

Halogen Foundation Singapore

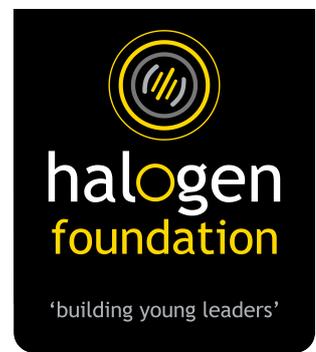
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Everyone is a Leader at the Cambridge-Halogen Youth Leadership Programme for 55 Secondary 4 Normal-Academic Students from Ang Mo Kio Secondary School**

Singapore, 21 May, 2012 – 90 elderly folks from Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) and 16 autistic children from Pathlight were served through five community projects planned and executed by 55 Ang Mo Kio Secondary School students. They cleaned AWWA vicinities, baked with the elderly and held a mini-carnival for the autistic children. Through the Cambridge-Halogen Youth Leadership Programme (CHYLP), the students received leadership development training by Halogen Foundation Singapore and were mentored by the Cambridge Chapter (Singapore) alumni members.

Unlike some of the usual CIPs (Community Involvement Programmes) that are planned for secondary students to participate in, the CIPs that the 55 Ang Mo Kio Secondary School students planned were projects they owned from start to end. The students were equipped with the conceptual understanding of leadership and practical skills. Halogen Foundation Singapore, a youth leadership development charity, champions that everyone is a leader as they define leadership as influence. Students were encouraged to live up to their potential as a leader and to consider how their choices decide the contribution and their legacy. They also learnt project management and communication skills. With this equipping, students were free to take ownership of their plans. Along the process, students were not instructed on what to do but are guided along.

From planning to execution, the students faced many obstacles. From the selection of beneficiaries, planned activities to final acceptance of their proposals and actual execution, the students had many reality checks. The mentors then debriefed the experiences and drew out the learning points. Barry Clarke, one of the Cambridge Chapter mentors observed: "I definitely saw more confidence arising as a result of the programme. That's without doubt. When I first met the children they were on the whole, reserved. Maybe it was because of the whole Caucasian thing – they spoke dialect. After that initial barrier, they were still a bit reserved. But as we started brainstorming projects together, they became more confident. I could see communication skills beginning to develop."

Martin Tan, Co-founder and Executive Director of Halogen Foundation Singapore, added on "We are excited to see the progress through this programme. This is exactly in line with what we want to build – young people who realise their own leadership potential and then step up to make a positive difference in the community. We want to build young leaders who are not merely competent but also possess good character and have compassionate hearts."

About Cambridge-Halogen Youth Leadership Programme (CHYLP)

The Cambridge Chapter (Singapore), together with Halogen Foundation Singapore, has partnered together in 2010 to organize a leadership training programme for secondary school students. The Youth Leadership Programme emphasises a critical but often neglected aspect of personal development and provides a channel through which Cambridge alumni can meaningfully contribute back to the local community.

Learning outcomes include:

- Students to gain awareness of their own leadership styles and influence as a leader
- Gain skills that will help the students' development as a leader
- Gain exposure on existing community issues and be challenged to act in their own ways (volunteering or advocacy)
- Understand the importance of thought leadership and apply it to complement more traditionally understood action-oriented leadership

About Halogen Foundation Singapore

Halogen Foundation Singapore is a not-for-profit, values-based organisation that is dedicated to youth leadership development. Defining leadership as influence, Halogen seeks to *build young leaders who will practically change the world in the issues they believe*. Halogen aims to make quality leadership education and experiences available and accessible to all young people regardless of race, income or religion. Through events, training programmes, action leadership projects, community building initiatives and research projects, Halogen inspires and influences a generation of young people to lead themselves and others well. With both character and competence, we believe that every young person can fulfill their dreams and be positive change-agents in society.

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