

# ISSUE #28 (29 June 2018)



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

The United Nations has designated this past Wednesday (27 June) as [Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises \(MSMEs\) Day](#). These enterprises, which generally employ fewer than 250 persons, are the backbone of most economies worldwide and play a key role in developing countries. They are identified as a major driver of poverty alleviation and development.

Although MSMEs generate the most jobs, they face new challenges in day-to-day operations and growth. Access to finance is often cited as one of the primary obstacles and both policy makers and the private sector are encouraged to intervene, including provide access to affordable microfinance and credit.

According to the [Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise](#) (raiSE), the local social enterprise sector [grew by 32% in 2017, with 401 registered social enterprises – up from 303 enterprises in 2016](#). Doing good is at the core of the business of a social enterprise and not just something that happens along the way. For a social enterprise, growth is a means to greater impact.

*"The life purpose of the true social entrepreneur is to change the world."* – Bill Drayton, [Ashoka](#) CEO & Founder

*Be informed. Be inspired. Be the change.*



## Articles and Updates

### Companies with social impact as their business model

Companies are increasingly moving towards more responsible practices. Social enterprises are here to stay because this generation seeks purpose that extends beyond ourselves. Read [more...](#)

### Asian millennials see value in social impact investing

Millennials are actively making social change through business. With 35% of Asia's wealth expected to be in the hands of millennials in the next five to seven years, it is expected that environmental, social and governance issues will factor more into investing decisions. Read [more...](#)

### SMU student learns how way of life affects thinking

SMU student Janice Chiang spends her two-month internship at Coastal Bamboo & Coir Development Company, a start-up that helps African villages become self-sufficient by working with them to produce goods which are sold in other markets. Read [more...](#)

### Entrepreneurship isn't One-Size-Fits-All

Building on local values can transform entrepreneurship. There is a need for funders and other organisations to rethink Western entrepreneurship initiatives for development. Read [more...](#)

### Forgoing gifts for giving to a good cause

Social enterprise Gift-It-Forward turns a celebration into an opportunity to help others. Since its official launch in 2016, Gift-It-Forward has collected over \$70,000, with more than half the amount donated to charities. Read [more...](#)

## Volunteer Opportunities



### INCLUSIVE SPORTS FESTIVAL

Back for the second year, the Inclusive Sports Festival will be back in August 2018. Watch the 2017 Festival highlights [here](#).

Volunteer for a worthy cause!

- **When:** 3 - 5 August 2018
- **Where:** SportCares (Sports Singapore, 3 Stadium Drive, Singapore 397630)

Email your interest directly to [sportcares@sport.gov.sg](mailto:sportcares@sport.gov.sg).



Do you have a passion for seniors?

[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 their befriending (seniors) programme.

Volunteers will be paired and assigned a senior to befriend through regular home visits (1-2 hours), outings and bi-monthly get-together sessions. Minimum commitment is 6 months or more.

- **When:** August 2018 - April 2019
- **Where:** Potong Pasir Constituency

Click [here](#) to apply. For enquiries, email Cheryl Yeo at [cherylyeo@calvary.org.sg](mailto:cherylyeo@calvary.org.sg). The last day of application is **1 September 2018**.



**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



### **COLAB4GOOD FUND FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES 2018**

Do you have a keen business sense? Or have you always dreamt of becoming a social entrepreneur? Here is your chance!

The CoLab4Good Fund for Social Enterprises seeks to support and encourage NTU students who are interested in entrepreneurship to explore a social enterprise business model.

Seed funding of up to S\$10,000 will be provided for new and sustainable business ideas that create positive social impact.

Applications have opened.

Click [here](#) to find out more and apply. The last day of application is **31 July 2018**.



### **THE COLAB4GOOD AWARD FOR SERVICE TO SOCIETY**

The CoLab4Good Award for Service to Society is an award that recognises student initiatives which have made significant contributions to either the community, or the environment in 2017.

Award recipients will receive a cash award of \$2,000, a certificate and grant of \$3,000 to be used for future initiatives related to the areas in which they have been awarded.

Nominations for this year has opened.

Click [here](#) to find out more. The last day of nomination is **20 August 2018**.



## Upcoming Events



### **WHAT'S IN THE BOX? : CULINARY CHALLENGE WITH THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

Join in a fun cooking session! Participants will be split into teams and each team will have a Visually Impaired (VI) Individual attached. Within the given time and budget, teams need to learn to work effectively together to cook 3 dishes.

This project allows participants to learn about the technology available in aiding a VI in the kitchen, better appreciate diversity and embrace inclusion.

This event is organised by [Fortitude Culina](#), a culinary arts school for the blind, in conjunction with [SkillsFuture Festival 2018](#) and supported by [Lifelong Learning Council](#).

- **When:** 7 July 2018, 9.00 am - 12.00 pm (Session 1) & 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm (Session 2)
- **Where:** Enabling Village, Academy Block (20 Lengkok Bahru, Academy Block, #01-07, Singapore 159053)
- **Cost:** \$25 per person or \$40 for 2 persons

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



### **SPROUT 2018**

Sprout is a Farm-to-People festival that brings growers, producers and the community together. More than just a farmers' market in the city, the inaugural two-day festival celebrates sustainable agriculture, urban farming and good honest food.

With over 55 specially curated local exhibitors ranging from farm growers, urban farming, artisanal and speciality food, Sprout is Singapore's largest farmers' market located in the heart of the city.

Whether you are interested in sustainable food and living, love fresh produce that you can purchase directly from farmers and producers, an urban farming enthusiast, a health-conscious foodie or just looking to support local brands – this festival is not to be missed!

- **When:** 7 - 8 July 2018, 10.00 am - 8.00 pm
- **Where:** Suntec Singapore Convention Centre, Hall 406 (1 Raffles Boulevard, Suntec City, Singapore 039593)
- **Cost:** Free

Click [here](#) to read more about the event, and register at the link for a chance to win an exclusive goodie bag.



### **A VERY SPECIAL WALK**

A signature fundraising event of [Autism Resource Centre \(Singapore\)](#) since 2005, A Very Special Walk (AVSW) is back this year with a fun run and walk, carnival and concert.

Funds raised will be used to help adults with autism in the [Employability and Employment Centre](#) (E2C). The E2C aims to equip adults with autism with employability skills through essential job training and support to match and place them in suitable jobs.

- **When:** 28 July 2018, 7.30 am - 2.00 pm
- **Where:** Resorts World Sentosa (8 Sentosa Gateway, Singapore 098269)
- **Cost:** \$20 per person (Fun Walk) & \$30 per person (Fun Run)

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

Student Community Engagement aims to empower students to make a difference through positive social actions. We believe that young people have a critical role to play in building a better world for themselves and the community.

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. More information at <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/sasd/communityengagement>.

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