



MEDIA RELEASE

SHARE as One spurs companies to step up employee giving and volunteering

Singapore, 18 May 2016 – Employees in Singapore will see their donations matched by the Government, which their companies can partly utilise for corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts. Announced during Budget 2016, the new programme, SHARE as One, aims to spur ground-up efforts by employees to donate and volunteer with charities in a more sustained manner. SHARE as One is led by Community Chest, the fund-raising and engagement arm of National Council of Social Service (NCSS). Registration of interest is now open to all businesses and individuals at shareasone.sg.

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development will be meeting participants of the Corporate Giving Practitioners Network on 18 May 2016 at the Enabling Village to seek their support for this programme. The event, co-organised by NCSS and National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC), is expecting over 90 participants from business, charity and non-profit organisations. This event is also organised as part of the SGfuture discussions on the future of giving.

“Companies play a significant role in the giving landscape. They have the capacity to contribute skills and resources that are highly valued by the social service sector, and mobilise their employees to help the less fortunate. This will nurture a more caring community. There are many creative ways for companies to help; NCSS and NVPC have shared a few strategies which companies can adapt to their needs,” said Minister Tan.

According to the NVPC Individual Giving Survey 2014, 1 in 2 respondents expressed interest in employer-organised volunteering, but only 1 in 5 employees reported their companies organised volunteer activities. To enable and encourage more CSR initiatives by businesses, the SHARE as One programme was introduced.

The Government will provide dollar-for-dollar matching for any additional donations through SHARE, Community Chest’s monthly giving programme, over and above the amount donated in Financial Year 2015. This will be for three years, starting from 1 April 2016 till end March 2019.

Businesses can use half of the government matching grant, capped at \$10,000 per year, to organise volunteering initiatives for their employees or to build its CSR capabilities. The rest of the matching grant will go to a fund managed by Community Chest to benefit the social service sector. Charities can also apply for the grant to organise meaningful volunteer activities and to build up volunteer management capabilities.

“This is a positive step forward for businesses to empower their employees in giving back to the community. With the Government’s matching grant to Community Chest’s SHARE programme, not only can more businesses encourage their staff to donate in a sustained manner, but it will also enable more volunteering opportunities as part of their corporate social responsibility efforts,” said Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest.

Employees can engage in three types of volunteerism: event-based where ad-hoc support, such as manpower, is provided; skills-based where professional expertise is provided for projects; or service-based where volunteers complement the role of practitioners, such as befriending or mentoring.

Businesses can also look into engaging intermediaries to support skills-based volunteering projects. For example, an intermediary like Conjoint Consulting or Empact Consulting connects charities looking for skilled volunteers with companies whose employees have the expertise that can support the desired cause. This crucial matchmaking process enables better use of resources and maximises impact.

One of the first businesses to register for the SHARE as One programme is Standard Chartered Bank, whose employees have been contributing through SHARE since 1994. “SHARE as One is an impactful corporate initiative towards building a caring and resilient society. Standard Chartered has always been a champion for employee volunteering and through this initiative, we look forward to collaborating with Community Chest and other charities and corporates to achieve a sustainable giving culture in Singapore,” said Ms Judy Hsu, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore, Standard Chartered Bank.

Participants at the event will also gain insights into the NVPC’s Company of Good framework, where they can share and learn best practices, so as to improve their giving practices.

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About National Council of Social Service (NCSS)

NCSS is the umbrella body for over 450 member voluntary welfare organisations in Singapore. Its mission is to provide leadership and direction in enhancing the capabilities and capacity of their members, advocating for social service needs and strengthening strategic partnerships, for an effective social service ecosystem.

About Community Chest

For over 30 years, Community Chest has been engaging the community to support people in need through fund-raising and volunteering. Community Chest supports about 80 charities in Singapore, allowing them to focus on caring for the disadvantaged. 100% of all donations go towards helping those in need, as Community Chest's fund-raising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board and Singapore Pools.

Give Hope. Share Joy at comchest.sg.

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