

## **NTUC Newsletter**

18 June 2010

### **Young NTUC goes wild**

*By Vanessa Teo*

Party, booze and fun. That's definitely not the type of "wild" Young NTUC is talking about here. Instead, Young NTUC is going "wild" by reaching out to help vulnerable wildlife animals with their recently formed affinity group, TYN Wildlife. On 12 June 2010, Young NTUC organised its first official volunteering activity for TYN Wildlife, when 11 Young NTUC activists headed down to ACRES (Animal Concerns Research & Education Society) Wildlife Rescue Centre to do their part for the animals.

"Young NTUC has always encouraged our activists to come together for the good of our community. Setting up TYN Wildlife demonstrates the direction that Young NTUC is keen to pursue – that of cause-based activism. KidzQuest, 350 Singapore, PC Project are examples of the human and non human-based causes that our activists have stepped forward for. We are encouraged to see our activists using their own time to mobilise resources to help make Singapore a better place to live in, and in so doing, learn more about the Labour Movement and what it represents. It is really an urban symphony of sorts," said Young NTUC Executive Secretary Steve Tan.

Leading the new affinity group is 33-year-old Information Technology Manager Elaine Leong, who was glad that TYN Wildlife could tap on Young NTUC to effectively send the message of saving animals in the wild.

"Young NTUC has helped us volunteers in the areas of logistics as well as equipping us with the knowledge as to how we can generate awareness on the issues of wildlife to the public. Today, many youths are very proactive and show great interest in green matters and wildlife animal protection. Young NTUC is the perfect platform we can use to broadcast to the youths because of its large number of young members," said Miss Leong.

Activities and affinity groups as such have also managed to engage youths who are new to Young NTUC. One of them was 27-year-old Lab Technician April Gwee who found the volunteering activities meaningful.

She said: "I just came to know about YNTUC activities not long ago, and I find this volunteering activity a very good platform to engage us. If there are anymore activities in the pipeline, I would want to join again.

Volunteers at the centre did not worry about getting dirty and braved the rain as they did gardening, reorganised cages for the animals, and prepared educational materials such as animal face masks for potential student visits.

**“What we need to bring in now are members of the public into the picture. And, yes, we have ACRES on the alert, we have AVA on the alert, but if you can have four million Singaporeans on the alert, without a doubt we can solve this problem.” – Louis Ng, ACRES Executive Director**

**“Young NTUC has been really helpful, and I’ve learnt that this is the first team that has just been formed for the wildlife animals. It’s quite encouraging to see how many people actually signed up, and at the end of the day we actually know that a community is really there to help, not us, but the animals. We hope Young NTUC can be ambassadors for the wildlife, and help us raise awareness on this.” – ACRES Director of Community Outreach, Charlene Tan (right in picture above), releasing a python back into the wild after microchipping it.**

### **Be A TYN Wildlife Volunteer**

Have a desire to help animals in need? Want to make a difference to the lives of these animals? TYN Wildlife volunteers get the opportunity to work closely with animals and help in various ways such as assisting with animal care, facilitating of wildlife educational programmes and preventing wildlife trade. Sign up now at <http://yntuc.sg/wildlifesignup>  
\*vaccinations required