

Acting Manpower Minister visits youth shelter

Acting Minister for Manpower and Senior Minister of State for National Development Tan Chuan-Jin visited HopeHouse, a Catholic shelter for at-risk youths on April 25.

The residential facility, a joint project of the De LaSalle Brothers and the lay community, is located on the grounds of St Patrick's School on East Coast Road.

It currently houses 13 young men aged 16-21 who have committed legal offences or who need shelter on compassionate grounds.

According to HopeHouse, Mr Tan made the visit to gain a better understanding of the shelter's work with at-risk youths and the Society of St Vincent de Paul's (SSVP) assistance to the poor and the underprivileged.

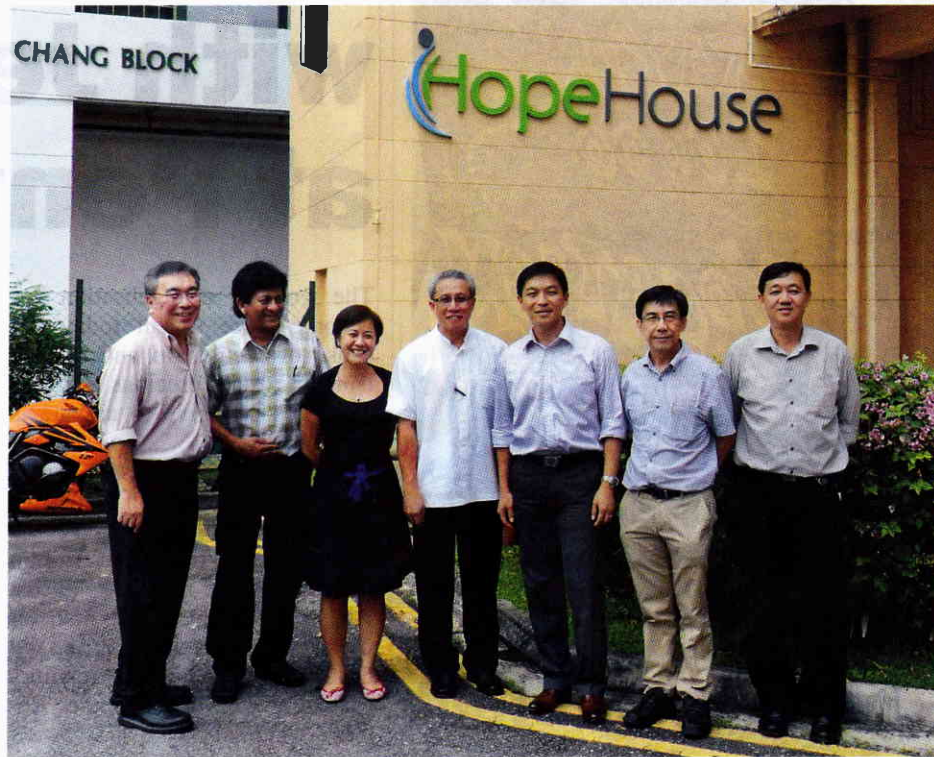
Mr Tan was given a tour of the facility during his visit. He

met the staff there and also Mr Paul Foo and Mr Raymond Tan, SSVP's national president and vice-president respectively.

According to HopeHouse, Mr Tan said he was keen to explore the areas of help provided by various organisations, especially in the east, and to try to link up the good work that is being done.

He said he was happy to see the collaboration between the home and the Ministry of Social and Family Development in helping at-risk youths reintegrate back into their families and society.

"The more I meet people, the more I feel that there is hope because we have many who are working the issues and reaching out," said Mr Tan. "That's the only way society will change, when more of us learn to give of ourselves." □



Mr Tan Chuan-Jin (third from right) poses for a photo at HopeHouse together with (from left) Mr Henry Tsen (HopeHouse office administrator), Mr Dennis Scully (Hopehouse resident care and programme executive) Ms Cecilia Chua (HopeHouse chairperson), De La Salle Br Collin Wee (home mentor), Mr Paul Foo and Mr Raymond Tan, Society of St Vincent de Paul's national president and vice-president respectively.