



PRESIDENT'S  
VOLUNTEERISM &  
PHILANTHROPY  
*awards*

 2017

A B O U T T H E

—

# PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEERISM & PHILANTHROPY *awards* 2017

The annual President's Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards (PVPA) presents the highest honour for those who have set benchmarks of excellence in the spirit of giving in the arts, environment, social services, sports, education, healthcare and other worthy causes in Singapore. The Awards aim to encourage and inspire others to bring about a higher level of volunteerism and philanthropy in Singapore.



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# C O N T E N T S

## AWARD CATEGORIES

- |           |   |           |                                |
|-----------|---|-----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>12</b> | <b>Corporate: Large Enterprise</b>              | <b>44</b> | <b>Tonight's Hosts</b>         |
| <b>16</b> | <b>Corporate: Small &amp; Medium Enterprise</b> | <b>46</b> | <b>Tonight's Entertainment</b> |
| <b>20</b> | <b>Non-Profit Organisation</b>                  | <b>48</b> | <b>NVPC Board Members</b>      |
| <b>24</b> | <b>Kampong Spirit</b>                           | <b>50</b> | <b>About NVPC</b>              |
| <b>28</b> | <b>Educational Institution</b>                  | <b>51</b> | <b>Giving Initiatives</b>      |
| <b>32</b> | <b>Individual: Youth</b>                        | <b>56</b> | <b>Acknowledgements</b>        |
| <b>36</b> | <b>Individual: Adult</b>                        |           |                                |
| <b>40</b> | <b>Individual: Senior</b>                       |           |                                |



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR PVPA 2017



Singapore has progressed significantly over the years. As a nation, we have achieved sustained growth and prosperity since independence. Standard of living has improved across the board. It is therefore important that we make an effort to not leave anyone behind.

The President's Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards (PVPA) was inaugurated in 2012, after the amalgamation of the National Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards and the President's Social Service Award to bring the importance of volunteerism to the fore. Since then, the Awards have recognised dozens of corporations, individuals and groups who have committed time,

energy and dedication into giving back to society.

This year's PVPA recipients once again exemplify the spirit of giving. They come from all walks of life and contribute passionately to help their community. My heartiest congratulations to all of them.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers, philanthropists and representatives from non-profit and corporate organisations for your spirit of giving. I am confident that your dedication and passion will serve as an inspiration to everyone in Singapore. Together, we can build a caring and cohesive society, and make Singapore a place we can all call home.

“ This year's PVPA recipients once again exemplify the spirit of giving. They come from all walks of life and contribute passionately to help their community. ”

**H A L I M A H Y A C O B**

P R E S I D E N T O F T H E  
R E P U B L I C O F S I N G A P O R E

As I look at this year's outstanding list of Presidential Award recipients, I am reminded of the 12th-century Jewish philosopher Maimonides, who once described what he believed to be the eight levels of charity. The most important level, he expounded, was to anticipate charity by preventing poverty - that instead of giving an impoverished man money, you could teach him a trade so that he can continue to earn an honest living on his own. The best problem-solving always addresses fundamentals.

Over a thousand years later, his idea seems especially pertinent. What sets these PVPA recipients apart is not just their willingness to give back, but also their creativity and vision. These are dedicated individuals and organisations who are thinking, not just about the now, but also about how their giving mindset and initiatives can be embedded into individual and organisational DNA and sustained for generations to come.

DBS Bank believes in creating a corporate culture that is socially responsible and anchored around inclusive growth. DBS encourages staff to volunteer and come up with innovative ideas on how to give back while the foundation supports pre-scale social enterprises.

Dover Park Hospice is reorganising its business processes to empower more volunteers and invests heavily in its volunteer talent management, giving them recognition and support, which in turn encourages them to continue volunteering and inspire others to give back.

At Greenpac, a leading sustainable packaging SME,



## A WORD FROM THE CEO

staff teams equip schools with hydroponic units to allow city kids to test out urban farming and understand the importance of a sustainable ecology. The project has encouraged students to come up with ideas on sustainability and self-sufficiency.

Hougang Secondary School is another example of an organisation institutionalising giving into the daily school life and practices for the whole school community.

Or think about Ms Dipa Swaminathan, who started ItsRainingRaincoats - a Ground-up initiative that has helped thousands of migrants workers - quite literally out of the contents of her car boot. Society is best measured by how we treat the least powerful amongst us.

Tonight, as we celebrate giving, we are also honoured to have with us President Halimah Yacob as she presides over her first PVPA. During her presidential campaign, she

championed the slogan "Do Good, Do Together" and I believe it is one which resonates with all of us, especially at a time when our social cohesiveness is often tested.

In my work, I am often asked: What does it mean to be a philanthropist? Humans are inherently social creatures and I believe every human being is born with the innate desire to want to help others. Thus, while I think the answer to that question encompasses many things, it all starts with the power of personal choice. Each of us are gifted in some way and each of us are responsible for our life choices. Do we consume as passive customers? Or do we invest as agents of change and co-creators in the lives and dreams of others that transforms society? In the end, our choices will define the kind of person we will either be and become - or not. So, may we be the all and even more of the change we hope to see in the world.

**M E L I S S A K W E E**  
C E O , N V P C



## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

“ **New York Times best-selling author Mandy Hale once said: “There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life more beautiful for others.” Even in our time-pressed, fast-paced society, it is therefore always heartening to find individuals, groups and corporations willing to come forward to give their time, talent or treasure to help others. I am constantly inspired by such generous spirits who give back and have compassion for others.** ”

**M I L D R E D**  
**T A N**  
C H A I R M A N , N V P C

TOGETHER,  
LET'S SHOW  
THE WORLD  
THAT WE  
ARE A  
NATION  
WITH  
A BIG  
HEART.

Imagine you and I actively playing our part to look out for one another, ensuring no one gets left behind. Imagine a Singapore where everyone is empowered to make a difference, helping to build a more caring and inclusive home for all. This is the spirit of SG Cares.

This year's President's Volunteerism and Philanthropy Awards (PVPA) is a special one, as it marks the start of a season of celebrations leading up to the SG Cares Carnival in January next year. With Giving Week as a key highlight, we encourage the community to celebrate the spirit of caring in Singapore, recognise and support good people and good deeds, as well as dedicate ourselves to giving back.

As we honour you who have set benchmarks of excellence in giving to the community through the PVPA tonight, we are sure that you, among many other everyday heroes, will also continue to inspire others and care for our little red dot in your own ways.

Together, let's show the world that we are a nation with a big heart.



FIND OUT MORE AND JOIN US in our nationwide caring movement at [www.sgcares.sg](http://www.sgcares.sg)





# J U D G E S

**Ms Trina Liang-Lin**  
(Co-Chairperson of panel)

*President, Singapore  
Committee for UN Women*



**Mr Eugene Seow**  
(Co-Chairperson of panel)

*Special Advisor, TOUCH  
Community Services, & Executive  
Director, TOUCH International*



**Mr Ronny Tan**

*Former Chairman,  
Assisi Hospice*



**Mr Robert Chew**

*Honorary Treasurer,  
National Council of Social Service  
Vice Chairman, Dover Park Hospice*



**Dr Ming Tan**

*Director,  
The COMO Foundation*



**Ms Yvonne Tham**

*Assistant CEO,  
The Esplanade Co Ltd*



**Ms Debra Soon**

*Chief Customer Officer,  
Mediacorp Pte Ltd*



**Mr Chew Kwee San**

*Council Member,  
Tan Chin Tuan Foundation*



**Mr Azmoon  
Ahmad**

*Managing Director,  
Desay SV Automotive  
Singapore Pte Ltd*





**A W A R D**  
**C A T E G O R I E S**

**G R O U P**

**President's Award for Volunteerism and/or Philanthropy**  
*Corporate, Large Enterprise Winner*

**DBS Bank Ltd**

**President's Award for Volunteerism and/or Philanthropy**  
*Corporate, Small & Medium Enterprise Winner*

**Greenpac Pte Ltd**

**President's Awards for Volunteerism and/or Philanthropy**  
*Non-Profit Organisation Winner*

**Dover Park Hospice**

**President's Award for Volunteerism and/or Philanthropy**  
*Kampong Spirit Winner*

**ItsRainingRaincoats**

**President's Award for Volunteerism and/or Philanthropy**  
*Educational Institution Winner*

**Hougang Secondary School**

**I N D I V I D U A L**

**President's Award for Volunteerism and/or Philanthropy**  
*Individual, Youth Winner*

**Kevin Martens Wong Zhi Qiang**

**President's Award for Volunteerism and/or Philanthropy**  
*Individual, Adult Winner*

**Dr Marcus Ang**

**President's Award for Volunteerism and/or Philanthropy**  
*Individual, Senior Winner*

**Dr William Wan**



1



2

## BANKING ON VOLUNTEERING WITH PRIDE



3

**1** Empowering the elderly with skills and knowledge to lead an active ageing lifestyle.

**2** Supporting social enterprises such as Bettr Barista in various ways, including procurement of their goods and services.

