

# ISSUE #31 (15 August 2018)



## Welcome to Student Community Engagement's fortnightly update.

Singapore celebrated her 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday last Thursday, 9 August with a fantastic birthday bash at the annual National Day Parade (NDP). We have come a long way as a nation that is caring, resilient and united. The theme for NDP 2018 was *"We Are Singapore"* which celebrates our people, our nation and our home. The "We" in this year's theme emphasises the collective, where regardless of our origins and wherever we are, Singapore is our way of life and will always be our home.

In line with the National Day 2018 celebrations, an initiative "[18 Days of Giving. A Lifetime of Caring](#)" was launched to bring the nation together in growing the [Singapore Cares](#) (SG Cares) movement, building on the spirit of care and compassion that has brought Singapore to where we are today. Everyone can be a part of this year's caring celebration – be it helping your neighbour, volunteering or organising ground up initiatives. More than 200 activities will take place nationwide from 14 July to 26 August for members of the public to volunteer. Let us continue to be [#ANationThatCares!](#)

*"But whatever it is, ultimately the result that we want – and I am sure you must want this – is to produce a community that feels together. You know, on certain things it responds together: this is my country, this is my flag; this is my President; this is my future. I am going to protect it."* – Lee Kuan Yew, 29 August 1966

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



## Articles and Updates

### School bag and stationery gift changed poor boy's life

During primary school, Veera Sekaran often went to school carrying his textbooks in a paper bag. A teacher noticed this and rallied the boy's classmates to donate a school bag and stationery to him. A few years later, Veera met a lawyer who offered to pay his university fees with a repayment condition to *"pay it forward to others who need help"*. Read [more...](#)

### How to give and live more

Regular volunteers 26-year-old Deborah Ong and 58-year-old Eric Tan are among the nine individuals who were featured in a video series, created by DBS to show how people can make the most of their everyday lives. In the video, Deborah and Eric spoke about their experiences and joys of volunteering. Read [more...](#)

### Mentors make a difference

The benefits of having mentors are long-lasting and life-changing. Former school dropouts who received mentorship, became mentors themselves in later part of their lives and creates a virtuous cycle by paying it forward as role models for vulnerable youth who may face similar challenges as they did. Alex Judah Lim, who used to be a juvenile delinquent, is one of them – he is also the board advisor for Architects Of Life, a social enterprise focusing on youth at risk and former offenders. Read [more...](#)

### Retired odd job worker now helps seniors in his estate

Retired odd job worker Li De Yan, 78, delivers food twice a day to seniors who live alone in the Kembangan-Chai Chee neighbourhood. Being a recipient of help from the Kembangan-Chai Chee Seniors Activity Centre, De Yan gives back by volunteering in whatever way he can. Read [more...](#)

### Singaporean surgeon dreams of better smiles for children

Between juggling his job as a surgeon at Dream Plastic Surgery Clinic, his responsibilities as a visiting consultant at KK Women's and Children's Hospital and helping children smile again, Associate Professor Vincent Yeow, 54, has little time to himself. But he is driven to help children born with a cleft lip or palate, where the lip and mouth do not come together properly during foetal development. Vincent has been a volunteer in cleft surgical missions overseas since 1994. In 2015, he founded Smile Asia Alliance, a multi-country outfit consisting of seven separate charity organisations. Read [more...](#)

## Volunteer Opportunities



### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2018: INCLUSION EDITION

Youth Development Programme (YDP) is a six month programme that equips youths-with-disabilities with the skills to create social projects that benefit their own communities and beyond.

The second edition of YDP is called the Inclusion Edition, wherein differently-abled youths will work together to build and carry out inclusive community projects!

Calling for 17 committed youths to join as partners-in-inclusion. **Volunteers should be able to commit to at least 11 of the 14 sessions conducted from September 2018 to February 2019**, and able to envision and want to build an inclusive society. No prior experience is necessary.

Click [here](#) to read more and [here](#) to register your interest.  
The last day of registration is **24 August 2018**.

### VOLUNTEER CHILDMINDERS NEEDED

You can help too!



### DAUGHTERS OF TOMORROW CHILDMINDERS

[Daughters Of Tomorrow](#) (DOT) is a charity that facilitates livelihood opportunities for underprivileged women and supports them in building and sustaining financially independent and resilient families. Some of their female clients are often unable to find affordable childcare services while they attend training programmes at DOT. Hence, childminders are crucial to these women being able to better themselves without worrying their children or the additional costs of childcare.

Childminder volunteers will attend an orientation session (*details to be confirmed*), plan and execute activities to carry out with the children while their mothers are undergoing training. Once childminders are recruited, they will be teamed up and tasked to create a proposal detailing the activities to be carried out over the following weeks. The proposal will be vetted by DOT before volunteers get the green light to carry out the activities.

