

PRESS RELEASE
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Rainbow Centre Celebrates 30th Anniversary With New Look and New Services



Rainbow Centre celebrates its 30th anniversary on 18 November 2017 at its new extension wing at Margaret Drive. The celebration features the launch of its new vision, new logo, refreshed student and staff uniforms, as well as a musical produced collaboratively by partners, volunteers, staff and students. As Rainbow Centre enters into its next lap, it looks forward to better serve the community with new innovative spaces, a third school campus, and new services to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families.

Gracing the event is Guest-of-Honour Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development.

Beyond The Rainbow

The theme of the celebrations "*Beyond The Rainbow*" points to Rainbow Centre's commitment to help persons with disabilities thrive, by empowering them to live beyond the limitations of their disabilities. The theme is also symbolic of the broadening of Rainbow Centre's work to enhance its students' post-school options for quality life.

Mr Yew Teng Leong, President of Rainbow Centre says, "We are honored to have served the community for the past 30 years. As we look beyond, we will continue designing and delivering innovative programmes and services, and to rally our partners and the community to create possibilities for those we serve."

New Vision, New Look For the Next Lap

Rainbow Centre looks ahead to better serve persons with disabilities and their families with a new Vision statement "*Beyond Disabilities: Empowered and Thriving in Inclusive Communities.*", which focuses on enabling them to live thriving lives, through quality development, and through stimulating opportunities from an engaged Singapore community.

Ms Tan Sze Wee, Executive Director of Rainbow Centre says, "Beyond Disabilities expresses both our approach and our end goal. As an approach, it is an expression of our commitment to see each person beyond their disabilities, and to see them as persons first, with their unique strengths. As an end goal, Beyond Disabilities expresses our desire that they will live lives that are not limited by their disabilities."

The design of the new logo captures this vision symbolically. Based on the concept of diverse paths, the 4 paths come together to form a stylised rainbow; a symbol of hope and aspirations for those whom Rainbow Centre serves. The 4 colours represent Rainbow Centre's approach to its work: (red) passion for its work, (orange) believing in possibilities, (green) enabling growth of each individual and (blue) co-creating inclusive communities.

At the event, Mr Desmond Lee will take a tour of the newly completed extension wing at Margaret Drive. Included are an upcoming special student care centre, new innovative learning spaces for the Early Intervention Programme, as well as Seeds Café, a specialty coffee shop run by Rainbow Centre, with support from Tiong Hoe Specialty Coffee, to train students in coffee-making and serving.

Beginnings of Rainbow Centre

The beginnings of Rainbow Centre can be traced back to a 1986 study, led by Dr Kenneth Lyen, which revealed that a significant number of children with multiple disabilities had no access to education.

This led to the starting of Margaret Drive Special School (MDSS) in 1987, with 20 students in the Programme for Children with Multiple Handicaps, and 20 students in the Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC). In 1989, MDSS became the first school to introduce a programme for students with Autism aged 2-12 years - the Structured Teaching for Exceptional Pupils (STEP).

In 1992, Rainbow Centre was established and registered with the Registry of Societies as an umbrella body to run MDSS. Three years later, Rainbow Centre started Balestier Special School as her second school to cope with the increasing number of children on the waiting list. Over time, Rainbow Centre has expanded its scope to provide support services for families and caregivers, as well as advocacy and training for social service professionals, corporates and the public.

Rainbow Centre currently serves more than 1,300 children and youths, and their families, in two early intervention centres, and two special schools. In FY 2016/2017, Rainbow Centre and Training

Consultancy (RCTC) provided more than 5,000 training places, and served more than 20 organisations through its work.