

# A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Newsletter of the S.H.E. Project



## Being a Young Mother

By Nydaa\* SHE@Tampines

I was 18 when i got pregnant. I was already "homeless" and it was hard to change from one house to another as i was getting more and more nearer to my due date . When i first held my baby, i was living at The Last Resort. I then stayed at Safe Place. Safe place helped me get move between a few houses throughout with my son for the past one year until opportunity for SHE came. In total i have shifted 9 times while pregnant and 7 after I delivered.

My baby was 11 months old when I moved into SHE. When i was shifting houses with my son. I was always thinking how long could i stay this way? Because of the housing situation, it interrupted with my career and thus making me jobless as I'm too busy shifting houses. It also interrupted my son's school. This moving made me very tired at one point of time and I really wanted to give up. I could not apply for HDB rental because i was below the age of 21. Aware gave me an opportunity and gave me a home where i can stay for the next 2 years.

Right now, thanks to SHE, my biggest worry about shifting houses have ceased and i even got a full time job and my son is finally attending school. Its a step by step basis and finally i had a chance to settle down and even plan to go back to school next year and think about getting a car license. I hope to be the best mother to provide everything for my son and not to have anymore worries regarding housing.i hope the other young single mothers out there will realize that there are help even though our age is a factor.Thank you to the donor & Aware for helping me and my son :)



Nydaa with her son.

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The view of Serenity's Balcony: Decorated with Art & Foliage

## Hugs & Giggles

By Hamizah SHE@Bukit Batok

I will not play at tug o' war.  
I'd rather play at hug o' war,  
Where everyone hugs  
Instead of tugs,  
Where everyone giggles  
And rolls on the rug,  
Where everyone kisses,  
And everyone grins,  
And everyone cuddles,  
And everyone wins.

My journey thru DCC\* with DOT have made me realize that there is people out there who do care about us and willing to help us bring up ourself back on our feet. The friendships made, the stories shared, the laughter we had really warms up my heart and will be the sweetest memories that will lingers in my mind. Thank u all!

\*All the S.H.E. residents attend Daughters of Tomorrow's signature Confidence Curriculum programme as part of their empowerment and employment support

## Advocacy in 2019

In 2019, issues such as difficulties accessing housing by unwed mothers, better enforcement of court orders and the costly effect of the PMD ban have been raised in parliament and local media. Our residents have also been quoted by the media:

- Enforcement of Court Orders on 30 Aug 2019; <https://www.straitstimes.com/forum/letters-in-print/better-enforcement-of-court-orders-needed>
- Make public rental housing available to under 21s too on 5 Oct 2019; <https://www.straitstimes.com/forum/letters-in-print/make-public-rental-housing-available-to-under-21s-too>
- E-scooter ban puts Singapore in a slow lane on 1 Jan 2020; <https://www.asiatimes.com/2020/01/article/e-scooter-ban-puts-singapore-in-a-slow-lane/>

We were also hopeful when this happened!

<https://www.straitstimes.com/politics/parliament-hdb-to-review-various-ways-it-communicates-with-single-unwed-parents>



Hamizah's DCC Graduation

It's really healing. It's been a couple of weeks and it's really really nice. The sense of ownership to decorate the place...A lot of trauma and problems were solved by moving here. We're really free & the children feel at ease. All they want to do is rollerblade downstairs, scooter around or go swimming,

SHE@SERENITY

# SHE Year End Celebration

Read more at: <https://www.aware.org.sg/2020/01/a-recap-s-h-e-project-celebration-2019/>



Volunteers' briefing



Two housemates catching up



Pastries prepared for the families



Children chose the books that were then purchased by Pei Yi



Volunteers and staff having food reflexology while the families enjoy the pastries and tea

## Share your stories!

We would love to hear from you. Send us your words, poems, drawings, and photos, upcoming events for the Feb 2020 newsletter.