

VOLUNTEERS THANKED FOR THEIR GOOD DEEDS

ABOUT 14,500 volunteers decided to make a difference last December by pledging more than 64,000 hours of their time to do good deeds.

It was part of the Making A Difference movement launched last Dec 7 by Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan and was initiated by Heartware Network, a youth volunteer organisation inspired by the movie Pay It Forward.

In that film, a student came up with a scheme in which a person who benefits from someone's good deed should do good deeds for three other people.

Heartware Network's event last year netted some 34,300 good deeds, with 54 per cent saying that they would: give their seat to a pregnant woman, elderly person or handicapped person; hold doors open for others and share a meal with a needy friend.

Minister for Community Development and Sports Abdullah Tarmugi congratulated the organisation for exceeding its initial target of 12,000 people during his speech at a volunteers' thank-you lunch on Saturday.

The network will be starting a partnership with 4PM, an established Malay youth group. They hope to do at least one joint project each year to promote multi-racial and multi-religious understanding, as well as a spirit of volunteerism among youths.



if it is not from the heart, it is not

IDRIS meraikan delegasi belia dari Singapura yang melawat Melaka selama lima hari bermula semalam. - Gambar oleh Idzham Hadi Sidik

MGBM, belia Singapura jalin kerjasama pelbagai bidang

MELAKA, Selasa - Majlis Gabungan Belia Melaka (MGBM) akan bekerjasama dengan Heartware Network dari Majlis Belia Kebangsaan Singapura dalam pelbagai bidang, terutama pelancongan serta teknologi komunikasi dan maklumat (ICT).

Kerjasama dijangka bermula Jun ini dengan ahli belia Singapura menjadikan program homestay sebagai tempat kegiatan, manakala belia dari negara ini pula mempelajari ICT lebih mendalam di republik itu.

Timbalan Pengerusi MGBM, Hassan Abdul Rahman, berkata kerjasama akan dilaksanakan apabila Heartware Network menan-

datangani perjanjian persefahaman (Mou) dengan MGBM Jun ini.

Katanya, pemimpin belia negara jiran itu berminat menjalankan kegiatan belia di homestay atau kawasan yang kaya alam semula jadi.

"MGBM tidak keberatan bekerjasama dengan belia dari Singapura kerana secara tidak langsung produk pelancongan agrotourism dapat dipertingkatkan lagi," katanya ketika ditemui selepas mengetuai delegasi belia Singapura melawat Majlis Daerah Alor Gajah (MDAG), di sini hari ini.

Lawatan hari kedua itu membabitkan kunjungan ke Unit Promosi Pelancongan

Melaka, Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Melaka (PKNM) serta menyaksikan persembahan cahaya dan bunyi di Bandar Hilir.

Sempena lawatan ke MDAG, Yang Dipertuanya, Idris Haron memberi taklimat mengenai tugas pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) serta menjelaskan perkembangan di daerah Alor Gajah.

Lawatan Heartware Network itu diketuai Pengerusinya Raymond Huang Der Yee serta 10 ahli pelbagai pertubuhan belia di Singapura, termasuk Persatuan Persuratan Pemuda Pemuda Melaka (4PM).

Sementara itu, Idris ber-

kata, pihaknya bersedia untuk menempatkan belia Singapura di homestay di daerah Alor Gajah yang menawarkan keindahan semula jadi menarik.

Beliau yang juga Pengerusi Badan Bertindak Menangani Gejala Sosial Negeri berkata, kerjasama belia Singapura dan MGBM dapat menjalin hubungan baik antara generasi muda kedua-dua negara.

"Saya yakin pertukaran kegiatan ini membolehkan belia kita mempelajari ICT secara lebih meluas di Singapura, manakala industri pelancongan berasaskan agrotourism akan meningkat," katanya.

Promoting MAD-ness among Singaporean Youth

Just what is so crazy about this MAD movement that was making headlines during the last few months of 2001?

After all, who would be insane enough to perform kind acts from the heart, even when Santa is not around to check if you're being naughty or nice?

Well, some 14,543 Singaporean youth have clocked in 34,357 good deeds as at January 2002. Launched formally by Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan in December 2001, the MAD movement is modelled after the movie *Pay It Forward*. The Making a Difference (MAD) Movement is an initiative by Heartware Network (see sidebar for more information), which aims to generate greater involvement by youth in community service. Youth simply log on to the MAD website to pledge the number of hours they wish to commit to a community service or good deed of their choice.

