

PRESS RELEASE

18 February 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IT SAVVY SENIORS COLLECT DONATIONS THROUGH “TAP AND DONATE”

1. Seniors are IT savvy too – that is the message RSVP Singapore hopes to instill in the public this Saturday at its annual Flag Day.
 2. Instead of toting donation bags or tins, these IT savvy seniors will be using their mobile phones to encourage members of the public to donate to the organisation using their EZ link cards.
 3. This innovative way of collecting donations is based on a “Tap-and-Go” concept using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology. To donate, the donor places their EZ link card at the back of an NFC-enabled phone with the downloaded app, which was developed by a local tech company.
 4. Although the “Tap and Donate” campaign has long been effected since 2012, when it was launched by President Tony Tan Keng Yam for the President’s Challenge, RSVP Singapore is the second Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO) to use the NFC-enabled phone and EZ link card method to collect donations. This same method was piloted by Jamiyah Singapore last year.
 5. “We want to debunk the stereotype that seniors are not competent in IT. That’s why we have been training them in IT since 1998. In 2016 alone, we have trained 5,000 seniors in topics such as Windows 10, how to surf the Internet and how to navigate a smartphone. Some of these seniors then go on to train other seniors in the same IT programmes,” said Ms Meng Fong, Executive Director of RSVP Singapore.
 6. “We always encourage our seniors to keep themselves updated with the latest technology as we aim to lessen the “digital divide” between our seniors and youths today,” she added.
 7. About 30 volunteers are expected to collect donations through this method. Members of the public can choose to donate in amounts of one, two or five dollars. Other volunteers will be collecting donations through donation bags and tins.
 8. Proceeds will go towards funding the organisation’s community programmes to outreach and benefit the less fortunate in the society, including the mentally-challenged, at-risk children and socially isolated seniors.
 9. Volunteers who are keen to donate to the organisation may do so through RSVP Singapore’s hotline at 6259 0802.
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MEDIA FACTSHEET ON RSVP SINGAPORE AND EVENT DAY PROGRAMME

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. RSVP Singapore 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. RSVP senior volunteers can be found all over Singapore- in hospitals, primary schools and at Changi Airport- serving the varied needs of their beneficiaries. 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.

FLAG DAY 2017 PROGRAMME

Date: Saturday, 18 February 2017

Time: 9.30am – 5.00pm

Reporting station venues: Bishan MRT and Jurong East MRT

Approximately 700 volunteers are expected, including RSVP volunteers and the following schools and corporate partners:

- Tanglin Secondary School
- Bukit Batok Secondary School
- Cedar Girls' Secondary School
- Crescent Girls' School
- Global Indian International School
- Millennia Institute
- Naval Base Secondary School
- Damai Secondary School
- Yuying Secondary School
- Bartley Secondary School
- CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School
- Raffles Institution
- CHIJ Secondary
- Nanyang Girls' High School
- Anderson Secondary School
- Pasir Ris Crescent Secondary School
- Starbucks Anson branch
- PEC Pte Ltd