



PRESS RELEASE

**8 SEPTEMBER 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SENIOR VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION PROMOTES NEIGHBOURLINESS AND VOLUNTEERISM AT CARNIVAL EVENT

Singapore, 8 September 2018 – To encourage neighbourliness and volunteerism, a senior volunteer organisation is organising a one-day carnival event to reach out to Singaporeans in the heartlands.

The carnival, called National Senior Volunteer Month (NSVM) Fiesta 2018, aims to reach out to 2,000 members of the public. Championing the Singapore Cares (SG Cares) movement, the carnival will also feature booths set up by other social service organisations and government agencies to recruit volunteers and raise awareness of their causes.

Organised by RSVP Singapore, NSVM is its annual signature event which promotes volunteerism among seniors and their family. The first NSVM was launched in 2015 by then-President Tony Tan. The Silver Volunteer Fund was also launched during this event.

“In each NSVM, seniors are encouraged to bring their families along while volunteering. Volunteering together as a family strengthens and develops important values like compassion and selflessness in the younger generation. This year, to strengthen the intergenerational element, we have included kampong games to appeal to the nostalgic element for the parents and grandparents. For the children, we have incorporated a technological twist for these kampong games. This way, everyone can spend time together,” says its Chairman Mr Koh Juay Meng.

Besides the carnival, RSVP Singapore has organised over 35 activities since July for members of the public to volunteer in. These activities are the product of RSVP's collaboration with its many partners.

The carnival also serves to remind participants that though they may come from different parts of Singapore, everyone are neighbours sharing common spaces, and should strive for a home where one can count on neighbours when help is needed.

RSVP's Executive Director Ms Meng Fong added, "We hope this year's NSVM will rekindle the kampong spirit among Singaporeans where everyone chips in to help one another. Volunteering is a good way to start! We can all play a role in creating a caring and kind community."

The NSVM Fiesta is supported by Our Singapore Fund and Council for Third Age.

Organisations who wish to partner RSVP Singapore and support its cause may contact the organisation at 6259 0802 or general@rsvp.org.sg.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms Neo Hong Hong

Assistant Director, Corporate Partnership & Fund Development and Corporate Communications

Mobile: 6485 6105/ 9067 3740

Email: honghongneo@rsvp.org.sg

Ms Nur Rashidah Khalid

Manager, Corporate Communications

Mobile: 6485 6124/ 9892 3021

Email: rashidah@rsvp.org.sg

About RSVP Singapore

RSVP Singapore The Organisation of Senior Volunteers is a non-profit organisation and an Institution of Public Character that was started in 1998. Since its inception, RSVP Singapore has been actively engaging seniors in purpose-driven volunteerism. Through impactful community service programmes, we serve more than 200,000 beneficiaries each year. These include the mentally disadvantaged, at-risk children from low income families and socially isolated seniors. Our programmes are designed to support and empower our members to embody our core values of lifelong learning, active ageing, integrity, sharing experience and service.

About National Senior Volunteer Month

In line with its mission to provide opportunities for seniors to serve the community, RSVP took the lead in organising one of the first major volunteering movement targeted at the senior citizenry to encourage them to embark on their volunteering journey. Working with various VWO partners, volunteering opportunities were created to allow new and would be volunteers to have a taste of volunteering. This movement was called Senior Volunteer Week (SVW) and it was first launched in 2012. SVW has grown from 30 activities involving over 1,000 volunteers in 2012 to 58 activities involving over 1,300 volunteers serving 5,800 beneficiaries in 2014.

Previous NSVM celebrations

In 2015, SVW was rebranded as National Senior Volunteer Month (NSVM) highlighting its significance at a national level to increase the number of senior volunteers in Singapore. NSVM continues to remain a signature event of RSVP.

The inaugural NSVM was launched on 4 September 2015 by the then President Tony Tan at Toa Payoh HDB Hub. The theme “Senior Volunteerism – Soaring to Greater Heights” reflected the continuing value of seniors to the community. The goal is to engage volunteers primarily seniors in meaningful volunteering opportunities benefitting the less

privileged in the society and to encourage partnerships amongst VWOs and corporates. Supported by the SG50 Celebration Fund and the Ministry of Health, NSVM 2015 had a record turnout of 3,931 volunteers, out of which 2,648 were seniors, taking part in 61 unique volunteering activities that had 17,376 beneficiaries over 10 months.

In 2016, NSVM continued on a modest scale involving over 400 volunteers reaching out to 1,000 beneficiaries over the course of 2 months.

NSVM 2017 with its new theme “Retire with a Purpose - Volunteer” attracted over 2,000 participants at its opening ceremony at ITE College Central on 9 September. 180 senior volunteers volunteered as ushers, crowd control volunteers and ambassadors. Supported by Council for Third Age, over 1,500 volunteers served different beneficiary segments through 30 unique volunteering opportunities that took place over 3 months from August to October.

Annex B

Programme for NSVM Fiesta 2018

Time	Programme/Activity
12.00pm	Welcome to National Senior Volunteer Month at Bishan CC
12.10pm	Warm up exercise
12.30pm	Arrival of GOH Mr Saktiandi Supaat, MP of Bishan – Toa Payoh GRC
12.35pm	Welcome address by Mr Koh Juay Meng, President of RSVP Singapore
12.40pm	Speech by GOH
12.50pm – 1.35pm	Stage performances from various performing groups
1.35pm	Talk by National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre on Volunteerism
2.40pm – 3.45pm	Stage performances from various performing groups
3.45pm	End

NSVM Partners

Booths

1. AMKFSC Community Services Ltd
2. APSN
3. Central CDC SG
4. Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore
5. Friends of the Disabled Society
6. Jamiyah Singapore
7. Ministry of National Development
8. NKF Singapore
9. National Crime Prevention Council + Citizens on Patrol
10. National Environmental Agency
11. National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (CNPL)
12. Rotary Club
13. Shan You
14. Silver Generation Office
15. Very Special Arts Singapore

Performances

1. AMKFSC-COMNET OTAI Group
2. Down Syndrome Association
3. Faith Music Centre
4. Guitar Toa Payoh Club