Volunteers are **required to commit at least for 6 to 9 weeks and within a full set of dates (ie. Set 1 or Set 2)**, so as to ensure familiarity between the children that you will be looking after, and volunteers that you will work with. However, alternative arrangements can be made on a case-to-case basis.

#### Set 1

- **When: 24 July - 28 August 2018 (every Tuesday), 7.00 pm - 9.30 pm**
- **Where: Marine Parade Family Service Centre (53 Marine Terrace, Singapore 440053)**

#### Set 2

- **When: 26 July - 13 September 2018 (every Thursday), 7.00 pm - 9.30 pm**
- **Where: Fei Yue Family Services at SSO @ Taman Jurong (301A Corporation Drive, Singapore 619773)**

Click [here](#) to register your interest. Email your queries directly to [childminding@daughtersoftomorrow.org](mailto:childminding@daughtersoftomorrow.org).  
The last day of registration is **30 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



### 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**.



### DESIGN FOR GOOD

#### **DESIGN FOR GOOD 2018**

Impact design – whether focused on social or environmental issues – strives to shift away from designing for a universal consumer to meeting more diverse needs.

In order to make such products, designers often reconsider their approaches, using methods such as design thinking to identify problems and generate innovative solutions. Seeking to understand what is most wanted and needed and having conversations with users, as part of the design process, has become commonplace.

#### **POP-UP MARKET**

Come and explore what the social enterprise and green sector have to offer in a showcase of selected creative products. Looking for ethically sourced artisan gifts or upcycled products? Look no further and shop at our socially conscious and sustainable living retail stalls. Stalls include [Singapore Fashion Runway](#), [Deaf Artscraftsy](#), [The Sustainability Project](#) and more!

- **When:** 16 August 2018, 11.30 am - 4.30 pm
- **Where:** Canopy K @ North Spine

#### **FILM SCREENING: CLOSE TO EARTH**

"Close To Earth", a final year project film by ADM Digital Filmmaking Alumni, is a documentary portrait of a rural Vietnamese family – adolescence eludes the daughters, while their mother struggles with her powerlessness to break the cycle of poverty.

- **When:** 16 August 2018, 10.00 am & 2.00 pm
- **Where:** The Trantor @ Lee Wee Nam Library
- **Cost:** Free

\*Duration of film: 25 minutes

Click [here](#) for full programme and to sign up for workshops.

### LEAP FOR GOOD

#### **LEAP FOR GOOD DEMO DAY**

[LeapForGood](#) (LFG) is a year-long signature programme initiated and organised by the [Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise](#) (raiSE) to inspire innovation in addressing emerging social needs through social entrepreneurship. The current run of the programme focuses on the Work, Life and Play of Seniors and Caregivers. A human-centered design approach and community partnerships feature strongly in the programme.

Since the launch of the programme on 3 February, over 400 individuals have participated in learning journeys, consultation clinics, workshops as well as a hackathon to discover the needs of seniors and caregivers, develop and refine their social enterprise venture ideas.

Join in to hear from the selected 12 teams where they will pitch their ideas to get grants up to \$100,000 each!

- **When:** 18 August 2018, 12.30 pm - 6.00 pm
- **Where:** thebridge (2 Science Park Drive, #01-03, Singapore 118222)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is necessary)

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



#### **YOUTH CONVERSATIONS: HOW HAS THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT CHANGED FOR FOREIGN WORKERS?**

Foreign workers play an essential role in our workforce, and deserve a safe and fair environment to live and work.

How have the rules and practices on the fair treatment of foreign workers changed over the years? What kind of future do we envision for foreign workers working in Singapore?

Take part in a guided dormitory tour and panel discussion!

- **When:** 25 August 2018, 10.00 am - 12.30 pm
- **Where:** Tuas View Dormitory (70 Tuas South Avenue 1, Singapore 637285)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is necessary)

\*There will be a free two-way bus ride from The Red Box (113 Somerset Road, Singapore 238165) at 9.00 am to the event venue.

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



### **COMMUNITY CHEST HEARTSTRINGS WALK 2018**

Join in the celebration of [Community Chest's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#) and step forward to empower lives at the Community Chest Heartstrings Walk 2018! Organised by Community Chest and Marina Bay Sands, this year's walk will bring together people from all parts of the community, partners, volunteers and social service users, to signify a collective effort to build one community that shares, and a nation that cares.

Test your limits in the 4km Fun Walk along the picturesque Marina Bay Waterfront Circuit together with social service users. There will also be game booths and activities at the Family Carnival.

