



When I joined DPH as a volunteer and Council Member in 2012, Marlene went out of her way to welcome me. The warmth and compassion she showed me really helped me feel a part of DPH. I hear many people referring to her as “DPH mama”, a name that reflects her relationship with the DPH community (staff, council and volunteers).

I was shocked and saddened to hear about Marlene’s passing. Even though we are an organisation dealing with death on a daily basis, when we lose one of our own, someone so well-known and well loved, it leaves a void.

I am so grateful to our volunteer team (Shou Wee, Yuefeng and Weixing) for honouring her life and contribution with such respect and tenderness. For example, the tribute video was a beautiful celebration of her contribution to DPH. Although many of us would have watched the video in our own time, it felt appropriate

Marlene has touched many of us with her generous and kind ways – always watching out for us and ensuring that we are well taken care of. Anyone who is blessed enough to have met her cannot help but be touched by her actions.

She will forever be remembered as my teacher, my hospice mama, and protector. Thank you for showering me with your care and love and for ‘bringing me up’ as a newcomer at DPH.

May we all continue the good work Marlene had started, as our way of honouring and remembering this wonderful lady.

**Tok Shou Wee,
Manager, Volunteer Programme**

Marlene was like a mother to many of us, always taking good care of staff and volunteers. She was very amicable and approachable. We are all saddened by her demise and we will miss her greatly! Thank you for taking care of us, Marlene!

**Neo Yue Feng,
Senior Executive, Dover Park Hospice**

to watch it together at the recent Volunteer Leaders’ committee. Marlene had done so much to shape the volunteer programme at DPH, and the act of watching the video together allowed us to hold space in her memory and celebrate her life. Many volunteer leaders shared stories, memories, smiles and tears in her memory. I shared with the committee my own feelings that Marlene had done so much to shape the Volunteer Programme and this resulted in a feeling that she is still very much present. So many traditions we have are her legacy; for example the birthday cards we send to volunteers (as I signed the birthday cards last week, I smiled and remembered her once again). May we all continue to remember her and may these memories make us smile.

**Dr Tanya Tierney,
Council Member and Chairman,
Volunteer Committee, Dover Park Hospice**



Chit Chat

Dover Park Hospice Volunteer Newsletter
April - June 2022 Issue

A Tribute to Our Dearest Marlene



In this issue, we honour one of our treasured Council Members, Ms Marlene Foo, who passed on 14 February 2022 at the age of 76. Throughout the years, she has served as the Chairman of our Community Relations Committee and Volunteers Committee, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, in addition to being a valued Council Member of Dover Park Hospice.

Marlene has contributed greatly to the success of our hospice’s initiatives over the past three decades through her consistent support in promoting fundraising events and organising events that enhanced staff and volunteer welfare.

Affectionately known as “DPH Mama” to many of us, she was well-loved by our staff and volunteers and will always be remembered as a compassionate, loving and generous person, who lives on in our hearts. In this edition of Chit Chat, we compile personal tributes to Mama Marlene from the staff and volunteers of Dover Park Hospice.



Marlene worked with me as the Honorary Secretary of the Singapore Association for the Deaf (SAD) in the 1980s, and when she read about the plans of starting Dover Park Hospice (DPH), she called and volunteered to join me from the very beginning of DPH. In her own words, she said "I need a new challenge".

Marlene, the then President of SAPES, joined the Board of DPH. Hand-in-hand, we set up the Volunteer Programme of Dover Park Hospice.

Marlene's leadership is exemplary. She brought her Peranakan musical friends to be part of our volunteers and this led to the formation of DPH's own singing group, GEMS. She also organised and helmed our annual volunteer appreciation nights, gathering donations and prizes for all our volunteers from her contacts at SAPES. In recent years, she upgraded the DPH volunteer system. Marlene has been my comrade in volunteerism and leadership in SAD and DPH. We have journeyed together for about 40 years. I miss you dearly my friend and comrade volunteer.

**Dr Seet Ai Mee,
Honorary Council Member,
Dover Park Hospice**

Dover Park Hospice has lost one of our most dedicated founding members and volunteers. Marlene had also served many years as DPH's Council Member, and had put in a variety of initiatives, some of which are still in place today.

I remember her smile and warmth whenever she was with our patients at various festive celebrations such as the Chinese New Year, Hari Raya, Christmas, etc. She also made the staff feel valued through little gestures like making her hand-shredded 'Yu Sheng' for the admin team, or by just thanking our nurses profusely for the help they render. The strong statement which she embodied was this; "At DPH, our volunteers are part of our care team and not simply a supplement".

May her legacy continue to live on and inspire all of us.

