

IJ Youth Mission

(5 missions in 5 IJ Secondary Schools)

The CHIJ Youth Mission (IJYM) aims to provide an enabling environment for our girls to recognise and promote the dignity of human persons. The students over the years have been reaching out to the less fortunate in our society extending to poorer areas of South East Asia.

All IJ Youth Mission members in the school are given a chance to work together with four other IJ Schools, CHIJ St. Nicholas, CHIJ St. Teresa's, CHIJ St Joseph's and CHIJ Katong. The bond that this CCA shares, is the IJ mission and vision that belongs to all the IJ schools.

During the years, a wide range of activities are conducted for members: Community Service, Reflection on Talks/Videos, Fundraising for the Needy, Home Visits, Leadership Camps and Development of Personal Skills through craft works and other activities.

Combined IJ Schools Activities

In IJYM, our members are also given opportunities to organise and participate in combined schools' activities with IJYM in our sister schools. Activities include:

- Combined schools' camp
- IJYM Fun Day
- Leadership workshop
- Combined schools' presentations

At [CHIJ TP \(Sec\)](#), their local outreach, which has been successfully on-going for several years now, the One-room flat project, is now self-initiated. Teachers are happy to report they have very responsible student leaders so IJYM can now expand to serve new mission centres. Lunch in the Dark was a very enriching experience for the girls - highly recommended for other IJYM members to experience. They have modified group reflections to include more open sharings to help cultivate in-depth reflections with the girls. More bonding activities were most helpful so they had no attendance issues.

For 2016, in addition to the on-going projects, IJTP worked with CanossaVille teaching the children art & craft skills. It has planned fellowship sessions with the Good Shepherd Centre.

All members participate in the annual IJ Youth Mission Inter-school Competition to showcase their community service and programme for the year. The IJ Youth Mission (CHIJ Secondary) has attained the Certificate of Distinction from 2014 to 2019.



CHIJ TP students with their art and craft skills

[CHIJ Katong Convent](#) IJYM's work with Group Life to reach out to the elderly was successful. The focus was on local missions in 2015, growing their IJYM internally by building up the girls' commitment to IJYM. For 2016, KC continued working with Group Life teaching them more IT skills, more interaction activities with the elderly.



Interaction with the Elderly

- Student-led day activities such as beach cleaning and school-based service learning
- Conducting 1-to-1 workshops teaching seniors on the use of IT gadgets at Goodlife! Centre
- Organising games and art activities for elderly residents of All Saints Nursing Home
- Hosted IJYM groups of the five CHIJ schools during inter-school games and presentations
- Attained the highest 'Distinction Award' for three consecutive years in the annual Combined Inter-school IJYM Presentation

[CHIJ St Theresa's Convent IJYM](#) had worked well with their new mission partner, Beyond Social Services, to serve the community, especially the young. Local outreach last year was with Willing Hearts. For 2016, STC worked with another outreach centre. Teachers left the initiative to the IJYM girls to plan and organize the outreach.



The members with their teacher-advisors

We have been called to serve the disadvantaged both locally and overseas. Our mission strives to bring to others justice, peace and joy, and is the ground of our service with freedom and out of love.

The Infant Jesus Youth Mission has had another eventful year visiting the elderly at the Moral Link Home in Telok Blangah, raising funds and educating others about 'Dignity' and going on an Overseas Community Involvement Project in Cambodia to develop our ability to empathise with others. This experience provides our members a platform to understanding to see from another person's perspective and gain a greater depth for reflection as well as personal self-transition and awareness of the other.

We also participate in several activities, camps and leadership trainings with our sister IJ schools and have especially enjoyed the IJYM Funday @ STC! However, despite all the hustle and bustle, we were still able to clinch a GOLD AWARD for IJ Youth Mission Inter-School Competition in 2011.

