

Biodata of World Vision International – Singapore Goodwill Ambassador Eunice Olsen



Eunice Olsen, 28, is an active and avid volunteer.

She took her first steps into volunteer work when she was crowned Miss Singapore Universe 2000. Deciding to put her title to good use, she approached the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre and was directed to the Toa Payoh Girl's Home. There, she discovered how meaningful voluntary service can be, and how small steps can actually make a difference in the lives of others.

Her work with the juvenile homes, including the AG Home, has enhanced her understanding of the issues facing youths at-risk and the potential problems dysfunctional families can pose to these youths.

Her work at the TPGH spurred her to seek out other opportunities in youth activities. In 2002, she became a member of the advisory council for the People's Association Youth Movement T-net club. She oversees and is responsible for the strategic planning of the eight clubs around the island. Being a member of the Kebun Baru Youth Executive Committee from 2001 till now has deepened her involvement with youths. She has also served with the Eurasian Association Youth Committee from end 2001-2003.

Eunice was appointed as a Nominated Member of Parliament at the start of last year. One of her main roles as an NMP has been to highlight issues pertaining to the youth and volunteerism – the two areas close to her heart. In the course of her term, she has touched on a range of issues in Parliament. These range from: Access to public transport for the disabled; legislation for child sex tourism; enhancing supervisory guidance for Voluntary Welfare Organizations; and sex education. She also disagreed with the decision to build casinos in Singapore.

Apart from her duties in Parliament, being an NMP has enabled her to be involved with different organizations, including the Handicap Welfare Association. She helped them in their fund-raising activities in July last year. She is also part of the Citibank-YMCA Youth for Causes committee that plans and strategizes the disbursement of seed funding for social enterprise to various youth groups.

As an active advocate for volunteerism, which she firmly believes is an important aspect of nation building; she is delighted to be the NVPC's Youth Ambassador. Her other Ambassadorships include: Beyond Social Services' BABES programme for pregnant teenage mums and the Red Cross national blood programme, for which she actively promotes the importance of donating blood.

Her latest project is Water for Living, Books for Learning - a long-term humanitarian project to help build libraries and provide water-filter systems to orphanages, schools and child centres in Cambodia, Laos and Kalimantan - which she co-founded with fellow MP Ong Kian Min.

Eunice is an accomplished pianist with a grade 8 in practical and theory. She started teaching piano at the age of 17 and was also a keyboardist in her university hostel band from 1998-2000, where she also served as vice-chairperson. In 2004, her love for music eventually led to her cutting an album in Korea entitled "Believe". Through this experience, she has learnt that you have to go the distance to follow your dreams, something she hopes to continue sharing with the younger generation of Singaporeans.

Her exposure to the media industry began in 2002 when she clinched the role to co-host the game show "Wheel of Fortune". She went on to play supporting roles in two Chinese drama serials. Her stint on television opened doors for her as a host. She now hosts part-time at events ranging from road shows to award dinners, for example, the Singapore Women Weekly's "Great Women of our Time" awards.

Eunice is also actively involved as World Vision International Singapore's Goodwill Ambassador. This sees her participating in various platforms to advocate the needs of the poor and the impoverished in countries less developed than Singapore. This portfolio has seen Eunice participating in a media exposure trip to Cambodia where she was exposed to issues relating to street children, HIV/AIDS, child trafficking and child sex tourism. She will be actively engaging and taking up various platforms to raise awareness to these issues.

Eunice was educated in Woodlands Primary, St. Margaret's Secondary, Anglo-Chinese Junior College and the National University of Singapore. In university, she was given different leadership roles, for example, as president of the Electronic Music Lab at the Centre for the Arts, a vehicle for students interested in electronic music. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Philosophy. In March 2006, she received an Honoree for The Outstanding Young Persons of Singapore Award.

Eunice tries to spend as much time as she can with her parents, her close friends and her books.