

Community Service: Thangam Illam Welfare Society

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION

reported by



Lawrence Wan

Thangam Illam Welfare Society, formerly known as Pusat Anak-anak Yatim Wawasan, was established in 1996 to provide food, shelter, care, education and guidance to orphans, underprivileged children and those from broken homes, the handicapped, etc. With little financial support and no commitment from other sources, the home was started on faith alone.

Today, Thangam Illam Welfare Society is home to 30 children, aged 4 to 20. The premises in a double-storey corner terrace house, is equipped with basic furniture and facilities only.

First, a representative from the IEM Mechanical Engineering Technical Division (METD) made a few visits to the home to identify the kind of assistance required so that help could be arranged for from the appropriate resources, namely a contractor.

Problems identified included a sunken front yard roofing sheet and water ponding, a clogged gutter which overflowed and caused water to leak inside the house, broken ceiling boards and missing windows panes, just to name a few. These problems had to be attended to urgently because the leaks were getting worse whenever it rained.

To rectify the front yard roofing sheet problems, the sagged roofing sheets were dismantled for repair and cleaning. Additional horizontal hollow steel members were installed in between the existing beams to support the roofing sheets and to prevent them from sagging. All steel supports under the roofing sheets were then painted to prevent corrosion.

The clogged gutter was cleared of rubbish and a waterproof sealant applied. Broken ceiling boards were replaced and painted. As for the broken window panes, 15 were replaced with new ones while those with minor breakages were repaired.

The repair work was finally completed after a few days and the living conditions were greatly improved. The smiles on the children's faces were worth all the sweat and hard work. More importantly, these gestures of support would give the children a sense of appreciation and belonging, which was vital for their positive development.

We are grateful that there are many people who are willing to reach out to help those in need. Every little bit makes an impact and ensures that these children will have the chance to succeed and pursue their dreams. The home still needs volunteers to provide tutoring and counselling for children. Any assistance is welcomed, including sponsorship of bills payment and education-related expenses. ■

Thangam Illam Welfare Society

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