[CHIJ St Nicholas \(Sec\)](#) IJYM continued their long-term collaboration with Lion Befrienders. The members have been reaching out to the elderly @ Tampines. IJYM was successful in deepening the relationship between the girls and their elderly friends. They also brought the elderly on an outing to the school. SNGS continued their long-term mission outreach in Siem Reap @ Kbon Primary School. They raised funds to build their school canteen and stock their school library. Last year, only the teachers were able to make the mission trip due to MOE constraints.

For 2016, SNGS continued working with SASCO to reach out to the elderly through their various centres and homes and forge a new partnership with APSN. With more teachers, various outreach activities can run concurrently, once or twice a month. SNGS continued their long-term mission outreach in Siem Reap @ Kbon Primary School. They raised funds to build their water tank. Girls are involved in the planning of outreach programmes. Continued self-initiated projects by the pupils are on-going.



Our members with their teacher advisors

Our CCA's vision is "Joy through Service", and we seek to live out our school's values especially of Love and Justice through our activities. We do outreach service projects with organisations such as Lions Befrienders, SASCO, APSN, and Ang Mo Kio Thye Hua Kwan. We also carry out fund-raising projects when needed. We go through skills training such as how to communicate with the elderly and simple dialect lessons, as well as handicraft-making which we can do together with the elderly and the disadvantaged whom we visit or for our fund-raising projects.



Befriending Projects at Lions Befrienders @ Tampines Seniors Day-care Centre

Lions Befrienders @ Tampines is one of the disadvantaged organisations that our club partners with. On a regular basis, the members of the IJYM will plan and carry out activities to engage the elderly in the Seniors Day-care Centre. Some of the activities include handicrafts, sing-a-longs and simple games. We aim to foster stronger bonds between our members and the elderly at the day-care centre. Going forward, we have embarked on a scrapbooking project, pairing each senior with 1-2 students of the club.

Befriending Projects at APSN

APSN is yet another organisation that our club partners and hold interaction sessions with.

Befriending Projects with AMK THK

Students befriend seniors and have interactive sessions through games and arts and crafts activities.

Befriending Projects with SUNDAC

Clients from SUNDAC visit the school during long recess on Fridays to mingle with the IJYM members and learn life skills. Students use this opportunity to learn about the clients and their interests.

Partnership with other organisations

We are looking into partnerships with other organisations as well.

- Skills Development
- To effectively equip our members with relevant skills for our outreach programmes, IJYM members and teachers have planned and undergone skills training programmes, such as:
- Art & Craft
- Tie Dye Session
- Learning Dialects Session
- Finger Knitting; Making of handicrafts with yarn
- Upper Body Exercises
- Evergreen Songs Sing-a-longs
- “Soft skills” e.g. starting conversations and writing proposals
- Fine Motor VS Gross Motor Skills

Fund Raising Projects (Entrepreneurship)

As part of our outreach to the disadvantaged, IJYM members also plan and engage in fund raising events to raise funds for future events. Here are some fund raisers we have conducted:

- Sale of balloons during Jubilate X
- Sale of flowers during ELDDS Showcase



[CHIJ St Joseph's Convent](#) IJYM did successful outreach at the All Saints Home and also HOME. They had organized successfully an outing for HOME residents to SJC. The Shoebox project was also a great success. For 2016, SJC continued local mission outreach with All Saints Home and HOME.



Our members with their teacher-Advisors

Our activities include meaningful community involvement programmes like fund raising projects for the needy and volunteering at Homes for the Elderly. Members are transformed by the experience of servant leadership and grow as they listen to the needs of others in their community.

IJYM ACTIVITIES

- Visiting the St Theresa's Home and All Saints Home for the Aged
- Food collection and distribution to needy families
- Fund raising for our outreach activities
- Joint IJYM activities with the four other IJYM schools
- Weekly meetings at school

ACHIEVEMENTS

Year	Award	Name of Competition
2018	Accomplishment Award	Annual Inter School IJYM Competition
2017	Accomplishment Award	
2016	Distinction Award	
2015	Achievement Award	
2014	Distinction Award	

Besides service, [the IJYM members from all the 5 IJ Sec schools](#) meet several times annually for the IJYM Fun Day at IJ Toa Payoh, the combined Annual School Camp at IJ St Nicholas Girls, the Exco Leadership Workshop at IJ St Joseph's Convent, and the Inter-Schools Exhibition 2016 on the theme- Dignity Challenged.

