



Annual Report

FY 2017 - 2018

I am pleased to present the annual report of Lions Community Service Foundation (Singapore) for the period July 2017 to June 2018. The members of the Board of Directors in office during the period are -

Chairman	PDG Eric J P Ng
Vice Chairman	PDG Anthony K S Tay
Secretary	PP S K Ho
Treasurer	PP Jean-Luc Anglada
Director (2 nd year)	PP Mary Heng
	PP Tan Eng Siong
Director (1 st year)	PP Loh Chuan Fatt
	PP Victor Yip
	PP Daniel Ong Gim Hai
	PP Francis Woo Yew Mun
Ex – Officio	DG Jerrick Tay Chun Peng
	IPDG Gilbert Tan Peng Cheng
	1 st VDG Jeffrey Yang Zheng Dong
	2 nd VDG Gareth E T Goh
	Chairman LHE PDG Isabel Y M Cheong
	Chairman LBSA PP William Loh Yuen Fatt

PREAMBLE

Following the approval of the membership at the Foundation's last Annual General Meeting, the office space at Blk 465 Crawford Lane #02-5051 was purchased for an amount of \$670,000 well below the \$1,000,000 budget approved by members. The property purchase was completed on 12 April 2018 and is registered in the names of our 2 trustees, Messrs Chim Hou Yan and Shiva P Banerjee. The Board intends to appoint a corporate trustee to hold the title deed.

It is indeed a landmark year for the Lions Community Service Foundation considering that when it was registered in 2003, it inherited slightly more than \$200,000 from the former district foundation. In 15 years its cash and property assets have multiplied 15 times to more than \$3 million as at the end of this financial year. It is due in no small part to the SG50 Care & Share Scheme that matched funds raised by LCSF from 1 December 2013 through 31 March 2016. LCSF will receive a total of \$2,348,004.21 in matching grant from the Scheme with \$2,150,000 of the matched grant already received to date.

With the matching grant LCSF has been able to extend its capacity and capability to support more charitable undertakings in line with the objectives of the Foundation. With continuous separate government funding to LHE and LBSA, the two Lions district programs for the elderly are no longer the mainstay of LCSF funding support.

The Foundation's charitable giving is now focus on youth through our Lions Education Fund started on the 50th Anniversary of Lionism in Singapore, our Financial Hardship Assistance program for individuals and charitable undertakings as well as the social aspect in the care of the elderly who live by themselves through the Festival Treat and Monthly Hotmeal activities of our member Lions Clubs.

In recognition of the continuing expansive reach of LCSF, the IPC of the Foundation was renewed for two and a half years for the first time, expiring in September 2019.

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. At the tertiary level, besides Lions bursaries being available at all local universities, Lions Education Fund also provides annual book prizes and financial assistance to students from very 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.

Bursaries from Lions Education Fund for primary and secondary schools are annual projects of Lions Club of Singapore Katong, Nanyang and Central, who also raised funds for these bursaries. They continue to support the student beneficiaries as they enter post secondary education such as ITE, Polytechnic and Junior College. In dollar terms, each bursary at primary and secondary levels range from \$200 to \$300 while that for university students is worth \$2,000 to \$5,000 each. Post secondary such as Poly and JC bursaries range between \$600 to \$1,100 per student. In the year under review a total number of 60 students benefitted from Lions Education Fund bursaries for a total disbursement of \$77,000.

Financial assistance to the destitute families

During the period reported on disbursement under LCSF Financial Hardship Assistance Scheme for individuals were made to families that suffered financial hardship due to the sudden death or serious illness of the main bread winner. The number of beneficiaries was reduced due to two of the students Jolin Lee and Millenium Tan completing their secondary education that LCSF had committed to support financially up to. There has been no new case of such families requiring financial hardship assistance from LCSF during the financial year under review.

LCSF also provide assistance in kind to poor families under its Financial Hardship Assistance Scheme. 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.

Financial assistance to Voluntary Welfare Organisations

The main thrust of LCSF financial assistance is towards organisations in 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 relatively 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 financial assistance to maintain BTS organisational structure such as staff and office facilities, fund for their public awareness programs as well as their ability to provide physical and psychological support to caregivers of patients with brain tumour. Members of BTS also raise funds from corporations that identified BTS programs under their corporate social responsibility activities.

- 2) **HCA Hospice** – LCSF provides financial assistance to HCA's palliative services to families with children with life ending illnesses paying for the services of two professional social workers to attend to such families. One is a part time social worker to help families during emergencies, the other, a full time staff 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 on a reimbursement basis.

- 3) **Catch Them Young (CTY)** – an off shoot of social enterprise “Kids Excel” 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 or at community clubs for students within a neighbourhood who attend different schools.

