala encouraging OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers) to invest in agricultural businesses back home.



Veronica flanked by Secretary of Agriculture, Proceso Alcala on the left, and Philippine Ambassador to Singapore, Hon. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, on the right.

"Secretary Alcala, a former OFW, encouraged those present to channel some of their earnings abroad into small agribusinesses in their provinces in order to give their families a good source of livelihood as well as to contribute to the country's rural development. He said that the DA is ready to extend free technical assistance as well as market access support to such businesses started by OFWs." (from the [Official Gazette](#))

A number of our graduates have already started farming businesses back in the Philippines, such as raising crops and pigs, thanks to the education they got from aidha. Thus, initiatives like this from government agencies encourage our

with teachers and classmates; it's a place to make connections, a place to make friends," **-Sriya, current student**



by Sneha Venkat

fundraising

'Run for aidha' Junior Edition

Last year's 'Run for aidha' featured volunteers, aidha staff and graduates signing up and raising funds for aidha by running the half- and full courses of the Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon.

This year, a different group from the aidha community is bravely taking up the challenge.

With ages ranging from 3 to 9 years old, junior marathoners Leah, Eloise, Agathe, Diego, Alex, Julien, Hugo, Sven, Evan, Lucas, Miles, Louis and Felix will be raising funds for aidha in this year's Singapore Marathon. They will be competing in the 750-metre Kid's Dash event of the SCMS on 2 December.

students to have more options, and aidha's participation in these events establish connections that will benefit students whose dream business is in farming or animal livelihood.

Asian Seminar on Financial Literacy

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development or [OECD](#), together with the Central Bank of the Philippines, held a seminar on 'Financial Literacy & Inclusion' in Cebu City, Philippines in early September. The event hosted speakers from global organisations such as the ILO and World Bank, as well as international organisations from all over Asia that deal with financial education for various sectors of society, such as the youth, SMEs and migrants.



aidha Executive Director, Veronica Gamez was a speaker herself on the issue of the specific financial literacy needs of migrant women and the outreach and delivery mechanisms employed by aidha to address them. She explained the aidha model of action learning, peer support and continuous evaluation, as well as gave an overview of the aidha curriculum that is underpinned by an emphasis on financial management through the Compass Clubs.

Investment Impact Exchange (IIX)

Meanwhile, last Sept 6, Impact Investment Exchange, an organisation



aidha's 'little runners' had their first training session in the Botanic Gardens last Sunday, with special coach (and dad) Jerome, who gave useful tips for the run. Some of our little runners have aunts who study at aidha, while others heard of aidha from their friends and want to help out in the fundraising effort.

So please show your support to our 'Run for aidha' junior athletes by clicking [here](#).

Fundraising 101: Lemonade Stand

As if running a marathon wasn't enough, little runners Leah, Evan and Felix, decided to go one step further to raise money for aidha by selling homemade lemonade. They set up a little stand outside their house and for a very reasonable price of just \$0.50 per glass, friends and passers-by were able to quench their thirst with pure homemade lemonade.

that facilitates stock exchange for social enterprises, hosted an 'impact chat' called "Training for Success", - "an examination of adult-vocational training programs and its effectiveness in mission realization."

As an NGO that provides financial education to migrant women, Veronica was invited to speak at this event and share how aidha's programmes, which are supplemented by computer workshops and effective communication courses, contribute to our students' financial independence and their eventual transformation into enterprise owners.



Veronica was joined by Bagosphere CEO Zhihan Lee, and Dignity Kitchen Executive Director, Koh Seng Choon, who were also on hand to share strategies and stories about finding the perfect equation to achieve impact and sustainable business.

by ting claravall

jovelle pelaez
student of the month

Peers help support success at aidha



The trio raised \$4.00 for their efforts, 100% of which will be donated to aidha.

These generous little angels show us that it's never too early to start doing your bit for a good cause!

with contributions from Virginie Labbe

thank you, zarelda!
volunteer of the month



A wise man once said: "Seek opportunities to show you care. The smallest gestures often make the biggest difference."

Indeed, that is what Zarelda did after hearing about aidha from her friend, Shan Shan, who was already a



Jovelle with her Compass Club mentor, Calista.