The Samsung Celebration Tree @ Orchard Park

Christmas celebrations sprung up like mushrooms along Orchard Road, the most notable being the Samsung Celebration Tree @ Orchard Park. A whole slew of programmes were lined up for the entire month of December, including song and dance performances by various youth groups and guest appearances by TV Works' Maken guru, KF Seetoh and the Channel U cast of *Happy Rules*, all of which garnered positive responses from the public.

The festive celebrations culminated in the Countdown to the New Year, which saw Senior Minister of Law and Home Affairs, Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee as the Guest-of-Honour.

If anything, the MAD movement and the revelry that accompanied its launch showed Singaporean youths that being pro-active citizens with a heart for the community is anything but dull and uninteresting.

If you are interested in pledging a kind deed, log on to

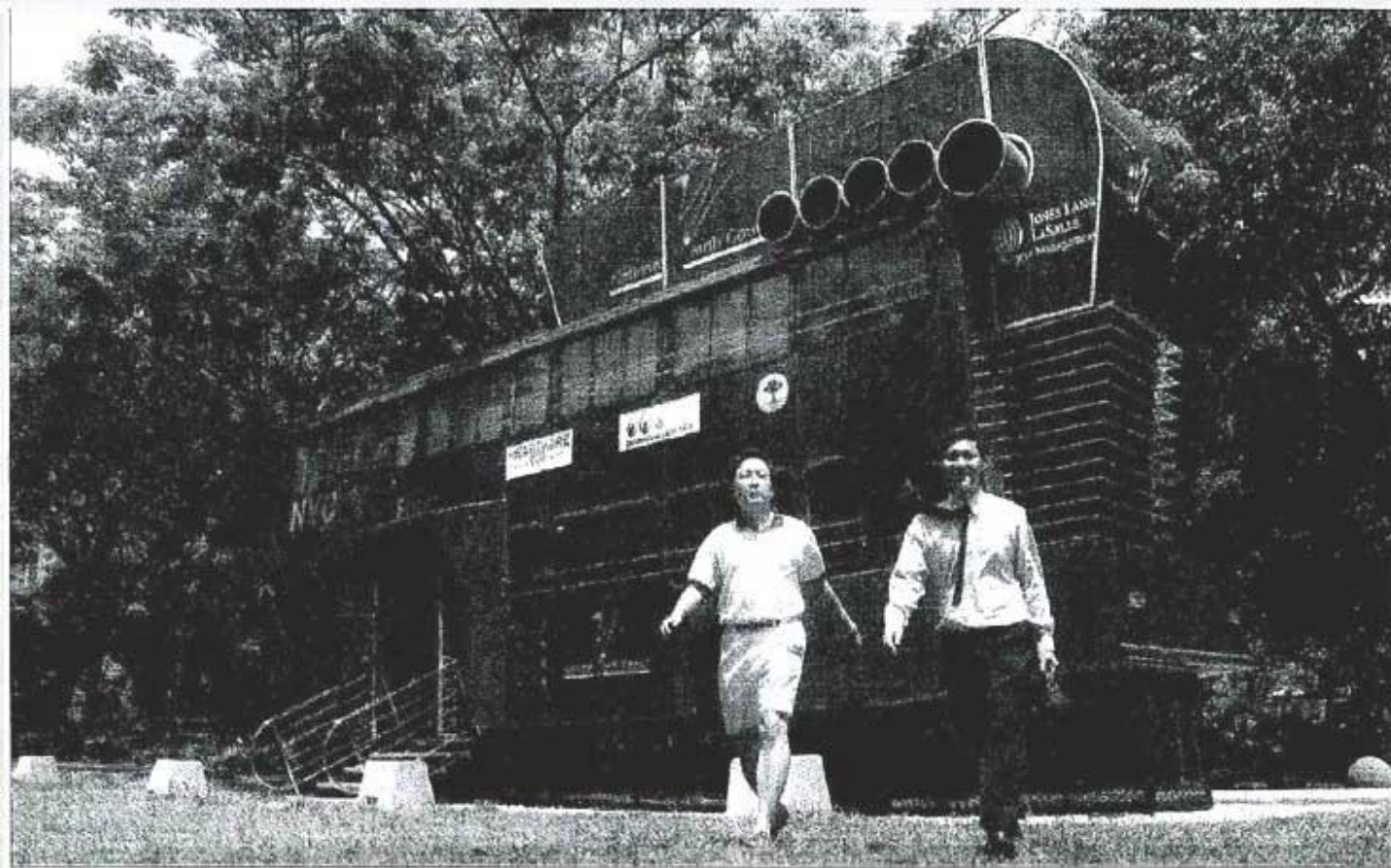
www.heartware-network.org and commit yourself to making someone else's day today!