**3** Piyush Gupta, CEO of DBS Group, sharing tips to help the elderly safeguard against fraud.

As companies expand in an increasingly competitive business environment, social responsibility often takes a backseat. Bucking that trend, DBS has made it a point to expand year on year on its corporate social responsibility initiatives, reaching out into new areas of corporate giving, forging diverse partnerships, developing creative ways to give back and continually encouraging its staff to inculcate volunteerism in their daily lives.

The bank's strong socially conscious corporate culture is aligned with its corporate values - PRIDE (Purpose-driven, Relationship-led, Innovative, Decisive, Everything fun!). This forms the road map that guides staff in the areas of corporate giving. Staff are empowered to be "purpose-driven" by creating impact that extends beyond banking. To sustain that social impact, they are encouraged to be "relationship-led" by collaborating across departments and forming partnerships with community groups. They are also given support to be "innovative" in coming up with ideas for social initiatives, and then nurtured to be "decisive" in leading these initiatives. Most importantly, as employees engage with beneficiaries and fellow volunteers, they gain

**"This is our chance to interact and do a little bit more with the community. And as we give our time and a part of ourselves, we stay rooted and remain engaged with the community at large."**

Piyush Gupta,  
CEO of DBS Group

satisfaction in making "everything fun". "We believe that everyone can make a difference for the community regardless of which stage of the volunteering journey he or she is at," says DBS.

In 2016, over 4,000 employees contributed more than 37,000 hours in volunteerism - time that is assessed to be worth more than \$1.3 million. For example, in July 2016, 700 employees volunteered at six Lions Befrienders centres to raise awareness of dementia and impart tips on active ageing. Gift packs worth \$25,000 in total were also given out to about 500 elderly residents. In line with Giving Week 2016, Health Food Bundles worth \$20 each were handed out to about 200 seniors.

Central to DBS' corporate giving programmes in 2016 was its support of social enterprises (SEs). The DBS Foundation's annually administered Social Enterprise Grant Programme enables SEs to test product feasibility or pilot a prototype model, improve existing processes or add critical capabilities to achieve sustainability, or scale up their existing business. In 2016, the foundation awarded over \$1 million in grants to 14 SEs.

DBS sees the SE sector as "relatively new and remains a nascent field in Asia". "Hence, we believe that increasing public awareness and creating positive perceptions of SEs is integral to the development of the sector. We seek to educate and engage the public and aspiring SEs through various outreach activities and our online platform AsiaForGood.com," it adds. "As Asia grows, businesses need to be increasingly aware of their social responsibilities and do their part to build a more inclusive community for the future. We see SEs as the way forward to address social inequalities in a sustainable way."

Beyond funding, support through events and education have reached out to 2,600 social entrepreneurs. At the bank's newly launched innovation facility DBS Asia X, five SEs are given rent-free co-working space. Likewise, at events such as the DBS Marina Regatta, Singapore Coffee Festival, CRIB Summit and Artbox, SEs were given free or discounted use of booths and exhibition spaces. DBS also organised three





social enterprise clinics where staff shared their expertise on areas such as tax and accounting, and procurement and marketing.

Apart from SEs, DBS identified three other sectors for its corporate giving initiatives - the active ageing, education and the environment. With these targets in mind, under its People of Purpose volunteer movement, DBS has continually ensured that the spirit of volunteerism is ingrained in its corporate culture. All DBS staff are given two days of volunteer leave a year. Volunteer leaders are also encouraged to organise projects for their departments. For example, one of the departments in the Technology and Operations (T&O) division has been running a monthly volunteering programme to engage senior citizens in the Mei Ling area for the last two years.

In total, in 2016, DBS gave at least \$254,000 to community partners such as SPD, MINDS, AWWA, Lions Befrienders, Community Chest and Enactus Singapore. This was not inclusive of ground-up programmes initiated by DBS staff. For example, DBS' Technology and Operations division raised \$35,000 for needy children. Another \$12,000 was raised by the T&O division for Lions Befrienders in Mei Ling to run its year-long volunteer programme. Fundraising was also done in a fun manner. At the DBS Marina Regatta, for example, in

the Paddle For Good segment which promotes social inclusivity, for each participant who went through the experience as a deaf or blind person, \$50 was donated to SPD. In total, \$60,000 was raised.

DBS has taken employee volunteerism one step further by developing its staff into effective volunteers when they are out in the field. DBS/POSB frontline employees are equipped with knowledge about ageing and dementia so that they can lend a helping hand to elderly customers. Corporate volunteers are given knowledge about their beneficiaries prior to their volunteer activities. "This knowledge encompasses basic do's and don'ts when it comes to engaging beneficiaries. Depending on the nature of the activities, in-depth training may also be conducted, such as when rolling out dementia awareness workshops, as well as digital literacy, scam prevention forums for the elderly," says DBS.

The corporate giving extends beyond just monetary donations or volunteer time. DBS championed social giving by onboarding charities onto DBS PayLah! mobile wallet app, and DBS Internet and mobile banking to help them generate revenues innovatively. When it comes to company events, the bank also proactively supports SEs and charities, for example, buying cookies made by MINDS beneficiaries for DBS events such as the

**"I think DBS has been very helpful. They are a great customer to have and we've also worked with some of the volunteers in the bank to hone our financial numbers and pictures."**

Pamela Chng, Founder of Bettr Barista – a social enterprise specialising in world-class coffee education and roasting, driven by a social aim of improving the lives of disadvantaged women and youth-at-risk.



DBS Marina Regatta. Through sponsorship engagements with the National Gallery Singapore and the Singapore Sailing Federation, beneficiaries from MINDS, AWWA, SPD and Lions Befrienders were invited to specially designed initiatives at the National Gallery and Marina Bay.

Each year, POSB (part of the DBS group) organises and sponsors the POSB Passion Run for Kids. The event is part of the People's Association's Community Development Fund that supports children up to the age of 16. So far, about 320,000 kids have benefited through this fund. In 2016, the run raised \$1 million. DBS has also roped in key partners, such as the National University of Singapore in the DBS-NUS Social Venture Challenge Asia, which has helped SEs in the region. DBS also partnered with Khoo Teck Puat Hospital in the Forget Me Not campaign to raise awareness of dementia.

#### Moving ahead

DBS aims to further entrench skills-based volunteering by tapping on the experience, expertise and networks of its employees to support SEs. In each market, senior-level executives are encouraged to take the lead and form teams to offer pro bono consulting for SEs, thus informally "adopting" these SEs. DBS also plans to digitalise the volunteerism experience by creating an internal platform for volunteers to browse and pick pro bono projects they are personally keen on.

**4** Partnering Khoo Teck Puat Hospital to curate activities that improve mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of the elderly.

**5** Engaging the community through financial literacy programmes that cover topics such as scam prevention.

# GROWING GREEN IDEAS



A company that specialises in providing environmentally-friendly packaging solutions, Greenpac certainly walks the talk when it comes to advocating green practices. Its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives - that reach out to all walks of life, from school children to inmates - have not just been about providing donations or necessities, but also imparting important practices about the environment and sustainability, as well as spurring creativity, innovative discussions and ideas for ways to raise awareness about the environment.

"As a green organisation, we are actively working towards sustainability and inclusiveness to build an enviable ecosystem," says Ms Susan Chong, CEO of Greenpac. With that in mind, Greenpac's CSR framework revolves around three core thrusts - Community Engagement, Environmentally Friendly and Responsible Entrepreneurship.

