

# 以无限热忱，

# 感动无数学生



两位同样是工程师的Club GUSTO 义工，拥有相同的信念和热忱，希望他们的学生能以积极的态度面对人生。

29岁的冯启建从Club GUSTO 刚起步时就参与其活动，算起来都已经有四年了。而30岁的李美群，相比之下，还是名新手。美群是在四个月前才加入Club GUSTO 的义工阵容。

虽然参与的时间不长，但美群却能深深地感受到Club GUSTO 的活动如何在学生的生活中带来正面的影响。

她指出学生最近参与的一项露营活动，虽然当天下着倾盆大雨，但学生们都充分地表现了团体精神，让她感到非常欣慰。

“虽然大家对不太理想的营地有点儿失望，但他们都很快恢复过来。男生负责扎营，女生则忙着生火煮饭。在那三天的露营活动中，学生们确实充分地表现了团体精神。”她说道。

Club GUSTO 的宗旨就是要让学生通过一系列的活动，学习一些课本上学不到的东西，例如沟通技巧、团体精神等等。

由于活动的互动性高，义工们也因此获益不少。启建就觉得各项活动让他学会如何从不同角度看事情，因此人生经验也就更加丰富了。而美群则认为自己的沟通技巧进步了许多。

启建也提到了一件让他难忘的经验。有一回，学生们得在中秋节时，为一家老人院的老人呈现一段表演《嫦娥奔月》。学生们犹豫了很久，还是没有信心。义工们费了好大的力气才说服他们。终于，经过多次的排练，学生们的自信心增强了，而演出也获得成功。这件事让大家得到很大的满足感。

也就是这样的满足感，让启建四年来风雨不改的为Club GUSTO 效劳。

启建说：“虽然每个星期六下午都无法陪伴家人，但我很庆幸他们都很支持我的义工工作。”

同样的，美群的丈夫也很谅解她每个周六下午得抽空参与义工工作。美群还笑说：“我常常会告诉他我们活动的经过。说不定在不久的将来，他会加入我们的义工阵容呢！”

徐鸯鸯

# Two Gutsy Volunteers



## Help Youths With GUSTO

Both are engineers, both are addicted to volunteering, and both envision their Club GUSTO students graduating with a gung-ho attitude towards life.

A rewarding aspect is seeing the fruitful completion of projects that both volunteers and students have embarked on together. Elaborating, Oliver recounted how he was assigned with the responsibility of directing a stage drama " 嫦娥奔月 " for a performance at an old folks' home during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

One difference though is that the 29-year-old Oliver Pang is from the pioneer batch of Club GUSTO volunteers and has seen students rise to many challenges put to them. After all, he has been with the programme for four years.

The students were very hesitant at first, citing lack of confidence and shyness as reasons. The volunteers, however, persisted and after much persuasion, the students finally agreed to give it a try at taking part in the drama. Together they organized countless rehearsals and gradually, the students became more confident and overcame their shyness.

On the other hand, 30-year-old Sherlyn Lee has only been with Club GUSTO for four months, but that is saying she has seen how the programme has made a positive impact in the lives of the students.

In the end, they dazzled the 150-strong audience at the old folks' home with their stellar performance.

She described a camping trip at Upper Seletar Reservoir amid heavy downpour as one of the highest points in her experience with the students.

As the audience cheered and clapped, Oliver recalled how he was "so proud of them, because they showed that every single one of them had shown his potential to accomplish the task given to him, as long as he is given guidance and encouragement along the way".

"We had no choice but to camp on a not-so-ideal campsite. Everyone was disappointed, but what amazed me was how quickly the students bounced back to work and started getting busy. The boys exhibited much team spirit setting up the tents and shelter area while the girls set up a fire to cook dinner. I was most pleased to see the students working together as a team during the three-day camp," Sherlyn recounted.

It is no wonder that Oliver goes about his weekly Club GUSTO activities with, well, much gusto.

And this is exactly what Club GUSTO set out to achieve – helping students develop skills, such as teamwork and effective communication, through participation in activities. Volunteers act as mentors, guiding them along the way, during their weekly three-hour programme.

"I treasure the four years I have spent with Club GUSTO. And I'm lucky that my family is supportive of my work here, even though it takes my Saturday afternoons away from them," he said.

For a programme that is so interactive in nature, it is not surprising then that the volunteers themselves are not always at the 'giving' end.

Sherlyn sings the same tune.

"Through volunteering, I have gained lots of valuable knowledge, experience, and it has also provided me with a platform to see life from different perspectives. These insights have indeed made me a better person, leading a more enriched life," explained Oliver.

"A good rest after a week of hard work, or catching up on my housework. That's how I used to spend my Saturday afternoons. Now, I have lost some beauty sleep, and a spanking clean house, but that is in exchange for three valuable hours with the students! Luckily, I have an understanding and supportive husband who respects my decision. I fill him in on our activities and, who knows, he may decide to join us one of these days too," she added.

Agreeing, Sherlyn added that as she is relatively new with the programme, she has to put in extra effort to build rapport with the students during the weekly sessions. However, this has also given her the impetus to brush up on her 'coaching' techniques – thereby improving her own communication skills.

*Lynne Chee*

