

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NATIONAL SENIOR VOLUNTEER MONTH PRESS CONFERENCE**

22 July 2015 – In conjunction with ongoing promotions for the National Senior Volunteer Month (NSVM), RSVP Singapore held a press conference this morning to share more on its major initiative to promote senior volunteerism at the national level.

The agenda of the press conference included an overview of completed NSVM activities and event highlights for the upcoming NSVM opening ceremony.

Speaking at the event, RSVP President Koh Juay Meng commented, “Singapore’s rapidly ageing population poses challenges to the country’s development in the years ahead, not least of which is a shrinking workforce. But there is a way to ameliorate this demographic reality. An ageing population also means that there is a growing pool of seniors, particularly baby-boomers, who possess a wealth of experience and wisdom that can be passed on for society’s benefit.”

“Active volunteerism will help our seniors live healthier and mentally-stimulating lives after retirement, enabling them to continue contributing meaningfully to society’s development. With their talents our seniors can make a difference at every level of society, from mentoring at-risk children to engaging the less privileged”, added Mr Ngiam Tong Yuen, Chairman of the NSVM Committee.

NSVM is a timely effort to highlight and address the issue of an ageing population in Singapore.

While known as NSVM, activities for the campaign commenced in January this year and will continue till year end. As of 30 June, 28 activities have been completed, activating a total of 2,795 volunteers, out of which 60 per cent are seniors. The campaign has managed to increase awareness of senior volunteerism, resulting in a significant increase in volunteer recruitment with some 962 new seniors joining volunteer activities.

The official opening ceremony will be held at Toa Payoh HDB Mall on 4 September 2015. President Tony Tan Keng Yam will be our Guest-of-Honour. Event highlights include a Skype conference by Minister Lawrence Wong, a special drum performance by Down Syndrome Association and a live cooking demo by celebrity chef Eric Teo.

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### **About RSVP Singapore**

RSVP Singapore - The Organisation of Senior Volunteers is a non-profit organisation launched by the then Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in October 1998 and approved as an Institution of Public Character in 1999. Its mission is to provide opportunities for seniors to serve the community with their talent and experience through purpose driven volunteerism. Its major programmes are Cyberguide, Mentally Disadvantaged Outreach, Mentoring, Enriching Lives of Seniors, Silver IT Care, Senior Guiding, MyBuddy, Changi Service Ambassadors and Hosting.

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