


SKILLSEED is a local Social Enterprise

10 years  of building *collaborative communities* of *deep trust* through experiential community engagement & capability building programmes, for a more cohesive civil society



Huijia:
Founding Director,
Mother Hen



STB
licensed



Social Enterprise Member of **raiSE**
SINGAPORE



Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

MCCY's *Partnerships and
Citizen Engagement
Panel of Experts*



Skillseed's latest community-building programme

Janet



Fadillea



Fazeli

Resilience Trails

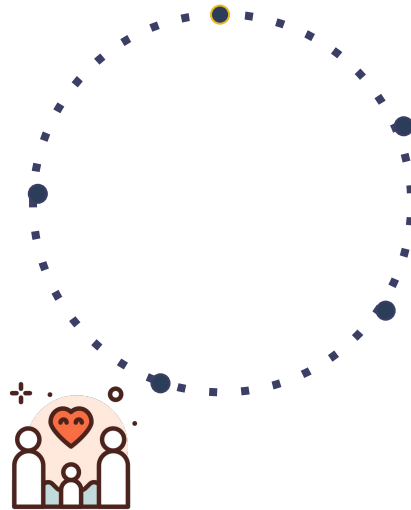


Resilience Trails

A new initiative by Skillseed
in partnership with AMKFSC
Community Services



We work alongside friends with disabilities, single mothers and other individuals from under-resourced communities



Whilst fostering, in participants, deeper empathy for our community stakeholders, and an appreciation of their gifts and that of the community

thereby providing an avenue for dignified, flexible employment and a platform to share their gifts and stories

to co-create and co-lead learning journeys around their own neighbourhoods

How it all started - in 2018



We engaged with residents from rental housing in one of our programmes and found a common issue - many were struggling to find suitable, flexible employment that would enable them to provide optimal care for their families

This led us to ask two questions



How might we tap on Skillseed's strengths in experiential learning and facilitation to provide dignified, supplemental income that would meet their needs?



How might we showcase the strengths of these resilient individuals (and that of their community) while not downplaying their challenges?



Idea: Could we train them to be Community Guides to lead local trails in their own neighborhoods?

After much ground work, we are grateful to present our pilot batch of Community Guides



Fadillea

Interacts and builds relationships with residents by communicating in a relatable manner



Fazeli

Knowledgeable about outdoor skills and surviving the elements



Julie

Animal lover and ultimate bargain hunter



Lydia

Aspiring entrepreneur running her own bridal boutique and canteen stall while working and volunteering



Janet

Aspiring motivational speaker who advocates for accessibility routes in the community

What happens during a 2.5h Trail?

Each trail by our community guide can accommodate **up to 15 participants** subject to prevailing SMMs

Our facilitators will conduct a 0.5h virtual pre-trail equipping and briefing session (~a week before the trail)

Debriefing & Reflections (led by Skillseed)

At the trail itself, we will set the context and introduce our community guide

Our guide will lead us around the neighbourhood

(a) Learn insights about our guide based on his /her individual strengths & lived experiences

(b) Rediscover the neighborhood through our guide's eyes

Conversation with our community guide



Every trail is **unique** as it's **co-created** by our Guides, even though it's in the same neighborhood



Fadillea sharing more about the coffee cart initiative at the FSC that they run with other volunteers



Julie at the "Wall of Cats" sharing its significance to her



Fazeli and the Merlion of Ang Mo Kio

Encapsulates what Skillseed espouses - the he(art) of community engagement, where we build community initiatives that are:



Dignified - Janet leading a trail with confidence on her mobility device

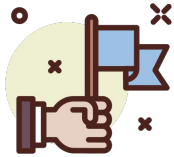


Co-owned - Lydia and her (then) youngest daughter mapping out her trail with our team



Asset-based - Julie, awarded “Most Versatile Volunteer” by AMK FSC in 2021, stands in front of the “Give and Take” donation initiative that she started

Desired outcomes for our *Participants*



Gain insights into the **lived experiences of our Community Guides** through engaging them **directly**



Contrast our **initial assumptions and perceptions** with **newly gained perspectives** of the community



Observe and identify the **strengths of the individual, community and environment** and how they have created value to further **develop the community for themselves**



Consider how to **adopt an asset/strengths-based lens/approach** in our daily lives/respective fields of work

Desired outcomes for our **Guides**

Self



(Re)discover their individual gifts

Acquire new, transferable skill sets (e.g. facilitation)

Gain confidence

Self & Family



Gain an additional source of income

Accommodate their existing commitments flexibly

Explore aspirations outside of familial roles

Self & Neighbourhood



Gain a new perspective of their neighbourhoods

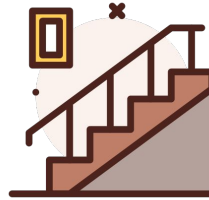
Share about their neighborhoods to other citizens

Continue to build stronger ties within and outside of their community

Our **VISION** for Resilience Trails



Guides **earn enough supplementary income (~7x typical F&B rates) to achieve their goals** while not sacrificing their familial obligations



Guides are able to use this as a **stepping stone to secure longer term jobs (if they so desire)** with the transferable skills they have gained



Skillseed **replicates the success** of Resilience Trails with AMKFSC with **other communities to scale our impact**

Go to the people. Live with them. Learn from them.
Love them.

Start with what they know. Build with what they have.

But with the best leaders, when the work is done, the
tasks accomplished, the people will say,

We have done this ourselves

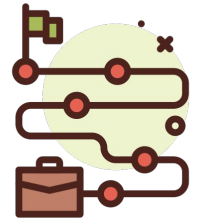
Lao Tzu
6th century BC



Testimonials from our past participants

“I think this experience highlighted a lot of community assets that we tend to not notice as much, and it was very heartwarming to see the influence of community spirit on its people.”

“I really appreciate the time taken to speak to us, I believe that even when one’s story does not have such a happy beginning, you can change that, and you really showed that. Thank you for sharing!”



Testimonials from our past participants

“Thank you so much for your time. Even though it was only for 2 hours, I felt that I learnt a lot from you and will definitely work hard to become a better person. Thanks for opening up to us. I really have a lot of respect for you and I hope to be as cool as you from now on. Will definitely try contributing more towards to the society, thanks to you :)”



Thank you!

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