



*We have always been blessed to have amazing volunteers who have dedicated their time and skills to help the visually impaired. In the last few months, we were lucky to have volunteers from all over the globe joining us in our Home!*

*Here are some stories written by our very own volunteers on their experiences with us. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our dedicated volunteers who have been by our side supporting us and our cause!*



## Outing. Classroom. Waterfall.

These are some of Khaw Sheng's favorite words, at least on this particular day. "Teacher Kaila, waterfall!" he said over and over as he sat in the shallow end of the pool at a local park. Khaw Sheng couldn't see the fountain that was spraying water into the pool, but to him it sounded like a waterfall.

Here are some of the great things about Khaw Sheng:

- He smiles all the time.
- He remembers volunteers by name and knows their voices.
- When we sing "You are my Sunshine" in class, Khaw Sheng always joins in.
- Sometimes when I talk, he giggles like I've just said the funniest thing ever.
- He is determined. Learning new things can be a slow process for him, but he works diligently.
- When we're on an outing he talks about his classroom. When we're in the classroom, he talks about outings.
- My name can be hard to pronounce, but from the beginning Khaw Sheng has always gotten it right.



This young man is a lot of fun. He always puts a smile on my face. On a recent outing with the children from the Deaf-Blind Multi-Handicapped program, we all went to the park and spent a couple of hours playing in the pool. I spent a lot of time sitting with Khaw Sheng while he enthusiastically splashed me and talked about waterfalls.

Totally blind and diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, 16-year-old Khaw Sheng is wheelchair-bound. He can't swim around the pool on his own, but that doesn't stop him from enthusiastically enjoying life. He loves field trips, and is always inviting volunteers and visitors to take him on an outing.

Through the DBMH program, Khaw Sheng is steadily improving his motor and communication skills. He practices grasping small objects to strengthen his grip, and he is learning to be more conversant. Although Khaw Sheng is still growing in cognitive skills, he is friendly and interacts well with visitors. He likes to talk and sing, and has a cheery demeanor. Thanks to the DBMH program, Khaw Sheng has been able to grow, learn, and flourish. He is determined to succeed, and his big smile and infectious laugh bring joy to those who work with him.

*Kaila Demoss*

**HELP!**



St. Nicholas' Home relies almost entirely to the donations from generous donors like you to sustain our work for the blind and visually impaired community. As the needs of the BVI community expand and evolve, our need for support continues to grow. We are appealing to you, our generous donor to introduce ONE of your family member or friend to join you in supporting our effort. Please fill in the details on the back of this slip and mail it back to us with your donation. Deepest thanks from all of us and God bless you.

**ST. NICHOLAS' HOME PENANG**

No 4, Jalan Bagan Jermal,  
10250 Penang,  
Malaysia

Tel: 604 - 2290800

Fax: 604-2278590

E-mail: info@snh.org.my

Website: www.snh.org.my

Facebook: St Nicholas Home Penang

**Coming up in 2014!**

**World Sight Day**  
17/10/14

**White Cane Day**  
18/10/14



**You Are My Sight 2**  
15/11/14

**你是我的眼 II 慈善演唱会**  
为槟城圣尼古拉盲人之家筹募培训基金

15-11-2014 (星期六)  
17:30pm  
Straits Quay Convention Centre

为槟城圣尼古拉盲人之家筹募培训基金

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BSG Property 虎华时报 Straits Quay

# THE ABBA QUEEN



Elizabeth is one of the senior citizens of this home, and our day to meet has finally arrived; she and I have been waiting for this interview since last week! I ask Elizabeth to wait for me as I went to bring two glasses of tea before we started.

Elizabeth was born in 1954, in a family of 8 boys and 3 girls. This is where we start our conversation. "I came to St. Nicholas when I was a baby. I was 8 months old," says Elizabeth. She explains that she started her education with kindergarten and primary school here. She loved traveling, not only between

places but also between jobs. "I tried many jobs, maybe 4 or 5! After secondary school, I went to the Gurney Work Training Center and learned skills such as assembling bolts and knots and other handcrafts. Not having the ability to see did not mean that I couldn't work. God creates everything for a reason," says Elizabeth. She believes that there is one God who has a purpose for everyone.

It's a cloudy day and Elizabeth knows it because of the cool wind that is blowing. She asks if it is raining, because it smells like it is. Elizabeth continues, "I like the outdoors. We used to go to picnics and visit different places like radio stations and factories. There would always be someone who explained to us about the process of making a product." Elizabeth has worked in places such as toy, sweets, and furniture companies. The longest period of time that she stayed in a job was for 17 years, between 1990 and 2007. It also was her last job. After that, she lived in Butterworth for a while and then moved to St. Nicholas' Home as a permanent resident.

I ask about school and how she found the experience. She liked subjects such as English and Malay languages. She enjoyed history, too, but said that mathematics and physics were her enemies! She studied in a mainstream school for a few years and was in an integrated program. "We were mixing with sighted kids and I made many friends. Some of them come to visit me here every now and then and some migrated overseas. We had resource teachers who were familiar with Braille," Elizabeth explained, "but they hadn't worked with kids with visual impairments before, so it was not easy to communicate. They taught us cookery and needlework."



These days Elizabeth spends the daytime reading mystery books, and she loves stories and listening to music. She tells me, "I like the stories in which orphan kids face the ups and downs of life and grow up, like Oliver Twist and David Copperfield by Charles Dickens." She uses audiobooks before bedtime, which seems to be a quiet, peaceful time. However, "Sometimes I fall asleep and when I wake up I notice that one chapter is already over!" Elizabeth says this with a laugh. I tell her that this happens to me, too! Elizabeth sings as well and listens to music a lot; her favorite band is Abba from Sweden. She shares a room with a friend who recently moved in. "Joy is a nice lady," Elizabeth tells me, "and it is comfortable for both of us to stay together."

Elizabeth was able to go to school and learn skills, travel to different cities, and make friends. She is grateful for her life, which is a gift from God and is good in many ways. When the time comes for us to say goodbye, we know that we have become friends. I wish her a good day and I am happy that this talk was something that she enjoyed as much as I did.

*Enaz Yasamin*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_