**Timothy Liu,
CEO, Dover Park Hospice**

My dear Marlene,

I would like to thank you for your presence at all of the events held at Dover Park Hospice and also for your many generous contributions, especially at the council level.

I do not believe that we will ever be able to find another volunteer like Marlene Foo!

Thank you dear Marlene for your loyalty, generosity, friendship and devotion for all these years.

You will be sorely missed and remembered by all the volunteers, patients and staff of Dover Park Hospice.

**Dr Jerry Lim,
Honorary Council Member,
Dover Park Hospice**



It was with such shock that I learnt of Marlene's passing on 14 Feb 2022! We just exchanged CNY greetings on 1 Feb and now she has gone home to the Lord.

Marlene has been a steadfast volunteer since the founding of DPH and she has served DPH with dedication and distinction in all these years. She has left a very strong imprint on the volunteer team and the GEMS Show Choir, and in the process, has endeared herself to the volunteers and choir members. She spent countless hours working behind the scene, working tirelessly because she loved DPH and the work she did. The years she spent as Volunteer Chairman were golden years for volunteerism in DPH. She fought hard for the welfare of the volunteers in her soft spoken, friendly, but determined ways, and in the process, made many volunteers her good friends. She served in DPH's first council as Assistant Secretary, and despite some intermittent breaks (due mainly to constitutional requirements), she was the longest serving Council Member after our two co-founders.

She had often given me valuable private feedback on what she saw were shortcomings in DPH and how these could be overcome or improved. Most of these observations came from her being on the ground and experiencing them first-hand. Some of the observations and suggestions I raised in EXCO and council meetings actually came from her. She did not want to take any credit as she continued her work quietly and diligently.

Those of us who knew her knew how much time and effort she placed into volunteering at DPH, since the pro tem committee was formed, all because of her love for the hospice. She told her family that if they wanted to look for her, they could go to DPH. They would most likely find her there. She was always in DPH serving with dedication and without fuss.

I will miss a good friend and a comrade-in-arm. I am happy that she has gone to a better place and will celebrate her life and what she has achieved for DPH, rather than grieve over her passing.

She certainly was an exceptional lady.

**Chey Chor Wai,
Member, Dover Park Hospice**



Marlene was an exemplary role model with a heart of gold. She was always generous, full of life, and enriched many with her good values. She definitely made the associations she worked with proud to have her as a valued member, and we are honoured to be her friends. The time, sacrifices, initiatives, mentorships she invested into DPH were priceless.

To Marlene, thank you for your guidance and mentorship, I will always treasure you.

May God continue to bless her efforts here on earth.

**Lynda Eaw,
DPH Volunteer**



I deeply appreciate Marlene for the role model she has been as a volunteer, and her tireless contributions throughout the years. Her dedication, passion and spirit of volunteerism at DPH were beyond words.

Being a volunteer, I am personally inspired by her.

**Brenda,
DPH Volunteer**

Marlene was full of energy and all about life. She touched so many people's lives in a loving, positive, caring and compassionate way, always ready to give a helping hand. She truly was God's angel on earth.

**Linda,
Volunteer Leader (DPH Sapphire Group)**

After Marlene's departure, all of us at Dover Park Hospice (volunteers, staff and friends) really felt her loss. For Diamond Group, she had always given all of her support to us whenever we organised birthday celebrations and Hari Raya functions for our patients. She was very close to Siti, my family and I. We will miss her personal well-wishes on every one of our birthdays; "Agus, Siti, Happy birthday to you and panjang panjang umur".

We will not find another Marlene again and I hope her soul rests in eternal peace.

**Muhammad Agus Bin Othman,
Volunteer Leader (DPH Diamond Group)**

Marlene and I have known each other for about 25 years, since the time my husband, Dr Jerry Lim, called for meetings to discuss the beginnings of Dover Park Hospice. Since then, Marlene became a founding Council Member and never looked back. She had such dedication for our hospice that she spent almost all her time doing whatever she could for whoever needed her. As a result, she became friends with volunteers, patients and staff. Marlene was also working for Estée Lauder at that time, and she would often bring beautiful Estée Lauder products as prizes to our parties!

She will be sorely missed and her passing is a big blow to DPH. She is irreplaceable for I am sure we can never find another Marlene with the same dedication, capability and generosity.

Goodbye dearest Marlene. Take care of all our volunteers and others in DPH from above. May you rest in eternal peace!

**Pearl Lim,
DPH Volunteer**

"Hi MM, don't worry, we can take care of it, please go home!"

MM stands for Mama Marlene. I cannot recall when we coined this name for Marlene but she is affectionately known as Mama Marlene, and MM is the acronym for her in our group chats.

She was the pillar, the strength, the founder of GEMS, our in-house choir. She was also the chaperone, the marketing manager, and spokesperson of the choir. She was there for us at every practice, rehearsal and even on the actual day of the performances. We are like her children, whom she showered her love on. She often stayed back with us, even though we asked her to leave things to us.

