



Annual Report

FY 2016 - 2017

I am pleased to present the annual report of Lions Community Service Foundation (Singapore) for the period July 2016 to June 2017. The members of the Board of Directors in office during the period are -

Chairman	PDG Eric J P Ng
Vice Chairman	PDG Anthony Tay
Secretary	PP Lily Tan
Treasurer	PP Loh Chuan Fatt
Director (2 nd year)	PDG Sylvester M H Heng PP Maureen Goh (resigned August 2016) PP Simon Ng
Director (1 st year)	PP Mary Heng PP S K Ho PP Tan Eng Siong
Ex – Officio	DG Gilbert Tan IPDG Nancy Lim 1 st VDG Jerrick Tay 2 nd VDG Jeffrey Yang Chairman LHE PDG Isabel Cheong Chairman LBSA PP William Loh

PREAMBLE

The SG50 Care & Share Scheme that matched funds raised by LCSF from 1 December 2013 through 31 March 2016 ended before the start of the period reported on in this report. LCSF raised a total of \$2,150,775.71 and will receive a total of \$2,348,004.21 in matching grant from the Scheme. LCSF has received to date \$2,150,000 of the matched grant.

With the matching grant from the Care & Share Scheme, LCSF has been able to extend its capacity and capability to support more charitable undertakings in line with the objectives of the Foundation and the Care & Share Scheme as elaborated in the following details of its various grant programs.

The mainstay of the Foundation's charitable giving continued to be its emphasis on youth through our Lions Education Fund started on the 50th Anniversary of Lionism in Singapore and our Financial Hardship Assistance program as well as the elderly through the Festival Treat and Monthly Hotmeal projects for the lonely elderly activities of our member clubs.

The IPC of the Foundation was renewed for two and a half years for the first time from 1 March 2017.

Charitable giving / Grant Making programs

Lions Education Fund

The Bursaries for needy and deserving students from the Lions Education Fund now covers all levels of education in Singapore – from primary, secondary, junior colleges, ITE, polytechnic and other skill colleges to universities. In addition to more primary and secondary school students receiving bursaries, at the tertiary level, bursaries were also extended to the two new universities, the Singapore Institute of Technology and Singapore University of Technology and Design. *Grants from the Lions Education Fund now include other forms of support besides cash bursaries.* In Republic Polytechnic the grants are for annual book prizes and a special award for the most active student in community service.

Some students of tertiary institutions despite being bursary recipients still require financial assistance to complete their university study due to their low family per capita income. Without such financial assistance these students would have to seek part time employment after school hours to finance their education. Such financial assistance to needy students also comes under the Lions Education Fund.

From its inception in 2009, the Lions Education Fund has to date disbursed in excess of \$350,000 to needy and deserving students. While the number of recipients from each post secondary institution numbers is still in single digit each academic year, there are many more bursary recipients from primary and secondary schools each year. In the year under review the total number of beneficiaries from the Lions Education Fund was around 200.

The current financial commitment from the Lions Education Fund to all institutions supported by LCSF is around \$70,000 per annum. Bursaries to primary and secondary schools depends on the fund raised by Lions Clubs for the Foundation each year and the number of schools requesting for financial assistance for their students.

Financial assistance to the destitute

During the period reported on disbursement under LCSF Financial Hardship Assistance Scheme for individuals continued to be made student Jolin Lee, the eldest grand daughter of Madam Wong, as LCSF has committed to see her through her secondary education. LCSF also committed to see two other school going children (Millenium and Century Tan) to complete their secondary education by providing them with transport and living allowance each school day. Their sole bread winner father had lost both his hands and feet through food poisoning and could no longer work while their housewife mother took up a cleaner job to replace their father as the main breadwinner.

LCSF also disbursed financial assistance under this scheme to the family of Dr Tan Chok Hui who as a result of illness could no longer practice medicine and had no further income. Friends and members of a Lions Club raise funds to help pay for his medical treatment and also to alleviate the sudden financial hardship on his family for the initial few months of his illness until the family made some other financial arrangement.

To date LCSF disbursed a total of \$76,500 under its Financial Hardship Assistance Scheme to individuals, including those for students at SIT. The continuing commitment under this Scheme is mainly to fund needy students until they complete their Secondary education and for 5 SIT students, totaling about \$20,000 annually.

