



About the Beneficiaries

Story 1

*Jane, in her 30s, is a housewife with two young schooling children aged seven and ten. The family of four lives in an old, run-down three-room flat. Jane's husband is the sole bread winner and works as a noodle delivery man. His meagre income of less than \$700 a month is barely sufficient to cover the family's household expenses and the children's school fees. Jane is also unable to get a full-time job as she has to look after her two young children. Whenever possible, Jane will take home some menial tasks from the factory and work from home so as to supplement the family's income.

Ever since Jane's two daughters were put on the YWCA Meals-on-Wheels for children programme, the family has seen an improvement in their situation. With the children's meals being taken care of, the family's financial burden is lessened and they are better able to make ends meet with the current family income. Jane no longer worries that her children will not have proper meals when she gets too busy to cook for them. The children also enjoy the delicious and nutritious meals delivered to their doorstep every night. The family is indeed very grateful for this programme as they have benefited greatly from this service.

Story 2

*Susan is a 47 yr old divorcee with three children between the ages of 10 to 13. The family of four lives in an old, cramped, and sparsely furnished one-room flat. Thin and dirty mattresses act as makeshift beds. The only luxury item for the family appears to an old television set.

Life is tough for this single mother as she has to juggle between working and looking after her teenage children, the eldest of which is studying in a special needs school. After separating from her husband, he has not been paying her monthly alimony hence Susan is left to support her children on her own.

Susan works as a stall assistant in the nearby market. She wakes up everyday at the crack of dawn to prepare her children for school before going to work. As she gets off work in the late afternoon, Susan does not have time to cook for her children. Dinner for the children is often leftovers which Susan packs home from her workplace. The children never know when they can enjoy a filling and proper meal. Sometimes there is not enough food to be shared among the three children and they go to bed still hungry and dissatisfied.

Initially, only the two younger children were introduced to the Meals-on-Wheels programme. After reviewing the family's situation, it was decided that the eldest daughter be adopted as a beneficiary of the programme as well. Susan is very thankful for this programme as it has indeed lessened her financial burden of having to bring up three teenage children on her own. Her children are also delighted that they can finally fill their stomachs with their individual packed boxes of fresh dinner instead of having to share leftovers from the market.

** Names have been changed to protect the identities of the beneficiaries.*