

ALL PARENTS WANT to give their children the best they can in life, but how many take the time to show their young ones the true beauty of sharing?

Children are never too young to volunteer or do their bit for charity, and Chua Jin Sen is an example. Jin Sen, who was six years old when he shot to fame in 2012 after starring in a series of humorous videos on Youtube with his older brother, gives his *hong bao* (red packet money) each year to a Mongolian child that his family has adopted. In February 2012 he shot a video to raise awareness for the Dyslexia Association of Singapore and he also raised funds for them through sales of National Day-themed T-shirts, in June that same year.

Volunteering as a family provides endless teaching opportunities for parents to inculcate in children a sense of community, care for the environment and respect for animals.



RESPECTING FURRY FRIENDS

Dog and cat shelters require adult or at least, older student volunteers but young children can be brought along. They can partake in simple tasks under adult supervision such as cleaning cages or feeding the animals. And of course, there will always be time to cuddle the residents once tasks are done! Shelters such as **Hope Dog Rescue**, **Action for Singapore Dogs** and **Causes for Animals Singapore** will be glad to receive help from a loving family.

Contact: volunteering@hopedogrescue.org, info@asdsingapore.com, volunteer@causesforanimals.com

SAVING THE PLANET

Toddycats!, a group of volunteers with the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore, coordinates with International Coastal Cleanup Singapore to organise beach clean-up activities that the whole family can take part in. This will be a great way to get your child outdoors and introduce him to nature as well as teach him about the environment.

Contact: toddycats@rafflesmuseum.net



BEFRIENDING A SENIOR

TOUCH Home Care has a meals-on-wheels programme which delivers cooked lunches and dinners to the homebound elderly from their central kitchen in Toa Payoh. Your child can accompany you on these delivery runs to help bring a smile to the elderly. Volunteers are especially needed for weekday dinner deliveries, so stay-at-home parents who drive can definitely bring their child along for the ride after school!

Contact: homecare@touch.org.sg

CATCHING THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Doing your part for society does not always require joining a particular organisation. Look around your neighbourhood and see if there are any families or elderly residents who need help. Children can spend time with the elderly to cheer them up, or help you tidy the homes of those who are disabled. Keep your neighbourhood clean by bringing your child on a clean-up walk of your estate. If you need more information, contact your local **Community Development Council** (CDC) or better yet, your **Residents' Committee**, who can inform you on things that the community needs help on.

Contact: Visit www.cdc.org.sg for details on your local CDC, or just head out with your child to look for something you can do for your neighbourhood!

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The gift of giving

It's never too soon to teach young children to give back to society. Here are some ways how.

