

MEDIA RELEASE

NVPC AND YMCA ORGANISE MEGA APPRECIATION EVENT FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers gave the equivalent of \$1.8 billion in time and talent this past year

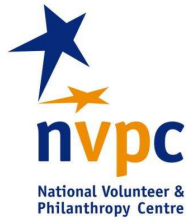
Singapore, 5 December 2010 – To mark International Volunteer Day (IVD) this year, NVPC and YMCA of Singapore have co-organised I Love V!, a mega volunteer appreciation concert and carnival that celebrates the priceless gift of volunteerism. The I Love V! concert and carnival was graced by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports.

“Volunteers are priceless. Over the past year, volunteers gave the equivalent of \$1.8 billion in time and talent serving the community, not counting the immeasurable goodwill and good cheer they bring with them. While it’s natural to focus on those in need, we believe caregivers need to be affirmed as well,” said Mr David Fong, Director of SG Cares, an initiative of NVPC.

Held at the Marina Barrage, key highlights of the mega event included a host of talents who put together personal creations and performances specially for the event. Home-grown singer-songwriter Corrinne May dedicated her song “Angel in Disguise” to all volunteers. Shu Yan, a SG Cares volunteer leader wrote the lyrics to an IVD 2010 theme song “Everybody, You and I Can”, with music and vocals from the Lee Wei Song School of Music. A short film that encapsulates the essence of volunteerism, created by a local film writer/producer was also unveiled at I Love V!

NVPC’s Individual Giving Survey 2010 found that the top reason people do not volunteer is the lack of time. Despite increasingly hectic lifestyles, the survey saw the national volunteer participation rate soar to an all-time high of 23.3%.

“Volunteers are the backbone of the YMCA. They give of their time and effort without any expectation in return. For their selfless service, YMCA enriches their lives by seeking new ways to develop and increase their skill sets with regular training courses and workshops, and honours them at various appreciation events. YMCA is pleased to partner NVPC in



organising probably the single largest party in Singapore to celebrate Volunteers and to promote volunteerism,” said Mr Albert Ching, General Secretary of the YMCA of Singapore.

Other than the electrifying concert, volunteers were treated to a wide spread of food, drinks and ice cream as well as high energy youth-centric performances and activities like the zorb ball and waveboarding. Volunteers also took part in V-Collage, the largest volunteer-themed mural painted by the most volunteers in a single gathering.

Owen Zhao, a volunteer leader with SG Cares, attending the event shared, “I Love V! gives me the opportunity to know other volunteers and gain inspiration from one another. Volunteer appreciation events like these help to establish a positive, lively and refreshing image of volunteerism, giving volunteers a topic to discuss and introduce volunteering to others.”

I Love V! concert and carnival paid tribute to about 8,000 volunteers who came on 5th December, as a celebration of the love for volunteers and volunteering.

The main sponsors of I Love V! are Old Chang Kee, ABR Holdings Limited and Deutsche Bank.

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This release is issued on behalf of National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre by BANG Public Relations.

For media enquiries, please contact:

From National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre

Dora Yip
Marketing Communications, NVPC
DID: 6550 9563
HP: 9459 7540
Email: dora@nvpc.org.sg

Cindy Tan
Marketing Communications, NVPC
DID: 6550 9565
HP: 9799 0375
Email: cindytan@nvpc.org.sg



From YMCA of Singapore

Belinda Choo
Corporate Affairs, YMCA of Singapore
DID: +65 6586 2251
Email: belindachoo@ymca.org.sg

Samuel Ng
Corporate Affairs, YMCA of Singapore
DID: 6586 2254
HP: 9362 1186
Email: samuelng@ymca.org.sg

About the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC)

The NVPC is the national body that promotes and develops volunteerism and philanthropy, functioning as a first-stop centre, catalyst and networking agency to foster the giving spirit in Singapore, whether of time, money or in kind.

We work with non-profit organisations, companies and public sector bodies to facilitate and strengthen Community Giving efforts through our promotional and networking platforms, public education programmes as well as grants, research and publications.

About SG Cares (www.sgcares.org)

Volunteering is easy with SG Cares, an online portal that provides flexible volunteer opportunities for the community. SG Cares structures episodic volunteer projects that volunteers can sign up online for. It enables caring but busy people to volunteer as and when they can.

About YMCA of Singapore

YMCA of Singapore is a voluntary welfare organisation which seeks to serve all members of the community, regardless of race, language or religion through wholesome programmes which are based on Christian principles. YMCA organises 17 structured and sustained YMCA-Tan Chin Tuan Community Service Programmes to enrich the lives of the beneficiaries from 34 partnering voluntary welfare organisations and self help groups. The beneficiaries include the intellectually, mentally and physically challenged, out-of-school youth and youth-at-risk, abused and underprivileged children, the visually and hearing impaired, the elderly and the poor. Some of the other programmes include the YMCA-Lim Kim San Volunteers Programme, overseas community service programmes, rebuilding programmes for disaster-hit communities and YMCA Financial Assistance & Capability for Employment Scheme. YMCA was conferred the 2008 Outstanding Non-Profit Organisation Award by the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre on 13 November 2008. The organisation also owns social enterprises, such as the YMCA International House, YMCA Child Development and Student Care Centres, YMCA School and YMCA Tertiary Education. www.ymca.org.sg