

[Embargoed till 7 August 2019, 1.45 pm]

Media Release



6 August 2019

News Editor

GIVING HAS NO BOUNDARIES

- **Over 200 corporate and volunteers with special needs join hands to bring National Day festivities to more than 250 homebound seniors, committing a total of 700 hours**
- **Love-in-a-Bento @ South West doubles network of partners to close to 10 community and corporate partners**

39-year-old Joanna Welikande will be going door-to-door to distribute hot meals to vulnerable seniors in the South West District this Wednesday, 7 August 2019. She will join over 200 other corporate volunteers and volunteers with special needs in the distribution of specially curated National Day-themed bento meals, to bring festive joy to the seniors, in celebration of Singapore's 54th birthday.

2 Joanna's mother, Mdm Kalwant Kour says, "I'm glad to be a part of the Love-in-a-Bento @ South West programme with Joanna. This is her first volunteering experience, and she is looking forward to it to socialise and interact

with others. Seeing the seniors smile was definitely a heart-warming experience. We are happy to be able to contribute our part for the community, instead of being on the receiving end. Joanna is excited to be on the programme, and is looking forward to the next run where she can distribute the bento meals to the seniors again.”

3 This is part of the new partnership between the South West Community Development Council (CDC) and eight corporate and community partners, including community partners Singapore Hotel and Tourism Education Centre (SHATEC), TOUCH Home Care, Dorcas Home Care, Thye Hua Kwan Home Help Services, National Council of Social Services (NCSS), Autism Association Society (AAS), MINDS, and corporate partner GRAB Singapore. Together, the partners will distribute customised festive bento meals quarterly, to over 250 seniors who are not able to cook or buy their own meals due to mobility issues, under the Meals Service @ South West¹ programme. This initiative serves to remind the community to remember the vulnerable seniors during festive celebrations, while celebrating inclusivity in the community.

4 18 service users and their caregivers from AAS and MINDS will be participating in the distribution in an effort to engage persons with special needs in giving back to the community. The participation of volunteers with special needs is in support of NCSS’s See the True Me² campaign and the national SG Cares movement, which aims to build a more caring and inclusive Singapore. Mr Chan Whee Peng, Director of Service Planning & Standards, NCSS, shares, “Our quality of life study found that social inclusion has the greatest effect in

¹ Meals Service @ South West augments the national scheme, Meals-on-Wheels, by providing additional subsidy for beneficiaries who are unable to afford the balance cost after MOH subsidy. Under the national Meals-on-Wheels service, TOUCH Home Care, Dorcas Home Care and Thye Hua Kwan (THK) Home Help Service deliver lunch and dinner to seniors who are not able to cook or purchase their own meals due to mobility issues.

² See The True Me is a disability awareness campaign by the National Council of Social Service to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities through efforts to build empathy, educate, and enable interaction and participation by persons with disabilities in society.

enhancing the quality of life of persons with disabilities. We hope this programme can encourage more interaction and understanding between members of the public and persons with disabilities, and that when given opportunities, persons with disabilities can also contribute to society.”

5 Grab Singapore is a partner on-board the Love-in-a-Bento @ South West programme for the first time. 35 Grab Car drivers, 5 Grab delivery partners and 50 Grab staff will assist in the delivery of bento meals. “Love-in-a-Bento @ South West is a meaningful and inclusive initiative, and we are thrilled to come together to contribute as a platform. Our driver-partners and Grab employees are passionate about the communities we serve. We are grateful for this opportunity to interact with the volunteers with special needs and help the vulnerable seniors.” says Mr Yee Wee Tang, Country Head of Grab Singapore.

6 Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Adviser to Jurong GRC GROs (Bukit Batok East), says, “As we celebrate the nation’s birthday, we should also celebrate our values. In Singapore, we are inclusive and we help one another. Everyone can contribute in their own ways and all effort counts, no matter how small.”

7 Mayor Low Yen Ling adds, “Like the variety of flavours in a bento box, we have different groups of people from all over coming together to enrich and uplift seniors in need. In this instance, it is most commendable that those with special needs have also come on board to deliver the bento meals. So we not only mark National Day together as a community, we also celebrate the spirit of inclusion and these volunteers’ inspiring generosity. They show us what it means to be unlimited by ability, for as long as there are willing hearts, lives can be touched.”

8 Details of the event are as follows:

Event : Love-in-a-Bento @ South West

Date : Wednesday, 7 August 2019

Time : 12.45 pm to 2.30 pm (Media is invited at 12.30 pm)

Venue : SHATEC, 21 Bukit Batok Street 22
Singapore 659589

Guest of : Mdm Rahayu Mahzam

Honour Adviser to Jurong GRC GROs (Bukit Batok East)

9 We would like to invite your reporter and photographer/TV crew to **Love-in-a-Bento @ South West**. Interviews can be arranged upon request. Please contact our media liaison officer for queries. We look forward to receiving you and your crew/photographer.

Media Liaison Officers

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About the South West Community Development Council (CDC)

The South West Community Development Council (CDC) was formed on 24 November 2001, with the mission to Assist the Needy, Bond the People and Connect the Community.

Through local help programmes, the South West CDC provides assistance to help the less fortunate in our community. The South West CDC also organises projects and programmes to promote community bonding and social cohesion. The South West CDC adopts the "Many Helping Hands" approach to encourage community ownership among residents, community partners and corporations to realise its vision of "Owning Your Community".

Programme

Time	Administrative Programme
12.45 pm	Arrival of Guest of Honour (GOH), Ms Rahayu Mahzam, Adviser to Jurong GRC GROs (Bukit Batok East)
1.15 pm	Group Photo taking after bento sets packing
1.25 pm	Opening Remarks by Chief Executive of SHATEC, Ms Margaret Heng
1.30 pm	Address by GOH
1.40 pm	Group Photo taking at SHATEC entrance, before departure for meal delivery
1.45 pm	Flag-off by GOH
	Departure from SHATEC to Bukit Batok East Division for bento distribution
2.05 pm	Door-to-Door Distribution of Bentos <i>*Media interview will be arranged after the visit to the two (2) households, at the void deck of Blk 208, Jurong East St 21, subject to request.</i>
2.30 pm	End of Programme