



UNITED VOICE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023
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EDITOR'S NOTE

What an exciting 2022 it has been for us in United Voice. We had a café, and set up a lot of bazaars in Klang Valley. As we bid adieu to 2022 and welcome 2023 the year of the water Rabbit, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy, prosperous and "ong" new year. I am very excited as we welcome and look forward to what awaits us as I am sure it will be a very happy and exciting year ahead.

To all readers , I wish that you enjoy our newsletter by far and do look forward to what is in store in 2023.

By Renee Chan

Hi, my name is Esther Emily Yap. First of all, Happy New Year to everyone. May the year 2023 will be a prosperous and wonderful year for everybody. Again, I am your editor for this year's newsletter. As an Employment Project member in United Voice (UV), I am going to work in UV from Monday to Thursday as per normal again. Basically everything in the country is back to normal activities again. As for me, I have also attended some of the events and activities in UV. Although I missed the normal life that we used to have, we should also not to be complacent because the Covid19 virus is still around us. We must always be careful and wear a mask whenever we go out, and wash and sanitize our hands regularly. I hope everyone will stay safe and be happy.

By Esther Emily

Self-Employment Workshop

By Tan Jia Xin

My name is Tan Jia Xin, currently working part time at Project I'mPossible at United Voice. I have a home bakery business. I was also a trainee of Gamuda Enabling Academy batch 1 and through its program I found a job at Principal Asset Management Berhad (formerly CIMB-Principal) for 3 years.

On 23rd July 2022, my mother and I were invited to a self-employment workshop held at United Voice. I gave a short talk about myself and introducing our home bakery business, DA Bakehouse. On the same day, we along with the parents and other UV members also got to hear about Carol's story of setting up her son Beh Miao Qing's store at the MBPJ food court at SS 22/23, Damansara Jaya. It was started back in August 2020. Then, parents and members had a discussion session with each other about their own interests and experiences about their businesses or even hobbies.



Jia Xin sharing about his bakery.



UV members & parents were in a group discussion.

On 24th Sept 2022, I attended the 2nd workshop but this time I came alone since my mother was busy at that time. During the workshop, Ally Pua, founder of Mind Story shared her experiences about Social Enterprise and tips with budgeting on starting an enterprise. Later on, there was also discussion between members separated from the parents (who also had their own discussion) to share about their own views and their interest in running their own business. All of us shown eagerness to have our own business since we want to earn money or income. Understandable considering how we want to live a more independent life.

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UV member, Yee Shing sharing his thoughts for the discussion.

Self-Employment Workshop



Ally Pua sharing about what Social Enterprise is.

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In my own view, my determination is to learn new things and skills to be more independent and confident. At the same time, I also do share some challenges such as financial and how customers react on our products' prices which some may be demanding to lower the prices. On top of that, I have added that commitment plays a part in running one's own business.

Lastly, I really appreciate UV for their effort. I also would like to express my sincere gratitude to UV for guiding us in building our future.

Townhall "Akses Pengundian OKU di Malaysia"

By Renee Chan



Group discussion on "Support for Persons with Disabilities in the Election".

4th June 2022 - Attended a Townhall on "Akses Pengundian OKU" organised by BERSIH and NCBM (National Council of the Blind, Malaysia). During the discussion, I am curious about voting as that time I have not voted before. As other people have voted and I have not, I listen to their experience and understand more about why is it important to vote. As a person with learning disabilities we have the right to vote and the right to make choices.

Voter's Awareness

By Esther Emily



Volunteers & parents acting as pegawai SPR.



Mary from Tindak Malaysia explaining how to tick on the ballot paper.

29th October 2022 – United Voice conducted a "Voter's Awareness" session for UV members in anticipation of the upcoming Malaysia GE15 on 19 November 2022. Volunteers lead by Ms Mary and her team from Tindak Malaysia came to help with the setup.

We went through the voting process and also did a simulation to practice voting step by step. Since most of the members are first time voters, the simulation helps to reduce our member's anxiety and to encourage us to go out and vote on election day. We should all do our responsibilities as citizens of Malaysia by voting because we have our rights too as an OKU.



Scan the QR code to download the Easy Read version "How to Vote"



UV members went through simulation of the voting process.