Financial assistance or contribution to Voluntary Welfare Organisations

With funds from the Care & Share Scheme, LCSF granted financial assistance to several Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) in addition to individuals during the period under review. The financial assistance may take the form of a one off contribution to a specific project or on a recurring basis for a specific purpose subject to a maximum quantum over a specified period.

The organisations being financially assisted under the Financial Assistance (Organisation) Scheme are:-

- 1) **Brain Tumor Society (BTS)** – a new voluntary welfare organization formed by parents, caregivers and professional health and social workers to provide physical and emotional support to families whose members (especially children) suffer from brain tumor. Besides providing counseling and caregiver support, members of BTS also conduct public awareness program on brain tumor. LCSF provides fund for their public awareness programs as well as fund the organization of BTS particularly their ability to provide physical and psychological support to caregivers of patients with brain tumour. Members of BTS also raise funds from their friends and well wishers to complement LCSF financial assistance. The financial limit set for BTS, including matched fund from Care & Share is \$100,000.
- 2) **HCA Hospice** – HCA would like to extend its palliative services to families with children with life ending illnesses. They sought financial assistance from LCSF to hire two professional social workers to attend to such families, one to help families during emergencies, the other to counsel and support on an ongoing basis as long as the families need it. LCSF agreed to finance these two positions for a period of two years from July 2016 committing about \$120,000.
- 3) **Improvement to School Staff facilities** – 5 primary and 1 secondary school regularly send strong contingent of students to help Lions Clubs raise fund especially the Flag Day of Lions Home for the Elders and Lions Befriender Service Association. The strong student participation in Lions fund raising was a result of their teachers' active encouragement and participation. In appreciation of the teachers' strong support, LCSF contributed to these schools advisory committees' fund to upgrade the staff facilities that fell outside their school official budget. For the period under review, LCSF contributed \$26,200 to these 6 schools on a one off basis. Care & Share matching fund could not be used for these contributions.

- 4) **Catch Them Young (CTY)** – a non profit organization that organizes and conduct tuition in Maths and English for students with poor grades and whose parents cannot afford to send them for private tuition class. This organization focus on those aged between 5 to 8 years, hence the name 'catch them young'. They conduct the tuition in the school premises if there are sufficient students in that school to form a class. Otherwise they conduct the tuition classes in community clubs with the support (including financial) of the local MP and grassroots community leaders. LCSF's financial support pays the teachers and volunteers who conduct the tuition and were recruited and trained by a social enterprise "Kids Excel". To conduct their tuition classes at community club premises, "Kids Excel" was approved as a 'vendor' of Peoples' Association ("PA"). This social enterprise also conduct tuition for kids from better homes from which they earn revenue and it is this reputation as an education center with good results that generates confidence in school principals to entrust these "ungradable" kids in their schools to the CTY tuition program. LCSF allocated \$195,792 to fund this tuition program, of which \$150,000 was contributed by NPVC's Community Foundation.

To meet growing demand for such basically free tuition classes, LCSF is also actively assisting CTY to promote this tuition program for poor students with poor grades to large commercial organizations to attract funding from these firms under their Corporate Social Responsibility programs.

- 5) **Lions Grocery Project** – previously referred to as the Market Project, it is the only program of LCSF where the support provided to VWO beneficiaries of this Lions program is in kind mainly in the form of fresh grocery supplies, rather than in cash. However it is very difficult to quantify this assistance in financial terms, hence no dollar value is attributed to this project in LCSF annual financial report. We are pleased to report the progress of this project during the period under review from various perspectives:-

- i. more Lions Clubs are participating in the various fresh market service projects – the Ang Mo Kio market now has 12 – 15 clubs joining in the weekly grocery collection and distribution where previously there was between 8 – 10 clubs at any one time. The Pasir Panjang market now has 5 Lions Clubs when previously only 2 were managing the collection and distribution effort. The Beach Road market collection is still managed by 2 Lions Clubs but individual members from other Lions Clubs do join in now and then to help in the collection and distribution service project;
- ii. more VWOs and charities requested to join as beneficiaries of the weekly grocery supply – previously there was around 20 charities serving approximately 6,000 resident beneficiaries receiving the fresh (vegetable, eggs) and processed (rice, sugar, biscuit) groceries, there are now more than 30. Some of these charities do not have vehicles to

collect the groceries themselves, so the Lions Clubs members deliver the grocery in their cars or vans to the VWO premises. The Ang Mo Kio market committee estimated that the number of individual beneficiaries of their weekly grocery distribution will exceed 6,000;

