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Media Release



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News Editor

MORE SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPT @ SOUTH WEST

- **Community-led study helped shape bundle of over 10 initiatives in new programme to build a more caring and inclusive community**
- **More than 10 community partners join forces to provide holistic assistance to over 500 vulnerable households in Bukit Gombak**
- **Adopt @ Bukit Gombak the latest to uplift and enrich lives of the vulnerable in South West District; bringing reach to more than 6,000 vulnerable households in 24 Adopt @ South West precincts**

More than 10 partners have come together to develop a suite of programmes to look into the holistic needs of vulnerable residents in Bukit Gombak. This is part of Adopt @ Bukit Gombak, organised by the South West Community Development Council (CDC), Bukit Gombak Grassroots Organisations (GROs), Keat Hong Axis-Colour Resident's Committee (RC), Bukit Panjang Gospel Chapel, Daughters Of Tomorrow, Fei Yue Community Services, Social Service Office @ Chua Chu Kang, and MENDAKI @ Choa Chu Kang (CCK). Bukit Gombak will be the 11th division to be adopted since the inception of the Adopt @ South West programme in 2007. In line with Budget 2019, Adopt @ Bukit Gombak will also complement the national initiative to increase support for children from disadvantaged background.

Community Needs Study

2 To gain deeper understanding about the vulnerable residents in Bukit Gombak, a needs assessment was led by Fei Yue Community Services for the new rental block 813A. Staff volunteers conducted door-to-door surveys with the residents, which covered areas like profile of households, sources of stress and community engagement. Taking a whole-of-community approach, the partners joined forces and used the survey findings in the development of a holistic suite of programmes to better address needs of the vulnerable residents.

3 One key finding was the prevalence of families with young children, where almost half of the surveyed households have at least one child aged 12 and below. Schooling difficulties, such as academic results emerged as top concern for young residents aged 8-16. The top three types of community programmes preferred by parents and guardians for their child or ward are learning, sports, and arts and culture related programmes. The range of programmes targeted at vulnerable children aims to equip them with skills at an early age, allowing them to start at equal footing with their peers in school.

Learning programmes

4 To inculcate good reading habits from young, the South West CDC together with Bringing Love with Every Single Soul (BLESS) will be bringing Shining Star Reads @ South West to Bukit Gombak. Shining Star Reads @ South West is a volunteer-led weekly reading programme for children aged 4-9 targeted at helping vulnerable children build their foundation in reading, which can in turn help in their academics. Additionally, MENDAKI @ CCK offers the Collaborative Tuition Programme for primary school students to boost their academic performance in English, Mathematics and Science.

Sports programmes

5 It is important to develop fundamental movement skills in children when young as a foundation for more complex skills needed to participate in different sports and recreational activities in the future. SportCares Foundation will be conducting sports

programmes for underprivileged children aged 3-6 on fundamental movement skills. This allows children to pick up balance skills, locomotor skills and ball skills which can help in their physical development. With these skills, children are more equipped to learn more complex movements and sports. Children can develop their skills in teamwork, communication and leadership through playing sports with others.

Arts and Culture programmes

6 To develop the vulnerable children in the areas of arts and culture, MENDAKI @ CCK will be introducing a creative speech and drama programme for children aged 4-6. Children will be taught to sing songs and follow the lines of a script, which can help to improve their concentration in completing a task. Children can also improve in their creative thinking skills and confidence as they learn to speak up and contribute creative ideas to the play. Additionally, children can develop their communication and interpersonal skills through interaction with other children. Through exposing children to art and culture, children can develop many important skills that are beneficial for them in the future.

7 Ms Nadia Baharuddin, 37-year-old, housewife, shares her excitement of the array of programmes available for her son. "I am thrilled to know that there are so many different activities and programmes available for my boy! He will be able to pick up some reading skills to prepare for school, make friends with other children around his age, and learn how to sing and act! I am sure he will enjoy himself so much and I cannot wait to watch him in his first play," she said.

8 "We are thankful to have many hands on board Adopt @ Gombak as this enables us to tailor programmes that serve the needs of those at risk. Community involvement is crucial in uplifting vulnerable families, especially those with young children. The creation of a strong local community in early childhood provides a supportive, positive and uplifting foundation in a child's life. The involvement and engagement of various members of society bring long term benefits like deepening the children's sense of belonging and building their sense of identity which can help them better face challenges, grow and thrive," says Mayor Low.

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. The suite of programmes is developed to meet the five core needs of Adopt @ South West namely social wellness, healthcare, home safety & improvement, education and enrichment, to uplift and enrich the lives of vulnerable residents in Bukit Gombak.

10 Details of the event are as follows:

Event : **Adopt @ Bukit Gombak**
Date : Sunday, 24 February 2019
Time : **9.00 am to 11.30 am (Media is invited at 9.45 am)**
Venue : Pavilion of Block 813, Choa Chu Kang Ave 7
Singapore 681810
Guest of : Ms Low Yen Ling
Honour Mayor of South West District

11 We would like to invite your reporter and photographer/TV crew to **Adopt @ Bukit Gombak**. 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	Programme
9.00 am	Commencement of Activities
10.00 am	Arrival of Mayor
10.05 am	Open Dance Performance by Bukit Panjang Gospel Chapel Seniors Dance Group
10.10 am	Address by Mayor
10.20 am	Launch of Adopt @ Bukit Gombak and Group photo
10.30 am	Tour of Activity Booths <i>*Media doorstep interview will be arranged upon request.</i>
11.30 am	End of Programme