

SETAPAK COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING & TREATMENT PROJECT 2013

☀ ☀ BENEFICIARIES' TESTIMONIALS 2012 ☀ ☀

The following testimonials are from beneficiaries who participated in the April/May 2013 Setapak colorectal cancer screening project. They were found with blood in stool after the screening.



MR. LEE BENG HUI, 56 YEARS OLD

Mr. Lee Beng Hui thinks that EMPOWERED's project is a very good project as the level of awareness for colorectal cancer is very low. "Even though some people may have heard of colorectal cancer, but their awareness of it is very low and they do not know the full details and many would not even go for colorectal screening. I am very thankful. If not for EMPOWERED having this event at my community, I myself would not have gone for colorectal cancer screening".

Mr. Lee shared that EMPOWERED's Patient Support Program was helpful. "The support is very good. Having someone to talk to you and walk with you, that's very helpful. Also the student volunteer who was assigned to support me was able to answer all my questions about what colorectal cancer is".



MRS. DIAL KAUR, 64 YEARS OLD

Mrs. Dial Kaur was informed that blood was found in her stool. She shared with us her feelings before and during the results was released. She was feeling very scared.

“At first, I was very scared and nervous at the same time. The lady who came to my house and shared the news with me was very patient and empathetic at the same time. I felt so much at ease when she shared the news with me and after listening to her, my fears were allayed and I stayed quite calm”, she said.

We asked her what she feels about having EMPOWERED journey with her emotionally through this and she said, “I find this so helpful. The student who was assigned to provide a one-to-one support to me was very sincere, friendly and has a good listening ear. I would like to thank him and EMPOWERED for having this Patient Support Program”.

Mrs. Kaur claims that having EMPOWERED journeying with her is indeed very helpful. “I could have gone for my own check up because I have a pension card which gives me free access for check up, medicine etc. Having said that, without EMPOWERED journeying with me, I wouldn’t have gotten my colon screened and checked and would not even go for colonoscopy on my own. I am so thankful that the student volunteer journeyed with me throughout the whole process. I would like to encourage EMPOWERED to continue with this good support program”.



MDM. NG THO YONG, 56 YEARS OLD

We managed to speak to Mdm. Ng Tho Yong regarding her experience with EMPOWERED through our Patient Support Program. Mdm. Ng Tho Yong shared with us regarding her feedback about EMPOWERED's Colorectal Cancer Screening Project. "I think it's a very good initiative as it reaches out to the people in our community who have lesser means and access to such medical facilities".

When asked to share her feelings about finding out about having blood in stool, she said, "I was initially very anxious but soon I learnt to come to accept it. Family and friends have been instrumental in encouraging and consoling me".

Mdm. Ng also shared with us on her appreciation of EMPOWERED's efforts. "I'm glad EMPOWERED this service which is complementary to the screening programme as the support provided through this programme helps to re-assure me, thus I am less afraid to face my future".



MDM. NG KOK CHIN, 56 YEARS

Mdm. Ng Kok Chin shared with us about her ignorance on what colorectal cancer was until EMPOWERED came in to the lives of the Setapak community.

“I roughly know about cancer, but not colorectal cancer. During the project, the student volunteer explained to me what colorectal cancer was in my local dialect, so that really helped to enlighten me”, she said.

“I was really scared. I thought I had a chronic disease but after some time when I have calmed down, I tried to console myself by thinking this could be just a small problem”, Mdm. Ng said. Like many other subjects of EMPOWERED’s Patient Support Program, receiving the news of having blood found in their stool was a big shock that caused much fear to them. However, with EMPOWERED journeying with them, it is a big relief to have someone emotionally being on this journey.

Mdm. Ng shared her relief and gratitude. “I’m so glad such kind of support programme is available and it’s free. It does help me a lot, emotions wise”.



MDM. LAM SOOI YIN, 73 YEARS OLD

Mdm. Lam Sooi Yin feels that “This project is very important to us as it helped us to detect colorectal cancer. Not only that, by providing subsequent aids such as scheduled hospital visits and financial aid, all these are very meaningful to us”.

She felt glad and thankful to be part of this colorectal cancer screening project as she claims that she would not have gone for the screening herself and her children are too busy to accompany her for that as well. “Having a colorectal cancer screening right in my community area in Setapak is so helpful”.

Mdm. Lam was very afraid when she was informed that blood was found in her stool. “I was afraid that I may have colorectal cancer as I’m already quite advanced in age”. As EMPOWERED’s patient support program focuses on emotional accompaniment, she was assigned volunteers who journeyed with her. “This is a very good and friendly approach. My privacy was also protected as the news was shared to me in the privacy of my own home. The student volunteer was very helpful in allaying my fears and this gave me a sense of security”.



MR. MIAU AH LACK, 66 YEARS OLD

Mr. Miao shared his insights with us regarding his participation in the colorectal cancer screening project. "I think it is very beneficial to us because it is completely free. I am very touched by EMPOWERED's kindness and dedication to be willing to help us elderly people without expecting anything in return".

He also shared that he felt privileged to be part of this project that is free of charge. "I feel very privileged to be part of this project because I don't have to pay a single cent, even transportation is provided. The EMPOWERED staff and volunteers helped a lot in getting everything arranged for us, such as clinic and hospital registration, bringing us to the Klinik Kesihatan and giving us emotional support throughout the process. Each of us residents had volunteers assigned to every single one of us, which is indeed very helpful when needing to interact with the doctors, nurses asking them about our condition etc", he said.

Mr. Miao also shared with us regarding his views on the one-to-one support that he received from EMPOWERED's Patient Support Program. "The one-to-one support is definitely good, since I'm poor in the Malay language. It's good that the EMPOWERED volunteer helped to translate everything that was shared and communicated to me by the doctor. I'm so glad that the EMPOWERED volunteer communicates with me in my own local dialect".



MR. LEE BENG KEE, 58 YEARS OLD

Mr. Lee Beng Kee feels that the project is very meaningful to the community as many do not generally go for health screening. He knew a little about colorectal cancer through radio interviews and reading the newspaper.

He also shared his views about the Patient Support Program and how the news about having blood in stool was broken. "This one-to-one approach is very good as I felt that my privacy was respected", Mr. Lee said.



MRS. GURDEEP KAUR, 57 YEARS OLD

Mrs. Gurdeep Kaur is another participant of EMPOWERED's colorectal cancer screening project in Setapak. She feels that "It is beneficial for people like us since we cannot afford the screening in private hospital. And thank God because through the screening by EMPOWERED, I found early that I had problem, which is blood in my stool".

Mrs. Gurdeep felt that it was a good approach how the news of having blood in her stool was broken to her in the privacy and comfort of her home. "This is a good approach as I'm happy I my privacy was protected. Besides, emotionally, I was allowed to take it all in at home where the news was shared with you. I'm so privileged to be a beneficiary of this program. Thank you, EMPOWERED for reaching out to the under-resourced community".