



Madam Chan and sons (from left) Don Corleone Nair, nine, and Del Piero, 11, now have new furniture from Courts under a new initiative with charity Heartware Network. ST PHOTO: MUGLAN RAJASEGERAN

New furniture for 10 needy families

By POON CHIAN HUI

ONLY a week ago, part-time worker Yvonne Chan, 48, and her two sons were sleeping on the floor of their three-room HDB flat. Today, the widow not only has new beds, but also a new sofa, bookshelf, television set, wardrobe and study desks.

Her family is one of 10 needy ones which will receive new household items from Courts Singapore. Under a new initiative with youth charity Heartware Network, the furniture retailer gave \$5 for every hour of community work by 11 of the charity's volunteers in the past five years.

Courts also gave \$1 for every "like" on its Facebook page for the project over a 10-week period.

Some \$52,000 worth of furniture and appliances will be donated, as well as grocery vouchers for supermarket chain Sheng Siong.

Families were selected from recommendations by social service providers, schools and MPs.

Every family will get at least \$5,000 worth of items, which they can choose from a list.

Aside from making such generous donations, companies could also help low-income customers by helping them to exercise financial

prudence, Acting Minister for Social and Family Development Chan Chun Sing said yesterday at a cheque presentation for the project, held at Madam Chan's Commonwealth flat.

"Most importantly, I think they can also help the lower-income families by providing financial counselling," said Mr Chan.

In response, chief executive of Courts Singapore Terry O'Connor said that as most buyers are repeat customers, the company would be familiar with their track records, such as their ability to pay, where they live and what they do for a living. "We make sure customers are operating within their means," he said.

Heartware Network founder Raymond Huang said it was the first time work put in by its volunteers, who do anything from manning booths to ushering at events, has been "cashed in".

"It tells our young volunteers that their hours are well invested, and not wasted time," he said.

Madam Chan, whose sons are 11 and nine, said that with her monthly income of about \$1,000, most of their furniture was second-hand, but now, "my children and I can invite friends over".

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THE STRAITS TIMES

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Student's idea allows elderly to 'glide' more safely

By LIM MIN ZHANG

THE sight of an elderly person having difficulty with a walking frame got Ms Serene Tan thinking. And it culminated in her innovation GlydeSafe being launched last month at a fund-raising dinner for youth charity Heartware Network.

"The frames were too cumbersome for old folk to move easily," said Ms Tan, 20, who hit upon the idea in 2011 and made it her final-year project at Temasek Polytechnic.

Her GlydeSafe frame includes an attachment with wheels, ena-

bling users to roll the frame, instead of having to lift them up with each step. There is also an automatic break to ensure safety.

The product got a trial run at 24 hospitals, elder care and rehabilitation centres nationwide. Feedback was so good that it became "a responsibility" to take the product to the market.

The GlydeSafe has won Ms Tan several awards, including a silver at the 2011 Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors' Awards.

But there were challenges along the way. She lacked the expertise and funds to mass produce the prototype.



Ms Tan with the walking frame she developed which allows users to roll it along, instead of having to lift it up. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AARON BOO GUAN XIAN

Her break came when Youth Business Singapore, which promotes entrepreneurship among those aged 18 to 35, introduced her to Mr Jie Ye Bing. He is the managing director of China-based Secure Co, a supplier of health-care equipment.

The 40-year-old decided to help Ms Tan manufacture 100 pieces of her frame.

"I was impressed with Serene's entrepreneurial spirit and work ethic," the Chinese entrepreneur said. "Besides, I felt it was a good product that had market potential in the region."

To mark its launch on April 26, 25 GlydeSafe frames which cost \$99 each were donated to Salvation Army.

Ms Tan is now looking for local and global distributors.

"Things are still at the discussion stage now so I can't reveal much," she said. "But the next shipment will definitely be more than a hundred pieces, hopefully in the next two months."

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Courts agih barangan bernilai \$52,000 kepada 10 keluarga kurang bernasib baik

SYARIKAT peruncit perabot dan elektronik, Courts Singapore, telah mengagihkan barangan bernilai \$52,000 kepada beberapa keluarga yang kurang bernasib semalam.

Barangan tersebut, yang merupakan perkakas rumah dan baucar barangan runcit serta produk elektrik baru yang ditaja LG Electronics, diagihkan kepada 10 keluarga yang memerlukan.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif (CEO) Courts Singapore, Encik Terry O'Connor, telah menyampaikan cek pada nilai tersebut kepada Ketua Kehormat Pegawai Heartware dari Heartware Network, Encik Raymond Huang.

Majlis penyampaian cek itu diadakan di salah sebuah rumah penerima bantuan, Cik Yvonne Chan, 48 tahun, di Commonwealth Crescent.

