

## Annex A: List of Projects

1. [Project Candela](#) (*started in 2021*): Now in its fourth iteration, the project addresses a critical social issue in Singapore by focusing on the migrant worker community.

The project's dual mission encompasses both advocacy and direct support. On the advocacy front, it works to challenge and debunk negative stereotypes surrounding foreign workers while raising awareness among Singaporeans about the experiences and contributions of migrant workers. This awareness-building became particularly urgent during the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed and amplified existing inequalities affecting migrant communities.

The pandemic served as a catalyst, bringing the challenges faced by migrant workers into sharper focus for the broader Singaporean public. Project Candela recognises that while this increased visibility was important, sustained efforts are needed to cultivate genuine empathy and cross-cultural understanding among Singaporeans.

Through engaging interactive sessions, Project Candela collaborates with the Ministry of Manpower (MoM) to tap into the volunteers' awareness towards this social issue, fostering meaningful relationships with our beneficiaries. Project Candela also aims to instil essential skillsets amongst migrant workers to better equip them in the workplace. These interactive sessions include professional communication, digital literacy, financial literacy and celebrating festivities all year-round.

2. [Project Inspirar](#) (*started in 2008*): Project Inspirar bridges generational divides through meaningful connections between SMU students and Singapore's elderly community. This student-led initiative recognises that active engagement and genuine friendship can significantly enhance the quality of life for older adults while promoting healthy aging in Singapore's rapidly graying society.

The project's diverse programmes combine physical wellness, creative expression, and social interaction to create holistic engagement experiences. Light workout sessions including chair yoga and tai chi encourage gentle movement, while arts and crafts activities like lantern making and scrapbook creation provide creative outlets that foster natural conversation. Interactive games such as bingo, charades, and Singapore-themed trivia stimulate cognitive function while creating joyful shared experiences between volunteers and participants.

Inspirar also addresses contemporary challenges facing elderly Singaporeans through practical life skills workshops, including digital literacy training and scam awareness sessions. These initiatives equip participants with essential skills to navigate modern technology safely while staying alert to potential threats. Through these varied touchpoints,

the project creates lasting intergenerational relationships that are mutually enriching, allowing young volunteers to gain wisdom and perspective while providing elderly participants with companionship, engagement, and continued learning opportunities.

3. [starringSMU](#) (*started in 2007*): starringSMU holds the distinction of being SMU's longest-running student-led community service project, demonstrating nearly two decades of sustained commitment to disability advocacy and support. The initiative focuses on empowering persons with disabilities and special needs by equipping them with fundamental life skills essential for successful integration into broader society, while simultaneously raising public awareness about disability issues and capabilities.

The project's comprehensive programming combines social skill development with physical engagement through carefully designed activities and interactive games. Student volunteers create opportunities for participants to build meaningful connections with one another, fostering communication and interpersonal skills that translate into greater confidence in social settings. Hands-on activities stimulate physical engagement while encouraging creativity and self-expression, ensuring that each participant can discover and develop their unique strengths.

4. [The Grats Circle](#) (*started in 2020*): The Grats Circle is a community service project initiated by a student in 2020 to support lower-income final year Ngee Ann Polytechnic students. The project provides relevant experiences with regard to university choices and internship experiences and instils a culture of gratitude with final year students mentoring juniors.

5. [Project Espressivo](#) (*started in 2021*): Project Espressivo is SMU SoundFoundry's flagship community service initiative, harnessing the therapeutic power of music to support persons with aphasia (PWAs) in their recovery journey. Launched in 2021 in partnership with [Aphasia SG](#), this project demonstrates how university students can contribute meaningfully to specialised healthcare support through their musical talents and dedication.

The project centers on music-based rehabilitation, with SMU student volunteers participating in both online and in-person chit-chat and choir sessions organised by Aphasia SG. These sessions provide crucial therapeutic support for persons with aphasia, a communication disorder that typically results from stroke or brain injury, affecting the ability to speak, understand, read or/and write.

Through structured musical activities, participants can often access language and communication pathways that traditional speech therapy alone may not reach.

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6. [Project Be MINDful](#) (*started in 2022*): Initiated by SMU Bowling Club in 2022, Project Be

MINDful is a year-long community service project in partnership with Movement of the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore ([MINDS](#)). The project is advocating for greater social inclusion of Persons with intellectual disabilities (PWIDs).

To complement MINDS's existing curriculum, the team also organises regular bowling clinics, learning journeys to various locations in Singapore, and virtual learning sessions for the beneficiaries to develop a sense of self-identity and to practise life & social skills in support of their independence beyond school.