In 2017, the IJYM Fun Day was held on 1 Mar, the Combined School Camp on 25 Mar. The theme for the year's Inter-School Competition and Exhibition was "Walking with Sufferers". The presentation took place on 23 Aug 2017.

IJYM members can look forward to having new IJYM T-shirts.

CHIJ St Theresa's Convent is appealing for textbooks and assessment books on behalf of the Mission Centre @ Payatas, Philippines. Schools who are able to donate, kindly liaise with the teacher in charge IJYM KC.

CHIJ St Nicolas has supported the Laos Mission through their contribution of stationary and books and CHIJ Katong sewed face masks for those in need and contributed groceries to the families affected by COVID-19 pandemic and they worked with IJHCC in their distribution of the foodstuff especially during the fasting period.

It is heartening to know that some of the Alumni from the Youth Mission from the CHIJ Schools are in touch with one another and have continued with their outreach even when they have left school when studying at the tertiary institutions and when they start working.

[You are invited to join the IJ Youth Mission to acquire inner strength and character as well as to discover the meaning and purpose of serving the community.](#)

THE IJ AMBASSADORS' PROGRAMME

CHIJ has launched an IJ Ambassadors' Programme in August 2015 with these objectives:

- To preserve the heritage and legacy of the IJ identity in CHIJ schools as defined by the founder's original initiatives and intent, enriched by the legacy of Rev Mother Mathilde
- To align culture-building practices and policies in CHIJ schools to the ideals of an IJ educational experience while making it relevant in the current context
- To assist the future leadership of the CHIJ schools in their efforts to be faithful to the IJ guiding spirit



(Above) Participants in prayer reflecting on the theme: "Educating hearts and minds"

Teachers and past pupils who believe in the IJ education, mission and ideals and have a strong conviction of the need to keep the IJ identity, heritage and legacy alive in the CHIJ school, have asked for a 2 day session on understanding the "IJ Spirituality" and the IJ vision of education as envisioned by the founder.



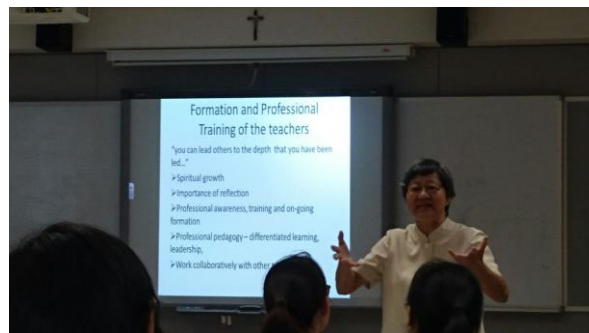
These IJ Ambassadors see themselves willing to live out the IJ Spirituality in their role as ambassadors and educators and contribute to culture-building in their respective school grounded in the IJ Spirituality



Their Commitment

- They attended a 2-day session on “Understanding the IJ Spirituality” in September 2015 facilitated by Sr. Maria, and in 2016, they attended a Day of Recollection and 2 meetings and participated in collaborative networking and sharing of how IJ values / spirituality are lived out and how decisions are being made with that in mind. Again in 2017, they attended 2 meetings and had two sessions to deepen their knowledge of the IJ Spirituality.
- They shared practices from their own CHIJ school and collectively develop collaterals that provide guidance and education to all staff and students in the CHIJ schools
- They reviewed the IJ identity of school versus desired culture and practices and policies that can better reflect IJ ideals and philosophy.
- It is hoped that they will work together to create a repository of codified information for future generations of IJ schools.

