

SIKH WELFARE COUNCIL (SIWEC)
Annual Report 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sikh Welfare Council (SIWEC) has successfully completed another successful year of service to the Community. SIWEC provides a comprehensive range of programs and services to address the diverse welfare concerns of the Sikh Community. This ranges from financial assistance (F/A) to needy families to provide comprehensive support to bereaved families. Audited accounts for 2009 are attached to the Report.

SIWEC wishes to thank the Sikh community and other well wishers for their generous support to its programs and activities.

2. IPC STATUS

SIWEC achieved a milestone when it received the IPC status on the 5th September 2009. This would allow all donors to receive generous tax deductions for their contributions. Receiving IPC status also means that SIWEC would have to undertake more stringent scrutiny of its expenses and accounts.

3.. FINANCIAL AND FOOD ON THE TABLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Financial and Food on the table Assistance Program includes the delivery of Food Rations and Financial Assistance to needy Sikh families. The details of the two components for 2009 are as shown below.

a) Food Rations Delivery (F/R)

SIWEC continued to provide monthly food rations to needy Sikhs and a few non-Sikhs. As of August 2009 SIWEC delivered rations once every 2 months to reduce processing expenses and to provide more flexibility to recipients.
(See table 1 below)

b) Financial Assistance Program (F/A)

SIWEC also continued to serve the financial needs of the poor Sikh families.
(See table 1 below)

Table -1 SIWEC BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL F/A, F/R CASES & COST 2009

MONTH	F/A ONLY	F/A & RATIIONS	RATIIONS ONLY	TOTAL NO OF CLIENTS	RATION COST	F/A COST
JAN	4	8	49	61	\$8987.70	\$1,693.50
FEB	4	8	50	62	\$9187.30	\$1,693.50
MARCH	4	8	54	66	\$9916.90	\$1,693.50
APRIL	4	8	54	66	\$9804.70	\$1,693.50
MAY	4	8	55	67	CST	\$1,693.50
JUNE	5	7	49	61	\$8565.00	\$1,693.50
JULY	6	7	43	58	\$7978.70	\$1,843.50
			2 NTUC			
AUG	3	8	51	62	\$14,337.5	\$1593.50
SEPT	3	8	51	62	6	\$1393.50
					Aug	
					&Sept	
OCT	1	7	46	54	\$45932.54	\$995
NOV	1	5	43	49	\$10,473.6	\$845
DEC	1	5	43	49	7	\$845
					Nov &Dec	

4. New Cases for 2009 (all categories)

The breakdown of other diverse forms of support provided in 2009 is shown in Table 2 below.

Table-2 OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT PROVIDED IN 2009

Month	Bereavement	Mediation counseling	Others (translation)	Aftercare Ex Inmates	Job Asst & counseling	Inmates Visited In Prison
Jan	2	2				35-50
Feb	6	6	1		1	35-50
Mar	10	2			1	35-50
April	7			1		35-50
May	7	3				35-50
June	4	1		1		35-50
July	7	5				35-50
Aug	4	2				35-50
Sept	2	1				35-50
Oct	5	1		1		35-50
Nov	5	5				35-50
Dec	3			1		35-50

5. SPECIAL EVENTS

a) National Day Goodies distribution

CIVIC ambulance donated goody bags for all SIWEC clients in commemoration of National Day. These were distributed to clients together with the August food ration distribution.

b) DIVALI Celebration

SIWEC recipients were pleased to receive goody bags and a special note from the chairman of SIWEC for Divali. These were distributed on 12th & 13th October 2009

SIWEC acknowledges the following for their generous contribution for the activity.

MP Inderjit Singh	30 DVDs, 20 Fans & 10 Rice Cookers
Sarjit Singh (Sona)	Oreo Cookies
Dashmesh	Gulab Jamun & Rasgullah
JJ	Soft drinks and tidbits
Natha Singh's daughter	Pineapple tarts
S. Gurmail Kaur	Sweet meats (mithai)
SINDA	goody bags & 3 sets of vouchers

6. THE PRISONS/DRC VISITS AND COUNSELING PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to:-

- Provide spiritual and rehabilitative counselling to Sikh inmates.
- Study the needs of Sikh inmates in jail.
- Provide a link between the inmates and their families if the need arises.
- Assist the Sikh inmates in finding meaningful employment upon release.
- Provide follow up counselling for inmates after being released.

The details of the program are provided in the table -3 below.