This is exemplified in one of the company's main CSR projects - sponsoring hydroponic units to Juying Primary School, Jurong Secondary School and Taman Jurong Zone D Residents' Committee. Students and residents benefitted from acquiring the know-how to grow their own vegetables in a green and sustainable way; they could similarly use the project to discover alternatives in food cultivation, expand their creativity and raise awareness of food waste and resources that are friendly to the environment. That way, the green practices extend beyond just a means of farming. The results speak for themselves, and not just in terms of bountiful crops of fresh veggies. Jurong Secondary students used the hydroponics unit as an R&D project to investigate the fastest and most optimal way to obtain a good harvest. Over at Taman Jurong, the RC's hydroponics unit has proven to be a great community-bonding activity, bringing residents closer together as they engage in gardening.



Staff volunteer at Jurong Secondary School by setting up and sharing their expertise on hydroponic farming.



**“It is gratifying to participate in my company’s CSR activities and to get to know like-minded colleagues who are also passionate about giving. We’ve formed stronger bonds with one another as we spend time together doing things for a good cause.”**

Grace Low,  
Greenpac  
Executive



Another main thrust of Greenpac's CSR efforts is its annual GreenGives programme which drives ongoing projects that are carried out each year. One project sees staff collecting pre-loved books and donating them to Dignity Mama - an establishment managed by special needs employees and their parents - that sells secondhand books and sundry items. Again, as with its hydroponics project, the volunteerism message is twofold. Not only does Dignity Mama have a means to supplement its income, the project helps to raise awareness of recycling secondhand goods, cutting down on excess wastage and reducing carbon footprint.

Getting staff actively involved in CSR projects has greatly benefited Greenpac, by imbuing staff with a sense of purpose and commitment towards a greater good. "We see stronger cohesiveness in our team as they engage in doing good together. There is a greater sense of pride and harmony as it is not mere work that binds them, but the fact we are all in it, driving a good cause that bonds us closer," says Ms Chong. "In the current era, millennials are actively seeking for purpose-driven jobs. They want to contribute and engage in meaningful work which will give them job satisfaction."

To actively advocate on green practices, Greenpac has organised learning trips for the Ministry of Education, National Environment Agency, Singapore Management University, SPRING Singapore, Woodgrove Secondary School, among others. During such trips, visitors are given a glimpse of the 'green' technology features at Greenpac's premises like their Zero-Energy Office, solar panels and VariShield glass windows that help save on electricity usage. These trips hence form a starting point for students to discuss environmentally-friendly habits that they can then go on to put into practice.

The youth and children play a big part in Greenpac's giving initiatives, a testament to the

company's commitment to invest in a future generation of Singaporeans. One project under GreenGives was the sponsorship of 10 ukuleles and five tuners to Pertapis Children's Home in support of an initiative by Serangoon Community Club. For these young beneficiaries, such musical instruments are luxury items and not often given high priority on the home's wish list. Yet, this simple gesture has enabled the children to pick up a musical instrument, discover hidden talents and given them the opportunity to form a CCA that keeps them meaningfully engaged. Greenpac has also sponsored an annual cash donation for NUS Business School's Undergraduate bursary, as well as awards a scholarship under the SME-SPRING Joint Executive Development Scholarship programme.

For Giving Week 2016, Greenpac collaborated with Dignity Kitchen - an establishment that hires and trains special needs staff - to sponsor 55 lunch meals for the elderly and caregivers from Thong Teck Home for the Aged. Beyond just helping both groups, this project helps to bring together the elderly and those with special needs, allowing them to bond and interact.

Other projects in 2016 included providing storage and delivery of mountaineering gear for the Mount Everest Women's Team; and buying nonya kuih from D'Kuih Confectionary that was

handmade by Changi Prison inmates most of the time for in-house events. Greenpac was involved in the School of Science & Technology's "Reduce Food Waste" Competition organised by NEA, where its staff mentored and coached students in developing initiatives relating to technology and innovation-driven projects.

It seems like a lot to undertake for a company of only 41 full-time employees, but Ms Chong says size does not matter when it comes to having the commitment to give back. "It is about taking steps and not being put off by its scale. These small steps will grow progressively as the business grows too. SMEs should not allow their limited resources to deter them from achieving a greater good. They could begin with volunteerism first and slowly work their way to explore other avenues when they gain more resources," is Ms Chong's advice.

### Moving ahead

Greenpac is determined to drive forward its two signature programmes - hydroponics and the GreenGives Campaign. For hydroponics, it is working with its beneficiaries to explore expanding the programme to reach out to more recipients. As for GreenGives, it has plans to establish collaborations with various stakeholders or help them kick-start their own campaigns within their organisation.

**1** Bringing joy to residents from Thong Teck Home for Senior Citizens on a lunch outing to Dignity Kitchen.

**2** Urban farmers from Juying Primary School ready to distribute their harvested greens with the support of Greenpac and Nanyang Zone 1 Residents' Committee.

**3** Staff volunteer at Jurong Secondary School by setting up and sharing their expertise on hydroponic farming.

**4** Food distribution with Greenpac's community partners from Juying Primary School and Nanyang Zone 1 Residents' Committee.



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## HEARTS OF SERVICE, HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP

**When** choosing a field to volunteer in, it is easy to pick one based on interest, be it kids, animals or the environment. But some fields are tougher and less accessible than others, such as the field of hospice care, which requires volunteers with an immense amount of patience, selflessness and understanding in dealing with terminally ill patients. Despite that, Dover Park Hospice (DPH) has managed to build up a team of 400 active volunteers who work alongside a permanent staff strength of just 140. In 2016, DPH's volunteers provided over \$340,000 in in-kind services, as quantified by the Volunteer Investment and Value Audit (VIVA).

"The key to having such a well-integrated volunteer programme is a

really close bond between staff and the volunteers" says Mr Timothy Liu, CEO of DPH. This is a direction that date back to when it first opened its doors to patients in 1995. He adds: "In a non-profit organisation with limited resources, including manpower, the support of a team of volunteers is extremely precious." To illustrate that, 17 of its groups of volunteers are named after gemstones, such as Jade, Diamond and Emerald.

Helping these volunteers shine in their roles are several initiatives that aim to include volunteers, rather than treat them as temporary staff. One example is DPH's Staff and Volunteers Nite organised by both staff and volunteers. Volunteers are also eligible for long

service awards and achievement accolades, such as the Outstanding Volunteer Award and the Outstanding Volunteer Group Award. Deserving volunteers are also nominated for external awards. It is no wonder then that many volunteers have already hit their 20-year service mark.

Underlying all that is the demanding nature of volunteer work at DPH. The hospice has a 50-bed facility and also provides home care for about 150 patients at any one time. For the last 25 years, DPH has looked after more than 11,000 terminally ill patients and their families. Caring for terminally ill patients can be challenging - many are in constant pain, immobile and require round-the-clock attention. They are also in a heightened state of anxiety, having to deal with a loss of



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**"I have met a 15-year-old girl, who bravely faced her life and her impending death. She even consoled her parents and drew a painting for DPH. Her courage touched me a lot. I have always shared that our patients are our teachers, teaching us how to face death and accept it without any regrets."**

Mr Koh Wee Chee, a Dover Park Hospice volunteer since 1997



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**1** Spreading festive cheer with a music performance.

**2** Gently trimming a patient's hair for a fresher look.

**3** Spreading joy by bringing a pet to interact with patients.

independence, a sense of abandonment and the looming spectre of death. As a result, caregivers must be psychologically and emotionally ready.

Mr Liu says DPH has been fortunate in that many of the volunteers step up ready to serve because they see "meaning in helping patients at the end of life" and so they find it "imperative to ensure that these patients are well taken care of, given the short time that they have with each patient". Volunteers also come from family members of patients who have passed on. "They have benefited from the high standard of care and the friendship of volunteers, and would like to pass that on to benefit future patients and their family members," he adds. The hospice's communications and

outreach team constantly raises awareness about palliative and hospice care, and many volunteers sign up based on word of mouth alone, be it via public messages or other volunteers in the programme.

But a volunteer programme is only as successful as the skills of its volunteers, something that Mr Liu and his staff feel strongly about. He explains: "Volunteers who are mentally prepared and ready are not likely to give up any time soon. They feel confident doing what they have chosen to do. Training, hence, can be a way of empowering our volunteers." While volunteers do not have professional training, they are kept up to date with the latest information and caregiving methods to ensure that a high standard of care is maintained.



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4 Busy preparing treats to celebrate patients' roles as mothers and fathers.

5 Four-legged volunteers in the Pet-Assisted Therapy (PAT) Program bring cheer to patients.

6 Lending their voices to uplift spirits with Christmas carols.

Each volunteer is supported by two full-time staff members - a volunteer programme manager and a volunteer programme senior executive. Their roles are to support the volunteers' activities, look into their concerns, support their general well-being, ensure they are adequately trained and be the liaison between volunteers and DPH staff.

