



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One Year On, Volunteer Numbers Continue to Grow at SG Cares

~ 60% of volunteer base are first time volunteers ~

Singapore, 6 September 2010 – The National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) announced that SG Cares (www.sgcares.org), an initiative that provides flexible volunteering opportunities in Singapore, has garnered more than 5,000 volunteers in its first year. About 60 per cent are first-time volunteers, demonstrating a growing interest for Singaporeans to begin volunteering.

Volunteers can log on to the real-time portal for a comprehensive list of activities that they can sign up for. They can search for activities that best suit their availability, interest, preferred causes and location. The ease and flexibility of this programme have spurred new volunteers like manager Jaclyn Chew, 47, to give of her time. “It has benefitted individuals like me who want to do good but are unsure how and where to start. I have started on an amazing journey of discovery and constantly look forward to more interesting opportunities from SG Cares,” said Jaclyn.

Many SG Cares volunteers share Jaclyn’s sentiments; more than half return to volunteer. One of those is Elaine Kwee, a legal professional who volunteers regularly with SG Cares. She said, “SG Cares offers a humbling reminder for me each week, that there is a place in the world for kindness and goodness that we too often forget in our stressful lives.”

SG Cares’ volunteer activities are team-oriented. Volunteers work closely with experienced and dedicated volunteer leaders to serve the community. Team-approached volunteering has also caught on well with corporates and schools, with more than 1,300 corporate employees and students volunteering with SG Cares to date.

In conjunction with its first anniversary, SG Cares is launching an online version of their volunteer orientation to make it even easier for time-strapped individuals to volunteer. The orientation takes around 10 to 15 minutes to complete, and will enable newly signed-up volunteers to quickly come to grips with the “dos” and “don’ts” of volunteering and to start volunteering immediately.



“People generally want to do good if they can find the time and opportunity,” explains David Fong, Director of SG Cares. “We will continue to enhance the programme and portal to make it convenient for individuals from all walks of life to volunteer. We will do this, for example, by approaching our non-profit partners to offer more volunteer activities during the weekends and before or after office hours to cater to the needs of busy professionals.”

To pay tribute to volunteers’ invaluable contributions to society and to celebrate the spirit of giving, NVPC, together with YMCA are planning a large-scale volunteer appreciation party on International Volunteer Day (IVD) on 5 December 2010. Leading up to the celebrations, NVPC will soon be rallying members of the public and businesses to participate in a slew of volunteering activities in November via SG Cares or YMCA.

~ end ~

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

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About the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC)

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.

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