Table -3

Prison/DRC	Name of Counsellor	Frequency
Khalsa Crescent Prison	Welfare Officer	3-4 times a month Sat. 1030am-1245pm
Changi Prison Cluster A1	S. Gurpreet Singh	2 times a month Sat. 9-1130am
Changi Prison Cluster A3	S. Dalijeet Singh/ Welfare Officer	2-3 times a month Sat. 9-11am
Changi Prison Cluster A4	S. Kashmir Singh	4 times a month Sun. 9-12pm
Changi Prison Cluster A5	S. Nirmal Singh/S. Swaran Singh	2-3 times a month Sat. 10am 12pm
Tanah Merah Prison	S. Dalijeet Singh/ S. Kashmir Singh	4 times a month Sat. 3-430pm
Kaki Bukit Centre	S. Harawant Singh	2 times a month Sat. 9am-1020am
Changi Women's Prison	Welfare Officer	2 times a month Tues. 2-4pm

SIWEC Prison Services and Institutions

SIWEC is presently in charge of providing Religious Counselling services to the following Prisons:-

Under Changi Prison Cluster-A

- Changi Prison Cluster-A1 (Gurpreet S)
- Changi Prison Cluster-A3 (Jasbir)
- Changi Prison Cluster-A4 (Nirmal S/Swaran S)
- Changi Prison Cluster-A5(Kashmir)
- Changi Medical Centre (CMC) Visits are done as and when requested by the Sikh inmates admitted. (Jasbir)

Under the new Changi Prison Cluster-B

- Queenstown Remand Prison (QRP) (Dalijeet Singh/Jasbir Singh)
- Kaki Bukit Centre (KBC) (Harawant Singh)
- Tanah Merah Prison (TMP) (Dalijeet Singh)

Prison DRCs under SANA Sikh Counselling Services.

- Changi Prison Cluster-A2

Under Changi Prison Cluster-B

- Khalsa Crescent Prison (KCP) (done by Jasbir Singh)
- Changi Women Prison (CWP) (done by Indrejit Kaur)

Celebrations

As an annual activity, Sikh inmates are visited for Vesakhi and Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburb celebrations annually. Brief prayers are conducted and refreshments served.

7. AFTERCARE /REHABILITATION (PRISONS/DRCS)

3 inmates were released in 2009 and their employment arranged.

8. THE HOSPITAL VISITS PROGRAM

The Welfare Officers carried out hospital visits upon request, referral from public and calls from the hospital staff. The type of cases normally visited varied from terminally ill patients, to those under long term hospitalization. Free ambulance service was also provided to needy patients to meet their hospital appointments.

Non SIWEC clients	12
SIWEC clients	15
Free Ambulance by CIVIC	15

9. FAMILY BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM

- SIWEC provides families of the bereaved with social, emotional and spiritual support during their time of grief. SIWEC looks into various needs of the family by providing guidance on procedural and ceremonial matters for the funeral. The following are some of the services provided:
- Booking of the crematorium,
- Arranging for the hearse (and driving if necessary),
- Assisting with obituaries,
- Making transport arrangements,
- Buying of items for funerals,
- Assisting in bathing the body,
- Booking the Gurdwara for prayers,
- Assistance in ash collection,
- Providing follow up grief counseling and
- Providing assistance during the Anthim Ardas (final prayers).

62 cases of bereavement were handled by Sikh Welfare Council in 2009.

10. HOUSE VISITS AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

All SIWEC clients were personally visited by the new Chair of SIWEC in July 2009. Of these, 2 declined to be visited.

The objective of this comprehensive visit was:-

- To review needs of recipients
- To collect feedback about our Food on the table program
- To review and recommend changes /enhancements to the program.

11. ASSISTANCE TO THE SINGAPORE SIKH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (SSEF)

SIWEC also assisted the SSEF with the assessment of cases seeking assistance for Free Punjabi education, free books and uniforms in Jan 2008. SIWEC carried out interviews, assessment and recommended cases for EXCO's approval. (See below)

SSEF cases processed by SIWEC in 2009 are as follow:-

BEDOK: - 9	} 84 cases
KHALSA: - 40	
CLEMENTI:-35	

It was agreed with SSEF, that that such assessment, from January 2010 will be carried out by SSEF itself.