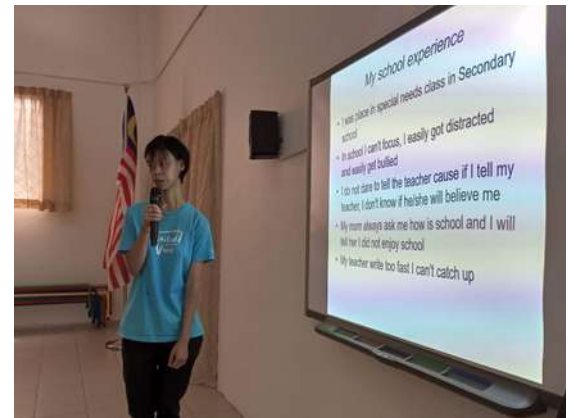


Photo with the school Principle, Sunitha.

Sharing at TAARANA

By Renee Chan

1st October 2022 - I went to Taarana, a school of special needs kids with my mom and Moh Foong. With the parents and teachers, Moh Foong shared about United Voice, I shared about my disability and experience and my mom, Julie shared her experience as a parent. I am sure parents are worried about their children's future and what are the plans for them after they grow up. And, of course learning is not easy as we all have gone through the challenges as we grow up including bullying and I am sure they complain a lot about not liking school. For me, trust is how I find my way around things. My first expression when I arrive there is that I am very excited to know that the parents are planning something after the kids graduate from school and I hope all the kids grow up with courage and strength so their future will be brighter.



FINAS Awareness On Supported Employment

By Renee Chan



"Lensa Negaraku: Job Coach" is filmed by FINAS (National Film Development Corporation Malaysia) to create awareness on supported employment for Person with disabilities through job coach services. In this film, UV lead coordinator, Yeong Moh Foong and UV member, Ivy Wong shared their experiences.

Scan the QR code to watch the youtube video.

Food Photography Workshop

By Esther Emily



Trainer and volunteers from Care2Run conducting the training.



Yee Shing experiencing how to use a DSLR camera.

On 22nd August 2022, a few UV members and I participated in a 2 days workshop on food photography. This workshop was facilitated by Care2Run and sponsored by United Voice. The facilitators taught us about food photography using our smartphone. We learned how to create our own tripod using a paper cup and develop useful knowledge to improve the photography process. We also learned some pre-photography tips before shooting.

We also learned the Rules of Odds and Different Perspectives and Fill the Frame while taking photography. We took pictures from different backgrounds and created bright and dark modes to bring out the best of the food products.

On the 3rd day we had our graduation day at United Voice. Every one of us who participated were awarded a certificate of achievement. I was so happy that I won the best photo award. The workshop was fun and I learned a lot of photography skills and knowledge.



Emily learning how to use a lightbox to take photos.



Damien learning how to make a lightbox.



Taking photos of chocolate tarts .

By Renee Chan



Marketing & Promotion Workshop

4th November 2022 - UV volunteer, May came and conducted a training for UV members on "Marketing and Promotion". Members were encouraged to talk about UV products through role plays.

I never thought I will learn how to promote and do marketing till I joined UV. I am so amazed as I learned those steps 1 by 1 to promote a UV item that is a lanyard and card holder myself. Selling items is what I usually do when I am in a bazaar and I think I enjoy a lot .

I hope what I learned can be used as a reference next time no matter where I am. I wish that everytime I have a chance to experience and learn more about promoting and use it in any bazaar to let other people know that we are promoting our UV items.





Touch 'n Go purchased 10 UV artists paintings to be printed on Limited Edition NFC cards.

Touch 'n Go x United Voice Collaboration Official Launch

By Johari Jamali



Group photo with UV artists and parents.



Johari giving his speech.

27th September 2022 - As United Voice Treasurer, I was invited to deliver a speech for the official launch of Touch 'n Go collaboration with United Voice.

Giving a speech was challenging. I have not done it since the pandemic started. I was nervous and I created my imagination that I was in Bali with my friends to release my anxiety. I felt confident using this public speaking technique.

Before I gave the speech, I met Nadia Heng (TV Host and Miss World Malaysia 2010). She was the emcee for this event. She is quite friendly. The event launched limited edition T'nG Enhanced NFC cards using our UV artists paintings. A lot of customers bought the cards and UV products.