Turut hadir di majlis itu ialah Pemangku Menteri Pembangunan Sosial dan Keluarga, Encik Chan Chun Sing.

Wang sebanyak itu dikumpulkan menerusi kempen selama 10 minggu yang dilancarkan Courts Charity House pada Disember tahun lalu.

Menerusi kempen tersebut, Courts memberi sumbangan \$1 bagi setiap tekanan butang 'Like' bagi programnya di aplikasi Facebook.

Selain itu, bagi setiap jam kerja kemasyarakatan yang dijalankan sekumpulan 11 relawan Heartware Network, Courts akan memberi sumbangan sebanyak \$5.

Encik O'Connor berkata pihaknya sentiasa mencari jalan memberikan sumbangan kembali kepada masyarakat secara positif.

Beliau selanjutnya berkata keluarga-keluarga tersebut menghadapi masalah kekurangan barangan asas dan pihaknya yakin barangan yang mereka terima akan dapat membantu mengurangkan beban mereka.

"Terima kasih kepada LG Electronics dan pengikut Facebook kami kerana menyertai kami dalam membuat perubahan yang bermakna dalam hidup keluarga-keluarga ini," kata Encik O'Connor.



Education Minister Heng Swee Keat speaking to Tampines Secondary School students, who shared their experiences on the new Character and Citizenship Leadership Programme yesterday. ST PHOTO: KEVIN LIM

Confidence boost for Normal stream kids

By MELISSA LIN

A NEW leadership programme for less academically inclined students, which helps them become more confident, was officially launched yesterday by Minister for Education Heng Swee Keat.

Called the Character and Citizenship Leadership Programme, it is targeted at Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) students who have leadership potential.

It is organised by non-profit youth organisation Heartware Network and supported by the Maybank Foundation and the Ministry of Education.

Students will attend weekly lessons after school and go behind the scenes at workplaces such as

restaurants to see how they are run. They will also come up with projects to identify and solve problems in their community, said Heartware Network deputy executive director Tan See Leng.

The programme is currently available at six secondary schools - Christchurch, Fuchun, Mayflower, Orchid Park, Tampines and Yishun.

Each school has selected 20 students to participate in the 52-hour programme, which runs over a year.

Ms Tan added that she hopes to eventually expand the programme to accept more students from the existing schools, as well as those from other schools.

Heartware Network founder Raymond Huang, pointing out how students have different learn-

ing abilities, said: "(This) is one of the ways in which we can engage today's youth to create a more inclusive system..."

He added that a pilot run of the programme last year saw "stellar" results, with students indicating in a self-assessment that their average confidence level increased from 68 per cent to 93 per cent after participating in it.

Shima Azmira, a 14-year-old Normal (Academic) student at Tampines Secondary, learnt to be more outspoken in class after she started attending the programme in March.

"If other people want to laugh at me, they can. But I learnt that speaking up in class is beneficial for me."

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完成恶水超级马拉松 他是新加坡第一人

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在217公里恶水超级马拉松的赛程中，60岁的电视节目编导林义发不仅要顶着50摄氏度以上的高温，还碰到了两次沙尘暴。他一度频频作呕，之后脚底又长水泡，但排山倒海而至的状况没让他退缩。他坚持不懈，最终以42小时34分钟的成绩完成赛程，成为第一个完成该超级马拉松的新加坡人。



恶水超级马拉松（Badwater Ultramarathon）是仅限受邀运动员才可参加的比赛。它的起点在美国加利福尼亚州东部死亡谷的恶水，而参赛选手须途经两座山脉。选手不仅要克服一座座山岭，还得在高温下跑步，所以这也被称为“世界上最艰难的超级马拉松赛”。

林义发表示，气温是一个问题，而且还常有强烈的逆风。

他说：“还记得在跑到约70公里时，我开始感觉不太舒服，很想吐却又吐不出，当时真的很难受。我吃了中西药都没见效，后来是喝了温的糖水才渐渐好了起来。遇到这些困难时，我完全没想过放弃，而是一直在想办法克服它。”

36年来 首个完成赛程的东南亚人

林义发也是这个超级马拉松举办了36年以来，第一个完成赛程的东南亚人。

他有个五人的支持团队，在赛程中为他递水、喷水，以及送上冷毛巾，妻子莫洁仪是团员之一。

莫洁仪说：“我在整个赛程中都没睡觉，其中的原因之一就是时时盯着他，确保他没事。就好像有一次，他大概是跑得太累了，没注意到自己一直在向山路的一端倾斜。若不及时提醒，他真会有掉下山崖的危险。”

林义发是虔诚的基督教徒，他回忆自己在完成这个超级马拉松后，感慨的说了一句：“我60岁还能跑完它，实在是个恩典。”

