



PRESS RELEASE

4 November 2015

Female recovering drug addicts being trained to be beauticians

Part of SANA programme to prepare recovering ex-addicts for employment

Female ex-drug addicts are being trained to become beauticians as part of a Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) programme to help recovering drug abusers to be gainfully employed upon their return to society.

The programme, developed since 2012, involves SANA teaming up with community partners in various fields to provide ex-addicts, both male and female, assistance, training and employment opportunities.

Among the partners is Luxasia Foundation, which is putting ex-drug addicts through the beautician training programme in partnership with SANA since 2013. Luxasia Foundation runs an *Empowerment of Women Initiative*, a fully-sponsored vocational training programme for women who are in need of rehabilitation and support.

In 2013, 16 ex-drug addicts enrolled for the course, with 14 graduating with Certification in Make-up Skills and Certification in Nail Skills. Many have gone on to work as beauticians.

SANA will present the second and newest batch of six graduates from the 2015 course – who graduated on 30 October 2015 – at SANA Volunteer Donor & Appreciation Nite 2015 to be held on 6th November 2015 at 6.45 pm at The Grassroots' Club, Multi-Purpose Hall (Level 1) Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8.

Said Mr Abdul Karim, SANA's Executive Director: "This programme provides ex-offenders with the support and services they need to find and maintain employment. This project gives our women ex-offenders hope that society still cares for them and raises their self-esteem. It also motivates them to continue their journey in life with confidence and be integrated into society."

Elaborating on the future of the programme, Mr Karim said: "SANA needs this support of the community to help young ex-offenders get back to normal life and not relapse. SANA is trying to tie up with more community partners to support our efforts. Many people do give their support, either through practical help or financial assistance. We have many volunteers, and some companies even have their staff members volunteer their time to help out SANA.

“There are many areas of need for clients. We provide our clients with activities that are free or heavily subsidised. We want them to come back with their families and participate. This is one way in which we are able to see how they are coping with daily life.”

Ms Shakila Kresinin, Senior Counsellor at SANA who co-ordinates the programme said that from the first batch, 6 work in bridal make-up and one works with Luxasia as a make-up artist on an ad-hoc basis.

“The women feel empowered,” she added. “The course also develops their confidence and self-image and they now feel they are in charge of their lives. Another benefit of being a make-up artist is the flexibility of the work hours and assignments, allowing the mothers work-life balance.”

Said Ms Sabrina Chong, Head, Corporate Development, Luxasia: “Being in the beauty industry, where many of our customers and a large portion of our teams are women, Luxasia’s aim through the Luxasia Foundation is to find a meaningful way to give back to women.

“Luxasia Foundation’s purpose is to Make a Difference In Every Woman’s Life. We believe in empowering underprivileged women by equipping them with life skills that will hopefully help them find gainful employment so that they can be self-sufficient and financially independent.

“At Luxasia, we try to understand the women that we are helping, their backgrounds and their struggles. We hope to do our small part in the community to make a sustained difference in the lives of these women by equipping them with life skills – in the hope of improving their lives and the lives of their families.”

SANA’s community partners

Law firm Marican & Associates, which provides help for mothers in need, was the first to become a SANA community partner in 2012. Under its Project Relief, it provides needy and vulnerable women, especially single mothers, divorcees and women whose husbands are in prison, with \$200 worth of essential groceries and provisions. The service is provided on a case by case basis to recovering addicts recommended by SANA. So far, it has helped 40 beneficiaries. Depending on the circumstances, a recovering addict may receive assistance on more than one occasion.

Other services provided by SANA’s community partners:

- **Legal Aid Consultation**

Free legal advice for ex-drug addicts and their families as well as SANA volunteers who offer in-care counselling in prisons. SANA’s Legal Clinic was initiated in late 2013, with the service being provided by Mr Pratap Kishan. More than 20 recovering drug addicts and their families have used this service.

- **The Tattoo Removal Programme**

This is a partnership programme between the National Skin Centre (NSC) and SANA to remove, through laser treatment, unwanted or regrettable tattoos. For many ex-drug addicts, tattoos in exposed areas of the body have proved to be obstacles in getting jobs and gaining approval from family and society because of the stigma. The

procedure requires multiple sessions and is costly. NSC offers the treatment at highly subsidised rates.

- **Tembusu Foundation**

Tembusu Foundation offers an apprenticeship scheme in the renovation and construction sector where trainees are given a monthly allowance during their apprenticeship.

- **Project Yun Onn**

This project, which started in August 2014, provides employment in the construction industry (road-paving) with on-the-job training. More than 15 recovering drug addicts have signed up with them.

SANA VOLUNTEER & DONOR APPRECIATION NITE

The SANA Volunteer & Donor Appreciation Nite is an annual event that celebrates the contributions of SANA's volunteers, donors and community partners.

SANA has about 450 active volunteers who support SANA through various programmes, such as Incare Counselling by the Religious Group of Volunteers, Youth Workshop Facilitators (SANA Badge scheme) and Events & Admin Support (photography, video-editing, telephone calls and data entry).

About the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA)

Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) is a Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO) set up in 1972 to assist in the rehabilitation of drug addicts and provide support whenever necessary. SANA conducts anti-drug programmes in three key areas: Preventive Drug Education, Aftercare Counselling (Prevention of Re-offending) and Post-Aftercare (Prevention of Inter-generational Offending).

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