

ISSUE #14 (30 November 2017)



Welcome to the Office of Student Community Engagement's fortnightly update.

[International Volunteer Day](#) is celebrated worldwide on 5 December each year. It allows volunteers and organisations to share values and promote their work among communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), government authorities and the private sector.

In recent years, there has been a huge push by the government and the voluntary sector to encourage youth volunteering. According to [The National Council for Voluntary Organisations](#) (NCVO) in United Kingdom, rates of volunteering among 16-25 year olds [rose by 50%](#) between 2010 and 2015.

In Singapore, the [Individual Giving Survey 2016](#) by the [National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre](#) (NVPC) showed that 41% of youth between 15-24 year olds have volunteered (excluding the compulsory community service in school) at least once in the last 12 months.

The high volunteerism rate among youths may be explained in the context of three main areas – namely volunteering gives them a sense of identity, purpose and belonging. Youths want to be affirmed that what they do matter and in turn receive some acknowledgement for their contribution. Next, when youths understand the communities they serve, good work will eventually be done. Lastly, youths tend to also volunteer with friends or even to make friends, and this strengthens their social bond.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" – Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)

Be informed. Be inspired. Be the change.



Articles and Updates

Initiative launched to get more seniors to serve the community

Through an initiative called "Retire with a Purpose" by RSVP Singapore – The Organisation of Senior Volunteers, older employees who are interested in retirement planning and supporting community causes will be introduced to a structured volunteering journey based on their interests, time commitment and goals. Read [more...](#)

8 Days of Giving

Giving Week is a national movement by National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) that encourages everyone to give back. During this week, corporates, non-profits and individuals across Singapore come together to make a difference. Find out how you can be part of Giving Week 2017. Read [more...](#)

12,000 volunteers join President's Challenge this year

Record number of volunteers will help annual event meet fund-raising target of \$11 million for 52 charities. Read [more...](#)

Not Just Tourists expands medical 'voluntourism' project

"Not Just Tourists" facilitates the collection and delivery of surplus medical supplies to some of the poorest and most remote clinics in the world. Read [more...](#)

More than 'just maids', they bring hope to others

The non-profit group, Race2Share was founded in 2015 to engage people in sports and volunteer work. Its members have helped raise awareness and funds for social causes by organising runs, conducting bike and swim clinics, and competing in long-distance races. Read [more...](#)



DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS: MISSING MAPS MAPATHON 2017

[Médecins Sans Frontières](#) (MSF) (also known as Doctors Without Borders) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare.

Get involved and be connected to one of the biggest projects in the world. Learn how to digitally map areas where humanitarian organisations are trying to meet the needs of vulnerable people. Meet with the humanitarian field workers and learn from their frontline experience.

No experience is required. Participants will need to bring their own laptop and mouse.
Limited slots available.

- **When:** **2 December 2017, 9.00 am - 12.30 pm** (morning session) **or 2.30 pm - 6.00 pm** (afternoon session)
- **Where:** Clinical Sciences Building, Level 5, Learning Studio (11 Mandalay Road, Singapore 308232)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is required)

To register for the morning session, click [here](#).

To register for the afternoon session, click [here](#).

For enquiries, please email directly to events.sg@singapore.msf.org.



WORDS ON WHEELS PROJECT

Calling for volunteers who have the passion to make a difference to the communities in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The Words on Wheels (WOW) programme is a mobile library project that aims to inculcate reading and self-learning habits among students to encourage life-long learning, improve their ability and confidence in communication and build enduring relationships between Singapore and the Indonesian communities.

Volunteers will be required to conduct educational workshops such as English language and basic IT skills to students to enhance their learning experience.

The available dates for this project:

- **16 - 19 January 2018**
- **13 - 16 February 2018 or 20 - 23 February 2018**

Click [here](#) to read more and register.



Embarking on your own volunteer activity or social advocacy project?
The CoLab4Good Fund seeks to support meaningful ground-up initiatives.
Find out more [here](#).



SOCIAL HACKATHON

Migrant workers have played an important role in Singapore's progress. They have built our homes, cleaned our streets, served in our factories and taken care of our children. Despite these contributions, migrant workers face many problems and stigmatisation.

[SDI Academy](#), a social enterprise which aims to empower migrants and refugees by giving them a voice and the tools they need to make a difference, will be organising a Social Hackathon to tap onto the resourcefulness and creativity of NTU students to devise solutions through three key themes – namely (1) re-imagining education; (2) effective outreach; and (3) social inclusion.

- **When:** 8-10 December 2017
- **Where:** Mapletree Business City (20 Pasir Panjang Road, #03-22/24, Singapore 117439)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is necessary)

The programme of the Hackathon is as follows.

Information Session and Team Formation (dinner provided)

- **When:** 8 December 2017, 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

BBQ Befriending Session with Migrant Workers*

- **When:** 9 December 2017, 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

*Optional to attend but highly recommended.

