



# Ramakrishna Mission

(UEN : S62SS0028K)

---

## RAMAKRISHNA MISSION, SINGAPORE

### SERVING SINGAPORE

#### INCEPTION

The Arya Sangham and 2 other local organizations donated a plot of land in 1919 at Norris Road to Ramakrishna Mission to start and conduct activities. Mission constructed a 3-storey building in the late 1930s.

On **7 August 1928** the Ramakrishna Mission was inaugurated. The Mission served the underprivileged Indian Community through education, social services and cultural activities.

#### BEFORE AND AFTER THE WAR

The Mission provided shelter for displaced people, maintained first-aid posts and had a temporary hospital with 80 beds and temporary outdoor dispensaries.

In 1941 the 5-3/4 acres of land on Bartley Road was purchased. It housed the orphans who were children of the martyrs of the war,

Mission provided social service assistance to the Indian Community. We ran Saradamani Tamil School for girls and the Vivekananda English School and night classes for informal education. These were discontinued in late 1960s.

The dormitory for the residents (The Ramakrishna Mission Boys' Home), the Temple and the Vivekananda Memorial Building – now called the Office block were built on the Bartley Road campus between 1940s and 1960s.

In 2006, these 3 buildings: The Boys' Home, The Temple and the Vivekananda Centenary Memorial Building were granted the status of "conserved buildings". Since 2019 Ramakrishna Mission is on the Hougang Heritage Trail.

Ramakrishna Mission has a pragmatic approach. If, after a proper study if any of our activities are found to be redundant, we do not mind to close it and go for a more relevant service.

#### PRESENT INITIATIVES

The **Ramakrishna Mission Boys' Home** was established in 1942 and was registered under the Charity Act in 1989. It has IPC status since 1 January 1997.

The Boys' Home started as an orphanage for boys and at its height housed 89 boys during the early post war days.

Today we have an average of 22 boys of all the different races and religions. Most of the residents are non-Hindus. It is partially funded by MSF on a per capita basis.



# Ramakrishna Mission

(UEN : S62SS0028K)

## **RAMAKRISHNA MISSION SARADA KINDERGARTEN**

In the mid 1990, SINDA approached Ramakrishna Mission to run a kindergarten that would offer Tamil as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language. After studying the situation, Ramakrishna Mission agreed and started the Ramakrishna Mission Sarada Kindergarten on 4 January 1993 in the Sarada Hall.

On 5<sup>th</sup> July 1997, Sarada Kindergarten moved into a purpose-built kindergarten within our campus. Due to high demand, an annex multipurpose building was built and officially opened on 19 October 2002. Sarada Kindergarten also has won many awards in its credit.

## **WINGS COUNSELLING CENTRE**

WINGS Counselling Centre was established in July 1995 as the Ramakrishna Mission Counselling Centre. It began operations in our Office Block. In 2022 it was renamed WINGS Counselling Centre. In October 2002, WINGS moved to their permanent home, 2<sup>nd</sup> level of the Ramakrishna Mission Multi-purpose building.

WINGS has IPC status since 19 September 2008. WINGS mission is to provide therapeutic support to build inner strength and enhance lives. Its clientele includes children, adults, couples and the elderly. WINGS also works with organizations and the community providing professional guidance and workshops. This program is called FSCP (Family Support and Counselling Program), it is a NCSS funded program.

## **OTHERS:**

The monks conduct regular **scriptural class** for devotees and interested persons. Swamis give personal guidance to spiritual seekers.

**IRO (Inter-religious organization, Singapore).** Ramakrishna Mission Singapore is one of the founding members of IRO. The President of Ramakrishna Mission represents in IRO as a council member since its inception since 1947.

**YOGA** – Ramakrishna Mission started conducting yoga class since 1997. We currently run classes on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. To date, more than 10,000 persons have benefitted from these classes.

## **COLLABORATION**

- 1) **Bartley Christian Church (BCC)** (our neighbour)
  - The concrete cover on the canal was jointly constructed.
  - The church members are allowed to park their vehicles *free of cost* within the Ramakrishna Mission campus on Sunday mornings since the new building of the BCC was inaugurated.