Once volunteers are on board, they are divided into non-patient and patient-facing activities. Those in the latter group, in particular, undergo training sessions that include a crucial self-care element. "This is extremely important if we want our volunteers to be with us on a long-term basis, reducing emotional burnout," Mr Liu says. Independent professional counsellors are also on hand to provide a listening ear. The non-patient facing track is more suited to volunteers who find it challenging to care for terminally ill patients but they support DPH's operations indirectly, with activities such as participating in crafts groups, the choir and gardening.

**Moving ahead**

2017 marks Dover Park Hospice's 25th anniversary. With Singapore's rapidly ageing population, hospice care has become increasingly important and DPH has been receiving more referrals for hospice care. It plans to double its capacity to a 100-bed facility by 2022 when it moves to the Integrated Care Hub and to start a palliative day care centre in 2019.



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# WEATHERING THE STORM TOGETHER

“It was a new experience for all of us. Everyone shook our hands and cheered us on... We come so far away from home but we feel important.”

Mr Prabakaran, 34, a construction worker from Tiruchirappalli who participated in the UWCSEA cricket match.

In the midst of Singapore's construction boom, workers in hard hats and boots toiling under the sun are a common sight. To many of us, these migrant workers are nameless and faceless. To Ms Dipa Swaminathan, they were a community that had been largely neglected, but one deserving compassion, understanding and recognition.

It all started with a chance encounter in the rain in 2014. Ms Swaminathan was driving home when she saw two migrant workers at the side

of the road. “They were crouched under a small sheet of cardboard for shelter and were soaking wet. I drove past them but then instinctively stopped my car and reversed back to them,” she says. She asked them to get into her car, but they hesitated. We don't want to get your car dirty, they said. No matter, I can get it cleaned, she told them. Back home, Ms Swaminathan gave them hot food, clean clothes and some money, and later reunited them with their employers.

That small gesture of

kindness became the seed that grew into ItsRainingRaincoats (IRR), a project that would eventually go on to help thousands of migrant workers with basic necessities such as clothes, meals, sports equipment and medication. And yes, raincoats too - almost 10,000 of them.

“I have always felt a great deal of sympathy and respect for the migrant workers in Singapore. We drive by comfortably in air-conditioned cars and live in fancy homes – these are the men who build the roads we drive on and the buildings we live and work in. They toil endlessly in the heat, haze and rain

with no weather protection, are paid meagre wages, often fed poor quality food and housed in cramped and unhygienic conditions. They deserve better,” says Ms Swaminathan.

“It is hard to be poor in a poor country, but it is much harder being poor in a rich country. If we can help those who are less fortunate among us and show them some compassion – and it doesn't cost us anything to do so – then why not?”

Every Saturday, IRR, which has a team of 30 volunteers, arranges the redistribution of unsold food from 18 Starbucks outlets to



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migrant workers. On Deepavali, it also raises funds to buy phone cards for workers so they can call home. So far, almost 1,000 phone cards have been distributed. On International Migrants' Day this year, IRR also gave out a bottle of Tiger Balm and a strip of Panadol each to 500 workers, simple items but a welcome respite for workers who spend hours in inclement weather.

What sets IRR apart is how it has inspired partners to also give back. This year, the raincoats were designed in collaboration with students from LaSalle College of the Arts, and United World College of South East Asia recently hosted a cricket match between their school team and a team of migrant workers. Among other partners are the Singapore Kindness Movement which donated 5,000 raincoats, a shoe shop that give out 300 pairs of shoes and a man who offered 300 briyani meals. From artisan ice-cream to umbrellas and even bicycles and laptops, there has been no shortage of offers to help from individuals and organisations spurred into action by IRR's efforts.

Yet, Ms Swaminathan feels it is the migrant workers who are the generous ones. "Often times, I have been touched by their honesty and big-heartedness. They are usually the first to offer help if they see someone in need and when we distribute goodie bags, if one of them gets mistakenly offered a second helping, they always refuse, saying they've had their turn," she says.

Language barriers were no issue, either. Ms Swaminathan points out that every migrant group usually has at least one Tamil speaker and that "always breaks the language barrier". If anything, the barriers are external factors, such as having to deal with the workers' employers. For example, if she spots a group of workers working without raincoats, she will contact their employer to request that relevant gear be provided for them. "Some companies take that feedback well and act on it – others might try and scare me into silence or slam the phone down on me. That's where social media can be hugely powerful and helpful. Also, I don't scare easy!" she quips.

A Harvard-educated lawyer, she also helps the workers understand their rights and what they are entitled to. She once read in the papers about a foreign worker who had died while cutting a tree. She contacted the man's family and helped them claim a full insurance payout, tirelessly pursuing the case with the Manpower Ministry and the man's employer.

Despite holding a full-time job and being a mum to two kids, Ms Swaminathan quashes the notion that you can be too busy to volunteer. "Make time, not excuses!" she urges. "Tasks and time can be stretched or shrunk to match each other – it all depends on one's own will. For anyone who thinks they don't have time to volunteer, my advice would be to start small and try out something in an area they are passionate about." Case in point: Just by simply loading some basic necessities - from raincoats and sun hats to pillows and T-shirts - in her car boot, Ms Swaminathan is ready to help out migrant workers she encounters, anytime, anywhere.

### Moving ahead

One area that IRR hopes to focus on is food redistribution to migrant workers, as they are often fed poor-quality food and a lot of food goes to waste in Singapore. "If we can only connect the two, that would have a huge positive impact on the migrant worker community, at no cost to anyone," she says. Her other focus: to provide therapeutic and healing services, such as yoga and counselling, as workers work long hours, face a lot of stress and have few avenues of relaxation.



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**1** Dipa and an IRR volunteer regularly seek out migrant workers to offer assistance and support.

**2** Dipa and one of her volunteers with the supportive staff from Starbucks, during a trip to pick up unsold pastries.

**3** Photo from one of the migrant workers showing his friends and colleagues enjoying the pastries Dipa had passed to him.



## TROOPING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM ON A MISSION TO SERVE

**FROM** Sec 1 all the way to Sec 4/5, every student at Hougang Secondary embarks on an important journey - a life-changing one that takes him or her through four or five years of lessons, friendships, co-curricular activities and ultimately, their first step towards adulthood. But for these students, there is another special path, a learning journey that enables them to develop not just academically but also holistically. While most

other schools introduce volunteer work through ad hoc projects, at Hougang Secondary, it's a way of school life, a life of volunteerism that is inculcated from the very beginning with the aim to mould students to become youth leaders, willing to put others' needs ahead and serve the community.

The school even has a special name for its student volunteers - 2:168 Mission Troopers. This means that in one week of 168 hours, students and



2:168 Mission Troopers logo



**1** HS students passing on their knowledge through peer tutoring at Yio Chu Kang Primary School.

**2** Teachers and students with the elderly at Singapore Botanic Gardens

**3** Presenting a quilt that was specially sewn for a patient in hospice care.

**4** Spending time with some senior citizens over a game of chess.

staff commit to two hours to serve the needs of the community. This Values in Action (VIA) programme encompasses four domains of service: children, the elderly/sick, community outreach and the environment.

Finding time was, naturally, a challenge. After all, with lessons, tuition classes and after-school activities, students and staff are often strapped for time. The school's solution was to include the VIA as part of the school's Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) programme. Doing so allowed "students to serve in their areas of interests and strengths", says Hougang Secondary. For example, performing arts CCAs would put up shows at neighbourhood block parties and nursing homes, while uniformed groups would work with various organisations to implement community outreach programmes.

The programme was also defined across academic levels - Sec 1 students focused on serving the self, family and school; Sec 2 students, the community; Sec 3 students, the world and Sec 4/5 students, the global society. In total, the school partnered with 27 community groups, comprising VWOs, primary schools, student care centres and special needs associations, as well as did performances at libraries and hospitals and participated in 18 green projects.

Among the initiatives were Sec 3 students volunteering in Malaysia and Indonesia, and Sec 4/5 students volunteering at the Chingay parade and being involved in advocacy projects on issues they felt passionate about, such as animal abuse, cyberbullying, eldercare and raising awareness of a clean and green Singapore. Some CCAs also provided weekly tuition lessons for primary school pupils, while others distributed rice to needy families, conducted needs-analysis surveys and collaborated with Ciyuan Community Club to do an annual blood donation drive.