12. Community Projects by SIWEC.

Natural Disasters in Philippines, Indonesia and other countries

In October 2009, SIWEC raised funds for the victims of Natural disasters in the Philippines and Indonesia as follows

Institution	Pledge	Chq no	RX no	Date received
Central Sikh Gurdwara Board (SRT &CST)	\$4000	DBS 005005	9414	20 th Oct 09
Khalsa Dharmak Sabha	\$2000	SC 571369	9408	15 th Oct 09
Pardesi Khalsa Dharmak Diwan	\$1000	OCBC 258887	9409	19 th Oct 09
Sri Guru Nanak Sat Sang Sabha	\$2000	OCBC 958898	9416	20 th Oct 09
Sri Guru Singh Sabha	\$2000	DBS 300285	9419	22 nd Oct 09
Gurdwara Sahib Yishun	\$1000	OCBC 140265	9415	20 th Oct 09
Khalsa Jiwan Sudhar Sabha	\$1000	DBS 300068	9420	23 rd Oct 09
Singapore Khalsa Association	\$2000	DBS 308434	9402	15 th Oct 09
Young Sikh Association (Singapore)	\$1500	UOB 979809	9412	20 th Oct 09
Singapore Business Association	\$1000	DBS 000118	9403	15 th Oct 09
Sikh Missionary Society(Malaya)	\$1000	SC 199702	9407	15 th Oct 09
Istri Sat Sang	\$500	(cash)	9401	14 th Oct 09
MP Inderjit Singh	\$2000	DBS 722870	9410	19 th Oct 09
Total	\$ 21,000			

The above funds were presented to MERCY Relief on 21st October 2009 at the Central Sikh Temple.

The cheque was presented by MP Inderjit Singh to the representative of MERCY Relief Dr. Fatimah Lateef.

13. LAUNCH OF ISTRI SAT SANG CST WELFARE DAY

Chairman of SIWEC met up with the Members of Istri Sat Sang on the 14th of October 2009 and made an appeal to garner support from the ladies group for SIWEC's Food on the Table Program. SIWEC was informed that the ladies were starting a Welfare Fund from Nov 09 to March 2010 by getting every female member to contribute a minimum of \$10 monthly for 6 months.

MP Inderjit Singh launched the Welfare Day Fund Raising by the ladies on 21st October 2009.

14. SIWEC WELFARE DAYS

Organization	Date	Amount collected	Remarks
Khalsa Dharmak Sabha	9 th August 2009	\$ 70,000/-	Estimated
Gurdwara Sahib Yishun	1 st November 2009	\$23,851/-	
Istri Sat Sang, CST	As at 4 th Jan 2010	\$ 16,222	On going to date
Sri Guru Nanak Sat Sang Sabha	14/12/09	\$13,917/-	Collected during Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburb.
BMS Golfers	As at Nov 09	\$ 8,732.00	
CSGB	Nov/Dec 2009 Chq received on 22/12/09	\$10,473.67	Collected in conjunction with Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburb

15. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In addition to its ongoing programs, SIWEC is reviewing many new initiatives to enhance the welfare of the community. These include:-

I. Children's mentoring Program

This would involve the setting up of a program to look into the educational needs of the children of the needy and under performing children.

II. Adoption & Fostering of Sikh Children

SIWEC has met up with MYCS to review how abandoned Sikh children can be put under the foster care of Sikh families. SIWEC proposes to set up a system whereby Sikh children under such circumstances are taken care of in an environment which reflects their religion, culture and heritage.

III. Health Program

SIWEC will also be actively involved in assisting the needy in their health issues, such as in providing free ambulance services, house visits by volunteer nurses, etc.

16. HOTLINE

SIWEC continues to operate the 24 hours hot-line (62999234) for the benefit of the Community.

17. SIWEC MC

Management Committee of SIWEC for 2009

(Transitional year of change owing to new Constitution and IPC)

MC -1 January –20th June 2009

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION/ REPRESENTATIVE
1	Dr. Sorinder Singh	Chairman
2	S. Bhajan Singh	V. Chairman
3	S. Harjeet Singh	Secretary
4	S. Gurcharanjit Singh	Asst Secretary
5	S. Jagjit Singh	Treasurer
6	S. Inderpal Singh	Asst Treasurer
7	S. Balbeer Singh Mangat	Professional
8	S. Deep Singh	Professional
9	S. Kashmir Singh	Professional
10	S. Karam Singh Phalewal	Khalsa Dharmak Sabha
11	S. Darbara Singh	Sikh Missionary Society
12	S. Hardeep Singh	Gurdwara Sahib Yishun
13	S. Daljeet Singh	Jivan Sudhar sabha
14	S. Satvinder Singh	Central Sikh Temple
15	S. Harjit Singh	Silat Road Temple
16	S. Surjit Singh Wasan	Sikh Advisory Board
17	S. Amarjit Singh	Sikh Advisory Board
18	S. Harbhajan Singh	Singapore Sikh Education Foundation
19	S. Surindar Singh	Pardesi Khalsa Dharmak Divan
20	S. Darshan Singh	Sri Guru Nanak Sat Sang Sabha
21	S. Jagjit Singh Sekhon	Sikh Businessman Association
22	S. Gurrinder Singh Johal	Singapore Khalsa Association
23	S. Kawalpal Singh	Sikh Sewaks Singapore
24	Istri Sat Sang CST	Central Sikh Temple

