

**PRESS RELEASE**

**PRESIDENT THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM TAKES THE HELM AS PATRON OF RSVP SINGAPORE TO CHAMPION SENIOR VOLUNTEERISM**

SINGAPORE, December 5, 2023 — At its Annual General Meeting today, RSVP Singapore The Organisation of Senior Volunteers extends heartfelt appreciation to outgoing Patron, the Eighth President of the Republic of Singapore, Mdm Halimah Yacob, for her transformative six-year tenure. Mdm Halimah played a pivotal role in shaping RSVP Singapore's initiatives and provided unwavering support, especially during the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Mr Koh Juay Meng, PBM, Chairman of RSVP Singapore, expresses gratitude for Mdm Halimah's dedication, stating, "Her commitment to championing senior volunteerism and active ageing has significantly influenced societal perspectives on the invaluable contributions of seniors."

As Mdm Halimah steps down, RSVP Singapore is honoured to announce that President Tharman Shanmugaratnam has graciously accepted the position of Patron. In a letter from the President's Office, President Tharman conveyed his pleasure in accepting the role and looked forward to staying engaged with RSVP Singapore's work.

Mr Koh welcomes President Tharman, stating, "President Tharman's esteemed guidance and invaluable insights will be instrumental in shaping the future of senior volunteerism in Singapore. As we embark on a new chapter, we eagerly anticipate continuing our mission with robust commitment."

As Singapore's demographic landscape, shaped by an increasingly engaged population of younger seniors, undergoes a significant transformation, RSVP Singapore foresees a pivotal shift in community involvement. This dynamic cohort actively seeks meaningful contributions, challenging conventional perceptions of seniors and reshaping the narrative around senior volunteerism. "Their energetic participation enriches the community with diverse expertise and fresh perspectives and signifies a shift towards seniors playing active roles as contributors and change-makers in our society," said Mr Koh.

He added, "As more seniors pursue a purposeful lifestyle, senior volunteerism is heading towards an inflexion point. We aim to channel this collective energy to propel a shift in the landscape. As they actively contribute, we anticipate tangible impacts on our community initiatives and a more engaged and collaborative approach by seniors in addressing local needs."

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**RSVP Singapore The Organisation of Senior Volunteers**

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### **ABOUT RSVP SINGAPORE**

RSVP Singapore The Organisation of Senior Volunteers is an Institution of Public Character and the National Centre of Excellence for Senior Volunteerism under the patronage of President Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

Established in 1998, RSVP Singapore has been actively engaging seniors in purpose-driven volunteerism with a vision to make every senior a volunteer. To achieve this, our mission is to develop and empower seniors to age well and stay active through meaningful volunteering opportunities in the community. Over 3,000 RSVP volunteers uplift our community and support a diverse profile of beneficiaries, including persons with special needs, at-risk children and seniors through our community service programmes and learning services.

[www.rsvp.org.sg](http://www.rsvp.org.sg)