HEARTWARE NETWORK

- Heartware Network was officially launched in January 2000 with a mission to "network both individuals and organisations to be involved in meaningful community service out of their hearts' passion".
- Drawing from the Prime Minister's assertion of the importance of a nation's heartware, Heartware Network seeks to communicate the importance of building human capital by promoting a culture of compassion, community, cohesion, contribution and commitment.
- Since their official launch, Heartware Network has been actively involved in reaching out to youths and promoting volunteerism among them. Amongst their efforts, the most recent include the launch of the MAD movement (see article above) and the formal establishment of ties with the Malacca Youth Council last November. Through these endeavours, Heartware Network hopes to raise the level of social awareness among youth in Singapore.
- Heartware Network is also one of the recipients of the NYC's new Young Social Entrepreneur (YSE) Scheme in 2001.
- Under this scheme, promising new players in youth services or youth development are provided value-added assistance worth up to \$40,000 per project for leveraging available resources, expertise, and innovations in a peer-learning network that will put the organisation on an accelerated learning curve.

For more information on Heartware Network, visit their website at www.heartware-network.org/html_old/index_old.html.

Guest-of-Honour DPM Tony Tan and Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Community Development and Sports Minister (far left) at the launch of the Samsung Celebration Tree @ Orchard Park on December 7 2001.



PICTURES: WANG HUIFEN

Going to work on the bus, Mr Raymond Huang (left, above and below) of Heartware Network and Mr Chan of Promise Works.



Get on this bus, go to work

THERE'S a new buzz at the Youth Hub in the form of a big, red bus.

In it are three fledgling youth groups which have been given the chance to operate in the novel office space, rent-free.

The refurbished double-decker bus is parked outside the National Youth Council's Somerset Road premises.

Heartware Network, Promise Works and Sunny Island Tree Climbers are the pi-

oneer batch of tenants under a scheme to give new youth organisations a funding boost.

The tenancy is for two years, followed by a review to see if they are ready to leave the nest, said Mr Tan Choon Hooi, the council's head of youth development.

For its prototype incubator, the council wanted something more interesting than a humdrum cargo container.

It ended up with a 14-year-old engine-less bus, which

was donated by SBS Transit.

A three-month make-over and it's now the NYC InQBuzz — a meeting room on the lower deck, with desktop computers and phones on the upper deck — to be shared by the three groups.

