

Tuning in to the Leaders

In the Profession



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Jai holds a Master of Social Work from the Washington University in St. Louis and a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree with Honours in Social Work from NUS. Jai is currently the General Manager for the Social Service Office @ Kreta Ayer and Bukit Merah. He also teaches social policy at UNISIM. Jai's professional experiences are in policies and services related to disability matters, youth at risk, children and families in need and homeless persons. Jai has also worked as a crisis worker in the US; trained in crisis intervention & suicide prevention accredited by American Association of Suicidology.

● **ON AIR**



Journey to Social Work

Initial dreams

Radio DJ

Air
Steward

News
Reader



"Social Worker
by Chance"

.. Subsequently wanted to become a Psychologist... but stumbled into Social work...where passion for working with systems and advocacy work was founded,,,

Others can see our
potential, strengths &
weaknesses more
than us



"I am where I am only because of the guides in my life who saw the potential in me and took dedicated steps to groom and direct me " (paraphrased)

"Have guides/ mentors in your life who are able to see your potential better than we can."

*My
Social Work
Journey*



2. Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped



4. George Warren Brown School of Social Work



6. Centre for Mental Health



8. UniSIM Policy Lecturer



1. Daybreak Family Service Centre



3. Disability Policy Officer



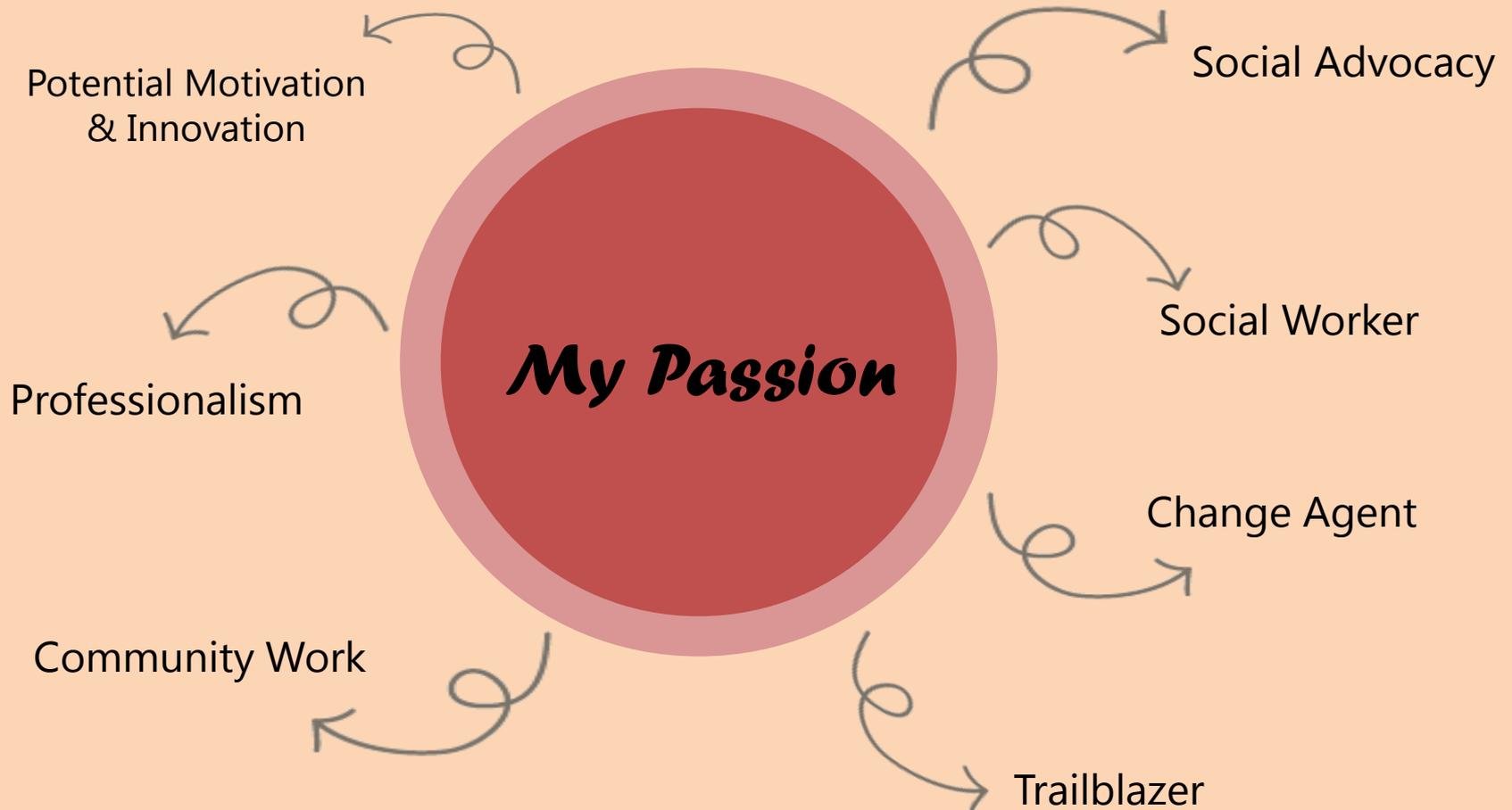
5. Crisis Worker

7. Rehabilitation & Protection Policy Officer



9. Social Service Office

"I am not afraid of work but I am afraid of work that is not meaningful"





Your Questions

What is the toughest issue you have encountered and how did you overcome it?

The toughest issue is working with people and changing people's mindset, also when people do not put the client or their needs at the center of the table. Managing people is my toughest challenge.

To overcome these problems, I met the different stakeholders separately to understand and address their concerns. It is not so much of the issue at hand but the people involved.

Your Questions

If you could change one thing in the social service sector what would it be?

I hope that every social worker can find a cause that they advocate for.

Today, there are a lot of consultation platforms and efforts to engage social workers. But how many social workers actually advocate for issues on forum pages? How many social workers come for consultations? If every social worker can support a cause, be it how small or big, a social change can be contributed to help masses of clients. That is what I really hope can happen.



Your Questions

What are the qualities social service professionals should have to have a successful and rewarding career?

The core thing is understanding what social work is all about. Social work is being a change agent. You are in a valuable position to be able to make an impact on the client by intervening at the systems. You are at a valuable position for collecting data and to understand the issue at hand. You have the skill sets, the training and knowledge and how to advocate these issues.

Being passionate is also important.