



Foot News

Issue 1 • September 2021

LIONS PROTHESES CENTRE (LPC)

Beginnings...



Some five years ago, in one of the Lions' annual visits to Chiang Mai and Mae Sot in Thailand for charity projects, the team, led by Lions Club of Singapore Amber, learnt of the work done by the Protheses Foundation of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Mother.

The Foundation provided prosthetic legs to needy amputees of all races and religions free of charge to enable them to have a better quality of life and to be able to make a living. This noble mission appealed to the team of visiting Lions and they broached the idea of doing something similar in Singapore, targeting those in need of a prosthetic leg but are unfortunately unable to pay for it and also do not qualify for government funding. The high cost of artificial limbs deprived amputees the joy of independence, and they have to rely on crutches or wheel chairs.

Statistics show that Singapore has one of the world's highest diabetic related leg amputations. Diabetes is also one of the global causes supported by Lions Club International whose strategic objective is to reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improve quality of life for those diagnosed. With this, a committee consisting of Lions from different clubs was formed in May 2019 to explore this initiative further.

After much preparatory work over a three year period from July 2018 the Lions Protheses Center was set up and registered with the Singapore Registry of Societies in May 2020.

The objectives are:

Provide free or subsidized prosthetic legs to assist low income amputees to enable them to:

- Enjoy a better quality of life
- Not be dependent on wheel chairs or crutches for limited mobility
- Make a living wherever possible.



Sponsorship & Assessment (S&A) Sub-committee

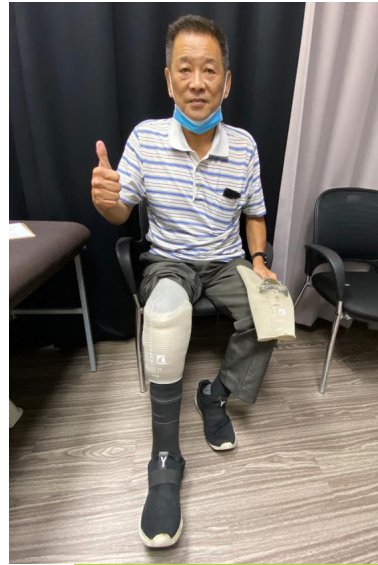
LPC focuses on providing artificial limbs to people who have their legs amputated for various reasons, usually due to disease (gangrene, diabetes, cancer) or accidents (traffic, worksite).

The loss of a limb, especially the leg, is a very traumatic experience. There is always an emotional reaction and sometimes the response is severe and depression sets in. It affects not only the patient but also family and household members.

The management of an amputee consists of a multi-disciplinary approach and involves a team made up of the surgeon, physician, nurses and therapists who provide medical, rehabilitation, physiotherapy and counselling needs.

Providing an amputee with a prosthesis is part of the management process. However, not all amputees are suitable to have a prosthesis, especially if there are serious co-existing medical conditions.

A leg prosthesis improves mobility, enabling the amputee to walk and be able to better manage daily activities. The ability to move around independently results in a better quality of life. LPC helps amputees to overcome their disadvantage by providing financial grants for the purchase of leg prostheses.



Applications for a prosthesis from LPC are referred to the Sponsorship and Assessment (S&A) Sub-committee. The Chairman of the S&A Sub-committee is PDG Nancy Lim.

The function of the S&A Sub-committee is to verify that applicants meet the criteria and qualify to receive a subsidy for the cost of the prosthesis. A team led by Lion Nancy Lye who is an accredited medical social worker, interviews the applicant and carries out an assessment on the biopsychosocial, medical and financial status of the applicant. The Sub-committee then recommends to the LPC Exco for a decision on the level of subsidy to be provided.

S&A Sub-committee keeps in contact with the applicant after the prosthesis has been fitted. Follow-up visits are arranged to ensure that the applicant is comfortable and has no problems with the prosthesis. The final evaluation is made about three months after the prosthesis is issued.

14 applications have been received since September 2020 and 6 were approved by LPC. All who have received the prostheses are doing well.

PCC Dr Winston Koh

July 2021

“Let’s Foot the Feet”

When I was young, I grumbled why no new shoes for Chinese New Year and my mother gently replied, “just think of those with no feet”.

