

Teen Challenge (Singapore)
76 Playfair Road
#07-05 LHK2 Building Lobby 3
Singapore 367996

Teen Challenge Youth Axis



Table of Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION TO TEEN CHALLENGE YOUTH AXIS	3
II.	PURPOSE	4
III.	DESCRIPTION	5 - 7
IV.	TESTIMONIES	8 - 13
V.	SUPPORT NEEDED & COST	14
VI.	CONTACT INFORMATION	13

I. Introduction to Teen Challenge Youth Axis

Teen Challenge Youth Axis (TCYA) – Pit Stop, formerly known as Teen Challenge Student Centre (TCSC) was founded in August 2003. It started from a programme which was then known as Teen Challenge Streetwise Programme in 1998. Now, Teen Challenge Youth Axis – Pit Stop runs a total of 8 programmes and services for ages 9 to 19.

At Teen Challenge Youth Axis – Pit Stop, we aim to create a warm environment where youths can feel secure, understood and empowered; a place where they can realign their lives and be encouraged to pursue their dreams. The staffs are fully committed in nurturing youths, in strength, wisdom, and discipline to bring positive influence to the community

Since 2003, Teen Challenge Youth Axis – Pit Stop has expanded its programmes to meet the needs of the youths in Singapore. The outreach programmes and projects includes: StreetWise Programme, Y! Groove, Y! Junior, Grads, AfterCare, Counselling Clinic, Tease Fix and SCENE.

The Street Wise Programme is a Drop-in programme for teen gang members from age 13 to 18. Y! Groove is a home referred programme catering to reach youths with high needs & delinquent behaviour. In the recent years, we started reaching out to younger teens, as such, Y! Junior was established for ages from 9 to 12. GRADS and Aftercare act as a platform where the staffs of Teen Challenge Youth Axis reconnect with the graduates of the programmes. Counselling Clinic provides clients with specific intervention for particular issues in their lives. Tease Fix is the creative arts unit where potential & talents of youth are developed through our drama productions. Lastly, SCENE is the research unit that seeks to explore the changing & emerging youth trends in Singapore.

II. Purpose

The purpose of TCYA is to reach out to the marginalized youth in the society. Currently, there are an increase number of troubled youths experimenting with sex and drugs at an even earlier age. Besides that, the perception of youths toward such issues has been appalling and disturbing. Along with the advancement in technology, the issues that these troubled youths deal with are more unique and complex than before such as cyber-bullying. Therefore, there is a need to address such issues head-on. To cater to the needs of the youths at different phases of their adolescence years, TCYA has implemented different programs to meet their specific needs.

The following are some links of the recent articles relating to teens' issues:

<http://justwoman.asiaone.com/Just%2BWoman/Motherhood/Stories/Story/A1Story20080313-54285.html>

<http://justwoman.asiaone.com/Just%2BWoman/Motherhood/Stories/Story/A1Story20080324-55860.html>

<http://justwoman.asiaone.com/Just%2BWoman/Motherhood/Stories/Story/A1Story20080324-55866.html>

<http://justwoman.asiaone.com/Just%2BWoman/Motherhood/Stories/Story/A1Story20080324-55868.html>

III. Description

Teen Challenge Youth Axis - Pit stop speaks of a place where individuals realign and review their goals and visions. This is to be a place where life skills are taught and imparted, mindsets challenged and changed, emotions healed, the soul of every individual recharged and restored.

Just like in a motor sport, a pit stop is where a racing vehicle stops in the pits during a race for refuelling, changing of new tyres, repairs, or other mechanical adjustments. At Teen Challenge Youth Axis, we liken the motor track to life: everyone is travelling on this track of life. As people go along in life, they may make mistakes or decisions that will caused them to need to go into a pit lane and into a pit stop.

A pit lane runs parallel to the start/finish straight and is connected at each end to the main track. It is a track that leads the drivers into the pit stop. The pit lane is like the juvenile rehabilitation system: a path that the youths who have broken the law go into.

In Singapore, youths who have transgressed the law are put into the juvenile rehabilitation system. We believe that a mistake, wrong decision or failure is not a fatality. It is not the end of a youth's dreams or life. It is just a digression, thus, *The Pit Stop* is a place where they can learn from their mistakes and then embark on the race of life again.

For youths who have no visions or dreams of their future, we hope that *The Pit Stop* can be a place where they are encouraged to dream, find the hope of life and discover their purpose in life.

At Teen Challenge Youth Axis – Pit Stop, the emphasis of each programme differs according to its core focus. The followings are some common components and objectives that are observed by majority of the programmes.