- iii. this project is now extended the lonely elderlies under the Lions Befrienders who live by themselves in addition to the residents in the various 'Homes'. Members of Lions Club participating in the grocery projects would arrange to distribute the groceries to individual elderlies living by themselves in Henderson for example, the next day after receiving their allotment from the Ang Mo Kio or other markets.
- iv. more benefactors have come forward to contribute cash to enable the Lions Clubs to purchase additional grocery items and cooked food to complement what are generously contributed by the fresh market stall holders. These benefactors donate directly to LCSF and the Lions Clubs participating in the grocery projects would draw fund from LCSF when they need to purchase the additional grocery or cooked food. Initially the fund involved was not substantial. However as poor families/individuals not resident in charitable homes are now being catered for, LSCF records showed that it is disbursing much more to this project which is classified under the financial assistance category of its grant making programs.

Festive treats for the poor and lonely elderlies and disadvantaged children

Traditionally Lions Clubs have been raising funds in order to organize opportunities for the poor and lonely elderly and disadvantaged children from low income families and orphanages to partake in 'Festive Treats' during local festive occasions as part of their community service activities. Opportunities are also arranged by Lions Clubs for Singaporean youth from disadvantaged background to meet with youth from other countries when they visit Singapore.

These projects are organized by Lions Clubs primarily for residents of Lions Nursing Home and other old folk homes as well as resident participants of Lions Befrienders Senior Activity Centers and residents from various children Homes. The funded expenditure include food and outing expenses such as cost of transportation to bus the elderly or young participants to the venue of the function, cost of entry to these venues if any and depending on the festive occasion, the cost of contents of goody bag such as rice, sugar, oranges and ang paws. Most of the expenses were covered by donations to the Foundation from well wishers including corporations as these events form part of their corporate social responsibility programs.

Some of these elderly residents under Lions Befrienders are too old, frail or sickly to cook for themselves even when as beneficiaries of the Lions Grocery Project, the grocery are delivered to their homes or because they live alone they would only cook the most rudimentary of meals most of the time. Some Lions Clubs thus organize to cook for these lonely elderlies or bring cooked food (either purchased or home cooked) on a community basis at weekly or monthly intervals. In Toa Payoh,

through another VWO, the Lions Clubs extended the grocery or cooked food distribution to poor families with children being supported by the Children Wishing Well Student Advisory Center. There are several hundred lonely elderlies under the Lions Befrienders Senior Activity Centers who are beneficiaries of such weekly or monthly "Hot Meals" projects funded by LCSF through funds raised by Lions Clubs.

In the period reported on a total of \$365,529.29 and \$12,138.70 was disbursed by LCSF benefiting 7,450 and 2,116 elderlies for Festive Treats and Hot Meals respectively. Festive Treats are usually held in restaurants and incur transport expense to bus the elderlies from their residence to the venues while Hot Meals are held at the Senior Activity Centers nearest to where the elderly beneficiaries live.

Local Application of Lions International Programs

Save Sight / Sight First Activities

This program continues to attract local public support in the collection of used glasses, a key element of the program without which there would be no beneficiary. The unsolicited public donation of used eye glasses come through LCSF website from individuals who wish to dispose of their used spectacles in a meaningful way and are aware of the Lions used spectacles collection program. Companies as part of their CSR activities also organize such collection from their staff and contribute them to the Lions Collection Boxes placed all over Singapore by Lions Save Sight Center, another Singapore Lions Club program. There is practically no cost to the Foundation in the collection of used glasses but the Foundation would pay if required (usually the Lions Clubs would fund) the cost incurred to clean and sterilize the used glasses prior to redistribution to those in need.

During the period under review LCSF did not disburse any fund for this program as most of the used spectacles collected and sterilized were distributed to poor folks in the Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and rural Thailand via projects organized by various Singapore Lions Clubs as part of our international understanding program.

The main activity in Singapore under this program now takes the form of an annual public forum on sight preservation, awareness of sight deterioration as we aged and diabetes awareness. LCSF provide financial grants to help Lions Clubs organise such public awareness forums.

Lions Quest

The Core 4 Grant from Lions Club International Foundation ("LCIF") to support the conduct of Lions Quest workshop in Singapore ended with the last workshop in March 2016. Thereafter LCSF would have to fund the full cost of such workshop including training materials and trainer provided by LCIF. Although only 50% of the approved grant was drawn down, LCIF decided that our district took too long (13 years) to use up this amount and close their books on the Grant approved in 2003. Singapore Lions can re-apply for the Grant if we wish to continue to apply this Lions International program locally.

