

MEDIA RELEASE

A Career Switch to find New Purpose and Satisfaction - Opportunities in the Community Care Sector -

Singapore, 31 August 2020 – Making a mid-career switch is increasingly common, be it out of necessity or to fulfil a passion call. And the community care sector is one high-growth sector with vacancies and job scopes that can meet the varying needs, amid the current COVID-19 climate.

Ren Ci introduced the role of the Resident Care Associate (RCA) back in 2018 in a job redesign initiative to complement the model of care in Ren Ci @ Ang Mo Kio Nursing Home. Ren Ci intends for RCAs to be empowered to make decisions on care matters relating to nursing home residents. Unlike traditional nursing aide role, RCAs do much more than assisting with the seniors' basic needs. They manage all aspects of the households, including staff rosters, ordering meals and rations and plan and conduct daily exercises and activities for the nursing home residents. RCAs work in multi-disciplinary teams to enable nursing home resident to live fulfilling lives.

Fueled by the passion to serve the seniors, Mr Damien Boey, 47 years old, took the road less travelled by leaving his professional field in Workplace Safety and Health and joined Ren Ci two years ago as a RCA. Having volunteered with his pet dog at hospices previously, Damien realised that he really enjoys working with seniors and made the career switch to community care when the opportunity arose.

"I am happy to be with the seniors every day when I come to work. Besides taking care of their activities of daily living, I am energised by the many opportunities to engage seniors with interesting activities that they enjoy," commented Damien.

However, Damien left the RCA job a year later at his family's persistence as they thought he could earn more back at an engineering job. Reluctantly, he returned to his facility engineer role in November last year. Then COVID-19 came along. Damien followed the news closely and witnessed the significant roles which healthcare workers play to battle the pandemic and expressed his desire to return to the nursing home to his family. This time, his family gave their blessings as they finally came to term with his strong passion and desire to serve. In July, Damien resumed his RCA role with Ren Ci and it was a happy reunion with his family of nursing home residents.

Mr Joe Hau, CEO of Ren Ci Hospital said, "The Community Care sector offers viable and rewarding career paths for those who are affected by the current economic downturn. Ren Ci is still looking to hire and we hope to share and inspire potential job seekers to consider a career with us."

Ren Ci will be organising its very first dedicated recruitment webinar for RCAs on 5 September 2020. Ren Ci worked with e2i, grassroots in Ang Mo Kio and AIC to publicise the event and so far, more than 50 out of the 100 places have been taken up for this webinar.

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About Ren Ci Hospital

Established since 1994, Ren Ci Hospital is one of the few charity healthcare institutions in Singapore to provide high quality and affordable medical, nursing and rehabilitative care services for the community, based on the principles of loving kindness and compassion. Ren Ci plays an integral role in supporting the healthcare needs of the elderly through adopting holistic way of delivering person-centred care.

Besides giving hope to the frail elderly by helping overcome their disabilities and teaching their families to care for them at home, Ren Ci also partners various community groups and social enterprises to give dignity back to the elderly.



Mr Damien Boey, an ex-engineer, is a Resident Care Associate at Ren Ci @ Ang Mo Kio.



Fueled by the passion to serve the seniors, Mr Damien Boey finds his role as a Resident Care Associate most rewarding.