获吴资政捐款支持慈善团体

从2005年，林义发所参加的六个超级马拉松都获得荣誉国务资政吴资政的支持，按照他所跑的里数，捐款给有需要的团体，为慈善尽力。

吴资政昨天出席为林义发而主办的答谢午餐时说：“只要他继续跑，我就继续支持他。”

这次的义跑迎来许多如阁室（Courts）的有心企业捐款，为慈善团体“心件工程”（Heartware Network）筹得了五万元的善款，帮助蒙巴登区的贫困老人。

60岁的林义发克服万难，完成了恶水超级马拉松。在他后面陪跑的是支援团队的成员杨渊萓。

（AdventureCORPS提供）

National cheerleaders



KUCINTA

The Singapore Tourism Board adopted this pedigree feline breed as its mascot in 1990. Its name is a combination of the Malay words "kucing" (cat) and "cinta" (love).

BY ANG YIYING

They are young, they love Singapore and they want to share the spirit of the nation.

They are Singapore's cheerleaders – mostly in their teens and early 20s – who run patriotic activities to rally Singaporeans together leading up to National Day and beyond.

Said River Valley High School Year 4 student Siau Ek Hwee, who was part of the group which organised a youth-for-youth National Day event at

*Scape: "I hope they will love Singapore more through the event."

The 16-year-old girl, who has considered volunteering for national service, added: "I marvel at Singapore's prosperity within such a short time and our good government. I feel that everyone should protect what we have achieved."

While the activities by each group reach out to a different segment of society, the organisers have a common aim: to get people to think of the unique aspects of Singapore and what the country means to them.

IN looks at two such projects.



A collage of photos of young people holding up blackboards of their hopes and dreams for Singapore.

REACHING OUT TO THE YOUNG

Scape-A-Nation

Targeting Orchard as its outreach area, a group of young people aged 16 to 20 planned a National Day carnival and party at youth hangout *Scape.

The core group of eight were backed by some 90 volunteers, drawn by an online ad.

The youth planned the budget, publicity, execution of event and logistics with guidance from staff of non-profit youth organisation Heartware Network.

Said Lydia Tan, 19, a Year 3 student at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, who was in charge of the project: "Our objective is to make people want to celebrate National Day. It's another platform for people to come together."

Over two weekends in July, the volunteers fanned out across the Orchard area, getting 3,000 people to pen their hopes and wishes for Singapore on blackboards and taking photos of them. The collage of photos, representing the collective dreams of young Singaporeans for the country, were mounted on a cardboard Merlion.

Said Lydia: "It's publicity for the event. It's also for youth to think more about what they want Singapore to be because they will be leading Singapore in the future."

The actual National Day event included an Amazing Race-style game in which participants found out more about Singapore at pit-stops, while the carnival at *Scape revisited Singapore of the past.

Participants tucked into free local food such

as satay and tried their hand at traditional games which included marbles, five stones and pick-up sticks.

The entertainment was provided by home-grown acts, including 53A and YouTube rapper Tzire. The cast of local film Ah Boys To Men also made a guest appearance at the non-alcoholic, after-dark party held in the *Scape Warehouse auditorium.

One of the youth organisers, Dunman High School Year 6 student Chan Hao Yang, said he wanted to do his part to nudge Singaporeans towards a more creative direction by promoting local artistes.

"We put in local bands and local artistes, so these youth get a sense of Singapore's arts scene and its importance," said the 18-year-old.

多方援助社会安全网遗漏者

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政府的政策会照顾大多数新加坡人，当个别人陷入困境时，基层、民间团体和私人机构也能发挥作用，帮助社会安全网没能照顾到的人。

外交部长兼律政部长尚穆根昨天到义顺忠邦区访问居民时，以区内一个家庭的个案为例指出，政府的政策会为绝大多数新加坡人提供保障。例如在医疗方面，健保双全的覆盖率达92%，政府也在想办法帮助其余8%的人；住屋方面，93%的人拥有屋子，政府正在设法把拥屋率提高到95至96%。

不过他指出，个别人可能因为特殊原因掉入社会安全网的缝隙中，这便需要“多方援手”。

去年，忠邦区居民卡亚宛（42岁，司机）因为财务考量，决定从四房式组屋换去三房式组屋，原本以为大屋换小屋能让家里的经济宽裕些，没想到差点变得一贫如洗。

由于过于相信由朋友介绍的房地产经纪，卡亚宛在换屋时把手续都交由经纪办理，没想到被欺骗，不但没有收到换屋所得收益，还把辛苦积蓄的1万5000元交给经纪代办装修屋子的事情，结果换来的却是一间没有任何装修的空屋子。