I really enjoyed the event to meet up with UV members, parents and Touch 'n Go staff. I really had a good time. Thank you for such an amazing event.

"Baking with A Purpose" workshop

By Wendy Yeong

Since last year, United Voice organised 2 "Baking with a Purpose" workshop conducted by me and another UV member, Sky. Public can sign up for the 3 hours workshop held at UV Bakery. We teach the participants how to bake gingerbread.

I feel happy because they have fun and some of them they really know how to do it. I observe all the participants. When some step they missed, then I remind them which step is missing. I show them then they realise and follow.



UV Member, Sky explaining to participants on what needs to be done for the baking.



Participants working hard making gingerbread cookies.

"It was a fun half day workshop. The trainers were well prepared and friendly. A Hands-on baking session. It was nice to get to know other participants and UV staff as well"

- Cindy Yeong

"The best experience in this baking class is the moment the cookies are fully baked and we had various shapes which made us all happy to have completed the baking class"

- Tan Suan Gaik

"Experienced to use a commercial oven and got the chance to learn how to bake gingerbread, was something new for me and the staff involved are very helpful and friendly"

- Chen Ne

5th October 2022 - United Voice hosted a 1-day volunteering program for 19 team members of GRAB's SEA PR team, as part of Grab's LASA program (Love-All-Serve-All). The objective of the LASA program is to understand the importance of inclusion and accessibility for communities to thrive.

The group had the opportunity to experience the daily job scope of United Voice's members who are part of the I'mPossible Employment Project. The volunteers were divided into 3 groups which enabled them to experience baking, arts and crafts, and weaving. At the end of the day they were treated to coffee and and baked goods from UV's café.



Making tart skin.



Cutting baking paper for cookie jars.

Volunteering Program

By Barbara
(Supporting Staff)

Some of the favourite experiences /moments shared by the volunteers:

All the activities are great - especially since the introduction set the context how these activities would help Unite Voice.

Just seeing how independent and creative some of the members are.

Activities and interaction with everyone on the UV team

Learning first-hand what the community does.



Christmas Baking with UniqLo

By Esther Emily

On 21st December 2022, a few UV members and myself together with UV staff and Uniqlo staff had a gathering at T.A.S.K for the Christmas celebration.

The host at T.A.S.K taught us and the Uniqlo staff how to make gingerbread. They guided us step by step from making the dough, rolling and cutting it into different shapes and decorating it. It was a good experience and we had so much fun doing it.

At the end of the event, we gathered together and we received our Christmas presents from Uniqlo's staff Secret Santa. We were very happy and excited and would like to thank Uniqlo for making our Christmas wish come true. We look forward to have another Christmas celebration next year.



Making gingerbread cookies.



Group photo with Uniqlo staff.



Doing the icing for the gingerbread cookies.



Delegates from Mongolia

By Renee Chan



A group of about 28 delegates from Mongolia visited United Voice on the 9th November 2022. They comprise of NGOs, parents, companies and Ministry of Labour who are interested to learn more about job coach and employment for persons with disabilities.



By Sky

Visitors from Madras Christian College

We had about 28 students and teachers from Madras Christian College, Chennai visiting United Voice on 20th January 2023. They are students studying social work and learning more social sector in Malaysia. We have UV member, Siti Azyan shared about United Voice, what we do here. We showed them to the workplace area, what we do and different project preparations. We even received a gift from their leader and took a group photo with them.



Coffee Cart at the Touch 'n Go event launch.

I'mPossible Coffee Cart

We have launched coffee on the go!

The I'mPossible Coffee Cart is managed by our UV's baristas, who are adults with learning disabilities. The main objectives of setting up the coffee cart are to visit different event settings for our baristas to continuously develop the essential barista skills such as taking orders, preparing coffee, working as a team, giving attention to details and managing inventory. Also, it is for our baristas to gradually build confidence to manage the coffee cart while interacting and servicing the customers (despite the chaos and challenges).

To support this initiative while enjoying freshly brewed coffee at your event or party, please contact us via WhatsApp **+6011-54022782** for enquiries.



Coffee Cart at various companies events.

Thank
You!

United Voice (UV) would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all our Donors, Friends and Families for their financial support; making it possible for UV to continue our advocacy work, vocational trainings and employment support to empower persons with learning disabilities.

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