

ISSUE #16 (29 December 2017)



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

2017 is drawing to a close and the end of the year is always a reflective time; a time for taking stock of how the past year has been spent.

In recent months, the media has featured various NTU students who have dedicated their time to causes they are passionate about. [Jacob Koh and Matthew Ong](#) founded social enterprise, [Green Boulevard](#) to produce starch bags, in a move to combat plastic waste in the environment. Another shining example is [Sazzad Hossain](#), a Year 1 Engineering student who founded [SDI Academy](#), a social enterprise that provides quality education for migrant workers. These are but two of many NTU students who are spending countless hours doing good.

For our last issue of the year, we highlight four heartwarming stories that we hope will be an inspiration for 2018. Happy New Year!

Be informed. Be inspired. Be the change.



Articles and Updates

Hero brings hope to families

He couldn't afford a RM3 plate of chicken rice once upon a time - but now he's rallying townfolk to support nearly 200 families in need. Meet T-shirt salesman Kelvin Wan who has become Kuching's town hero. Read [more...](#)

Single dad eyes better life for special-needs daughter

Single father Mr Lee Shang Lian has stopped taking donations, and wants to provide for his daughter, Qi Zhen who suffers from global development delay, a condition that results in limited cognitive abilities and mobility. Read [more...](#)

Stroke and laid off but pushing on

By the time he was 22, Mr Lee Yong Jie had weathered blows that are rarely dealt to someone his age. He had suffered a massive stroke and he was retrenched from his first full-time job. Yet he refuses to be beaten down by life, and is eager to pay forward the kindness he has shown – by becoming a social worker. Read [more...](#)

Volunteers who ensure no one dies alone

No One Dies Alone (NODA) members support terminally ill with few or no family members in their final days. Read [more...](#)



ECOBANK

[EcoBank](#) is back in action for the third time! Join this meaningful social-environmental initiative by becoming a volunteer for EcoBank.

Your support will make a difference in creating awareness for responsible consumption and help promote a zero-waste nation while raising funds for [The Children's Charities Association of Singapore \(CCA\)](#).

Volunteers can help to sort and curate pre-loved items for sale as well as set-up and manage stalls at the EcoBank Charity Bazaar. Details are as follows.

Sorting and Curation of Sale Items

Duties include sorting out collected items, curating items for Charity Bazaar sale and general logistic support.

- **When:** 12 January - 27 February 2018, 9.30 am - 5.30 pm (volunteering days and shift times varies)
- **Where:** City Industrial Building (71 Tannery Lane Singapore 347807)

EcoBank Charity Bazaar

Duties include setting up of stalls, manage sale of items and general logistic support.

- **When:** 1 - 4 March 2018, 9.30 am - 8.30 pm (volunteering days and shift times varies)
- **Where:** City Square Mall (180 Raffles Place, Singapore 208539)

In appreciation, all volunteers (either or both events) will be given a token meal voucher from City Square Mall for every shift they participate in. Limited slots available. Click [here](#) to sign up.



ENGINEERING FOR GOOD

Calling all **engineering students!**

Want to make a difference in helping the disadvantaged while applying the skills you've learnt? Here's the chance!

An initiative of [Engineering Good](#), the Technology Development (Tech Dev) Programme is a programme where skilled, experienced and passionate student volunteers work in partnership with social service organisations to solve problems with solutions that are appropriate and sustainable.

Student participants, in teams of 3-5, will be guided by an experienced engineering mentor and social service organisations, to ensure that participants would be able to develop a working prototype at the end of the program. Funding will also be provided.

The programme will start in January 2018 and run for 8 months. Click [here](#) for more details. Interested? Click [here](#) to sign up.



Do you have a passion for seniors and youths?

[Calvary Community Care \(C3\)](#) is a not-for-profit Voluntary Welfare Organisation that seeks to serve the needy in the community regardless of race, age, gender or religion. They are recruiting student volunteers for each of their programmes:

1. Befriending (Seniors)

Volunteers will be paired and assigned a senior to befriend through regular home visits (1-2 hours once in 1-2 weeks). Minimum commitment is 8 months or more.

2. OTAGO Exercise Programme (Seniors)

Volunteers will help in the facilitation of the OTAGO Exercise Programme of the seniors (From January 2018: Every Tuesday or/and Thursday, 9.00 am - 2.00 pm)

OTAGO aims to increase the reach of evidence based practice to older people, providing small group exercise options to prevent falls, injuries and improve cognition amongst older people.

Minimum commitment is 6 months or more.

3. Youth Mentoring

Volunteers will conduct activities for the youths (13-16 years old), befriend and provide academic coaching at its centres. Minimum commitment is one fixed day/week for 6 months or more.

For Programmes (1) and (2), email Abigail at abigailchua@calvary.org.sg to register your interest or to find out more.

For Programme (3), email Cheryl at cherylyeo@calvary.org.sg to register your interest or to find out more.



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

Competitions and Grants



SOIMPACT #4

Calling all aspiring social entrepreneurs!

This SOIMPACT Bootcamp is aimed at teams/individuals with an idea or an initiative that tackles an existing social or environment challenge. Participants can expect to:

- Validate or invalidating an idea;
- Iterate your idea via user-testing;
- Join a like-minded community of changemakers

To find out more about the programme and apply, click [here](#).

Limited to 10 spots only. Application closes on **7 January 2018**.



URA-REDAS SPARK CHALLENGE

Do you have an idea on how we can boost people's health and wellness for a higher quality of life within the built environment? For instance, do you have an original and innovative design that could:

- encourage people to be more active indoors and/or outdoors (physical wellness), or
- improve the sensorial experience of a shopping centre to lift people's moods (emotional wellness), or
- provide a restorative environment for people to recharge (psychological wellness), or
- foster interaction among people to build connections with one another (social wellness)?