In 2014, the students created a 2:168 Mission Troopers page to highlight and share their experiences in volunteering. "The encouraging stories are selected and shared

**"Having been involved in volunteer work has helped Anderea realise how fortunate she is compared with others. Once, she came home and told us that a girl that she had tutored had scored well in her mathematics exam. It was heartening for Anderea to see her hard work pay off. To us, having a good character is more important than academic results, and character building has to be taught from young."**

Mr Ang Kwang Wei and Ms Joyce Lim Mui Yim, parents of Anderea Ang Miao Wen, a Sec 3 student





at staff meetings, school assemblies and in posts uploaded onto websites/ Facebook. All these serve to inspire other youths of the value and meaning of service," says Hougang Secondary.

It's not just the beneficiaries who have benefited from the school's VIA programme. The biggest change is among the students themselves, seeing the impact of their good work and learning what it means to empathise with the less fortunate and walk in their shoes. "When students engage in regular service, their lens are often changed from a focus on their self to others, they become more conscious of the less fortunate. The regular visits to the elderly who live alone in rented flats help them feel the elderly's laments, joys and sadness," says Hougang Secondary. Ultimately, the VIA programme aligns with the school's core values of GRC - to develop children who show Gratitude, students who are Respectful and citizens with Compassion.

The bigger picture, says Hougang Secondary, is ultimately to "nurture students to be 2:168 Mission Troopers for life". "When the seeds of compassion

are sown in their youth, these seeds will germinate, take root and bear fruits in years to come," adds the school. And future generations of students are already carrying the torch of volunteerism by continuing to give back, outside of the programme and even into adulthood.

Former student, Anderea Tan Qiu Nan, currently an active volunteer at ITE Central, continues to volunteer at the Singapore Cheshire Home even after she had graduated in 2014. "I feel that we shouldn't stop visiting them just because I had graduated from the school. The strong bonds between the residents and me have always been the reason for me to go back to serve the Home," she says. Another alumna, Ong Si Ying, had planned to pursue a diploma in performing arts after leaving secondary school. But while at Hougang Secondary, she had the opportunity to put up drama performances for the elderly, an activity she enjoyed so much that when she graduated, she switched to taking up a diploma in applied drama with psychology. It was through the VIA that Si Ying said she "could see the power of

drama used in the community". She also went on to start Unmute Theatre, a youth theatre collective. She is grateful to the school for "igniting" her spirit of volunteerism, saying: "The true spirit of volunteerism is to assist those who will never be able to pay you back, but to still do it anyway because it is never about gaining something back."

#### Moving ahead

Statistics show that by the year 2030, one in four Singaporeans will be aged 65 and above. With that in mind, the school launched 3G Volunteerism last year, in the view to move beyond a two-generational model involving students and staff to a three-generational one that includes seniors in the community. The aim is to adapt to Singapore's needs as the ageing population expands.

**5** Teachers brightening up the day for senior citizens on an outing to the Botanic Gardens.

**6** Organising crafts and games for children in the community.



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## A LANGUAGE AWAKENS

**THE** older generation often laments how the youth are not keen on speaking their mother tongue or dialects. In Mr Kevin Martens Wong's case, he took it one giant step further - by reigniting an interest in not just a language that his ancestors used to speak but one that had been considered declining for many generations.

Mr Wong is the pioneer of the Kodrah Kristang (Awaken, Kristang) long-term revitalisation initiative, which aims to bring back Kristang, the heritage language of the Portuguese-Eurasians. A linguistics major, Mr Wong's interest was piqued when he and his friends worked on an article on endangered languages in the region. At that time, knowledge of the language was minimal - there were no official statistics on Kristang speakers, few or possibly no children were learning it, and it was not taught in any schools or

seen in the media. Mr Wong and his team's research journey eventually took them to Malaysia in March 2015 to meet a number of prominent language workers working with the community there.

Although Mr Wong at that time did not speak a word of Kristang, hearing about how the language had become endangered was heartbreaking. "I came at Kristang first from the perspective of someone who loves languages and linguistics - for me, losing any language, Kristang included, is painful. Every language is representative of the community. To lose a language is thus to lose a certain way of community," he says.

With his initiative, Mr Wong has since raised the awareness and profile of this once-forgotten language that was spoken by only a handful of about 100 elderly Eurasians in Singapore. In March 2016, working together with one of these remaining speakers, Mr Bernard Mesenas, Mr Wong launched the first adult Kristang class, which has since seen over 300 students ranging in age from eight to 82 and hailing from countries such as Portugal, Japan and India. Even entire families have signed up together. Four levels of lessons are currently offered and all are free-of-charge, with Mr Wong preparing the lesson plans, developing Kristang-specific games and activities, and generating supplementary online materials.

**"I felt reconnected to my heritage through a language I never expected to find so familiar. I found my voice, I found a part of myself."**

Andre D'Rozario, Kristang language student and later Core Team member of Kodrah Kristang

The initiative has since grown to include other projects initiated by other members of the nascent community, including the first Kristang Online Dictionary and the first children's class in Kristang, Kakakikih Kristang. To inject some fun, Mr Wong even created Ila-Ila di Sul (Southern Islands), the first Kristang board game set in the early 19th century where players compete to win the favour of the Temenggong of Singapore by accumulating treasure.

Mr Wong also went on to initiate Singapore's first-ever first Kristang Language Festival, which saw Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean as its Gala Dinner guest of honour. To run the festival, Mr Wong and his team successfully raised over \$100,000, mainly through government grants. Following the festival, a new sub-initiative within Kodrah Kristang was also created. Called Lion City Languages, it aims to provide a safe space for Singaporeans to talk about language revitalisation and how it can continue to go forward.



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**1** Volunteers and supporters excited about Festa di Papua Kristang - the first Kristang Language Festival.

**2** With DPM Teo Chee Hean, guest of honour, at the first Kristang Language Festival Gala Dinner 2017.



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At its peak during the Festival, Kodrah Kristang comprised more than 150 volunteers, with the support of groups such as the College of Alice & Peter Tan at NUS, the National Library and the Eurasian Association Singapore, with financial support from the National Youth Council, the National Heritage Board, OurSG and The Awesome Foundation. Mr Wong also sought the help of Mr Victor Olsen, a former president of the Eurasian Association, Ms Valerie Scully and Ms Catherine Zuzarte, the authors of Singapore's only Kristang dictionary, and retired MP Joe Conceicao, "who taught me lots of, well, exciting songs and phrases". "I was fortunate that the Kristang-speaking community in Singapore has remained tight-knit over the years, and I was able to find 14 speakers of the language still alive and willing to speak to me," says Mr Wong, whose maternal grandparents were part of the pioneer class.

Indeed, family remains the core driving force behind Mr Wong's passion. He says his parents and younger brothers have all "learnt so much, just because of the books I bring home and the people I've met through my work". Kristang has also been the bridge to his grandparents. "So much of my grandparents' heritage languages (Kristang, Baba Malay and Hakka) is tied with powerful and vivid memories that were lived in those languages, and so I'm really gaining such varied and interesting perspectives into my grandparents' lives. For example, Grandma's grandmother exclusively spoke Kristang, and Grandpa had to pick up some of the language when he was dating Grandma so of course, the vocabulary that he remembers best is all related to dating her!" he adds.

Mr Wong's work has also revitalised friendships within the Eurasian community. "Kristang provides a way for them to reconnect with old friends, reminisce about good old times and secretly gossip about

other people in the language," he says. But he hopes it goes beyond that. "We don't really see Kodrah Kristang as a Eurasian enterprise but more of a Singaporean one, Singaporeans from all walks of life coming together to preserve an aspect of our shared heritage," he adds.

Mr Wong's efforts have already crossed borders and he is currently the first sitting Singaporean in the CoLang Advisory Circle, an international non-profit group that develops new initiatives for the documentation, maintenance and revitalisation of the more than 4,000 endangered languages around the world.

### Moving ahead

Kodrah Kristang is now in Phase 2 of a 30-year Revitalisation Plan that aims to guide the initiative forward to 2045. Mr Wong hopes to expand on the community of speakers he has built up, raising their fluency level, as well as continuing to introduce more new learners with more classes. In the pipeline: a documentary on Kristang and even the first Kristang graphic novel.



