

Continued from Page 1

## THE DELANCEY STREET FOUNDATION – one of the most successful halfway house programmes in the world

*Delancey Street Foundation is considered the US's leading self-help education centre for former substance abusers and ex-convicts. Today it houses more than a thousand residents in five states and is headquartered in San Francisco where it originated.*

Its residents range in age from 18 to 68 and a quarter are women. The average resident has been a hard-core drug addict for ten years and has been in prison four times. Despite such a violent and criminal background, there has never been a single arrest in the 25 years that the Foundation has been in existence, and even gang members who have sworn to kill one another now live in integrated dormitories and work together cooperatively.

Although the average resident is functionally illiterate and unskilled when entering Delancey Street, all residents receive a high school equivalency and are trained in three different marketable skills before graduating. The minimum stay is two years and the average is four years, and residents learn not only academic and vocational skills but interpersonal, social survival skills, along with the attitudes, values, sense of responsibility and self-reliance necessary to live in the mainstream of society drug-free, successfully and legitimately. Over 10,000 men and women have graduated into society as taxpaying citizens leading successful lives as lawyers, truck drivers, sales people, mechanics, medical professionals and even a deputy coroner and sheriff.

All this has been accomplished at no cost to either the taxpayer or client. Delancey Street has never accepted government



Minister for Community Development, Mr Abdullah Tarmugi with Dr Mimi Silbert and her colleagues at the NCADA Seminar.

funding, has no staff and even its President Dr Silbert receives no salary. The entire organisation is run by its residents. Everyone is both a giver and receiver in Delancey Street, which operates as an extended family rather than as a "programme".

The organisation functions on an "each one teach one" principle where older residents help newer ones and everyone works. The Foundation supports itself primarily through a number of training schools which provide vocational skills to all the residents and which also generate the Foundation's income through pooling the

money earned. Training schools include a Moving & Trucking School, Restaurant & Catering Services, Print & Copy Shop, Retail & Wholesale Sales, Paratransit Services, Advertising Specialities Sales, Christmas Tree Sales and a Decorating and Automotive Service Centre. Community friends help with donated products and financial gifts, by utilising the training schools and most importantly,

by showing faith and trust in the residents against all odds.

Delancey recently completed construction of an expanded and centralised home in San Francisco. The complex was built and supervised by Delancey residents. Dr Silbert was the developer and Delancey was its own general contractor. Covering an entire city-block, the four storey complex contains street level retail stores, a public restaurant and outdoor expresso cafe as well as 177 dwelling units and educational & recreational facilities for Delancey residents. The project also served

Continued on Page 5



Dr Mimi Silbert delivering her keynote address at the NCADA Seminar on halfway houses.

Menninger (founder of the world-renowned Menninger Clinic) calls "the best and most successful rehabilitation programme in the world."

Dr Silbert holds a BA in English, Masters and Doctorates in Psychology and Criminology as well as four Honorary Doctorates. She is a recognised national

## Dr Mimi Silbert – mixing hard PRACTICALITY and IDEALISM

Dr Mimi Silbert is the President, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Delancey Street Foundation which Dr Karl

expert in criminal justice and has worked as a prison psychologist, police trainer and college lecturer. She has conducted hundreds of

seminars throughout the US on subjects such as substance abuse, community corrections and criminal justice and published several monographs and book chapters as well as numerous articles in professional journals.

Dr Silbert and Delancey Street have received numerous commendations, certificates and awards from Presidents Bush and Reagan, congressional leaders, State legislatures and governors, including four Mayoral Proclamations of "Mimi Silbert Days" in San Francisco.

Her visit to Singapore is in every sense a very special one. Dr Silbert accepts only two speaking engagements per year and this is her first in the Asia-Pacific area.

Continued from Page 4

as a vocational training programme providing 300 formerly unemployable drug addicts, homeless people and ex-criminals every skill in the building trades with the support of the unions. In addition, residents received training in purchasing, contracting, computer and accounting services.

There is nothing else in the world like this self-built, self-managed, self-help complex. Small wonder that it has received awards from distinguished bodies such as the American Architects Association.

But most important of all, Delancey Street shows that ordinary people can transform extraordinary – even impossible – dreams into reality by pooling their resources, supporting one another and living lives of purpose and integrity.

## SCORE ORGANISED CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES A HEFTY \$180,000.

More than a hundred leading businessmen and prominent civil servants turned up at the Laguna National Golf & Country Club's Classic Course on 28 July to help raise funds for NCADA. Minister for Home Affairs Mr Wong Kan Seng launched the charity drive which netted more than \$180,000. The funds will go a long way towards supporting NCADA's many activities such as anti-drug abuse seminars, preventive education programmes and Halfway Houses.

The tournament as well as lucky draw prizes were formidable, ranging from a Mercedes-Benz C200 and a Mitsubishi Spacegear to quality furniture suites, airline tickets, branded golf accessories, premium liquors and electronic equipment, to name just a few.



Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Wong Kan Seng, teeing off at the NCADA Charity Golf Tournament.

Chairman NCADA thanked major sponsors such as Singapore Pools, Cycle & Carriage Pte Ltd, the Far East Organisation, Lee Foundation and Transview Group of Companies. He also singled out for mention the valuable contribution of Mr Wong Hoi Kit, CEO SCORE in organising the event, and presented Mr Wong with a plaque to express his appreciation.