

MEDIA RELEASE

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Boys' Town to set "He ain't heavy, he's my brother" record in support of Singapore's bid for the 2010 YOG

As part of Boys' Town's 60th anniversary celebrations, an unprecedented record of the greatest number of people being piggy-backed across a distance of six metres in a single location will be held at Boys' Town on 15 February, 2008.

This is in support of Singapore's bid for the 2010 Youth Olympic Games. Mr Teo Ser Luck, Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), will be the guest of honour and a participant in this event. Students and teachers from Assumption English School (AES) and Assumption Vocational Institute (AVI) which are part of the Boys' Town community and campus as well as friends of Boys' Town will also be involved in this feat.

This event is a joint initiative between four final-year communications students from Nanyang Technological University and Boys' Town. The symbol of a person piggy-backing another person is significant to Boys' Town as it represents the organisation's motto, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother."

"As youths, we want Singapore to win the bid to host the first Youth Olympic Games," said student project member Crystal Neo. "Pitting ourselves against a huge city like Moscow is no easy feat and we want to salute our country for persisting on and making it this far."

"Similarly, piggy-backing another person en mass may be a challenge but we will show our determination by setting that record," she added. "We chose to work with Boys' Town for our final year project because they have been providing support for the youths for the past 60 years."

In line with the spirit of the Olympic Games, the act of piggy-backing also reflects a sense of friendship and solidarity among the participants who are determined to complete the task together as an organisation. Boys' Town's record setting feat also showcases their support for Singapore's youth sporting culture as well.

"I believe in the kind of spirit and values that this exercise brings into the life of people," said Br Emmanuel, who has been at service with Boys' Town since 1956 "This event should not be just a record setting event but a reminder to us that it is never too late to give a helping hand to someone in need."

For Mrs Irene Loi, Director-General of Boys' Town, this event helps to reinforce Boys' Town's mission. She said: "After 60 years, the mission has not changed – we are here to bring hope to the youths. Our motto reflects the reaching out and helping of another human being."

"We wanted it to be a record-setting event as it represents the charting of new grounds to reach out to the youths," Mrs Loi added.

Sky Kam, 16, a Boys' Town Home boarder and AES student, has been preparing hard for the event. "I am looking forward to the event," he said. "We had been practicing carrying each other and it was fun. I managed to piggy-back my friend across six metres and felt great."

The event is in partnership with the National Council of Social Service's celebration of 50 years of structured social service in Singapore.

Concurrent to the record setting event, an open house would be held at Boys' Town to showcase the organisation's facilities and activities as well as its progress over the years.

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About Boys' Town

Boys' Town was established in 1948 as a charitable institution dedicated to providing youths between the age of 11 and 18 with guidance, shelter, education, vocational training and practical living skills. We care for boys who come primarily from large, troubled, single parent and financially needy families as well as those who find themselves in various states of difficulties.

Boys' Town strives to build a nurturing and loving environment for our boys. Our work ethos is reflected in our motto "He ain't heavy, he's my brother."

Boys' Town is a member of the National Council of Social Services but does not receive any funding from the Community Chest.

For more information, please log on to: <http://www.boystown.org.sg/>