That solemn truth stuck in my mind whenever I start to compare or complain about life’s inequality.

When Chairman PDG David Lee asks me to be the Fund Raising Chairman for Lions Prostheses Centre at the 1st Management Board Meeting, I accepted without hesitation remembering my late mother’s touching remark 60 years ago.

I was tasked to raise S\$150,000 by 31st October 2021. This was a mammoth order as we were in the midst of Covid-19 with social restrictions at its hilt.

Furthermore, I’m competing with fund-raising overtures by the other 3 established Lions Entities making it so much more difficult for me to tap on our Lions Clubs & its members.

My first target of canvassing was close friends in social circle. It was uphill also because there was



no tax-exempt compared to the other Lions Entities. Those who agree to donate were purely out of goodwill and friendship.

Two Lions initiatives were very encouraging and that’s the Recycling Project & Thanksgiving Karaoke. They specifically organised activities to raise funds for LPC.

As news about LPC and what it does become widespread, many Lions Clubs, their members and friends start to support and donate voluntarily for this new and meaningful Lions program looking after low income amputees.

I’ve another 3 more months to raise \$30,000 and meet my fund-raising target.

Please donate generously.

Let’s help someone who has no feet to walk again and can truly appreciate what it means to have a new pair of shoes for the New Year.

1VDG Ho Sum Kwong

Compliments to the Team

Dear Sir,

I am Lee Kim Hwa, a beneficiary and recipient of a prostheses limb. Here I would like to say a few words to express my heartfelt sincere gratitude, appreciation and thankfulness to all donors, Lions clubs and all staff who have helped me in one way or another.

Last, but not least, I would also like to thank the kind social worker, Mdm Nancy and the helpful doctor who had spent their

precious times in meeting me to make this possible.

Now that I can stand up and walk safely, thank you to all and everyone again. Best wishes, regards, Lee Kim Hwa. 04.05.21

This letter to LPC is addressed to Chair of Outreach Committee (Lion Yong Chiang Boon). It has minor edits for readability without changes to the intent and meaning.



LPC Management Board
8 Jul 2020 to 30 Sep 2022

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LCS Amber

Vice-Chairman

PDG William Kwok
LCS Clarke Quay

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LCS Nee Soon

Assistant Secretary

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LCS Galaxy

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PP Eng Chen Lian
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LCS Chong Pang

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LCS Chong Pang

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PP Elsie Lim
LCS Island

PP Mary Ong
LCS Ladyhill

PP Serene Yong
LCS Ladyhill

PP Elaine Ng
LCS Meyer

Membership

All Lions Clubs in Singapore are encouraged to join as a member of LPC to support low income amputees to give them independence to make a living and have a higher quality of life.

Membership is open to all operating chartered Lions Clubs of Singapore which are registered under the Societies Act (Cap 311) Singapore.

There are no entrance fees and no subscriptions.

All that is required is the willingness, compassion and commitment to serve the disadvantaged and less privileged in our community.

Members can volunteer in various ways:

- Create awareness of diabetes prevention program to reduce the prevalence of diabetes
- Participate in LPC service programs, events and fund raising projects
- Assist in LPC operations by serving as Board members and committee members.

For more information on LPC membership, please contact LPC Secretary: PP Lion Goh Boo Han (Mobile: 9820 3930)

List of LPC Members as at 7 August 2021

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. 101 | 18. Katong |
| 2. Alliance | 19. Katong |
| 3. Amber | 20. Vision |
| 4. Ascension | 21. Ladyhill |
| 5. Broadway | 22. Lavender |
| 6. Central | 23. Meyer |
| 7. Cherish | 24. Millennium |
| 8. City | 25. Nee Soon |
| 9. Chong Pang | 26. Oriental |
| 10. Clarke Quay | 27. Oxley |
| 11. Clover | 28. Paterson |
| 12. Forest | 29. Stamford |
| 13. Galaxy | 30. Vanda |
| 14. Henderson | 31. Vista |
| 15. Island | 32. Westlake |
| 16. Ji Siang | 33. Yi Xing |
| 17. Ji Yang | |

