



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **IFTAR RAMADAN BREAK FAST COMMUNITY BONDING EVENT**

**18 June (Sat)** – In an exciting collaboration with the Malay Youth Literary Association (4PM) during the month of Ramadan, 30 members, staff and beneficiaries from 4PM broke fast today with 30 senior volunteers from RSVP. The event, held at RSVP's Bishan office, was the first of its kind and saw seniors and youths of different races and backgrounds coming together to bond in a meaningful occasion. Also, the event symbolised RSVP's drive to push inter-generational volunteerism and aims to promote volunteerism within the Malay community.

Mr Nick Iskandar Mohd Idris, the representative from 4PM and the Chairman of Ramadan on Wheels 2016 commented that today's event is very meaningful as it is RSVP, a non-muslim neighbour, who is hosting the Iftar session and that living in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society like Singapore provides opportunities for such events that foster collaborations and friendships to take place.

"We hope to have more Malay volunteers as they have much to offer for example in terms of language, they will be able to communicate better with our Malay beneficiaries and ultimately, we want to create an environment of diverse cultures within RSVP that both volunteers and clients can benefit from." RSVP President Koh Juay Meng commented.

This event is a lead-up to National Senior Volunteer Month (NSVM) 2016, slated to launch on 27 August. The theme for NSVM is "Senior Volunteerism – Soaring to Greater Heights In Serving The Community", reflecting the continuing value of seniors to the community. NSVM will be RSVP's major drive to bring senior volunteerism, with a strong element of inter-generational co-participation, to a truly national level. We will adopt an all-inclusive approach, encouraging citizens, irrespective of race or age to join in our activities to promote nationhood through volunteerism.

RSVP Singapore was launched in October 1998 by then PM Goh Chok Tong. Since then, it has grown into one of the leading volunteer organisations in Singapore, especially paving the trend of senior volunteerism. You can find RSVP senior volunteers all over Singapore: at hospitals, Changi Airport and primary schools; serving varied needs of their beneficiaries. Their presence and dedication have made a difference to the lives of Singaporeans both young and old. It is RSVP's core belief that seniors are a national resource of experience and talent who can continue to contribute meaningfully to Singapore's development.

From less than 100 members and just two programmes, RSVP now has more than 1000 members and nine core programmes. To-date, more than 150,000 lives have been touched by our volunteers across the country.

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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.