The theme for the inaugural URA-REDAS SPARK Challenge is "enhancing the health and wellness of people within the built environment".

Submit your prototype proposal and stand a chance to receive S\$5,000 to build and test your prototype. One winner will also be awarded S\$10,000 at the end of the competition.

To find out more, click [here](#). Registration is required and the last day for proposal submission is **7 February 2018**.



Upcoming Events



HACK FOR GOOD LEARNING FESTIVAL

Hack for Good Learning Festival is back – bigger and better!

Hack for Good is a marketplace for youths with ideas for social good. The learning festival serves as a platform for youths to develop into volunteers with the heart, knowledge and skills. Youths will be inspired to serve, gain insights and get equipped to do good better and create more impactful change in the community.

Look out for the different workshops, panel sessions and simulation sessions that you can be a part of! There will also be outdoor mass exercises and a marketplace, focusing on social enterprises, happening at The Youth Park.

- **When:** 13 - 14 January 2018, various times
- **Where:** The Red Box (113 Somerset Road, Singapore 238165)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is necessary)

Limited slots available. Click [here](#) to register.

COMMUNICATE FOR GOOD

COMMUNICATE FOR GOOD

According to American psychologist Rollo May, the power of communication lies in its potential to create community - that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing.

We live in a communication era, with mass media and improved techniques for the exchange of ideas readily available. Communication can now play a decisive role in today's new climate of social change.

Find out how communication is the currency for sustainable community building to take place.

Join us at the COMMUNICATE FOR GOOD exhibition and appreciate how good communication can generate even more good by creating inclusiveness and impact for those without a voice.

- **When:** 22 - 31 January 2018
- **Where:** Sky Deck at North Spine Plaza, NTU (above PRIME Supermarket)



EARTH FEST 2018

Into its third consecutive year, [Earth Fest](#) is designed to be sustainable, fun, and inspirational for all ages! It will feature a food fair of delicious international and new age planet-friendly foods, a Farmer's Market of local businesses with sustainable products, an eco-carnival of engaging low carbon games, as well as other various opportunities such as talks, screenings, etc. There will be something for everyone and all interests.

Sustainability is key at this Fest! The food fair will use 100% compostable material, feature only reusable bags and food preparation without the use of palm oil!

- **When:** 14 January 2018, 11.00 am - 4.30 pm
- **Where:** Marina Barrage (8 Marina Gardens Drive, Singapore 018951)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is necessary)

Limited tickets available. Click [here](#) to register.



RETHINKING TRASH

Did you know that out of the 8 million tonnes of plastic that end up in the oceans, 82% of it comes from Asia? It is time to re-think our impact on the planet and our ways of living, consuming and producing. Our carbon footprint starts from birth, and has been increasing ever since. The question now is how do we reduce it? Today's linear 'take, make, dispose' model that relies on large quantities of cheap, easily accessible materials and energy, is reaching its physical limits. This is not just a business loss, but one of the biggest environmental challenges of our time.

This exclusive session features [Arthur Huang](#) – architect, engineer and National Geographic Emerging Explorer. He will share some of his achievements in finding innovative technical solutions to turn any type of waste into high performance materials.

Find out what is our actual carbon footprint and how can we reduce our impact on the environment

- **When:** 19 January 2018, 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm
- **Where:** NTU Nanyang Auditorium
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is necessary)

Click [here](#) to register.



HERITAGE DASH 2

Are you fit for the challenge? How much do you know about Singapore's history? Are you ready for the Amazing Race?

Heritage Dash 2 is back! Participate in a team of 5 and explore the rich heritage of Jalan Besar GRC and Potong Pasir SMC. There are CapitaLand Mall shopping vouchers to be won!

Jalan Besar GRC sits in the prime spot surrounded by many amazing heritage sites, cultural icons and historical monuments. Come explore the unique Singapore multiracial and multi-religious ambience that our past generations painstakingly built and deservingly experienced when Malays, Chinese, Indians and others lived together harmoniously just across a street.

All participants will be entitled a Race Pack, Race Tee, Finisher Medal, Stage Show Performances, Heritage Exhibitions and many more.

- **When:** 20 January 2018, 9.00 am - 6.00 pm
- **Where:** Kreta Ayer Square (21 Banda Street, Singapore 050005)
- **Cost:** Free for NTU teams (Normal rates: \$30 per team)

Click [here](#) to find out more and register your teams today!



YOUTH CORPS LEADERS PROGRAMME

Do you desire to **grow** your capability and **serve** the community better? Do you desire to **create impact** on the social cause which you are passionate about? Do you desire to **connect** with community leaders, like-minded youths and social service organisations?

Volunteer leader-in-training (also known as Aspirant) will spend 10 weeks **full-time** with [Youth Corps Singapore](#) and a Social Service Organisation. This programme is designed for youths aged 18 to 25 years old to immerse themselves in community service, be equipped and serve better as a volunteer leader. Through training, learning journeys and on-the-job developmental opportunities, youths will gain insights into national issues, deepen their understanding of cause/sector they serve and pick up skills to create greater impact.

Attend the information session to find out more.

- **When:** 13 January 2018, 9.30 am - 11.30 am
- **Where:** The Red Box (113 Somerset Road, Singapore 238165)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is necessary)

To find out more, click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to register. Last day of registration is 6 January 2018.

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>.

[web](#) | [email](#) | [read our past issues](#) | [manage my subscription](#)