Component	Objective
Follow up	To ensure proper supervision and guidance for each participant. And to instill a sense of responsibility towards the programme. To also design and implement intervention plans that would contribute towards the participant's developments.
Group Talk + Group Activities + Life Skills	To help participant understand the emotional processes experienced when faced with different emotionally charged situations in life. To discover and explore the coping skills to be put into use.
Physical Training + Sports	To instill discipline and increase the fitness level of participant. To emphasis healthy living and team spirit.
Counselling	To provide specialized and professional counselling for youths, catering to special needs.
Case Management	To provide interventions such as crisis control, school reinstatement, both family and individual developmental issues.
Work Therapy	To help participant develop a sense of civic consciousness and responsibility.
Family Sessions	To keep the family informed of the participant's progress. To identify family needs or difficulties (if any) and refer to appropriate services as necessary. To strengthen the working relationship between the family and the centre. To be an emotional support to the parents when they share their woes.

Academics Emphasis / Tuition	To help participant understand the relevance of education and skill development in his/her life. To give assistance in their schoolwork through tuition.
Service Learning	To cultivate civic awareness and focus on reflective thinking. To develop life skills as well as a sense of responsibility and commitment towards the community.

IV. TESTIMONIES

A. K.L. Huang (24 years old)

In March 1999, out of rebellion and a desire to spite my cousin who was against me involving with gangs, I made a decision to be recruited into a gang. In August, a schoolmate of mine, who was in the same gang as my cousin, introduced me to her gang leader, since then, many occurrences took place in my life.

After I joined gang, I started playing truant from school two to three days a week. I began to go out more often with my gang friends. We would smoke and hang out at shopping malls and coffee shops till late at night. As a result, my studies suffered. My teachers were very concerned by the sudden change in my attendance and results. They tried to advise me but it was to no avail.

Those days, I would get into fights very often. Many times, we would find trouble with other people and start fights with them. On many occasions, fights were started just because my friends and I were too bored and wanted to have fun and thrills. On other occasions, it was due to incidents like staring incidents or standing up for other gang members that would get us into fights. Soon, fighting became part of my lifestyle and I almost treated it as a hobby. The police caught me on a few occasions but that did not stop me from creating trouble. I continued my ways and even got worse.

By October 1999, I was already running away from home frequently, often after quarrelling with my parents. I would stay away from home for at least a few days each time. My parents were devastated and utterly disappointed with me. They wanted to help me but didn't know how. The more they probed into my life, the more rebellious I became.

In December 1999, I left that gang together with my other friend. The following day, we joined a rival gang. I got worst after joining that gang. I soon became one of the 'Heads' and I had a group of people under my care. I would train them to fight

and we would stay out through the night to 'spar'. I got into more troubles as I continued my lifestyle as a gang member.

In May 2001, I received a letter by the CID and they put me on probation for at least 6 months. I had to attend a programme run by Teen Challenge (Singapore). I had to report for programme everyday after my school lessons until 6pm. I also had a curfew of weekdays 8pm and weekends 3pm to oblige to. Initially I hated going down for programme. I had a very bad attitude but the counsellors and youth workers were all very patient with me. They spent a lot of time talking to me and did not give up on me. Gradually, they won my trust and respect. I began to share my problems with them and they helped me through many occasions; lending listening ear, giving helpful counsel. They influenced me positively and helped me to break free from my negative peers and since then, my life took a change for the better.

I am so thankful that I was put into a programme initiated by Youth Axis instead of being put into a Girls Home or Girls Hostel. Putting me into a programme gave me a chance to change for the better without having a bad record. I also want to thank the staff of Teen Challenge (Singapore) for all that they have done. I am who I am today because they have believed in me and they did not give up on me when I did something wrong.

B. J.H. Lee (19 years old)

My parents divorced when I was very young. I stayed with my father and grandparents. My father was always away on business trips, so my sister and I were left to take care of ourselves most of the time.

Since Primary School, I was very playful. I was not good in my studies; all I ever thought of was fun. There was once when I was alone on my way home when I saw a wallet lying on the table, I took the wallet and ran away immediately. The wallet contained two \$50 notes and I used the money to buy a second-hand mobile phone. After the incident, I thought I would not steal again because I was really very scared at that moment. But since that first time, it actually started my thrill to steal.

When I entered Secondary School, I knew a few friends. We got very close as we had the same "hobby" that we picked up together - smoking. I started all my illegal activities when I hung out with them. I joined a gang, sold pirated VCDs and stealing became part and parcel of my everyday life.

We went to the supermarket almost every day to steal food and other items. We went in with an empty bag and would usually leave with a bag full of food. We never thought of the consequences. Until one day, we went to one particular supermarket to steal again. My friends stole packets of potato chips and placed them into the plastic bags they took from the supermarket. They opened the packets of potato chips and ate them while walking around the supermarket to look for more items to steal. After stealing several items, adding up to over a hundred dollars worth, we decided to leave. Unfortunately, the supermarket workers had already observed our act through the closed circuit television and had been waiting for us at the exit. They called our homes and one by one our parents came to sort the matter with the supermarket management. However, after the incident, I still did not learn my lesson and once in a while I would still steal for the thrill.

Stealing was not all; I started to get involved with gangs. Picking fights and sparring with people became part of my hobby. After school, my friends and I lingered around any place we could find. We smoked and sparred everyday. My results in school were badly affected, but it did not bother me at all.