Pitch Session and Prize Presentation (dinner provided)

- **When:** 10 December 2017, 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

For enquiries, please email admin@sdi.academy.

Click [here](#) to apply. Last day of application is **7 December 2017**.



YOUNG SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS (YSE) PROGRAMME 2018

The YSE programme seeks to inspire, equip and enable youth of different nationalities to embark on social enterprises (SEs) in Singapore and beyond. Participants will learn from and interact with leading social entrepreneurs, business professionals and other youth who are keen on social innovation, while expanding their networks for potential collaborations for good.

Admitted YSEs will attend a four-day YSE Workshop held in Singapore, and pitch for a chance to be shortlisted into the YSE programme which includes a mentorship scheme; overseas study visit and an opportunity to pitch for funding.

Click [here](#) to read more. Last day of application is **10 December 2017**.



Upcoming Events

GIVINGWEEK

[Giving Week](#) is a national movement by [National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre](#) (NVPC) that encourages everyone to give back. During this week, corporates, non-profits and individuals across Singapore come together to make a difference.

GEYLANG ADVENTURES

Geylang – the only legalised red light district in Singapore. Faced with issues like overcrowding from the influx of foreign workers and the social stigma of prostitution, Geylang has had its share of adventures. Organised by a social enterprise, [Geylang Adventures](#), this walking tour explores the community and understands it as an ecosystem with different groups of people co-existing with one another.

- **When:** 1 - 3 December 2017, 7.00 pm - 10.00 pm
- **Where:** Aljunied MRT Station (POSB ATM Machine) (60 Sims Drive, Singapore 380060)
- **Cost:** \$35.00 per person (Friday) ; \$40.00 per person (Saturday and Sunday)

Click [here](#) to read more and register.

ARTIFY STUDIO

Liberty Art Jam is a 2.5 hours art jamming session that was created for the purpose of providing opportunities for people to paint in a non-judgmental environment. An initiative by [Artify Studio](#), Liberty Art Jam connects people from all walks of life where new friendships are forged amongst like-minded individuals. Funds collected will go to [Drawn by a Nurse](#) and [TOUCH Home Care](#).

- **When:** 2 December 2017, 12.30 pm - 3.00 pm
- **Where:** Textile Centre (200 Jalan Sultan, #09-03, Singapore 199018)
- **Cost:** Pay-as-you-wish (based on how much you value the service and experience)

Click [here](#) to read more and register.

MEICHUEN BOOK DISCUSSION: "THE POWER OF PURPOSE" BY RICHARD J. LEIDER

What does purpose mean to you? How do we choose between purpose versus paycheck? How can we live a life of purpose? Attendees get to hear refreshing perspectives, join in the discussion and experience an evening of authentic conversation, facilitated by Lee Meichuen, a freelance writer and previously an English teacher.

- **When:** 5 December 2017, 8.00 pm - 10.00 pm
- **Where:** NVPC Giving Place (6 Eu Tong Sen Street, #04-88, The Central, Singapore 059817)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is necessary)

Click [here](#) to read more and register.



WALK FOR RICE (TEAM EDITION)

Calling all sport lovers! Want to exercise and do good at the same time?

Form a team of 10 to walk 5 km and fundraise 500 bowls of rice to help underprivileged families to live and eat healthily. The walking route will be at the [Punggol Waterway Park](#).

The event's target is to clock 50,000 km of walking, and earn 50,000 bowls of rice to benefit 7,000 underprivileged families in [South East District](#).

- **When:** 3 December 2017, 5.30 pm (flag off)
- **Where:** SAFRA Punggol (9 Sentul Crescent, Singapore 828654)
- **Cost:** Free (prior team registration is necessary)

Click [here](#) to read more and register.



THE FIRST SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS MARKET 2017

It's approaching December and everyone is getting into the Christmas mood.

Thinking to visit a Christmas market? Why not try the First Sustainable Christmas Market? It will feature 23 booths selling sustainably made and sourced goods.

Expect ethical products such as unprocessed natural honey – obtained by extraction without pasteurisation – harvested and bottled directly at a bee farm in Thailand. There will also be Glow Yoga classes, cooking sessions and fermentation workshops in the day! Certainly a feast for the senses and suitable for all ages.

- **When:** 9 December 2017, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
- **Where:** Mercure Singapore on Stevens (28 Stevens Road, Singapore 257878)
- **Cost:** Free

Click [here](#) to read more.

Student Community Engagement aims to empower students to make a difference through positive social actions. We provide students access to opportunities such as grants for their ground-up initiatives and social entrepreneurship efforts, internships at non-profit organisations, and training programmes to develop community leadership skills.

We believe that young people have a critical role to play in building a better world for themselves and the community.

Established in 2015, we are part of the Student Academic Services Department at NTU. More information at <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/sasd/communityengagement>.

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