



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RSVP SINGAPORE HOSTS CHARITY GALA DINNER

30 March 2016 – RSVP Singapore held a Charity Gala dinner at Park Royal Hotel on Beach Road to raise funds for new and existing programmes, as well as to support its plans to mobilize more seniors to take up volunteering.

RSVP has a wide range of community programmes where seniors give their services voluntarily. These include a programme in character formation for primary school students, particularly those coming from households lacking in family support. Our senior volunteers also regularly visit mental health institutions to lend a hand in patients' journey of recovery by engaging them in singing and games.

More than 300 guests attended the Dinner where the Guest-of-Honour was Minister for Community, Culture & Youth, Ms Grace Fu. Other guests include Mr Lee Hock Moh, a 1981 Cultural Medallion winner, who donated one of his prized ink paintings for auction and Dato' Seri Toh Soon Huat, BBM, Chairman of Sian Chay Medical Institution who recently offered free TCM services to RSVP's senior volunteers.

It was also an evening to thank RSVP's many sponsors, donors and benefactors. Well known emcee Brian Richmond entertained the crowd with light banter throughout the dinner and kept the excitement high during the auction to raise funds. Apart from Lee's prized painting, unique auction items included collector wine bottles autographed by Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Performances, songs and music accompanied the sumptuous 9-course dinner. Famed singer Robert Fernando gave a melody of favourite Nat King Cole hits. Founder of Teo Heng KTV Studio, Dato' Seri Jackson Teo, PBM, kept guests in rapt attention with a lively karaoke rendition of the popular Mandarin song "Bao Qing Tian 包青天".

In her speech, Minister Grace Fu emphasised the role of volunteerism in society "... as our society grows more diverse, we need a society of big-hearted individuals even more. We need people who are generous enough to embrace our differences – the haves and have-nots, the foreigners and locals, people of different races, cultures, religions and values. We need people who are brave enough to reach over the lines between us, and care for each other. This is how we stay together as a society – strong and inclusive. This is why we see volunteerism as a "social glue" that can keep us together."

In thanking RSVP's many benefactors, RSVP President Mr Koh Juay Meng said, "We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to the funds raised tonight. Being able to help more Singaporeans in need through senior volunteerism is something RSVP Singapore strives to do by promoting Active Ageing Volunteers. Without the generosity shown tonight, we will not be able to do so. We look forward to their continuing support as we work towards greater things to come."

RSVP welcomes more seniors to join the ranks of volunteers. Seniors who are interested to volunteer can visit www.rsvp.org.sg to find more or call us at 62590802.

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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.