3 Posed shot for Kodrah Kristang publicity

4 Kevin makes learning Kristang engaging for adult learners.

5 Kakakikih Kristang lets young learners pick up the language through fun-filled activities.



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## SETTING SIGHT ON SENIORS

**FOR** Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC) Consultant Ophthalmologist Dr Marcus Ang, you could say it all started with a vision. As a volunteer at eye screening programmes in the community, he noticed that even after identifying patients with disease, these individuals did not seek proper treatment on their own. Many did not have the financial or logistical means, while others simply did not comprehend the severity or complexity of their eye problems.

Sadly, sometimes it would be too late. "We see these individuals from time to time in our clinic, with end-stage eye diseases that cannot be effectively treated any more. I remember asking an elderly gentleman who lived alone, with poor vision due to cataracts, why he didn't come in to the clinic earlier? He then replied, 'Who is going to take me to the polyclinic and then to the hospital, since I cannot see where I'm going?'," says Dr Ang.

It was then he realised that we needed to improve the way community eye care was delivered to those who needed it most. And so the Singapore Society of Ophthalmology (SSO) Mobile Eye Clinic (MEC) was born. The clinic has helped more than 3,000 beneficiaries, mainly above 60, all over Singapore, from Taman Jurong to Jalan Besar. Beyond the initial evaluation, Dr Ang has - with help from the SSO and various partners - enabled beneficiaries to seek follow-up eye care, medication and spectacles, and in some cases, eye surgery.



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**1** MEC's success is possible with the huge pool of collaborators and volunteers.

**2** Volunteering his time with Global Clinic, Dr Ang self-funds his trips to help restore sight to the needy in Myanmar, Ghana and beyond.

**3** Dr Ang following up on a patient who has been referred following a MEC clinic.

The results speak for themselves. A survey showed that of the elderly patients who went for a regular eye screening event, only 25-30% sought further treatment as advised. The MEC programme managed to raise this follow-up rate to almost 70%. This enabled some patients with reversible conditions such as cataracts, to receive timely treatment and regain their vision after surgery.

Giving back comes naturally to Dr Ang, who started volunteering in school with Interact/Rotary Club at Raffles Institution/Raffles Junior College and with the Children's Cancer Foundation. It is also probably why he modestly views

his programme as having "a very humble beginning - just a single doctor carrying portable eye equipment, going to several void decks and daycare centres in the community, examining patients and befriending them so that they would come for follow-up care". He believes Singapore already has an "excellent" government-subsidised healthcare system so he feels the MEC is a means to "enable and empower" these patients to understand and seek the appropriate care from our existing healthcare system.

Dr Ang credits the MEC's success to the huge team of collaborators and volunteers who not only provide medical



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advice, but also assisting to their various appointments. His toughest challenge? Funding. He spent a year trying to persuade quite a few funding organisations that his project was worthwhile. "It took me a long time to convince a group of people based overseas that there were plenty of needy and elderly with poor social support who need our help in Singapore, one of the most developed countries in the world!" he says. Fortunately, with a grant from Standard Chartered Bank's "Seeing is Believing" fund, he has been able to pay for transport, clinic consultations and medication, as well as rope in more volunteer doctors, nurses and non-medical volunteers.

Dr Ang is also Director and Head of Vision Projects at a Singapore-based non-profit organisation Global Clinic Ltd. Started in 1997, it has helped needy beneficiaries

overseas who cannot get medical care due to poverty or inaccessibility. Dr Ang goes on four to five trips a year - paid for out of his own pocket - to provide free consultations and eye surgery, as well as spectacles. To date, Global Clinic has treated more than 30,000 individuals in 11 countries. On his most recent mission to Myanmar in 2017, Dr Ang and his team of 20 medical professionals helped 2,000 to 3,000 patients and completed more than 270 operations in five days. His volunteer efforts have been previously recognised by awards such as the Healthcare Humanity Award in 2012 and the Young Eye Care Ambassador Award in 2013.

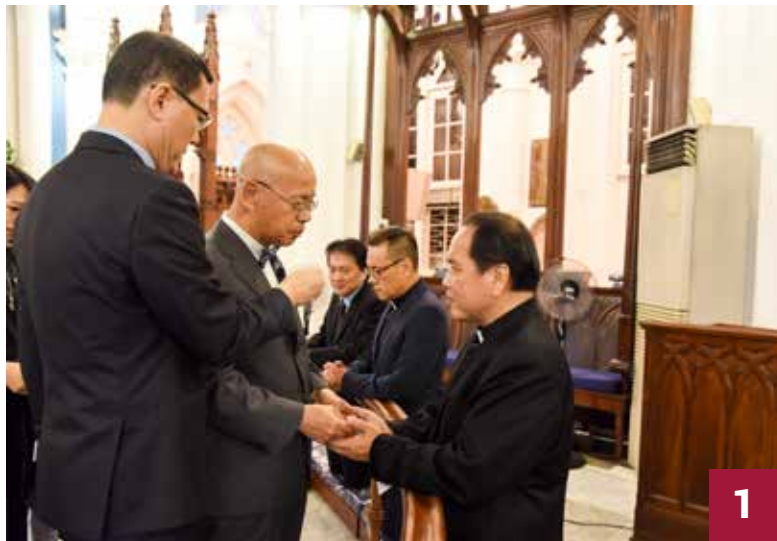
#### **Moving ahead**

The MEC project has come a long way from being a small team going from void deck to void deck to what it is today. But Dr Ang's work is clearly not done. He wants to continue to reach out to the remaining 40 per cent of elderly patients with eye disease in certain communities, who are not receiving timely and appropriate treatment. In fact, Dr Ang is about to embark on a larger community-based eye program called 'ACCESS' which is under VisionSave, the philanthropy arm of SNEC and the Singapore Eye Research Institute, to reach out to more needy beneficiaries in our community.



**“ I HAVE ALWAYS  
HAD A DESIRE  
TO HELP OTHERS  
SINCE I WAS  
YOUNG - THAT  
IS PROBABLY WHY  
I BECAME A  
DOCTOR IN THE  
FIRST PLACE.”**

**DR MARCUS ANG**



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## GIVING TIME TO GIVE A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

**AT** the age of 70, when most seniors are content to take it easy in retirement, Dr William Wan is still hard at work, doing what he loves most - giving back to society. More than 40 years ago, he co-founded Rehabilitation Life which is now known as Prison Fellowship Singapore (PFS). Today, thanks to his pioneering efforts, PFS has grown into a Christian charitable organisation with a social service arm called 70x7, comprising 14 staff members supported by some 500 active volunteers. Each month, PFS helps about 1,100 inmates, 300 ex-offenders through its aftercare support programmes and 100 family members of ex-inmates.

A trained lawyer who still consults at a law firm, Dr Wan would volunteer his legal skills pro bono, such as helping a man accused of armed robbery who eventually became a successful businessman. Dr Wan's firm was also one of the first to pioneer hiring ex-offenders. He has even used his own home as a halfway house.

His passion for PFS' ministry sees him actively raising funds through speaking engagements among the Christian community. He also donates most of the proceeds and writing fees

from the nine books he has penned – books that cover diverse topics ranging from inmate rehabilitation, to dyslexia and scouting. He has even roped in his family and friends, with many serving as volunteers and one generous relative donating \$40,000 toward PFS.

To those who are wary of volunteering with ex-offenders, Dr Wan says he can empathise. "It is not for the faint-hearted. It will test your patience and kindness. For every success story, there are many who still do not make it. I have had petty cash stolen from the firm, many promises broken, kindness betrayed and good intentions completely and deliberately misinterpreted to make you look really bad," he says.

In spite of these challenges, Dr Wan's motto is to keep doing the right thing and not expect returns. "Satisfaction must come first from knowing that you are doing what you know is right and if there is a return, it is a bonus. And if you are patient enough, you will find some positive responses along the way. The saying 'Once bitten, twice shy' does not apply here. You will be bitten many times but when you get a positive response in time, it is all worth it."



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He recounts how back in the 1970s, he had hired a man who had recently been released from prison, and trained him to be an accounting assistant. About six months later, the man confessed he had forged signatures with the intention to cash cheques. Instead of firing him, Dr Wan tore up the forged cheques, forgave him and put him back to work. "He never repeated the offence and became a trusted and loyal staff member," says Dr Wan.