当时，卡亚宛又一度失去工作，他和妻子、女儿搬入空荡荡的三房式单位后，连最基本的床、餐桌和热水器都买不起。

就在全家人感到绝望时，卡亚宛向忠邦的基层组织寻求帮助，得到慈善团体心件工程（Heartware Network）帮助。通过心件工程的

穿针引线，卡亚宛一家得到家具公司阁室亚洲（Courts Asia）的赞助，有了新床、书桌、餐桌和电脑等家具及电器。

社区发展理事会也在他们陷入困境时，为他们提供基本生活用品，并帮卡亚宛介绍一份驾罗厘的工作。

虽然他们还在通过法律途径向当初欺骗他们的经纪追讨欠款，但总算全家人的生活恢复了平常，再也不用每晚打地铺睡觉。

尚穆根说，在这起个案中，卡亚宛一家人得到政府、基层、心件工程和义工、以及私人企业阁室的各方援助，“政府会有一个系统，不过如果有人掉入缝隙……作为一个有恻隐之心的社会，就需要有人在那里伸出援手。”

尚穆根昨天也在忠邦区继续以巡回形式与区内居民展开小规模对话，向居民传达李显龙总理在国庆群众大会上宣布的多项政策细节和政府的用意。

他说，忠邦区25%的居民是年长者，他们对刚宣布的政策感到欣慰；年轻居民中则有人问，这是否意味着未来税务负担会加重。

尚穆根解释，政府在这个任期中无须增加税收，但从长远来说，包容社会涉及收入差距的课题，人们也希望政府能对此采取措施。

他指出，新加坡依赖投资，因此得保持较低的税率，才能与其他区域竞争，同时政府需要为医疗保险、津贴组屋等提供资金，这些都需要有人买单，意味着会有保健储蓄缴交率调高等改变，这是新加坡必须面对的取舍，而政府也会非常直率并诚实地向民众交代这一点。

Simple, sweet tokens



Secondary 2 student Nur Baiduri giving her modern dance teacher, Madam Norsarah Rosli, a hug and an apple yesterday. ST PHOTO: DESMOND FOO

AFTER eight years as a teacher, Madam Norsarah Rosli is used to receiving mugs, photo frames and pens on Teachers' Day.

Yesterday, a red apple topped off her pile of gifts. "Usually, I get practical things, like stationery. When it's food, it's chocolate. Not an apple," said the 32-year-old. "It's a sweet, simple token of appreciation."

The art teacher was among more than 100 at Fuchun Secondary School who were surprised with red apples attached to thank you notes.

Twenty Normal stream students handed them out in the school hall before the Teachers' Day concert yesterday morning as part of a Heartware Network project.

This is the first year the youth charity has organised the You Are The Apple Of My Eye project. A total of 95 students distributed apples to more than 1,000 teachers in the eight secondary schools involved.

Volunteers started designing notes and sorting boxes of apples early this week.

Madam Norsarah received her apple, along with a hug, from 14-year-old modern dance student Nur Baiduri Zakaria.

During a National Day concert rehearsal this year, Baiduri was frustrated and struggling to master some moves.

Madam Norsarah made time to slowly guide her through the steps, encouraging Baiduri to be patient.

"She makes me love dance, and never fails to motivate me. She teaches me not to give up," said the Secondary 2 student.

Executive director of Heartware Network Tan See Leng explained that the apples are a symbolic gift.

"I didn't know that 'apple of my eye' means someone you really like," said 14-year-old Kwek Jun Yuan. "But now that I know, I think apples are a good present to tell our teachers 'thank you'."

NUR ASYIQIN MOHAMAD SALLEH



外交部长兼律政部长尚穆根（左一）昨天到忠邦居民卡亚宛（左二）的家中了解情况。卡亚宛和妻子（右一）和女儿（左四）去年搬入时家徒四壁，在各方援助下终于有了温暖的家。（陈斌勤摄）



十所学校的学生昨天通过送苹果感谢老师们的付出。（邝启聪摄）

“老师，你是我眼中的苹果”

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十所学校的1000名教师昨天从学生手中各接过一个苹果，学生通过送苹果表达对老师的感谢。

青年慈善团体心件工程（Heartware Network）配合教师节推出“Apple of My Eye”项目，“你是我眼中的苹果”有“我最喜欢的人”之意。心件工程的年轻义工利用课外时间，包装了1000个苹果，并从本周二起分发到十所学校，供学生在昨天教师节庆祝活动上送给老师。

其中，就读福春中学二年级的黄芊蕙（14岁）昨天送了七八个苹果给老师，其中多数不是教她的老师。她说，每年教师节，她和同班同学都会买蛋糕、做卡片，为自己的老师庆祝教师节；今年有机会感谢其他老师，感到很特别。

她送苹果给老师后，还要求拥抱一下，并说：“教师节快乐！你是我眼中的苹果！”她笑着说：“我只会对女老师这样做，以免产生误会。”

心件工程希望这项活动能成为常年活动，并打算明年把活动规模扩大至少一倍。