LCSF would also look to raise funds for this program locally if there is sufficient interest from schools and other institutions to attend LQ training workshops.

Children Peace Poster Competition

Each year Lions Clubs International in conjunction with the United Nations organize an international drawing competition for children between 8 to 12 years old throughout the world based on the theme of a 'world at peace'. Singapore is grouped with Malaysia and the best drawing or painting from Singapore schools compete with the top 3 from Malaysia with the winning drawing competing at the International level with the best from other countries. Singapore Lions Clubs pay for the cost of the paint and brushes in their sponsorship of children from various schools to participate in the annual competition. Over the years the response from schools and Lions Clubs were lukewarm (on average less than 20 entries a year from Singapore schools) as no prizes are awarded for competition at school or national (Singapore/Malaysia) level.

However in 2014 an 11 year old East Malaysian student won the LCI International Peace Poster Competition. That sparked a surge of interests among Singapore and Malaysian Lions Clubs to encourage and sponsor more students and schools to take part in the contest. Through LCSF, Lions Clubs in Singapore raised funds from individual and corporate sponsors to fund the cost of the competition and cash prizes were awarded for the top 10 entries to the competition for the first time. This drew much better response since. In FY 2015/16 there were 127 entries and for the current FY 2016/17 competition that just completed in December 2016, there were more than 150 entries.

To date no Singapore entry has beaten the Malaysian child artists to be represented at the international level. Nevertheless it is yet another local application of a worthwhile Lions International Program by Lions Clubs in Singapore as part of Lions promotion of international peace among school children.

Corporate development of LCSF

Website

LCSF upgraded website continued to provide a welcome source of online donation – not yet a significant amount but is fund raised without cost. It is updated regularly to reflect both fund raising and grant making activities that give members of the public as well as Lions members a good idea of the activities and progress of LCSF.

The website continue to attract public attention to LCSF (including associated Lions programs such as Lions Home for the Elders and Lions Befrienders) mainly through the enquiry facility of its portal from the public seeking to donate, volunteer as well as appeal for financial assistance.

Executive function

LCSF's executive administrator now assist board members to conduct due diligence on appeals for financial assistance from individuals and VWOs to ensure we support only genuine cases.

As a result of our increasing charitable grant making activities and increased administrative work arising from more donations received and fund raising projects matched by the Care & Share Scheme, LCSF now falls into the intermediate category (>\$500,000 < \$1,000,000) as a charity and Institution of Public Character. To cope with the higher financial accounting responsibility, LCSF now engage a part

time executive to handle the foundation's book keeping function that was previously outsourced to an accounting firm. It should be noted that LCSF's financial report for the financial year ended 30 June 2016 was audited and uploaded on to the Charity Portal in November, well ahead of the end December deadline, as compared to the previous financial year report that was filed later than the 6 month filing deadline.

Purchase of office space

In the period under review, LCSF continued to successfully attract public support for its activities as manifested by the increased donation received through the fund raising efforts of its members. The high level of fund raised in past two financial years was motivated by the matching fund under the SG50 Care & Share Scheme. The total donation received by LCSF for the financial year under review was just below a million dollars. We received \$1.35 million from the Care & Share matching grant during the current financial year and the total accumulated of LCSF is currently well in excess of \$3 million.

In view of the continuing low interest rate regime in the economy, the Board of Directors in considering ways to enhance return on LCSF asset within the confine of safe investment, recommends the purchase of an office unit in a HDB commercial / residential development with the fund available. This asset can be collateralize in later years if LCSF grant making programs require higher level of liquidity then. In the meantime there is potential of capital gain if the national economy continue to move in the direction of long term capital appreciation.

Conclusion

The Lions Community Service Foundation continue its progress to meet its objective as the central organisation for fiscal resources generated by Lions fund-raising efforts. It is recognized for its charitable giving / grant making activities in Singapore that complements the Lions service undertakings through our nursing homes and befriending the lonely elderly.

The Board of Directors looks to all Lions in District 308-A1 to share and promote the Foundation's Vision and Mission and to continue their participation in both fund raising and grant making activities to serve the local community.

It would not be possible for the Foundation to have made the progress it did without the collective contribution and support of the Board of Directors, Trustees and Presidents and Members of Lions Clubs in the district. As Chairman for FY 2016/2017, I am indeed indebted to all of them.



Eric J P Ng
Chairman, Board of Directors
7 June 2017