Dr Wan attributes his passion for helping ex-inmates to Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh, who taught him criminal justice back in 1971. "I was influenced by his concern for the well-being of offenders and was persuaded that the most holistic outcome of criminal justice is not just about punishing the offender for the offence committed. It has to include helping the offender to change his way of life - to be rehabilitated, to be given a second chance, to be reintegrated into society as a contributing citizen," he says. This prompted Dr Wan to do a research paper on recidivism, where he



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**1** Commissioning of Chaplains for PFS.

**2** PFS Chaplains with Dr William Wan and Commissioner of Prisons Mr Desmond Chin.

**3** PFS volunteers share about their life-changing work with the church.



**“He defended me without asking for a fee when I was in trouble with the law. I was very touched by him and his wife for opening their home to me while I was awaiting trial even though I was a complete stranger. I stayed with them for about a month.”**

Mr Tony Ng was a youth offender who turned over a new leaf. He is now a successful businessman with a wholesome family of three grown children, one of whom is a trained solicitor who used to practise in the UK.

spoke to prison authorities and ex-offenders, eventually putting him on the path towards setting up PFS.

Dr Wan’s willingness to give back remained the driving force when he became General Secretary of the Singapore Kindness Movement (SKM) in 2011. “Kindness to me is simply ‘other-centredness’. It is therefore a fundamental basis for any social relationship. If we are totally selfish and have no interest in others, we cannot build a family, let alone a society, and needless to say, a nation would not exist,” he says. Through his work with SKM, Dr Wan believes Singaporeans are generally kind, particularly in the “macro” sense, such as donating to charity, helping victims of natural disasters and helping others with personal needs. What he hopes to promote more of is kindness on a “micro” level - “a natural smile, greeting one another, getting to know our neighbours, paying attention to people who serve us in restaurants, saying thank you”.

Dr Wan is usually engaged in multiple projects as a volunteer. For instance, he was on the board of National Kidney Foundation while concurrently serving on the Scout Council of the Singapore Scout Association, the selection committees/panels of a number of organizations including the selection of the first cohort of law students for UniSIM Law School (renamed Singapore University of Social

**4** Dr Wan with director, Jack Neo, and cast at Take 2 Charity Movie Screening in support of PFS.

**5** Social outing for members of PFS’ Aftercare Ministry.

Sciences), as well as advising various non-profit organizations including The Helping Hand - a halfway house for drug offenders, and chairing the Ethics Committee of Farrer Park Hospital. He is also active on the Board of Visiting Justices as a Justice of the Peace.

In giving leadership to SKM, he broadened its concern to kindness to the environment and co-founded the Keep Singapore Clean Movement with the Public Hygiene Council on whose board he still serves actively. Under his leadership, SKM engages many other statutory boards and government agencies, and some of the efforts of SKM are now owned by its partners, including the Good Neighbour Campaign (HDB), Gracious Public Transport Campaign (LTA) and Be Gracious, Give Way Campaign (Traffic Police).

#### Moving ahead

Dr Wan hopes to carry on serving as chairman of PFS where he aims to champion more programmes within prison for PFS and 70x7, such as the National Youth Achievement Award for teenage prisoners and the Victim Empathy Programme. Outside of prison, he wants to better equip volunteers to set up effective decentralised aftercare support for ex-inmates and their families. These centres will function as supportive communities to better facilitate the assimilation and integration of ex-offenders into new communities, away from negative influencers that constantly threaten to draw them back to crime. To do this effectively, more volunteers are needed, and he would like to double their strength over the next 2-3 years.





## *Lin Wei En*

Lin Wei En was born in Fuzhou, China. She lost her hearing when she was only one, soon after coming to Singapore. The 12-year-old Canossian School pupil has been an active member of her school's choir for four years.

Cheerful and optimistic, Wei En exudes self-confidence and determination, never once letting her hearing loss get her down. A true inspiration, she also shows willingness to help others and goes the extra mile to coach her weaker peers in class, offering words of encouragement to spur them on.

# HOSTS

## *Vernetta Lopez*

Vernetta Lopez has been in the entertainment industry for 21 years, since she burst onto the scene in NiteRage, Singapore's first locally produced music video program. At the same time, she was also a DJ on hit radio station, Perfect 10 98.7FM. Her television acting career took off with Singapore's first English sitcom *Under One Roof* when she starred as Moses Lim's daughter, a role that saw her get four times before winning an Asian Television Award for Best Actress in a Comedy in 2000. She also won Best Actress in a Drama in 2003 for the Blue Print original, *Ceciliation*. Ms Lopez has hosted prestigious events such as the National Day Parade, SEA Games, and the nation's New Year Countdown. She is a veteran emcee for events for well-known companies such as Standard Chartered bank, Citibank, Rolls-Royce, Dimension Data and Singapore Airlines. She has also starred in movies, numerous TV series and been the face of brands such as Kellogg's, Burger King, The National Library Board and the team from the Pioneer Generation. She remains a stalwart on the airwaves, having helmed major drive-time shows and is currently the solo host of the Evening Drivetime from 5 to 8pm on Gold 905FM. Apart from also being a wedding planning entrepreneur, florist and puppeteer, she added author to her impressive resume when she penned her 2012 autobiography, *Memoirs Of A DJ*.





# TONIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT



## The Lorong Boys

The Lorong Boys comprise five award-winning Singaporean musicians with a wide range of musical styles ranging from classical tunes to Broadway numbers to Top 40 hits, and are equally comfortable playing at concert halls and heartland streets. Founded in 2014 while they were all schoolmates at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at the National University of Singapore, this quintet burst onto the Singapore music scene in May 2014 when their spontaneous performance on an MRT train went viral on social media. They have toured various parts of Indonesia and have been featured on TV and radio in Singapore. Notable performances include the President's Star Charity 2015, the Cultural Medallion and the Young Artist Awards in 2015, as well as at the Patron of The Arts Awards in July 2017. Other shows include the Singapore Night Festival, SG50 Concert Series in the Park, Singapore Botanic Gardens Heritage Festival and performances at the Esplanade. They were also featured in the SG50 Gift of Song music video, and have worked with local talents, such as Inch Chua, Nathan Hartono and The Sam Willows. The Lorong Boys have also conducted workshops and performances at schools.



## Dream stage kids with METTA school and MINDS discover through play

**DREAM STAGE KIDS** is a fun-filled programme aimed at bringing out a child's innate creativity through a series of activities and projects. Dream Stage Kids is specially tailored to build confidence and enhance discovery through play... The Dream Academy way! Conceptualised by Chief Dim Sum Dolly Selena Tan, children will learn empathy and express themselves through acting, singing and dancing. They will also interact, and get to know other kids from all walks of life.

**SELENA TAN** is a producer, director, writer and performer. In 2000, Selena started Dream Academy® to provide stage shows with high production values and relevant local content. Dream Academy® is best known for hit original theatre series such as Meenah and Cheenah, Crazy Christmas®, Happy Ever Laughter®, Broadway Beng®,

The Hossan Leong Show, Kumar's stand-up comedies at the Esplanade, and of course, The Dim Sum Dollies®. As an actor, Selena was twice awarded the Asian Television Award for Best Actress in a Comedy Series. In 2013, Selena was the Creative Director for Singapore's National Day Parade.

**METTA SCHOOL's** Speech and Drama was established in 2010. Its focus and objectives have always been geared towards building students' confidence and developing better interpersonal skills while working together in a group. Students are taught how to express themselves through verbal and physical communication with lessons on role-playing, vocalisation and improvisation. Students also learn to build their own scripts and develop stories.

**MOVEMENT FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED OF SINGAPORE (MINDS)** is one of the largest voluntary welfare organisations. It offers a full spectrum of programmes and services to cater to the needs and developmental goals of PWIDs, so as to empower them to grow into independent individuals who contribute positively to society.

**DREAM STAGE KIDS, METTA SCHOOL** and **MINDS** are extremely proud and pleased to perform their inaugural showcase to the President of Singapore at the President's Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards 2017.



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# NVPC BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

# ABOUT NVPC

The National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) is a non-profit organisation promoting a giving culture in Singapore through catalysing development in volunteerism and philanthropy to build a City of Good.

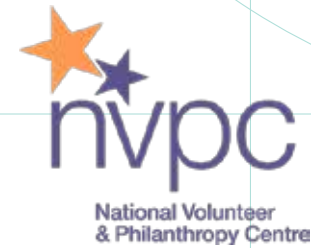
We facilitate partnerships with non-profits, companies, public sector bodies and individuals to enliven the giving ecosystem within Singapore.