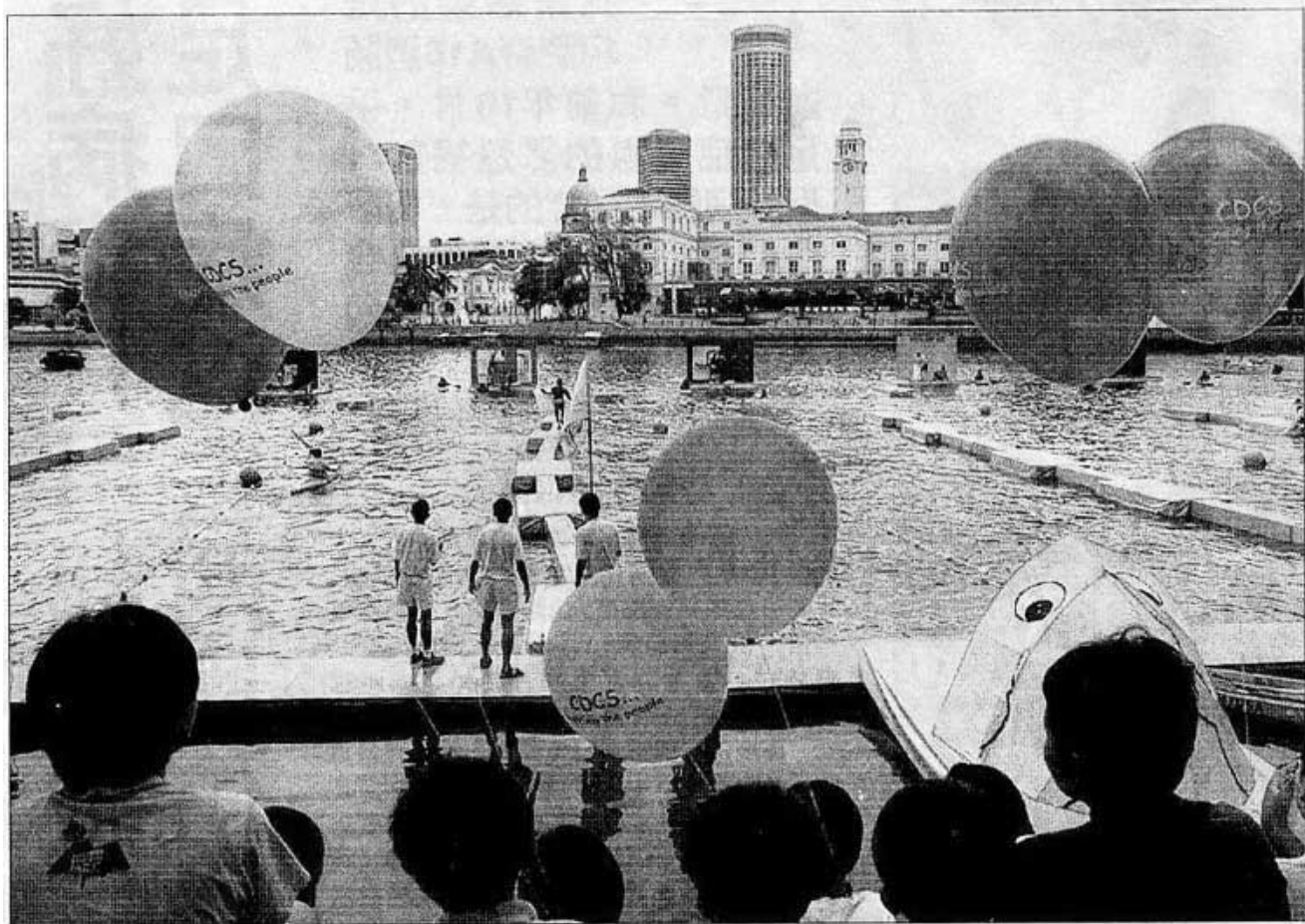
Mr Kevin Chan, co-founder of Promise Works, said: "The fact that we are physically located together, a lot of sparks can fly and that's where the buzz is."



HOW HWEE YOUNG

FUN AND GAMES ON THE RIVER: A demonstration of the Many Helping Hands game, just one of the many to be played during the Singapore River Quest 2002 to mark the 10th anniversaries of the Civil Defence Association for National Servicemen and the Singapore Police Association for National Servicemen, on Sunday. The fun starts at 3 pm in front of the UOB Plaza promenade.

新加坡河竞技大会 西北社理会夺冠军



来自五个社理会的许多居民，参加了由国民服役警察协会和民防战备人员协会主办的“新加坡河竞技大会”。

昨天下午的新加坡河面上，一片五彩缤纷。国民服役警察协会和民防战备人员协会，为庆祝成立10周年而主办“新加坡河竞技大会”，邀请来自全国五个社理会的居民，在河里玩各种刺激的竞技游戏。

河面上的独木舟、浮板、巨型拼图和各种有趣的巨型道具，凑成一片精彩喧闹的气氛，吸引了许多人聚集在河边观看。

竞技比赛分成五个部分，模仿德国式竞技比赛进行，主要考验参赛者的速度和平衡力。在河里举行竞技比赛要比在陆地上困难许多。

社理会市长和议员到场给居民打气

各区社理会的市长和议员也到场给居民打气。活动主宾律政部兼内政部高级政务部长何炳基副教授受访时表示，大会选择邀

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请社理会代表和残疾人士来参与竞技比赛，是希望在庆祝周年纪念的同时也可以促进社区间的和谐关系。

