

Through Trinity's social arm, Care Community Services Society (CCSS), lives are being turned around. Justin Lee, a former recipient of this blessing, is now paying the deed forward.

# BLESSED TO BE A Blessing



To most people, Justin is 'just another youth' from Trinity Christian Centre's IGNUYE Ministry. But not many know that he was a charge of CareHuts, a programme run by CCSS. Justin recalls with gratitude his CareHuts days: "Before I started going to CareHuts, I used to loiter around and hang out at shopping malls after school. It would have been easy for me to mix with the wrong company and pick up bad habits such as smoking and swearing. I'm grateful to the staff for guiding me when I was at CareHuts. If not for them, I could have become a juvenile delinquent."

Fong Min, Justin's teacher at CareHuts, remembers him as a skinny boy who could eat a lot, would hardly do any of his homework and often try to 'bluff' his way out of going to CareHuts. "He used to find all sorts of excuses not to come. When asked where he went, he would tell us that he had gone home after school. As his mother was at work, we couldn't confirm if he was really safe at home or loitering around," Fong Min remarks.

Justin remembers one specific incident where he got into trouble with the CareHuts teachers. It turned out to be the turning point in his life. "In Primary Five, I used to reach CareHuts late and would tell the teachers lots of lies why I could not arrive on time. The truth was that I was playing soccer after school. One day, they saw through my lie. I got a huge scolding from the teachers and was punished. From that incident, I realised they cared for me. I also learnt my lesson about telling lies."





Fong Min recalls that after this incident, Justin's behaviour improved throughout his Primary Six year. "I think we were able to win him over and he became more disciplined and focussed in his studies. Seeing him pass his PSLE was most encouraging for us," said Fong Min.



Now an ITE student, Justin goes back to CareHuts to serve as a volunteer. Towards the end of last year, Justin rallied his ITE teachers and friends to plan a Christmas party for all the CareHuts children. He and his ITE course mates were also engaged in another project to spruce up Eunos CareHut by rearranging furniture, doing some repair work and painting the interior walls. He says, with nostalgia, "I feel that I have benefited much from CareHuts and would like to give back," he says.

With a sense of fulfilment and pride, Fong Min says, "Seeing him come back to help us as a volunteer brings much joy and warmth to my heart and makes me feel that I have done something right. It encourages me to press on and continue this work with the children at CareHuts."

### About CCSS

CCSS is a non-profit charitable organisation set up in 1996 by Trinity Christian Centre. It is an affiliated member of the National Council of Social Services.



CareHuts is a before-and-after-school care programme run by CCSS for latch-key children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For more information on CareHuts and other programmes CCSS provides, visit [www.carecom.org.sg](http://www.carecom.org.sg)

To find out how you can partner with us to serve the community either as a volunteer or a sponsor, please contact our Community Partnership Team: John Chua at 6304 7619 ([JohnChua@carecom.org.sg](mailto:JohnChua@carecom.org.sg)), Stella Aw Yong at 6304 7617 ([StellaAwYong@carecom.org.sg](mailto:StellaAwYong@carecom.org.sg)) or Daryl Lee at 6304 7618 ([DarylLee@carecom.org.sg](mailto:DarylLee@carecom.org.sg)).