We create the national narrative on giving and stories that influence hearts and minds. We also conduct research on giving motivations and behaviours, create roadmaps and provide resources within the giving sector, and aspire to be the go-to place for giving.

We honour and recognise giving champions because giving is part of our culture and DNA that we want to model.

We connect and convene to create networks and build communities to impact the giving space on a national level.

We activate giving and use strategies that multiply our impact on a national scale, including national-level giving campaigns.



## AT A GLANCE: OUR PLATFORMS, PROGRAMMES & INITIATIVES



### ARCHITECTING THE GIVING PLATFORM ECOSYSTEM

Giving.sg is Singapore's online platform to match donors and volunteers to charities. Giving.sg is home to over 470 charities - givers can help by giving their time (general volunteering), talent (skill-specific volunteering or starting a fundraiser) or treasure (making a donation). They can explore any of the 14 causes to support, such as women and girls, animal welfare, the arts and heritage, and the environment. #CityofGood

### GOODNESS IS THE BUSINESS OF EVERY ORGANISATION

#### COMPANY OF GOOD

Company of Good aims to build a community of givers and ignite a giving movement through corporates. We inspire and activate companies to give strategically, ensuring sustainability and with impact. Companies can tap on opportunities to acquire knowledge, build capabilities, network and collaborate through our various programmes and initiatives.

#### COMPANY OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP

The Company of Good Fellowship is a talent development programme that empowers and develops top talents in organisations. The Fellowship seeks to develop a community of corporate leaders who will strengthen the ecosystem of giving in Singapore. Over a course of five months, these talents will have opportunities to sharpen their business perspectives and build capability in leadership and corporate giving.

#### CHAMPIONS OF GOOD

Champions of Good is a national recognition framework under the Company of Good, designed to catalyse the corporate giving movement and build a City of Good. It is an annual recognition of companies that have not only been exemplary in their corporate giving efforts, but have also been an influencer and multiplier by engaging their partners and stakeholders on a collaborative giving journey.



#GIVINGWEEK



PRESIDENT'S  
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PHILANTHROPY  
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### CO-CREATING SOLUTIONS FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

CoLABS (Collaboration Labs) is a community of action designed for business leaders, philanthropic institutions and government grant makers who aim to make a critical social difference. A joint initiative by NVPC and the Community Foundation of Singapore (CFS), it offers a platform for givers with a common social focus to build meaningful collaborations.

In 2017, CoLABS will focus on children and youth, persons with disability, and the vulnerable elderly. Each of these CoLABS will take a 360-degree view on the issue and build a shared vision to guide change and create strategies.

### IGNITING A GIVING MOVEMENT

Organised by NVPC and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Giving Week is a national movement that encourages everyone to give back. It includes two global celebrations, starting with #GivingTuesday and ending with International Volunteer Day (5 December). During this week, corporates, non-profits and individuals make a difference by supporting/adopting a charity of their choice through donating, volunteering and/or fundraising.

### BUILDING A MORE CARING, COMPASSIONATE AND INCLUSIVE SINGAPORE

SG Cares is a national movement to support the efforts of Singaporeans in building a more caring, compassionate and inclusive home for all. It aims to create conditions and grow opportunities for volunteerism, as well as increase mindshare building by galvanising and inspiring Singaporeans to put values into action through active volunteerism, ground-up efforts and everyday acts of care.

SG Cares is co-led by NVPC and NCSS, and is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Social and Family Development.  
#SGCares #DaretoCare

### RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE IN GIVING

The PVPA is an annual awards and platform to recognise individuals, corporates (small and medium-sized enterprises), ground-up movements, non-profit organisations and educational institutions that have achieved excellence in giving. These awards represent the highest honour for giving to the community. The awards are conferred by the President of the Republic of Singapore and is organised by NVPC with support from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) and the National Council of Social Service (NCSS).

### ADVOCATING EFFECTIVE BOARDS AND BUILDING LEADERSHIP CAPABILITY FOR THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR

CNPL advocates planned leadership and nurtures leadership capability for the non-profit sector. It helps the non-profit sector by creating a leadership pipeline, building effective boards and partnering non-profit leaders and corporate professionals. Its vision is to transform the non-profit sector through effective, committed and passionate leaders.

### BOARD MATCH

Board Match is CNPL's flagship programme to bring diversity and rejuvenation to Boards of non-profit organisations (NPOs) by matching senior executives with at least five years of management and leadership experiences from both the public and private sectors to the Boards of NPOs. It is designed to address and build leadership capacity, diversity, continuity and renewal at the Board level of NPOs. It also has an extensive database of volunteers with diverse backgrounds and expertise, who are committed to serving on NPO Boards and committees.

### EXPERT MATCH

Expert Match, a programme piloted in 2015, is designed to match domain experts across various industries and sectors to NPOs. The volunteers will identify and take up project-specific volunteering roles by matching them with the expertise they have.

### PULSE CHECK

Pulse Check is a self-assessment process for non-profit boards to strengthen their leadership capacity. It invites boards and executive leadership teams to reflect upon their next steps of development to enhance their overall effectiveness.

### COMPASS PROGRAMME

The COMPass Programme is a personalised leadership development journey for each participant that comprises leadership diagnostics, a development centre and executive coaching. Targeted at executive directors/ chief executive officers of NPOs, it enables an organisational leader to better understand and hone his or her competencies in tackling the challenges of running an NPO.

# CORE RESEARCH PRODUCTS, SURVEYS & PUBLICATIONS

## INDIVIDUAL GIVING SURVEY (IGS)

The Individual Giving Survey (IGS) is a landscape study of volunteerism and philanthropy in Singapore. The biennial survey determines the extent of giving by individuals and profiles the behaviour of givers, former givers and non-givers. With this study, NVPC is able to inform and influence national policies, strategy and behaviour on the culture of giving. IGS 2016 was released in March 2017.

## CORPORATE GIVING SURVEY (CGS)

The Corporate Giving Survey (CGS) is a landscape study of corporate giving in Singapore. It investigates corporate giving practices and motivations, as well as profiles non-givers, givers and impactful givers. With this study, NVPC is able to inform and influence national policies, strategy and programmes to galvanise more companies to give and to enable companies and non-profit organisations to work better with each other.

## BOARD LEADERSHIP SURVEY (BLS)

Developed by NVPC and CNPL, in partnership with the Charity Council, the inaugural Board Leadership Survey (BLS) is a study of board practices in the non-profit sector. The biennial survey sheds light on the understanding of board practices, and the policies and activities of charities and IPCs in Singapore. With this study, CNPL aims to provide recommendations for non-profit boards in view of the refined code of governance institutionalised by the Charity Council. BLS 2016 was released in May 2017.

For more information, please visit [www.nvpc.org.sg](http://www.nvpc.org.sg)



# JOIN THE GREATEST GIVING MOVEMENT

Singapore's greatest giving movement is here! Get behind your favourite celebrities and their causes and stand to win exclusive experiences! Every big change starts with a small step.

Find out how at [givingweek.sg](http://givingweek.sg)

# THE GREAT GIVEAWAY

GIVINGWEEK  
28 Nov - 5 Dec · [givingweek.sg](http://givingweek.sg)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO:

Her Excellency, **President Halimah Yacob** for conferring the Awards as our Guest-of-Honour for the evening,

**Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth**, and the **National Council of Social Service** for their support and presence for the evening,

## OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS:

**Mediacorp**, **Keppel Care Foundation**, **NTUC Income Insurance Co-Operative Ltd** and our in-kind sponsors,

Our awards judging panel for thoughtfully selecting the winners,

**Ms Vernetta Lopez** and **Lin Wei En**, our outstanding emcees,

**Dream Academy's Selena Tan** for scripting a hearty and engaging performance,

**Dream Stage Kids**, **Metta School** and **MINDS** for their rousing performances,

**The Lorong Boys** for serenading us and jazzing up the night,

**Bon Café**, **Metta Café** and **Bynd Artisan** for sponsoring the gifts for our guests and judges,

**Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy** for sponsoring scholarships to the winners for the Non-Profit Organisation and Kampong Spirit categories,

**Ms Aziza Ali** for curating tonight's menu and sponsoring the gifts for the President and judges,

**NPE Print Communications Pte Ltd** for the production of the invitation cards and programme booklets,

**Accela** for the design work,

**The Event Station** for being our professional event organiser;

And everyone who helped make this event a fitting tribute to Singapore's giving heroes.

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