RSVP SINGAPORE
THE ORGANISATION OF SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I hope the Rooster Year brings you bountiful tidings, promising beginnings and continuous good health.

It has been such a pleasure to meet many new friends during recent events. I hope to meet many more of you in the coming months. If you are in Bishan, do drop by my office to say hello and introduce yourself! Having been a volunteer in other non-profit organisations since 2007, I would love to hear about your volunteering journey and how you became a part of the RSVP family.

We started 2017 by celebrating your service and efforts to the community in the annual Volunteer Appreciation Day with over 400 members attending! Thank you to my tireless team for putting it together. And thank you to the volunteers who helped arrange the tables, craft balloon decorations, took photos, took videos and interviews, performed and many more. I am also extremely thrilled to have had a part in writing out the individual commendations. To the award winners—thank you for your support of RSVP.

I would also like to welcome to our recently co-opted Board members – Alex Eow, who is serving as Vice President, and Genevieve Chua, serving as Honorary Treasurer. We thank Chan Fook Kay for his sturdy guidance and his spirited energy. Fook Kay is stepping down to spend more time with his family. We will miss him on the Board and we wish him well. Our communications team will be putting up more details on our Board Members so you can get to know them better.

As I write this, the Budget Day announcement is coming up, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that there will not be too many cut-backs in our grants and hope to hear of new plans and developments to support seniors.

Thank you, and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

- Meng Fong

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY 2017

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Day was held on 20 January 2017 at The Grassroots Club, of which the theme was "Shanghai". The Guest-of-Honour was Mr Chee Hong Tat, Minister of State for Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Health. Mr Chee surprised everyone by performing an impromptu Cantonese and Malay song!

The lunch also featured a lion dance performance by Fuchun Secondary, singing by the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped, and dance by our Line Dancing Group.

Our heartiest congratulations to Chan Pit Seng, who is the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year 2016 award. Also, congratulations to the recipients of the Special Commendation Award: Aileen Tay, Grace Ng, Mary Lye and So Hon Fatt.

Also, our deepest appreciation to Ngiam Tong Yuen for all his contributions towards our organisation. In honour of his contributions, we have conferred upon him the first ever Emeritus Award.

More photos on our Facebook page: Part 1 and Part 2. Photos taken by BT Lim and Dennis Lim, RSVP Photography Activity Circle.

Thank you for supporting RSVP Singapore
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FLAG DAY 2017

BY LINDA QUEK

Flag Day 2017 will remain in my memory for a while as it was the first time I had become a member of the Organising Committee.

In the lead up to the event, the committee made determined efforts to sign up volunteers from many sources – schools, universities, our corporate partners, and RSVP members. It was not easy.

But when 18 February came, we were ready. I reported to the control station at Jurong East. From there, we volunteers spread out to collect donations. We also offered balloon sculptures. These were made by RSVP's Balloon Activity Circle.

My team of volunteers from MDOP, Mentoring, and our family members had an interesting time collecting donations from busy shoppers and commuters in the western part of the island.

We learned a few things about human nature. Some people whom we least expected were generous to a fault. Others whom we thought would be generous disappointed us.

We had one former MDOP client who recognised us and even got his family members to donate. They readily did.

A former student of Temasek Polytechnic, where RSVP used to volunteer by coaching students in Oral English years ago, came with her husband and daughter to collect donations. Her 4-year old daughter touched our hearts when she said "I love to help people" at the end of the day.

Such incidents make it worthwhile despite our tiredness and aching muscles.

I am glad I agreed to join the committee.

Linda Quek (second from left) with RSVP volunteers

GOODIE BAG DISTRIBUTION TO CHINATOWN RESIDENTS

Our first event of the year! Together with our long time corporate sponsor, we distributed ration bags to needy residents in the Chinatown area on 4 January 2017.

3 hours, 40 volunteers, 150 goodie bags!

ELSP LEARNING JOURNEY TO SINGAPORE ZOO

RSVP volunteers brought seniors out to the Singapore Zoo on 13 January as part of ELSP's Learning Journey for senior beneficiaries. 11 RSVP volunteers accompanied 57 senior beneficiaries, who were from SilverACE@Redhill and SilverACE@Bukit Merah.

The seniors had a blast watching the seal and elephant shows!

More photos on our Facebook page here.

CNY CELEBRATION AT BRIGHTHILL EVERGREEN HOME

On the 13th day of Chinese New Year, our volunteers brought some CNY cheer to the residents of Bright Hill Evergreen Home, together with our corporate partner JTI.

There were song and dance, and some thumb printing arts and crafts. The residents also had the chance to view some performances by our volunteers and JTI staff.

And of course CNY celebrations would not be complete without a lion dance!

Photos on our Facebook page here. Photos taken by KK Teo and Jimmy Sim, RSVP Photography Activity Circle.

A warm welcome to our new members!

ABDUL Rahamathulla Maideen Kader
CHAN Siang Heng
CHEW Kian Hoon
CHEW Ser Cheng
CHONG Poh Fah
CHUA Kwee Huay Genevieve
GWEE Swee Jem
HAN Hoong Yen
HO Siew Cheong
KWOK Yue Cheong, Ronnie
LAI Mui Yoke
LEE Chwee Seng
LEE Jee Fong
LEE Woon Chee @ Mah Lye Chee
LEONARD Ralph Joseph
LIM Pek Wah, Grace
MANNING Patricia
NG Bee Lian
NG Tze Yang
NG Yet Fah
ONG Sui Hua
SIVALINGAM Easwari
TAN Li Ling
TAN Ngern Poo, Roy
TAN Teck Nguan, Thomas
TAY Geok Bee
UGBINAR Maria Cleofe
WEE Siew Guat
YAP Lay Keong
YEK Yoke Kheng, Josephine
YEO Suan Khoo

Upcoming Events!

SILVER IT FEST

Saturday, 18 March 2017— Monday, 20 March 2017

9am—5.30pm

ITE College West

More details on our Facebook here.

50 PLUS EXPO

Friday, 24 March 2017— Sunday, 26 March 2017

10am—9pm

Suntec Convention Centre, Level 3

More details on the website here.

I'm in! LEARN ACTIVELY. LIVE HAPPILY

ABOUT RSVP SINGAPORE

RSVP Singapore - The Organisation of Senior Volunteers is a non-profit organisation and an Institution of Public Character as defined under the Charity Act. The Organisation was started in 1998 and launched by then-Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong. It is a registered society under the Societies Act and a member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS). Since its inception, RSVP has grown into one of the leading volunteer organisations in Singapore, in particular paving the trend of senior volunteerism. With over 1,000 members, RSVP Singapore serves more than 150,000 beneficiaries each year, including the mentally disadvantaged, at-risk children from low income families, as well as socially isolated seniors through its community service programmes.