

Morning Star unveils new logo at its 8th Anniversary

Morning Star Community Services celebrated its 8th anniversary on 15 March 2008 at their quarterly family community event "Connections under the stars". The anniversary also marked the launch of the organization's **new logo** that reflects the organization's strategic focus of empowering families and providing opportunities for families to connect and form a community that ministers to other families.

Our New Logo - Connecting Families, Growing in Community

At Morning Star, we put families first. We choose to work with families through our various programmes and activities to enable families with informed choices and decision making, enriching relationships and family life. Ultimately, we hope that by building stronger families, everyone can learn to rise above themselves and put their hearts and minds to focus on their brother, sister in need to lead a more meaningful and fulfilling lives.

Connecting Families, Growing in Community is our commitment to build strong families which are the cornerstone of a vibrant community.

Being rather than Doing : The Key to Lifelong Learning

Can anything else cause more instant heartache for a parent than a discouraged child who has given up learning. About 50 families who gathered at our quarterly Family Nite in March had a chance to hear first hand from Cynthia & Eric Siah who shared their poignant struggles under our "Positive Learning Experiences" session.

This session is a support service for parents with similar struggles in parenting. Eric and Cynthia shared how they learnt to overcome their focus on making their child "meet school's expectations and judging her development by her school results". Through a talk on "Why my child don't want to study" and various programmes at Morning Star, Eric & Cynthia learnt to see "the uniqueness of our child and her creativity rather than be caught up with teaching and getting overly responsible or critical and making her meet our expectations." Through changes made in supporting her, their child has become more self-motivated and now tops her class regularly and receiving scholarship awards from MOE. The family is also closer and their perseverance is a love that bonds them together.

By sharing their pain and struggles with other parents at such Family Nights, Cynthia & Eric serve to form a learning community established by Morning Star to provide a community service to struggling parents and children from marginalized families. This service aims to provide that "dose of reality" by connecting families to learn from each other by facilitating sharing and discussion within and among families.

NOVA – taking the first step to help your child’s learning needs

One of the flagship programmes managed by Morning Star is its Mission NOVA programme. NOVA offers children from mainstream school with difficulties in learning or other challenges (emotional, social and behavioural) customized programmes to address their learning needs.

Today, it is common to measure a child solely by his or her success in school. This can cause significant stress to parents whose children are struggling to cope with the demands of our education system. Formed in 2006, the approach under NOVA (Nurturing One’s Valuable Attributes”), offers such children who are often viewed as lazy, not motivated, very reserved or withdrawn, Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to meet his short and long term goals. Through regular dialogues and reviews with parents about their child’s learning goals, we aim to empower them with skills to provide home support to their children.