The session started with a prayer service on the theme: “God is with us”



Overview of IJ Ambassadors' Plans from 2015 to 2020

2015 - 2017	2017 – 2018	2018 - 2020
Original Initiative and intent	The CHIJ Mission and story in Singapore	Meanings, Values and Symbols of CHIJ Schools
Blessed Nicolas Barre	Mother Mathilde and CHIJMES	

At the first meeting on 3 May 2016, the IJ Ambassadors from the 11 CHIJ Schools came to share their resources on the founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre, Mother Mathilde and the Programmes for Induction and Founder’s Day with the aim of streamlining collective knowledge and publication of critical pieces of information on our Founder Nicolas Barre, Mother Mathilde ... for future use.

They organised themselves into four project teams.

Team 1	To design learning journey to CHIJMES for Staff induction
Team 2	To prepare the Student Handbook (Pr) with the IJ Narrative (do a 2-page writeup of Mother Mathilde and CHIJ Mission and story in Singapore for 2018 Students' handbook and diary of CHIJ)
Team 3	To prepare the Student Handbook (Sec) with the IJ Narrative (do a 2-page writeup of Mother Mathilde and CHIJ Mission and story in Singapore for 2018 Students' handbook and diary of CHIJ)
Team 4	To prepare the Founder's Day Programme and Instructional Resources – craft and design suggested theme / programme / activities to commemorate Founder's Day 2017/2018

In 2016 and 2017, there were two sessions on deepening their understanding of the IJ Spirituality, to know why they do what they do and two sessions where the IJ Ambassadors worked together on themed topics.

From 2018, the IJ Ambassadors were introduced to an experience of a Mission Encounter at the IJ Homes and Children Centres where they were introduced to the history and mission of the Centre. Subsequently, they started visiting CHIJ Schools beginning with CHIJ St Nicholas. At CHIJ St Nicholas, the principal and her staff shared a brief history of the school and how the school helps the students and staff to understand, appreciate and experience the IJ Spirituality, its mission and values. At the end of the sharing, the IJ Ambassadors were taken on a school tour. To date, the IJ Ambassadors had visited CHIJ OLG on 26 April 2019 and CHIJ Katong Primary on 2 August 2019. The scheduled visits to CHIJ Pr and Sec Schools Toa Payoh and CHIJ St Joseph's Convent had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 Circuit Breaker

Staff Induction Part II: Learning Journey at CHIJMES

Part II of the CHIJ Staff Induction, the Learning Journey to CHIJMES for 2019 was facilitated by the IJ Ambassadors and Old Girls of the following schools

5 Apr CHIJ Induction for Sec Schools – CHIJ Kellock
12 Jul CHIJ Induction for Pri Schools – CHIJ STC
15 & 24 Jul CHIJ Induction for EAS Staff - CHIJ SJC and Old girls

Student Handbook: The Spread of the IJ Mission

Since 2016, the IJ Ambassadors have worked on fine-tuning the contents of important IJ history found in all IJ schools' Student Handbook/ Planner/ Diary.

2016: write-up on Blessed Nicolas Barre (primary and secondary versions)

2017: write-up on Mother Mathilde (primary and secondary versions)

2018: write-up on the CHIJ Story in Singapore (primary and secondary versions)

Other Project Teams' Work

The projects that were planned for the year yielded pretty good results. The ambassadors came together to complete these projects:-

Feedback Form for IJ CHIJMES Learning Journey (as part of staff induction)
Fun facts @ Contact Time (fun facts for IJ schools to use to familiarize staff on the story of CHIJ)
Video recording of CHIJ (can be possibly used for each school's induction, briefing to parents etc...)
IJ for Life Programme for Primary Schools comprising:-
Guidelines for P6 Graduation
Sisterly Love@IJ for P1s
Service@IJ for P3s
IJ for Life Programme for Secondary Schools comprising:-
IJ Friends are Friends for Life for Sec 1s
Reconciliation, Reflection and Renewal for Sec 4s

2020 has been a quiet year because of the lock down.

We continue to praise God for his blessings on us all for we know that all the gifts we have and every blessing that we receive come from Him.

We are grateful to Ms Magdalene Chin, Principal of CHIJ Kellock and her Planning Team and all the IJ Ambassadors from the respective CHIJ Schools for keeping the IJ spirit alive for all IJ staff and students as one IJ community.