- **When:** 25 August 2018, various times
- **Where:** Marina Bay Sands (10 Bayfront Avenue, Singapore 018956)
- **Cost:** \$10 per pax (Fun Walk)

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



### **ASEAN RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS FORUM**

Join in the ASEAN Responsible Business Forum 2018 to understand the business case for responsible and inclusive business, and how businesses can contribute to ASEAN community building.

The Forum will feature five expert panel discussions on key challenges faced by ASEAN – advancing responsible and inclusive business; micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) development; business integrity and anti-corruption; climate change and environmental sustainability; and human rights due diligence in the supply chains.

Participants can expect to share in the discussion with business and civil society leaders, government officials and subject experts from around the world as they seek to identify practical strategies and share good practices on responsible and inclusive business that can be scaled up and replicated in the ASEAN region.

- **When:** 27 - 28 August 2018
- **Where:** Concorde Hotel Singapore (100 Orchard Road, Singapore 238840)
- **Cost:** \$250 per pax

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

Apply for the Social Impact Training Grant (SITG) to qualify for Forum fee subsidies\*. Email [OCommE@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:OCommE@ntu.edu.sg) for details.

*\*Only full-time NTU students are eligible for SITG. Terms & conditions apply.*



### **ASIAN PREMIERE: SOUFRA**

Award-winning director, Thomas Morgan follows the unlikely and wildly inspirational story of intrepid social entrepreneur, Mariam Shaar – a generational refugee who has spent her entire life in the 65-year-old Burl El Barajneh refugee camp just south of Beirut, Lebanon. The film follows Mariam as she sets out against all odds to change her fate by launching a successful catering company, "Soufra," and then expand it into a food truck business with a diverse team of fellow refugee women who now share this camp as their home.

There will also be Q&A sessions with the director, [GIGI Bloks](#) installation sessions and a Social Impact Market at the event.

Click [here](#) to view the film trailer.

- **When:** 1 - 2 September 2018, various timings
- **Where:** Capitol Theatre (17 Stamford Road, Singapore 178907)
- **Cost:** \$18 - \$127 per ticket

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



### **WELCOME TO MY WORLD 2018 : FREE MY MUSIC**

Ever wondered how it is like to live with a disability?

*Free My Music* is a musical about a boy who yearns to be a jazz pianist but has to struggle against the odds imposed by his disability.

*Welcome To My World* – A Concert by People with Disabilities is organised annually by [Very Special Arts Singapore](#) (VSA Singapore). This national concert by people with disabilities strives to promote the belief that art is for all, including people with disabilities. Aimed to not only showcase the talent of the disabled community in performing arts, this concert will also inspire and increase the awareness of the immense talent and resilience of people with disabilities.

- **When:** 2 September 2018, 4.00 pm - 5.30 pm
- **Where:** The Republic Cultural Centre @ Republic Polytechnic (9 Woodlands Avenue 9, Singapore 738964)
- **Cost:** \$25 per ticket

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



## Social Media For Good

### SOCIAL MEDIA FOR GOOD

The global village of today is home to millennials who practically live, breathe and play connected. As digital natives, almost every youth is connected to at least one social media platform at any given time.

Leveraging on their personal publishing spaces such as *Instagram* and *Facebook*, the programme is created for youths to consciously engage and promote social awareness as active citizens. When done right, it can grow into a powerful peer-to-peer influencing opportunity rooted in empathy and giving.

- **When:** 7 September 2018, 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm
- **Where:** M.A.D. School (30 Merchant Road, #03-22 Riverside Point, Singapore 058282)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is necessary)

Click [here](#) to register your interest. Email your queries directly to Abigail at [abigail@makethechange.sg](mailto:abigail@makethechange.sg). The last day of registration is **6 September 2018**.



### Others



### YOUTH CORPS LEADERS PROGRAMME

Launched in 2014, more than 1,000 youths have embarked on the [Youth Corps Leader Programme](#). Through this programme, youths will be equipped with essential skills such as community needs analysis and stakeholder management. Insights into national issues and the individual's role in shaping Singapore will also be gained. Watch how youths benefitted from the programme [here](#).

Click [here](#) for read more and apply. The last day of application is **17 August 2018**.



### IHL-SPED-F&B SOCIAL CHALLENGE 2018

Calling all youths who wants to use technology to make a difference!

Join in the journey with a community of like-minded youths to enable and improve the lives of persons with disabilities, special needs and beneficiaries of charities, starting with the vibrant Food and Beverage (F&B) sector in Singapore.

Be part of one of the two tracks:

- Social Innovator (Tech & Design)
- Social Changemaker (Business Development & Communications)

Click [here](#) to read more.

Attend the info session to find out more about the various community partners involved and how you can help address their challenges.

- **When:** 28 August 2018, 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm
- **Where:** The CoLab4Good Room @ The Hive (Level B5)

Click [here](#) to register your interest. The last day of registration for the info session is **24 August 2018**.

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>.