MC-2 - 20th June 2009 – 31ST October 2009

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION/ REPRESENTATIVE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
1	S. Jagjit Singh Sekhon	Chairman
2	S. Harminder Singh	V. Chairman
3	S. Bhupinder Singh	Secretary
4	S. Gurdip Singh Usma	Asst Secretary
5	S. Inderpal Singh	Treasurer
6	S. Balbeer Singh Mangat	Asst Treasurer
7	S. Jagjit Singh	Professional
8	S. Jaspal Singh	Professional
9	S. Surjit Singh Wasan	Sikh Advisory Board
10	S. Amarjit Singh	Sikh Advisory Board
11	S. Bhajan Singh	Singapore Sikh Education Foundation
12	S. Surindar Singh Bhandal	Pardesi Khalsa Dharmak Diwan
13	S. Darshan Singh Bajaj	Sri Guru Nanak Sat Sang Sabha
14	S. Gurcharanjit Singh	Sri Guru Singh Sabha
15	S. Manmohan Singh	Gurdwara Sahib Yishun
16	S. Gurinder Singh Johal	Singapore Khalsa Association
17	S. Jaswinder Singh	Singapore Businessman Association
18	S. Darbara Singh	Sikh Missionary Society
19	S. Karpal Singh Mali	Silat Road Temple
20	S. Ranjit Singh Wahla	Central Sikh Temple
21	S. Devinder Singh	Khalsa Dharmak Sabha
22	S. Gurdip Singh	Khalsa Jiwan Sudhar Sabha
23	S. Kawalpal Singh	Sikh Sewaks Singapore
24	S. Gurmail Kaur	Istri Sat Sang CST

SPECIALIST SUB-COMMITTEE

Talwindeer Singh Tharoo
Manmohan Singh
Dinesh Singh
Surjit Kaur Gill
Amarjit Singh Wasan

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr. Sorinder Singh
S. Harmit Singh
S. Harjeet Singh
S. Kashmir Singh
S. Deep Singh

MC-3 - 31st October 2009 –December 2009

S/N	Name	Designation
	SIWEC MC	
1	S. Jagjit Singh Sekhon	Chairman
2	S. Gurdip Singh Usma	Vice Chairman/ Silat Road Temple
3	S. Amarjit Singh Wasan	Secretary
4	S. Jaspreet Singh Chabra	Asst Secretary
5	S. Inderpal Singh	Treasurer
6	S. Balbeer Singh Mangat	Asst Treasurer
7	S. Dinesh Singh	Committee Member
8	S. Manmohan Singh	Committee Member
9	S Surndar Singh Bhandal	Committee Member
10	S Sarjit Kaur Gill	Committee Member
11	S. Kawalpal Singh	Committee Member/ Sikh Sewaks Singapore
	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	
12	S. Surjit Singh Wasan	Sikh Advisory Board
13	S. Kirpal Singh Mali	Central Sikh Gurdwara Board
14	S. Harnaikh Singh	Young Sikh Association Singapore
	COUNCIL MEMBERS	
15	S. Gурpal Singh	Khalsa Dharmak Sabha
16	S. Darbara Singh	Sikh Missionary Society
17	S. Jagdev Singh	Gurwara Sahib Yishun
18	S. Tirlok Singh	Sri Guru Singh Sabha
19	S. Gurdip Singh	Jiwan Sudahr Sabha
20	S. Harbans Singh Gholia	Central Sikh Temple
21	S. Bhajan Singh	Singapore Sikh Education Foundation
22	S. Jaspal Singh	Pardesi Khalsa Dharmak Diwan
23	S. Taranjit Singh	Sri Guru Nanak sat Sang Sabha
24	S. Jasminder Singh	Sikh Businessmen Association
25	S. Charanjit Singh	Singapore Khalsa Association
26	S. Jagir Kaur	Istri Sat Sang CST