邀残疾人士参赛

活动的高潮是其中一项邀请残疾人士参与的比赛。五名残疾参赛者各自代表一个社理会比赛，

他们必须划独木舟把所需的配给“食品”如牛奶、白米等，装进“铁篮”里载送到终点去，这对残疾人士来说是一项非常大的挑战。

其他比赛还包括“水上拼图”和“水中捞鱼”等，全都必须动用到特殊的巨型道具和独木舟。有些比赛还要求参赛者跑过长长的浮板，难度很高。

所有比赛项目在傍晚时分结束，西北社理会技压群雄，成为“新加坡河竞技大会”的总冠军。

国民服役警察协会（SPANS）和民防战备人员协会（CDANS）成立于1992年，当时的会员只有数百名，目前两个协会的会员加起来已经超过17万5000个。

“新加坡河竞技大会”只是该会一系列10周年纪念庆祝活动中的序幕，其他庆祝活动包括，在7月举行车辆布置比赛、9月举行环岛寻宝游戏以及在12月举行岁末烟火汇演。

Australian volunteer brings students to movie to inspire them

By Julia Ng

An Australian housewife hopes to inspire fellow expatriates to volunteer and mentor kids in Singapore.

And to walk the talk, she treated some students to an inspiring movie on April 23.

From booking the maxi-cabs to buying the movie tickets, the day's outing with 23 students from Orchid Park Secondary School would have cost Susan Mackie over S\$300.

But money is not the issue, says the 45-year-old Australian, who has been in Singapore for 8 years.

Her purpose is to inspire them and stimulate their interest in English.

A volunteer with Heartware Network, the former journalist and trainer also volunteers at Orchid Park Secondary, where she teaches these Secondary 4 students remedial English.

Ms Mackie said: "These kids, the 4N class that I teach they're really pushing it uphill, because their English holds them back. They're not geniuses, they're all expected sort of not to do particularly well.

"I have a lot of belief in these kids. they've given me a lot more than I've given them, and with encouragement, all things are possible, just like they were possible for John Nash in A Beautiful Mind!"

Secondary 4 student Muhammad Sharif said: "She has put in so much effort for us to improve our English and I think this a very good idea, very thoughtful."

Fellow student Winnie Teo echoed his sentiment, saying: "I'm really touched by her because I think she's already teaching us for free, and now we're learning without textbooks."

Even if the Oscar-winning movie does not improve their English in one outing, it may help them understand the spirit of a beautiful heart.

明天与‘酷狗’同乐

东北区事理会的青少年慈善组织“心件工程”和淡马锡理工学院的学生在明天举办“不平凡的一天3”活动，鼓励青少年成为义工为社会作出贡献和传达公共安全信息。

而《酷狗正传》(Scooby Doo)即将在下个星期上映。为配合电影上映，主办单位将把乌节电影娱乐城对面的青年公园(Youth Park)布置成个

Scooby Doo 主题公园。

为配合主题，当天4时，也将举行“酷狗展”。届时许多可爱的狗儿都将在现场亮相。

此外，警察也将到场为公众灌输公共安全意识。

6时至10时过后，当局还将举行舞会让青少年们尽情地狂欢直至晚上10时。欢迎公众携眷参与这次的活动。

The new buzz in town!

Calling young social entrepreneurs

GOING to work on a bus has new meaning now. Three start-up youth organisations have been given the use of the novel office space and administrative support free-of-charge, under the **Young Social Entrepreneur (YSE) Incubator Scheme**. Heartware Network, Promise Works and Sunny Island Tree Climbers are the pioneer tenants in the refurbished bus, called the **NYC InQBuzz**. The new InQBuzz will be officially launched on 17 August 2002.

The YSE Scheme helps to nurture promising, start-up youth organisations. On top of office



NYC InQBuzz

space, start-up organisations can look forward to other forms of support such as organisation and programme development, network-building and strategic tie-ups with other youth organisations, and publicity and logistical support.

The YSE Scheme is part of the **Youth Organisation Capability Development Fund**.

The other two funding schemes to enhance the capabilities of youth organisations are the Youth Organisation Development Scheme and the Youth Development Tools and Curriculum Scheme.

www.nyc.youth.gov.sg/user/award_yocdf_scheme.htm



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ECHO allows public to post commendations

By Rozlin Othman

Promoting the development of social heartware and active citizenry through recognition of positive behaviour.

The Heartware Network hopes to do just that, especially for Singapore's youths through a one-stop non-governmental online platform called ECHO.

ECHO stands for encouraging the community to help others.

This will be done through a website started by 20 volunteers earlier this month.

The website will enable the public to commend volunteers or service sector employees for excellent service or exemplary behaviour.

They can also share real-life stories about contributions made by such people, and those which have benefited others.

The also plan to publicise the more notable cases and raise awareness of the initiative by partnering with organisations with good service quality backgrounds.



