

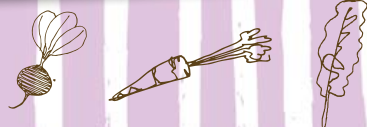
## Madam Lim Lian Tee

### In brief:

Over the last 25 years, Mdm Lim has fostered 10 girls and her current flat is now home for two girls, ages 11 and 15.

The ties that she has formed with her foster children have gone much deeper. Two of her former foster daughters, now 26 and 27, regard Mdm Lim as their mother.

Thinking about the close ties with her foster children, even after they have left her home, has only made Mdm Lim feel happy inside. "Because we have no daughters, fostering has made it feel like I have daughters in my family now."



Madam Lim Lian Tee

## A home to roost

For Madam Lim Lian Tee, fostering children provides an avenue for the family to raise a girl when the family could not have any.

As a mother of three boys, it was not feasible for the family to have more children during an era when big families were discouraged. However, Mdm Lim's late husband had always yearned for a 'daughter' of his own.

"That was why when I filled in the application form for fostering, I specifically requested for girls," she says in Mandarin.

Mdm Lim first learned of the MCYS Fostering Scheme through her sister, a former foster parent, and the rest is history.

Over the last 25 years, Mdm Lim has fostered 10 girls and her current flat is now home for two girls, ages 11 and 15.

The ties that she has formed with her other foster children have gone much deeper. Two of her former foster daughters, now 26 and 27, regard Mdm Lim as their mother.

In fact, when one of them got married last year, not only did Mdm Lim help in planning the wedding

ceremony, she was also served tea during the foster daughter's traditional tea ceremony. "I felt very happy then, because it was like seeing your own daughter get married," she says.

Furthermore, the newly married foster daughter also selected a flat within walking distance from Mdm Lim's home. This makes it easy for Mdm Lim to see her foster daughter frequently, as the daughter regularly visits, at least two to three times a week, for dinner. With a son living in the same neighbourhood, Mdm Lim says living in such close proximity with family members is a better arrangement for everyone as they can watch out for one another.

These days, one activity Mdm Lim looks forward to is taking nature walks with her foster children over the weekends. They are usually joined by her son and grandsons - making it a truly family affair.

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## Memento

While Madam Lim Lian Tee cherishes the cards which her foster children give her during special occasions such as Mother's Day and her birthday, these cards are usually bought. Besides the cards, the family usually celebrates such occasions by having dinner as a family, which includes her sons, grandsons and her several foster children. "When we go out to eat, the family is so big that we have to occupy two tables of ten!"

**Note:**

As soups are a staple of Madam Lim Lian Tee's family meals, contributing this vegetable soup recipe was an easy decision for Mdm Lim.

Not only is this soup simple to make, Mdm Lim says it is healthy as well as it contains carrots, potatoes and onions - ingredients which provide a lot of nutrients. "My foster children like it as they are used to drinking soup. They like most soups and are used to drinking it for every meal."

As a testament to how simple the recipe is, Mdm Lim adds that one of her foster children even brewed the soup as part of a Home Economics test in school before.



## Vegetable Soup

**Ingredients\*:**

- 1 chicken thigh (300g)
- 1 carrot (200g)
- 1 big potato (200g)
- Chicken stock (1 cube)
- A little salt
- 1 onion (60g)
- 800ml water



**STEP**

01

Boil water and place the chicken thigh in the boiling water for a short while and take it out. Pour away the water.

**STEP**

02

Place the chicken into a pot of water(800ml) and add the cube of chicken stock.

**STEP**

03

Cut carrot, potato and onion into cubes.

**STEP**

04

Put all the cut vegetables into the same pot of water and cook for about 45 to 60 minutes.

\* - serving for 2-3 persons