When I was in Secondary One, I was caught smoking by the police and was given a warning letter. My parents were very upset with me but I did not care. I continued smoking knowing that I could get caught again. True enough, when I was in Secondary Two, I was caught smoking again by my discipline master. The Health Sciences Authority was notified but before the letter from HSA was even sent to my house to inform my parents, I was caught the third time by a HSA officer. Despite knowing that if I were to get caught another time, I would be charged in court, I continued smoking.

In Secondary Three, I was caught for the possession of a packet of cigarettes by my form teacher. The case was transferred to HSA and I was charged in court when I was in Secondary Four. The judge found out that I was involved in a gang. With all the charges against me, I was sentenced to 18 months probation, 60 CSO hours and to attend a programme at Teen Challenge Youth Axis .

Initially, I did not give much thought to the programme, thinking that it would not be of any help to me. Thus, I continued my breaking curfew and smoking. But as I went through the programme, I started opening up myself to the staff and volunteers at Youth Axis. Each day, they encouraged me to change. Soon, I realized that I could not go on living the way I was. Finally one day, I made a decision to change. Initially it was tough to kick the habit of smoking. But after weeks of struggling, I finally kicked the bad habit. However, a few months later, I fell into temptation, and was hooked on again. I was very disappointed and thought of giving up altogether. But the staff at Youth Axis did not give up on me. They kept encouraging me, spurring me on. Finally, after many months, I not only overcame the bad habits in my life, I found a new group of friends who were of positive influence to me.

Now, I understand that there is a consequence to each decision we make in life. I also understood the importance of mixing with the right company. I wish to express much thanks and appreciation to the staff of Youth Axis for their support and for believing in me and never giving up on me.

C. Z.C. Guay (19 years old)

I used to be a nerd when I was in primary school and people liked to pick on me and bully me. I had difficulty communicating with my peers.

When I was in secondary one, I did not do well in my studies, thus, I was retained. I got to know a few friends and blended into their group easily. Soon, I picked up smoking and started staying out late into the night everyday.

Soon, I was invited to join their gang, without hesitation, I agreed. When I was in the gang, my friends and I pick fights wherever we go. I was involved in fights very often. We hanged around Tampines mart every single day. Not just with gangs, I was also very involved in BGRs, moving from one relationship to another. As I was bad at coping with issues relating to relationships, I began to turn to drugs and got more involved in fights to let off my frustration when my relationships failed. On numerous occasions, I even involved in illegal business.

A year later I was called up by the police saying that I was involved in a secret society and had me to report at the CID Cantonment Complex the very next day. I was placed on the StreetWise Programme, and was referred to Teen Challenge Youth Axis.

In Teen Challenge Youth Axis, I got to know a group of volunteers and staff. Soon, they become my friends. They were really nice but strict to me. Although initially, I was difficult to work with, but they never gave up on me but kept sowing into my life. Several times, I did not abide to the rules and was extended for a few months. But I am grateful that as I looked back, it was the patient workers at Youth Axis that believed in me.

Today, my life is not the same. I learn how to discipline myself and to make the right choices in life! Without the help of Youth Axis, I will not be able to do it! Thank you all at Youth Axis!!

V. Support Needed & Costs

The following Operating Budget is based on our yearly operating cost (With 7 full-time staff):

ACCOUNT NAME	ESTIMATED COSTS
Salaries	\$ 257,075.00
Staff Training and Development, Medical & Insurance	\$ 8,000.00
Rental, Premise upkeep, Utilities, Housekeeping etc	\$ 63,600.00
Programmes & Activities	\$ 38,000.00
Telecommunication, Internet/software development & Equipment maintenance	\$ 8,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 374,675.00

VI. Contact Information

You are invited to be part of this meaningful cause by becoming a sponsor of Teen Challenge Youth Axis. Some of the ways that you could contribute are as followed:

- Help cover the monthly/ daily operational cost of running the Youth Axis (please refer to V. Budget)
- Contribute donation-in-kind for the monthly/ daily operational cost or activities

Teen Challenge Youth Axis is appreciative of any kind of support; in turn your organization is also able to benefit from this sponsorship. Teen Challenge Youth Axis will provide you/ your organization with the following key benefits:

- Opportunity to advertise and promote your organization/ your support on all Youth Axis publicity materials
- Significant brand awareness for your organization
- Become vital supporter of Youth Axis's cause in touching and changing young lives

Please note that funds raised are for the sole benefit of Teen Challenge (Singapore). Therefore your generosity is greatly appreciated.

To secure this meaningful opportunity, please contact:

Rev. Sam Kuna, Executive Director - Teen Challenge (Singapore)

Mobile: 9002 2417

Email: ed@teenchallenge.org.sg

To find out more about Teen Challenge Youth Axis – Teen Challenge (Singapore), please contact:

Joyce Chan, Centre Director (Teen Challenge Youth Axis)

Contact Number: 6286 3329

Email: joyce@teenchallenge.org.sg

We thank you for your consideration of this opportunity.