

PARTNER OF LABOUR MOVEMENT

Nur Aini

Migrant Domestic Worker

Nominated by the Centre for Domestic Employees.

Nur Aini has volunteered with the Centre for Domestic Employees (CDE) since October 2021, dedicating her free time to supporting migrant domestic workers (MDW) for several years. One significant aspect of her journey involves teaching English to a small group of friends in Singapore seeking to enhance their language skills. In 2020, she established the Friendship Club Indonesia (FCI), a community for Indonesian MDWs. FCI provides a platform for members to learn English and computer skills while offering mutual support. The community quickly gained popularity, leading to a growing demand among Indonesian MDWs. To address this, Sister Aini actively sought support from CDE and the Indonesian Embassy to secure spaces for classes, which now have substantial waitlists. She also trains fellow MDWs as teachers, creating a sustainable model where multiple teachers lead classes while simultaneously mentoring others, highlighting the transformative potential of education.

In addition to English and computer classes, Sister Aini teaches photography and swimming, fostering a fun environment for members to engage in activities together. She also takes the initiative to organise festive celebrations such as Hari Raya, adding a joyful and communal aspect to FCI's activities.

Drawing from her diverse experiences working with different organisations, Sister Aini consistently enhances her initiatives. For example, she applies teaching insights from volunteering at a training centre to improve FCI's curriculum, class structures, and programmes. Additionally, she organises English examinations and business plan competitions for FCI students, demonstrating her commitment to comprehensive education.

Recognising education as a pathway to a brighter future, Sister Aini extends her impact beyond Singapore. After completing her daily domestic work, she dedicates her evenings to providing online tuition for children in her hometown in Indonesia.

Sister Aini's approach transcends mere skill development; she views education as a platform for nurturing positive mental well-being and emphasises the importance of building a healthy, supportive community rooted in positive values. Her holistic approach to education and empowerment has enabled many MDWs to plan their futures with newfound confidence.