

**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

**BY**

**DREAMS @ KOLAM AYER, RAFFLES INSTITUTION & CITY DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED**

**HOME CREATION:  
A RECORD 300 RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT  
FROM NEWLY-REFURBISHED HOMES & APPLIANCES**

1. **On 2 August 2008, Associate Professor Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, MP for Jalan Besar GRC, and Patron of Dreams @ Kolam Ayer, will present household appliances to specially-selected low-income residences. He will also grace a dinner in the evening with some 300 residents Kolam Ayer Constituency to celebrate the completion of *HomeCreation 2008*.**

2. ***HomeCreation* is a community project by Dreams @ Kolam Ayer in collaboration with Raffles Institution (RI).** The final phase – Refurbishment Phase- will be carried out over two days this year, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Started out in the year 2006, this project aims to harness the energy of our youths in enhancing the living conditions of the needy. The project also promotes social integration and responsibility towards the needy, and increase awareness of the needs of the needy members in our society.

3. This year, 60 units from the two blocks were shortlisted by the RI students for intensive refurbishment and intervention. **This is a marked increment from its inaugural 20 units, made possible through the involvement of renowned property developer City Developments Limited (CDL).**

4. Since May 2008, students from RI, with the assistance from their teachers and staff from Dreams @ Kolam Ayer visited some 600 homes at Blocks 61 and 62, Geylang Bahru to conduct a series of detailed needs assessment. This assessment gave the students an upfront chance to interact with the needy residents from different walks of life residing in both of the one-room rented flats. Most importantly, this assessment allowed students to experience and see a different yet realistic lifestyle of the less-privileged in our society.

5. This year's project is given a big boost as the student volunteers can tap on CDL's resources, network and expertise. More importantly, over 30 staff volunteers including co-workers from CDL's building management subsidiary CBM Pte Ltd chip in by contributing their time, talent and services to befriend the residents, provide

manpower assistance and carry out minor repair work on leaking pipes, chipped ceilings, faulty electricity sockets and other defects within the home.

#### **6. HomeCreation Given the Thumbs-up**

*"We are indeed grateful to have the continued support from Raffles Institution and also the significant contribution from City Developments Limited this year. This allowed us to extent the project to benefit an additional 50% of the needy residents compared to last year,"* said Ms Evelyn Lai, Assistant Director, Viriya Community Services.

*"RI is committed to this project because it addresses the real needs of the community while being a powerful learning experience for our students at the same time. The boys spend time with the residents to find out the challenges they face and then act on that information, usually in ways that take the boys out of their comfort zone, refurbishing a home on their own, for example. We hope that through this project our boys develop empathy and a deeper appreciation of the concerns of their community. The people they are helping out are not strangers: we are all part of one Singapore family,"* added Mr. Kenneth Kwok, Deputy Headmaster (Development), Raffles Institution.

*"Supporting HomeCreation project is synergistic with CDL's social outreach of nurturing Singapore's youth and helping the less fortunate in our community. We are pleased to be part of this meaningful 3P – People, Public and Private sector collaboration which has effectively engaged the resources of all partners in this project to bring about greater benefits to the community,"* said Ms Foo Chui Mui, President of CDL's employee volunteer programme, City Sunshine Club.

7. HomeCreation is a SHINE festival event supported by Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sport (MCYS) and National Youth Council (NYC).

#### **8. Media Invite**

We would want to invite members of the media to join us at the *HomeCreation* Gift Presentation and/or Celebration Dinner. The details are as follows:

<b>Programme I:</b>	<b>HomeCreation Gift Presentation</b>
Date:	2 August 2008 (Saturday)
Time:	10.00 a.m.
Guest of Honor:	Associate Professor Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, MP for Jalan Besar GRC, and Patron of Dreams @ Kolam Ayer
Address:	Blk 61 Geylang Bahru Singapore 330061

**Programme II: HomeCreation Celebration Dinner**  
Date: 2 August 2008 (Saturday)  
Time: 7.00 p.m.  
Guest of Honor: As above  
Performances by: Youths from Dreams @ Kolam Ayer, student volunteers from RI and staff volunteers from CDL  
Address: Kolam Ayer Community Club  
3188 Geylang Bahru  
Singapore 339717

- END -

**For enquiries and RSVP, please contact :-**

Roger Ong (Mr)  
Counsellor  
Dreams @ Kolam Ayer  
Tel: 63417943 Fax: 63417942  
Email: roger@viriya.org.sg

Florence Sim (Ms)  
Head/Corporate Communications & Relations  
Raffles Institution  
Tel: 81612381 Fax: 6353 8357  
Email: flo\_sim@ri.sch.edu.sg

Petrina Chan (Ms)  
Manager/ Corporate Communications  
City Developments Limited  
Tel: 64289312  
Email: petrina@cdl.com.sg