This year, 2022, is GEMS' 10th anniversary and knowing that she will not be here with us to celebrate, really saddens me. "Hi MM, don't worry, GEMS will go on (till when I do not know, but we will make you proud!)"

**Janice Phua,
Volunteer Leader (DPH GEMS Show Choir)**

When I first participated in a DPH event as a volunteer photographer, I noticed Bu (*short form for 'ibu' in Malay*) Marlene was wearing a Kebaya and thought she was a Malay. I told her that my grandmother also liked to wear the Kebaya and was a Nyonya.

Surprisingly, Bu Marlene was also a Nyonya and from that day onwards, she shared with me many inspiring and valuable experiences in volunteering and palliative care.

From her sharing, I learnt that Bu Marlene was a very compassionate person towards the patients and worked hard to improve their quality of life at DPH. She was highly devoted to her work and was very caring to the volunteers. I am very grateful to have met her. "Bu Marlene, thank you so much."

**Reno Wismanto,
DPH Volunteer**





Your caring and lovely eyes say it all, my aspirational mentor and ardent supporter! The day you left, I dreamt I lost a tooth, indeed it was a deep loss! Our wonderful memories together will be cherished forever!
Rest in peace, Mai!

**Evelyn Ho,
DPH Volunteer**



Marlene was a generous and caring person to all at DPH. After meetings and events, she never failed to ask the staff and volunteers living in the West if they needed a lift home, each time dropping them off right at their doorsteps. She was always checking in with others and contributing in the smallest of ways.

**Douglas Yeo,
DPH Volunteer**

In the early days when Marlene found out we used water-based skin moisturisers for massages for the patients, she used her contacts to procure Jurlique oils instead as rose and lemon being the most fragrant of all, would fill the wards throughout the night.

DPH Volunteer

On behalf of the Fundraising Team, we are very thankful to the late Ms Marlene Foo for her tireless efforts in supporting our fundraising events and initiatives such as the annual charity dinners. Besides making donations herself, she will always be at the rehearsals or costume fitting sessions for the GEMS Show Choir, to ensure that everyone looks their best for the show. She had the smile that brought so much pleasure and created bonds between the volunteers that would last for a long time. She will be greatly missed.

DPH Fundraising Team

In loving memory of our Marlene Mama:

‘Mama’ is how we address you. I remember those days when you bought snacks for everyone at the admin office. You would say “Jiak Jiak first”. That is what a mama would do.

We have a special bonding when we talk about Korean Dramas, especially since we are both crazy fans of it. The small moments we spent chatting about this topic are memories that I will cherish.

Mama, you will be deeply missed for your warm, kind and loving spirit that you have shown to us.
Rest in peace.

May you live as joyfully as ever in the other world.

**Pearline Goh,
Senior Executive, Finance**

I remember Marlene when I attended my first volunteer training session a few years ago. She was always there during our breaks, checking in on our snacks and refreshments. I saw her turning up at almost every event that we organised for the patients saying “hello” to both the patients and their families. Not only did she ensure that the patients were feeling fine, she also checked in on their caregivers. She would also remind us, the volunteers, to not forget to feed ourselves.

I once had an opportunity to speak to her and she encouraged me to volunteer in a hospice

setting and shared her experience. I also remember how her eyes would brighten up whenever she shared recipes. I have not seen her since the pandemic started 2 years ago.

I was shocked to see the announcement that she had left us. I am sad to see her gone and will miss her cheerfulness. I hope she is in a better place where she will lift the spirits of others wherever she is.

**Wong Peck Wei,
DPH Volunteer**

I have known Marlene since 2011 and have worked with her on many occasions at Dover Park Hospice.

Working with her was a pleasure. Our project meetings were always engaging, interactive and fun. She was warm, hardworking, kind, full of energy and always the life of the party where she made people feel at ease.

Marlene, you will forever be remembered and deeply missed at DPH.
May you rest in peace.

**Bruce San,
DPH Volunteer**

Marlene was very well-respected and well-loved by all the nurses at DPH who knew her. She was always smiling and speaking kindly to everyone. She even took time to know more about the nurses so that they feel the warmth of the DPH family.

She will always be remembered as a wonderful lady with a big heart for the patients and staff of DPH.

**Chin Soh Mun,
Director of Nursing**

Those special memories of you, will always make me smile.

If only I could have you back, for just a little while.

Then we could sit and talk again, just like we used to do.

You always meant so much to me.

The fact that you’re no longer here, will always cause me pain.

But you’re forever in my heart, until we meet again...

**June De Guzman,
Executive, Admin and Patient Services**

