



## News Release

15 August 2009

### **CDL STAFF GIVE CHILDREN & NURSING HOMES A MAKEOVER IN CELEBRATION OF 10 YEARS OF VOLUNTARISM**

To commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of City Sunshine Club (CSC) - City Developments Limited's (CDL) staff volunteer club, the Company has dedicated a community and staff day themed "Sunshine Makeover" on Saturday, August 15, involving all staff in the refurbishment and repair work of two beneficiaries – one for the elderly and another for children.

Traditionally, the CDL family gets together for a day of team bonding on its annual Staff Day. However, this year, instead of focusing on its staff alone, the Company dedicates the day to those less privileged.

Refurbishment works for Man Fut Tong Nursing Home comprise the painting of three external walls in the outdoor recreation area, including a mural; painting of five physiotherapy rooms; repair of warped flooring in two wards and planting activities at the central courtyard garden. In addition, CDL staff will also engage in befriending and entertaining residents and day-patients.

For the Children's Aid Society, refurbishment work includes painting a mural on an external wall next to the outdoor basketball court which was specially designed by a talented CDL staff; painting in basketball court lines, superimposed onto an existing badminton court; re-painting the staircase railing leading up to the playground, old playground equipment and football goalposts; installing new notice boards and playframe on the ground floor play area as well as clearing and sweeping of an open field.

CDL staff day has traditionally been associated with the 'work hard, play hard' mantra, to achieve the corporate objectives of teamwork and staff bonding. On this day, staff of all levels, from top management to the rank and file have banded together to do their part in giving back to society. In fact, Mr. Kwek Leng Joo, Managing Director of CDL, together with other senior management staff, will be rolling up their sleeves and putting aside their ranks, pitching in to help with the painting of the mural at Children's Aid Society.

Initiated by Mr. Kwek, CSC was established in 1999 to cater to a growing interest in volunteer work among staff. The club has grown from strength to strength in the last decade, evolving from a simple conduit for monthly elderly befriending and ad hoc visits to charity homes, to a progressive and vibrant platform with a sizeable network of outreach programmes catering to children and youth development through character building mentorship initiatives, helping the less fortunate and supporting the CDL's overall Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) vision and mission.

Mr. Kwek said, "We started CSC to nurture the spirit of voluntarism among employees and to cultivate an engaged workforce. Over the years, I've witnessed how voluntarism and community engagement have moulded the CDL workforce culture into one which holds in high regard critical values of selflessness, care and generosity, teamwork and friendship. These attributes make up the foundation of our corporate giving and I am humbled by the generous and big-hearted staff for their steadfast dedication."

Mr. Kwek added that during the initial years, CDL's volunteer hours totalled about 200 annually. Since 2005, this has gone up to 2,500 hours annually. Notably, much of the volunteer work is done outside of office hours and over the weekends. "We are heartened that the participation rate has increased significantly, from about 25 per cent in 1999 to over 60 per cent of CDL's entire staff strength of over 300 employees today. All of them have sacrificed their own personal time towards doing good," he said.

Following the makeover at the homes, there will be a celebration lunch at Cheng San Community Club, where staff will be treated to an afternoon of fun and get-together, with Mrs. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth & Sports, as Guest-of-Honour. This marks the culmination of a series of community projects that the Company embarked on this year to commemorate the CSC's milestone. Besides this two-week long refurbishment exercise at Man Fut Tong Nursing Home and Children's Aid Society, it has also been engaged in two other major community activities namely Assisi Hospice Charity Fun Day (2 May) and the innovative 'Eat-in-for-Charity' staff fund raising project (9, 16, 23 and 30 July) which involved the staff, company-wide.

CDL is also pleased to announce that it will donate the proceeds raised through the 'Eat-in-for-Charity' project to Heart-to-Heart Service, in recognition of pioneer volunteer Sister Teresa Hsu's lifetime commitment to voluntarism. This will help fund the 111-year old's charity work for needy elderly. Staff raised over \$7,000 from a 4-day 'Eat-in-for-Charity' campaign and CDL has matched dollar-for-dollar, amounting to a total donation of \$15,000.

"Given the current financial crisis, community support becomes more important and CDL's commitment to CSR is even more noteworthy. I am happy that CDL's commitment to CSR continues to be strong. Despite the tough climate, the City Sunshine Club has found ways to stretch resources by tapping on CDL's staff expertise, creativity and encouraging stronger volunteer participation so that it can continue to support its beneficiaries." said Mrs. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon.

In recognition of the sustainable collaboration with community partners, non-profit organisations and business associates in CDL's community outreach programs, tokens of appreciation were also presented to Lions Befrienders Service Association, Heart-to-Heart Service, ADDP Architects, Kajima Overseas Asia, SKK, Tong Hai Yang Construction Pte Ltd, NAFA International, and Nikon Singapore.

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Please see Annex 1 below for more information on Man Fut Tong Nursing Home and Children's Aid Society.

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## **ANNEX 1**

### **ABOUT THE HOMES**

#### **1. Man Fut Tong Nursing Home (20 Woodlands Street 82, Singapore 738507)**

The Home enables residents to live their golden years to the fullest - in a tender, loving and caring environment. It provides a high standard of medical, nursing, rehabilitative, psychological, social and recreational services for easy integration of the individual into the community. Programmes for the include Residential Care, Respite Care, Day Rehab / Day Care and Therapy@Home.

Man Fut Tong was established in 1969 as the first Buddhist Old Peoples Home for women. It was set up single handedly by a 61 year old Buddhist nun Ven Ho Yuen Hoe (Ven Shi Chin Yam). The 24-bedded Home operated from a two-storey detached residential building which housed the aged sick and neglected immigrants from China. Life had been difficult for most of them as they had neither enough earnings to support themselves nor any relatives to turn to. Ven Ho's act of compassion met their immediate needs.

Ven Ho was relatively unknown to the public until 1996 when she was featured in the MediaCorp programme "Extra-Ordinary People". The public came to know about this remarkable nun, her work and her Old People's Home. Touched by her devotion and compassion, volunteers started streaming in, and so did donations from charitable organisations and generous donors. The Home was then able to provide better medical care and facilities for the residents. In 1998 the Ministry of Health granted Ven Ho a plot of land in Woodlands St. 82 to expand her small Old People's Home. The new Home costing around \$10 million has facilities to cater to 232 residents, regardless of age, gender, race, religion or language.

#### **2. Children's Aid Society (503 Clementi Road, Singapore 599488)**

The Home provides a safe, conducive and stimulating environment for children to live and study. It provides emotional and social support for children and their families. The children come from mainly single parent families or from abused and neglected backgrounds. They are accepted based on referrals from MCYS. The residents are mostly Chinese and Indian as the home is not a Halal establishment. The children return home to be with their parents and families during the weekends and school holidays. Those who are unable to because of the family situation is unsuitable will remain the home during these periods.

Each child is assigned a caseworker in the Home who works with the child and the parents on the child's emotional, psychological and developmental needs. The goal of the Home is to work with the child and the parents, and with community resources, in order that the child could be discharged as soon as possible to return to the parents or family.

Children's Aid Society is one of the oldest philanthropic organizations in Singapore, having been formed in the late 1800s as the St Nicholas Home. Its present name was established in 1902. The Society celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002.