

My Internship at People's Association

I had an enriching and eye-opening 6-week internship at the Youth Division of PA. I got to learn about the myriads of programmes targeted to engage youths like myself.

Throughout my six weeks, I was largely involved in supporting the People's Association Youth Movement's (PAYM) Loves Red campaign. This campaign was a ground-up initiative by the youths in Singapore to express their passion and convey their appreciation and aspirations for Singapore in their own creative and unique ways. When I started my internship in June last year, preparations for the launch of PAYM Loves Red were underway. I was impressed by commitment of the volunteers from the Youth Executive Committee (YEC) who met very frequently to plan for the launch.

Despite the advanced planning, things did not go as planned due to bad weather. When the unexpected happens, the most important thing is to deal with the problem with whatever resources you have. The Organising Chairman, a volunteer, did precisely that and led the team with a resourceful contingency plan to a memorable launch.

After the event, I helped to collate and arrange for the delivery of the collaterals for the various projects happening nationwide. Last year, PAYM Loves Red had over 140 projects, involving more than 13,000 volunteers and outreaching to over 49,000 participants. The delivery of collaterals, especially with T-shirt sizes proved to be difficult with the large number of projects and volunteers. It was a good learning experience for me to hone my people management skills and learn how to deal with such difficult situations.

These six weeks of internship has been a great experience for me to observe the leaders in the Youth Division and allowed me to grow as a leader, especially for my upcoming year, whereby I would be serving as the Vice President in my hall at NUS. I am thankful for the opportunity to work alongside my colleagues in the Youth Division and I am looking forward to my next internship which I hope to work directly with residents and volunteers in the community.



Ms Jessica Tan (second row, 3rd person from the left) with colleagues from Youth Division at the launch of the "PAYM Loves Red" campaign.