

[Embargoed till 20 January 2019, 10.00 am]

# Media Release



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17 January 2019

News Editor

## **STRENGTHENING INTERFAITH AND CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH DISTRICT-WIDE INTERFAITH FESTIVE PACK DISTRIBUTION**

- **6,000 vulnerable households in South West District to receive special edition festive packs worth \$30 as part of Festive Cheers @ South West celebrations**
- **Over 1,000 volunteers of different races and religions coming together in a district-wide Interfaith Festive Pack Distribution**

The festive period has never been more meaningful for 28-year-old Mr Muhammad Aizat Zulkifli, who will be joining more than 1,000 volunteers from various religious groups in bringing festive cheers to the vulnerable in the community. Themed “Inclusivity through the Spirit of Giving”, Festive Cheers @ South West 2019 will for the first time, bring together over 80 community and corporate partners in interfaith distribution of festive packs across the South West District, benefitting 6,000 households under Adopt @ South West. The volunteers will come together to pack and distribute the special edition festive pack to the vulnerable in the community. This will help to strengthen interfaith and cultural understanding across the different races and religions in the district through common volunteering experiences.

2 An active volunteer from Assyakirin Mosque, this is the first time Mr Aizat is involved in such an activity. “This is the first time I get to participate in an interfaith festive pack distribution. I am really excited to be part of this meaningful initiative to spread joy to the needy residents during this festive season. This is also a good opportunity for me to work together with people from other racial and religious groups and to learn more about their culture and backgrounds. It is like killing two birds with one stone!”

3 The South West Interfaith Festive Giving @ Boon Lay held this Sunday will kick-start this year’s edition of Festive Cheers @ South West. Organised by the South West Community Development Council and Boon Lay Grassroots Organisations (GROs), over 150 volunteers from Assyakirin Mosque, Boon Lay Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles (IRCC), Boon Lay Zone D RC and Nanyang Technological University Buddhist Society will be distributing festive packs worth \$30 to over 700 vulnerable households in Boon Lay division.

4 This year’s festive pack is specially curated to represent the different cultures in Singapore. Apart from household and food items, the festive pack includes four (4) healthier choice snacks, each chosen to represent a different ethnic group. A traditional childhood games kit is also included to represent the shared experiences Singaporeans have as part of growing up in Singapore.

5 *Kampung* game stations will also be set up for residents to gather and enjoy the traditional childhood games with the volunteers. Neighbours and peers in the South West can learn more about one another’s culture and build shared experiences together, while reminiscing memories of the past. The traditional games can also encourage intergenerational bonding as youth and children try their hands at games played in the past.

## **Festive Cheers @ South West 2019**

6 Festive Cheers @ South West is an initiative by South West CDC to bring cheers to everyone during the festive seasons, especially the vulnerable, across the South West District. From December 2018 to February 2019, more than 1,000 volunteers from about 80 corporate and community partners have come together to organise more than 35 festive activities. Some key activities include back-to-school shopping for children, social excursions, home cleaning activities, Chinese New Year parties, and *louhei* sessions.

7 Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District says, “This festive season will be a special one for the South West as it’s the first time volunteers and partners of various faiths have joined in to present the South West Festive Cheers gift package for some 6,000 vulnerable families in our district. Designed to foster understanding across different faiths and cultures, and boost inter-generational bonds, we hope this effort will draw residents young and old, of different faiths and backgrounds closer together.”

8 Details of the event are as follows:

Event : **South West Interfaith Festive Giving @ Boon Lay**  
Date : Sunday, 20 January 2019  
Time : **9.30 am to 10.30 am (Media is invited at 9.15 am)**  
Venue : Pavilion beside Blk 189 Boon Lay Drive  
Singapore 640189  
Guest of : Ms Low Yen Ling  
Honour Mayor of South West District  
Host : Mr Patrick Tay, BBM  
Adviser to Boon Lay Grassroots Organisations

9 The Adopt @ South West programme reaches out to needy families and vulnerable elderly living in rental to three (3)-room flats to ensure that no one falls through the cracks. This is part of the WeCare @ South West Initiative, which aims to strengthen the social safety net for the needy and vulnerable by getting the more able to help the less able, creating an environment of greater

community ownership and collective responsibility, as well as a more caring society.

10 We would like to invite your reporter and photographer/TV crew to **South West Interfaith Festive Giving @ Boon Lay** as part of Festive Cheers @ 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.

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### **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
9.30 am	Arrival of Guest of Honour (GOH), Mayor Low Yen Ling
9.35 am	Opening Address by Host, Mr Patrick Tay, BBM, Adviser to Boon Lay Grassroots Organisations
9.40 am	Address by Mayor Low Yen Ling
9.50 am	Group Phototaking
10.00 am	Door-to-Door Distribution of South West Festive Cheers Pack
	Participation in Traditional Childhood Games  <i>*Media interview will be arranged at Boon Lay Zone D RC after the Distribution of South West Festive Cheers Packs and Participation in Traditional Childhood Games, subject to request.</i>
10.30 am	End of Programme