**This is the second part of a 2-part special about a couple of star students, two best friends who demonstrated how peer-support contributes greatly to success at aidha.*

Last month, we introduced you to Digna Reyes. This month, we meet her best friend, Jovelle...

One of the many aidha students whose future is looking brighter than ever is Jovelle, a Filipina domestic worker who has lived in Singapore for seventeen years.

Like many poor families in the Philippines, Jovelle came from a big brood of 10 kids and had to start working at a very young age to help her parents make ends meet. She heard about aidha through a former student who encouraged her to enroll. At the time of writing, Jovelle had just completed Module 2 and was busy writing her business plan, which is a requirement for graduation.

Regarding her learning experiences in the Compass and Leadership Clubs, Jovelle merrily says: "Before joining aidha, saving was so difficult! Now I save more money than I thought I ever could, and I am able to teach my family how to spend and save wisely for our rice farm. Leadership Club

volunteer.

With prior experience in teaching, Zarelda seized the opportunity to join aidha in December 2010 as a leadership club mentor: "I wanted to commit more time to volunteer work and I chose aidha because I believe in their cause to empower domestic helpers. I used to teach before joining the publishing industry and wanted to do volunteer work where I could use my teaching skills."

Zarelda's other notable contributions were teaching computer workshops, actively participating in aidha events and most recently, she conducted a sample Module 2 class in aidha's inaugural Open House.

The 'strong, confident and motivated bunch of ladies', as Zarelda describes is what inspires her to keep contributing her time at aidha. "I've learnt a lot from them and their desire to improve is truly heartwarming," she adds.

If there was a moment that Zarelda treasures, it would be seeing the ladies in her class grow: "About half of my Leadership Club went on to the second year and I taught them again in the Advanced Leadership Club. I've seen some of them become more confident speakers when making their presentations. I've also seen them grow in friendship."

As a mentor, Zarelda learned that anything is possible if you have faith and determination- witnessing the ladies in her class grow was made possible by their perseverance to make a difference to their lives and the strong belief that they can.

Of course, the burning passion to succeed would not have been sustained without a motivational and

also helped me to feel more confident when communicating with people."



Jovelle leading her team members in Project Makan

Jovelle credits her friend and fellow aidha student Digna Reyes for her determination to succeed. Together, they had pushed each other to achieve their financial goals. "We are in the same batch. Digna is so helpful! Our mutual support for each other is indispensable," Jovelle shares about her friend.

Project Makan was another great opportunity for Jovelle to develop practical skills in running a business: "Project Makan is my joy! I learnt about running a restaurant business and the importance of cooperation. As team members, we must first understand and support each other."

Jovelle wrote a business plan for opening up her own restaurant. "With its professional and down-to-earth attitude, aidha has empowered me to achieve my goals. I feel so confident about the future!" she says.

She thanks all the employers who've helped migrant workers like her. And to all the future employers who may enroll their domestic helpers in aidha, she adds: "Your helper will be a happier person." Jovelle also praises all volunteers and donors for

caring mentor, like you, Zarelda. Thank you for your sheer dedication and making a big difference at aidha!

by kayla faith umali

volunteering opportunities

recruitment executive

aidha is looking for a recruitment executive with experience to manage our internship program that receives international students from the most prestigious universities, and also to handle aidha's core staff recruitment.

graphic designer

Are you a designer and want to impact our community? aidha needs a graphic designer to conceptualize, design and develop different materials for the schoolhouse. You will have the opportunity to create the identity manual of aidha and grow your portfolio. A degree in fine arts or design is a must, professional experience is preferred.

If you want to volunteer but cannot make it on Sundays, you can also come during the week to the aidha office at Beacon International College, #1A Short Street, #01-08. Or send an email to volunteer@aidha.org to find out more about how you can help.

their

generosity.

Playwright and poet William Shakespeare once said: "Now join your hands, and with your hands your hearts." Here at aidha, we are all holding hands together.

by mariana da silva marques

Jovelle and Digna will be among this year's batch of students who will be receiving their Certificate in Entrepreneurship from aidha at next month's graduation ceremonies. To join us for this special event, please email info@aidha.org or call us at 67325434.

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