

MEDIA RELEASE



In support of



10,000 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ANSWER PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVE THE UNDER-PRIVILEGED IN 2017

SINGAPORE 22 JULY 2017 – In support of President's Challenge Volunteer Drive (PCVD) 2017, staff volunteers from global defence and engineering group, Singapore Technologies Engineering (ST Engineering) hosted children and youth beneficiaries supported by President's Challenge, at their 50th Anniversary Family Day held today at Palawan Green, Sentosa. President Tony Tan Keng Yam, graced the event as Guest-of-Honour.

Staff volunteers from subsidiaries of ST Engineering spent a meaningful morning interacting with over 50 beneficiaries supported by President's Challenge, including under-privileged children from Reach Community Services Society and TOUCH Community Services, and at-risk youth from Boys' Town and CampusImpact. President Tony Tan joined both the beneficiaries and volunteers and tried out various activities at the games stalls. He also received a cheque of \$1 million from Kwa Chong Seng, Chairman of ST Engineering, in support of President's Challenge.

President Tony Tan said, "I am heartened that ST Engineering has incorporated a volunteering element in their Family Day this year. Volunteerism is one way for us to accumulate our social reserves. When we help one another, not only is there goodwill generated, but the different communities also enhance our mutual understanding. I am glad that volunteerism is now a key component of President's Challenge, and helping to build a more cohesive, caring and inclusive society in Singapore."

This year's PCVD is in support of SG Cares, a national movement to support the efforts of Singaporeans in building a more caring, compassionate and inclusive home for all. PCVD aims to garner 10,000 volunteers to contribute their time and skills.

Volunteering can come in various forms, including organising volunteering events, or contributing your skills, like what Janson Lim has been doing on his own. Janson, an engineer with ST Kinetics, a subsidiary of ST Engineering, volunteers as a hair stylist for patients with mental health issues and at a community hospital. This is Janson's

second time volunteering for President's Challenge Volunteer Drive, his first being the Istana Open House held in May 2017.

Another inspiring volunteer is See Hai Shu from ST Marine, who has been volunteering since 1992 despite her hearing impairment. "Being deaf will not stop me from reaching out to the needy. On my recent overseas volunteering trip, I was chosen to share my life journey with kids with hearing impairment, to inspire them to excel in their studies. It was really pleasant to see the kids listening to the translator attentively. I'm also very glad to be able to meet and host the children and youth from under-privileged families today. Hopefully they will be inspired by how I am living my life to the fullest despite my disability, and rise above their own set of challenges."

Under the ambit of PCVD, organisations such as Citi Singapore, decided to leverage their expertise for a good cause. Citi Singapore staff brought under-privileged youth from CampusImpact on a behind-the-scenes trip to the bank, and provided them with tips on financial management. Visa Singapore volunteers will also share best practices on customer service with Singapore Red Cross volunteers through a workshop, to improve the soft skills and confidence of those mobilised to man the call centre.

Students and youth are also coming up with creative ways to volunteer. Saint Joseph's Institution (SJI) International students started a project 'Walk a mile in my shoes' in April this year, to help beneficiaries from TOUCH Community Services create their dream shoes. They paired up with child beneficiaries as mentors, to aid them in the process of designing and handcrafting the shoes, which were auctioned off to raise funds for President's Challenge.

Other volunteering events in support of President's Challenge Volunteer Drive (PCVD) 2017 include, the Adam Road Presbyterian Church's Let's Carnival Together, the Istana Open House, and Singapore Polytechnic's Flag Day.

The President's Challenge reaches out to the widest range of charities in Singapore, across various sectors including children and family services, healthcare and eldercare services, disability services, rehabilitation of ex-offenders, as well as sports, the arts, heritage, culture and nature which have social impact. Since 2012, the Challenge was expanded to go beyond fund-raising, by including volunteerism and social entrepreneurship. In 2015, President Tan also announced the setting up of the President's Challenge Silver Volunteer Fund to encourage senior volunteerism. The public can volunteer with or donate to charities of the above causes at www.pc.org.sg.

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About President's Challenge Volunteer Drive

The President's Challenge Volunteer Drive (PCVD) is a President's Challenge (PC) initiative where individuals, schools and organisations are encouraged to participate in a host of programmes and volunteer activities. PCVD aims to help people understand the critical needs facing the less fortunate in Singapore, and at the same time to experience the satisfaction of volunteerism.

Besides creating volunteer opportunities and matching the needs of VWOs with interested volunteers, PCVD also carries out workshops to train volunteers to make them more effective and to enhance capability in the sector.

About Singapore Cares (SG Cares)

SG Cares is a national movement to support the efforts of Singaporeans in building a more caring, compassionate and inclusive home for all.

SG Cares aims to build capability across various sectors and organisations to create conditions and grow opportunities for volunteerism. SG Cares also aims to increase mindshare building by galvanising and inspiring Singaporeans to put values into action through active volunteerism, ground-up efforts and everyday acts of care. Through SG Cares, we can realise a more caring and compassionate society. We may be a small nation, but we have a big heart.

Learn more about the nationwide movement at www.sg/singaporecares. Sign up for volunteering opportunities at www.giving.sg.