

KECHARA SOUP KITCHEN

Kechara Soup Kitchen (KSK) is a registered non-profit organisation distributing food to the homeless and urban poor in the Klang Valley. Led by our President Dato' Ruby Khong, KSK takes inspiration from His Eminence Tsem Tulku Rinpoche, the spiritual guide to Kechara House, who experienced homelessness and hunger as a teenager.

Established in 2006, we offer food, drinks and basic first aid to those in need, regardless of their race or religion. This brings to life our motto, Hunger Knows No Barriers; as hunger knows no barriers, so too should our compassion for the less fortunate of our society. Our non-discriminatory attitude also extends to our volunteers who come from all walks of life, motivated by the common goal of helping others.

Our direct contact with those who live a 'street existence' has been invaluable in gaining their trust and gathering information on their needs. As a result of these observations, we have established a plan to address not just the symptoms (hunger) but also the causes (urban poverty and a disconnection with society).

Those stricken by poverty are not in that situation by choice. They do not want charity, they need inspiration. KSK volunteers have discovered that there are people willing to re-enter society if given the opportunity – they just need to be shown the way.

The state of being poor is not limited to just the physical aspects in life. It is not just about having no money, no food to eat, no shelter to call home and being denied of the opportunities that allow us to live decently. It goes beyond the physical and tangible context.

However, it is not the poverty or even the hunger which destroys our will to survive. It is the loss of hope, that sinking feeling that we have been forgotten, rejected and left behind by the community we belong to.

When we lose hope, we also lose the fight to live on. When our lives reach this point, we will allow ourselves to descend into sub-human living conditions. Life on the streets can de-humanise even the best of us, because conditions there are scarily challenging and very harsh. In this perilous environment, when our so-called homes are back alleys, cardboard boxes and the pavements of buildings, it is no surprise that many begin to act and think like scavengers.

No one would ever willingly choose to live on the streets if they had access to better opportunities, or were given "second chances". Unfortunately, for some, living off the streets may have become

their way of life. These are the ones who have lost all hope and have resigned from life altogether.

Therefore, poverty ravages beyond just the physical aspects. It kills the human spirit. This is what KSK has come to understand since we started walking the streets to feed the poor and homeless in late 2006.

To effectively accomplish our goal of helping the homeless, we recently acquired a building just off Jalan Imbi and, after an extensive renovation, kickstarted operations on 6th Sept 2010. At this new location, not only do we provide food as well as medical aid, but we also provide counselling.

The permanent building also benefits our clients by providing them with a fixed address, thus granting them easier access to employment opportunities which we have received from many companies due to recent and continued press coverage. The building has become a place where potential employees can be interviewed.

This permanent building is the first step towards our long-term goal which is to establish a nurture centre. At this centre, we will provide training to enable the homeless to re-enter society as skilled citizens, transcending all barriers of race, religion and culture.

OUR TRACK RECORD

Kechara Soup Kitchen (KSK) does not just feed the poor and hungry, but for many people, we also become their only source of hope. We walk the streets, and cruise the alleys and lanes every weekend, come rain or shine, to find those who are neglected and dejected. We have:

- Grown from feeding 20 mouths per week, to feeding over 1,300 hungry mouths every week
- Helped more than 50 people register and replace their Identity Cards so that they are finally "legally recognised"
- Provided over 60 homeless clients with medical aid, in both local clinics and hospitals
- Helped groom over 60 homeless clients to successfully interview for jobs. All are now working happily in their new vocation
- Registered three people into the proper rehabilitation centres
- Reunited three people with their families

For KSK, our work is not just a worthy charitable cause. It is our civic social responsibility, as brothers and sisters living in the same beautiful homeland. KSK is a platform for all caring Malaysians to come together to help our fellow Malaysians.

Contact Us

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KECHARA

A Tsem Tulku Buddhist Organisation

Soup Kitchen

KEY PEOPLE



From left to right: Kwok Wai, Karen, Dato' Ruby, Datuk Wee, Siong Woan, Julia

Patron

Y. Bhg. Datuk Dr. Victor Wee

President

Dato' Ruby Khong

Vice President

Julia Tan

Secretary

Karen Leu

Treasurer

Chua Siong Woan

Committee Member

Wong Kwok Wai