# Ramakrishna Mission

(UEN : S62SS0028K)

- The church's youth group would use our field *free of cost* to conduct activities during their retreats.
- Ramakrishna Mission Sarada Kindergarten conducts our Annual Graduation and Concerts in the Church's auditorium at a subsidize rate.

## 2) Collaboration with other like-minded organizations –

- We lend our spaces to like-minded organisations to conduct activities on an ad hoc basis.
- Sanskrit Bharati Singapore and Singapore Association of Homeopathy run their Classes and clinics on our campus regularly

### SOLAR:

Ramakrishna Mission started its green initiatives in 2021 and invested in SOLAR energy harvest project. Today, about 60% of our power needs are supported by this SOLAR project and the excess sent to the SP grid.

### WELFARE:

Ramakrishna Mission provides basic groceries to families in need. There are about 7 families in this programme. Apart from that yearly more than 3000 individuals are provided weekly ration from our Little India Outlet (Blk B 01-62)

### SOME IMPORTANT VISITORS TO RAMAKRISHNA MISISON

| No. | Name                                                                                | Date         | Event                                                         |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Pandit Jawarhalal Nehru (Prime Minister of India)                                   | 18 Jun 1950  | Opening Ceremony of the Ground Floor of Boys' Home            |
| 2   | His Excellency Yusof Ishak, The Yang di-Pertuan Negara                              | 19 Feb 1964  | Opening Swami Vivekananda Centenary Exhibition                |
| 3   | Prime Minister Mr. Lee Kuan Yew                                                     | 18 Apr 1965  | Birthday celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna & Swami Vivekananda  |
| 4   | His Excellency Dr. Zakir Hussein, Vice President of India                           | 16 Oct 1966  | Visited the Ramakrishna Mission                               |
| 5   | Minister of Foreign Affairs and Labour Mr. S.Rajaratnam                             | 21 July 1969 | Opening of the Swami Vivekananda Centenary Memorial Building. |
| 6   | Minister for Social Affairs Mr. Othman Bin Wok and other officials                  | 22 Feb 1971  | Visited the Ramakrishna Mission                               |
| 7   | Minister of Defence and Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong                     | 15 Jul 1984  | Visited the Ramakrishna Mission.                              |
| 8   | Prof S. Jayakumar Hon Minister for Home Affairs & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Minister for Law. | 21 Feb 1987  | Inaugurated the Parliament of Religions conducted by us.      |



# Ramakrishna Mission

(UEN : S62SS0028K)

|    |                                                                                                                |             |                                                                                                                                         |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9  | Brig-Gen Lee Hsien Loong – Minister for Trade and Industry and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Minister for Defence (Services) | 30 Apr 1989 | Inaugurated the Parliament of Religions in conjunction with the 125 <sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Swami Vivekananda . |
| 10 | Mr. J.Y.Pillay, President of SINDA                                                                             | 27 Dec 1992 | Opening of Sarada Kindergarten (in the multipurpose hall)                                                                               |
| 11 | Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence.                                         | 5 July 1997 | Opening of Ramakrishna Mission Sarada Kindergarten                                                                                      |
| 12 | Mr. Teo Chee Han, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence.                                      | 19 Oct 2002 | Opening of the Ramakrishna Mission Multi-Purpose Building (housing Sarada Kindergarten's extension and WINGS Counselling Centre         |
| 13 | Mr.Seah Kian Peng – MP for Marine Parade GRC                                                                   | 2010        | Sarada Kindergarten Graduation                                                                                                          |
| 14 | Mdm Halima Yacob – Minister of State for Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports                   | 2011        | Sarada Kindergarten Graduation                                                                                                          |
| 15 | Mr. Kesavapani – Singapore Ambassador to Jordan                                                                | 2012        | Sarada Kindergarten Graduation                                                                                                          |
| 16 | Ms. Indranee Rajah                                                                                             | 2013        | Sarada Kindergarten Graduation                                                                                                          |
| 17 | Ms. Sim Ann                                                                                                    | 2014        | Minister of State for Ministry of Communication and Information and Ministry of Education                                               |

Other dignitaries, including the late President Nathan and his wife visited the Ramakrishna Mission privately.

Swami Samachittananda

President