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Heartware Network launches movement to collect community service pledges

By Julian Chua

A movement to collect pledges of 100,000 hours of volunteer work in 27 days has to date received pledges of some 38,500 hours.

The movement was started by Heartware Network on November 9 and will be officially launched by Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on December 5.

Youths from various junior colleges and secondary schools have signed up to promote active volunteerism, and many say if it's not from the heart, it's not worth doing.

They collected pledges from others, helped out by giving tuition, acted as park guides and ushers, and collected for the Sharity Gift box

Lydia Lok, Volunteer Leader, said: "We should maximise our time fully and use what we have to help others, and we can learn a lot from this."

Jelena Chia, Volunteer, said: "All plan to do these December holidays is to do volunteer work."

The programme also aims to inculcate a sense of community spirit and volunteerism amongst Singaporeans, especially during the festive season.

Heartware Network is behind the movement and plans to extend the programme to regional countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia.

Raymond Huang, Chairman, Heartware Network, said: "Whatever you can see or do, you can make the difference, we want people to stop their complaints, but really hands on and take ownership, look around the community and they can do many more things."

You can join their volunteerism movement on the website <http://www.heartware.org/>.

两青年组织展开活动 号召公众加入义工行列

青年慈善组织心件工程和马来青年文学会希望在下个月底之前，号召公众献出爱心和时间，登记成为义工，为社区服务尽一分力。

这项名为M.A.D (Make A Difference) 的义工活动，目的是鼓励公众在下个月31日之前，贡献5万至10万个小时去执行义工工作。

目前，已经有1500名青年登记当义工。在这个学校假期，他们将四处向福利团体收集可服务的义工工作，以便安排义工执行任务。

不但如此，他们也会在走上乌节路人行道，售卖慈善用品的同时，鼓励公众加入义工行列，协助完成10万个小时的义工工作。

义工们的另一项重大任务，就是筹办即将于下个月5日在乌节路地铁站旁草场举行的M.A.D义工活动推展仪式，他们将执行司仪、招待员等任务。

到时，李显龙副总理将为M.A.D义工活动主持推展仪式。他同时也会为一棵竖立在乌节路地铁站旁草场上的圣诞树主持亮灯仪式。

心件工程主席黄德宇受访时说，从仪式后至年底，公众可到位于乌节路地铁站旁草场上的摊位，了解义工工作的选择种类。

昨天上午，在律政部兼内政部高级政务部长何炳基副教授的见证下，黄德宇和马来青年文学会会长依祖丁签署协议，共同为推动义工工作和青年发展尽一分力。M.A.D义工活动就是双方合作的第一项活动。

何炳基当场登记成为义工。热爱足球的他，经常参加由个别机构主办的足球赛，他因此希望日后能参加更多足球慈善赛，为社群尽一分力。

他说：“我没有教导儿童踢足球，但我会凭着在足球方面的特长，为慈善作出贡献。我相信，在集体运动的同时，新加坡人是为了追求目标而前进的。”

近1000名来自女童军、维多利亚初级学院、实龙岗初级学院及红山中学的学生也出席了在乌节路地铁站旁草场上举行的签署仪式。

这项义工活动，目的是鼓励公众在下个月31日之前，贡献5万至10万个小时去进行义工工作。目前，已经有1500名青年登记成为义工。他们将四处向福利团体收集可服务的义工工作，以便安排义工执行任务。

便安排义工执行任务。

每个团体制作了一张图文并茂、展示义工服务的大卡片，贴在乌节路地铁站旁草场入口处，让路人观赏，以提高他们对义工工作的认识。

有兴趣成为义工的公众，可上网 www.heartware.org 查询资料。



何炳基副教授（左）协助学生把展示义工服务的大卡片，贴在乌节路地铁站旁草场入口处的一块大板上。

Singing their hearts out in music marathon

IT WILL be a 24-hour music marathon for 24 students from Catholic Junior College, who met last night to sing carols and make music outside Orchard MRT station.

And it is all for a good cause — to raise money for The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund and the Education Trust Fund, which helps Malay pre-schoolers.

"We are targeting \$25,000, but to date only \$100 has been raised," said founding chairman of the Heartware Network Raymond Huang.

Heartware Network is responsible for the Making A Difference movement, which promotes active citizenry.

Members of the public are welcome to join the students, who will break into smaller groups and take turns to perform.

The singing continues until 9 pm tonight.



THOMAS WHITE