All About SAVH

The Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (SAVH), formerly known as the Singapore Association for the Blind (SAB) is the national social service agency (SSA) for the blind and low vision in Singapore. Founded in 1951, SAVH aims to help the visually impaired to acquire new skills and gain self-reliance to integrate into the society. It is affiliated to the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and is an approved Institution of a Public Character (IPC000443).

Who We Serve

SAVH serves Singapore citizens and permanent residents of all age groups who must be certified as having low vision (partial sight) or blind by an eye specialist or ophthalmologist. This includes people who are born blind as well as those who have lost their vision through accidents or illnesses such as diabetes, glaucoma, tumor, eye infection and other eye-related illnesses. As of 15 January 2023, SAVH serves 4,387 registered clients.

Our Core Services

SAVH is partially funded by NCSS, Community Chest and Tote Board Social Service Fund for four of our services namely Braille Production Centre (BPC), Low Vision Clinic (LVC), Vision Rehabilitation Programme (VRP) and the Library.

Our other services include:

- Assistive Devices Centre (ADC)
- Skills training and job placement
- Day Care Centre (DCC)
- Training in Sighted Guide Technique (SGT)

Sighted Guide Technique (SGT)

SAVH endeavours to create an eco-system where all stakeholders, be it our beneficiaries, caregivers, volunteers, public service providers or the general public, can all play a part in making mobility less of a challenge for our visually impaired community. SAVH endeavours to equip these stakeholders with sighted guide techniques (SGT) so that they would have the confidence and knowledge to guide and assist any visually impaired persons whom they may encounter from time to time. SAVH is making preparation for the accreditation of the SGT Training programme so that the training can be extended to other service providers looking after the interests of the visually impaired community e.g. Healthcare staff, Nurses, Care Support Workers, etc.

Day Care Centre (DCC)

SAVH initiated the Day Care Centre (DCC) for the visually impaired in Singapore to provide sustainable care and maintenance activities for its visually impaired elderly clients. Since its inception in August 2016, DCC has reached its optimal capacity of up to 75 elderly blind clients per week. SAVH endeavours to extend this service to more elderly blind and seniors suffering from vision loss in view of the ageing population.

Mobile Massage Team (MMT)

The Mobile Massage Team or MMT is an initiative by SAVH to facilitate the provision of massage services (Head & Shoulder Massage, Foot Reflexology and Full Body Non-Oil Massage) by a group of qualified, visually impaired masseurs at SAVH or external venues such as schools, corporate offices as well as at nationally organised events. As you support SAVH and this MMT initiative, you are also contributing your share towards a more inclusive society, as the blind masseurs put into practice the acquired skills to remain employable, earn their living, gain self-reliance and independence and live with dignity!

Dining in the Dark (DITD)

The 'Dining in the Dark' experience is organised by the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (SAVH) to raise public awareness of the challenges that persons with vision impairment face in their daily activities. A sighted person can experience what it is like to be blind without the use of blindfolds. The idea for Dining in the Dark originated from the Blindekuh (Blind Cow) restaurant in Switzerland where patrons at the restaurant were served by blind and visually impaired people. Over at SAVH, we have specially trained our visually impaired clients to prepare set course meals for your dining pleasure. They are engaged by SAVH as servers and kitchen helpers to serve lunch or dinner. SAVH has created the opportunity for them to earn a means of living which facilitate their integration process with the community.

Touch Art Programme (TA)

The Touch Art Programme was introduced to the visually impaired clients to equip them with skills to produce different handicraft items such as bookmarks, drink coasters, mousepads, greeting cards, canvas paintings and decorated glass plates, using the sense of touch. It provides the clients a platform to showcase their talent, opportunities to socialize with others and employment opportunities through making the handicraft items.

For more information, visit us at www.savh.org.sg

THANK YOU FOR YOU SUPPORT