



CATEGORY 1I

“THE LAST PORTRAIT”

Basic details:

- Name of Partner: St Andrew’s Nursing Home (SANH). SANH started operations in November 2013. This 300-bed, 7-storey purpose-built facility is Singapore’s fourth and largest psychiatric nursing home to provide long term care for residents suffering from psychiatric illnesses.
- Date of collaboration: 10 October 2017.

It all began from a casual conversation after one of our pro-bono funeral presentation to the management, staff and nurses at St Andrew’s Nursing Home. We told that the Home was in the midst of preparing for a memorial for its departed residents, many of whom were without a portrait in their last days. So, it was decided that in a first in Singapore, Ang Chin Moh Funeral Directors will work closely with its corporate photographer, *John Lim Photography* and the staff and nurses at St Andrew’s Nursing Home to give each of their critically ill patients a fitting and dignified farewell.

In the words of Deborah Andres, Chief Executive Officer of Ang Chin Moh Funeral Directors,

“A lot of social, hospice care and nursing home workers have told us that when their folks are going to die, they don’t have a picture. One of the things we are doing now is doing their make-up and taking their photos so that they have that last portrait.”

On World Mental Health Day which falls on 10 October 2017, volunteers from Ang Chin Moh Funeral Directors took about fifty (50) portrait photos for the elderly residents entitled, *The Last Portrait*. Staff from Ang Chin Moh Funeral Directors were involved with assisting the elderly patients with some light make-up as well as setting up a few games station to accompany the patients while they await their turn to have their photos taken.

This project was particularly beneficial to the staff as they had the experience to interact with the patients that they may eventually come to serve. As St Andrew’s Nursing Home is and continues to be one of our strongest partner, especially when it comes to destitute cases, and the staff found renewed purpose in their work through such an event, and a greater intimacy with the beloved, a bond that is borne out of respect for one another and a desire to give the best wherever possible.

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As a result of such a program, Ang Chin Moh Funeral Directors was one of forty-five (45) businesses were named as Champions of Good on 7 November 2017 for our commitment to corporate giving over the last three financial years.

John Lim, our photographer sums it up the best when he describes his experience:

I'm glad to have helped in a little way, to make meaningful pictures for the folks, for the home.

Lots of thoughts and feelings came up while volunteering for this project, the stories of these folks, of their situation, of family and friends who've moved on, of not taking life for granted, of wanting to do more for them.

There wasn't much chance to talk to the folks but there's so much I see in their eyes, no masks, no fronts. They were real and honest, some showed love of life and vigour, and some displayed regrets. The feelings involved in volunteering for this project were beyond what I've expected, it can be quite deep. I hope I get the opportunities to make a little difference with my craft in future.



TO: MS Deborah Andres - CEO
Ang Chin Moh Funeral Directors
Taking this opportunity to thank
all your staff for volunteering
@ SANH (Bangkok). It is indeed

*Thank you for your
Time, Generosity
and Kindness*

A privilege to be cared by your
team of dedicated staff. All our
residents who have benefitted from
this photography session are greatly
appreciated by the kind gesture. Regards

Winnie Chan - ED