

# SCE Update Goes Online!

Newsletter Issue #77

15 July 2020



## WARMING THE COCKLES OF OUR HEARTS

The Singapore General Elections concluded last Friday, 10 July, with a record number of [10 political parties](#) contesting for 93 seats in Parliament. It was coined as a "[crisis election](#)" by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, because of the current COVID-19 pandemic which crippled the State's economy and affected the livelihoods of its citizens and residents.

During the nine-day campaigning period, candidates from the various parties participated in constituency political broadcasts, house visits, televised live political debates, as well as walkabouts in the neighbourhood. Many hot button issues such as employment, inclusive society and environment sustainability were brought up. Among these issues, strengthening social safety nets remains as one of the core agenda.

Many of us are blessed with the basics in life, such as education, food and a roof over our heads. However, there are still a number of people in the community who are economically vulnerable and need support in these difficult times. Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu said that the pandemic had not dampened the spirit of caring among people but instead brought out the best in Singaporeans and showed that many in the community care about the country. The [Giving.sg](#) portal received \$40.7 million from January to May, with \$20.4 million donated in April, after the first tranche of \$600 Solidarity Payments was given out. In support of online giving, the NVPC has pledged to [wvia Giving.sg](#), from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Perhaps we know of someone who may need help during this difficult period. How would you help him/her in your own special way? It need not always be about finances, but we could start by being more observant of the community around us and extend that hand of friendship and care.

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

## ARTICLES & UPDATES

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### **Uni students tap networks to help peers get internships**

Some undergraduates have been forced to be more resourceful in hunting down internship opportunities, as companies withdraw offers and overseas programmes grind to a halt. NTU Students' Union President Bryan Chiew and his team created a portal to help NTU students to secure internship opportunities. Read [more...](#)



### **Student uses Edusave money to buy face masks for children**

Without the knowledge of her peers and teachers at school, 13-year-old Sylvia Low used her \$400 Edusave money to buy face mask for 1500 children from low-income families. She donated the masks because she realised that some families lacked the means to purchase daily essential items for themselves. Read [more...](#)



### **Formal radio DJ now mentors underprivileged youths**

Social entrepreneur Emily Teng, left her job as a formal radio DJ, to focus on Blessings In A Bag - a non-profit organisation she founded with the mission to nurture under-resourced youths and children in Singapore. Emily also runs the same outfit remotely from the United States. Read [more...](#)



### **Cardboard table for needy kids' home learning**

A Singapore-based strategic design consultancy, Chemistry, has devised a study table made of cardboard, to provide underprivileged children with a better learning environment at home, where the lack of space and resources often means that studying is done on the bed or the floor. The company works with three social service agencies to distribute these table sets for free to needy families. Read [more...](#)

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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**22 June - 30 September 2020**

## **SG Cares Community Networks Outreach**

Volunteer to support outreach efforts for the vulnerable and those who have been hit hard by the economic disruption. You will be tasked to make phone calls to identified households in a specific constituency assigned to you. Training will be provided and you can make the phone calls from home. Click [here](#) to read more and apply.



**Now - 30 November 2020**

## **Online Tutoring and Befriending**

Organised by Lakeside Family Services, be part of a group of volunteers to provide online tutoring and mentoring/befriending with students from the UPLIFT programme - a taskforce to strengthen support for underperforming students from disadvantaged families. Click [here](#) to read more and apply.

# COMPETITIONS & GRANTS

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**Now - 16 August 2020**

## **CoLab4Good Fund for Social Enterprises**

Do you have a viable business idea which has a social purpose, is sustainable and scalable and creates social value? Successful applicants will receive seed-funding up to \$10,000 each. Click [here](#) to read more and apply.



## **CoLab4Good Fund for Community Projects**

The Fund seeks to support meaningful ground-up initiatives and is an opportunity for NTU students to take action and create change. Feel inspired to start a community project or initiative to help those in need, especially during this period? Click [here](#) to read more and apply.



## **Young ChangeMakers Grant**

Feel strongly about a particular issue during COVID-19? Want to kickstart a project to contribute to the community? Approved funds will be given out within seven working days in a special COVID-19 edition of the grant, compared to a previous timeframe of two to three weeks. The grant awards up to \$5,000 or up to 80% of total project costs, whichever is lower, depending on the project's scale and impact. Click [here](#) to read more and apply.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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11 - 26 JULY 2020

**11 - 26 July 2020**

### **Read For Books Charity Drive**

A charity drive with the intention of raising awareness of reading and share the gift of reading with the less privileged. For every 10 people who read for 15 minutes, one book will be donated to selected persons in need. The aim is to provide 1000 books for them. [Find out more.](#)



**15 July - 2 August 2020**

### **Festival of Women: N.O.W. 2020**

This online festival celebrates the diverse experience of women, focusing on different intersections of class, race, gender and structural inequality in their lives. There will be a digital exhibition of interviews, livestreamed performances, video narratives and workshops. [Find out more.](#)

# OTHERS



## Elders FM Podcast

Organised by WSC RSP Elders, this podcast is a platform for volunteers to interact with the elderly through sharing of stories, encouraging words and songs. There will be a revolving theme for each broadcast. You can submit your letters and songs, and it will be read and played during the recording of the podcast, which will then be played to the elderly at various centres that WSC RSP Elderly members volunteer at. Click [here](#) to read more and hear the broadcast.



## Now - 5 August 2020 The City of Good Show

A seven-part weekly live variety show to raise funds for charities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some charities are facing a decline in donations. It will feature a star-studded cast of celebrities and comedians. Be prepared to be tickled by a wholesome line up of comedy, music and laughter. Who knows, instead of finding simple entertainment, you may be inspired by stories of goodness as well. Click [here](#) to read more and watch the episodes.



## #HowCanIHelpSG-COVID

Created by NTU students, #HowCanIHelpSG-COVID is a compilation of the various initiatives that you can participate in, and they are neatly categorised into eight different areas - migrant workers, appreciation, mutual aid, businesses, education, groceries, jobs/internships and specific communities. Click [here](#) to see how you can do your part.



## BySGForSG

A non-profit food ordering and delivery platform aimed at helping hawkers and small F&B businesses. 100% of the commission earned from food vendors goes to [YMCA Wok The Talk](#), an initiative that provides essential grocery packs and hot meals for vulnerable groups. Click [here](#) to read more and order your food.

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**CONNECT WITH US:**



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.

This is a fortnightly newsletter. You can read our past issues [here](#)