LCSF's financial support pays the teachers and volunteers who conduct the tuition and were recruited and trained by “Kids Excel” who also manage the CTY program. To conduct their tuition classes at community club premises, “Kids Excel” was approved as a ‘vendor’ of Peoples’ Association (“PA”). LCSF support the CTY program at community clubs on a case by case basis by making up the shortfall in their funding after receiving financial support from relevant organisations within that community.

CTY program also attract corporate financial support under their social responsibility program to fund their school tuition program. The donations are channeled to LCSF which reimburse the expense on a monthly basis.

Lions Fresh Grocery Collection and Distribution program

This weekly 'Market Project' is a service project of several Lions Clubs that is now into its third decade of service. It is the only program of LCSF where the support provided to beneficiaries (who are residents of VWO run homes) is in the form of fresh grocery supplies donated by fresh market stall holders once a week. Every now and then however, the Lions Clubs do require cash to buy supplementary groceries such as rice, sugar, eggs, biscuit to ensure that each week distribution is adequate for the number of welfare homes that the groceries are distributed to. Donations are made to LCSF by well wishers of this project and Lions Clubs would apply for grants from LCSF to fund such cash requirements.

It is therefore very difficult to quantify this service in financial terms as the actual cash disbursement from LCSF to this program represent only a small fraction of the donation in kind by the market stall holders. Hence no dollar value is attributed to this project in LCSF annual financial report although this program serves the most number of beneficiaries, if computed on an annual basis.

The success of this service project in meeting an 'unmet' community need can be seen from various perspectives:-

- i. more Lions Clubs, including newly chartered clubs adopt this project as their regular service to the community. Volunteers who drop out of their Lions membership are easily replaced and the number of Lions clubs participating in the various fresh market service projects are limited by choice to ensure a meaningful role for the volunteers who turn up each week, rain or shine at the Ang Mo Kio market, Yishun market, Pasir Panjang wholesale market and Beach Road.
- ii. more VWOs and charities request 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 alone exceeds 6,000.
- iii. the grocery distribution has been extended beyond the residents of 'charitable homes' to the poorer elderly who live by themselves but come under the ambit of our Lions Befriending program. Members of Lions Club participating in the grocery projects would arrange to distribute the groceries to individual elderly in Henderson and Toa

Payoh after receiving their allotment from the Ang Mo Kio or other markets.

- iv. more benefactors have come forward to donate cash to enable the Lions Clubs to purchase additional grocery items and cooked food to complement what have been generously contributed by the fresh market stall holders. The donation are made 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.

Festive treats for the poor and lonely senior citizens 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.

Originally these projects are organized by Lions Clubs primarily for residents of Lions Nursing Home and other old folk homes. Currently all Festive Treats include the lonely elderly covered by the Lions Befriender program and resident participants of Lions Befrienders Senior Activity Centers. Festive treats for residents of various children Homes are organised separately. The funded expenditure for such Festive Treats include cost of food, transportation to bus the elderly and their volunteer caregivers to the venue of the function, entertainment during the dinner or lunch as well as 'goody bag' and ang pows. If the treat takes the form of visits to places of interests or tourist attractions, the cost of entry to these venues if any. 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.

In the period reported on a total of \$279,027.50 was disbursed by LCSF benefiting 6,433 elderlies under its Festive Treats program.

Social Opportunities for senior citizens living by themselves

The Lions Befriender Senior Activity Centers cater primarily to elderly residents of HDB estates who live by themselves in one room flats. Some 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. Most of the time as these elderlies live alone they tend to cook only the most rudimentary of meals.

Lions Clubs, as part of their service projects to these lonely elderly would organize, on a weekly or monthly basis, usually during weekends and serve "Hot Meals" either cooked by their members or cooked food purchased from well known eateries or hawker stalls on a community basis. These Hot Meals, besides serving popular hawker fare are opportunities for these lonely elderly to socialise with each other and with the Lions volunteers while sharing a tasty meal. These Hot Meals are funded by Lions Clubs from donations made to LCSF as most of the elderly residents would not be able to treat their fellow residents on a regular basis. Clubs organising these Hot Meals are usually those participating and grouped under the various Senior Activity Centers of Lions Befrienders.

There are several hundred lonely elderlies under the Lions Befrienders Senior Activity Centers who are beneficiaries of such weekly or monthly “Hot Meals” social projects funded by LCSF through funds raised by Lions Clubs.

In the period reported on a total of \$22,069.00 was disbursed by LCSF benefiting 4,567 elderlies under the Hot Meals program. While Festive Treats are usually held in restaurants and incur transport expense to bus the elderlies from their residence to the venues, Hot Meals are usual held at the Senior Activity Centers nearest to where the elderly beneficiaries live, so minimal transport expense is incurred.

Local Application of Lions International Programs

Save Sight / Sight First Activities

The collection of used glasses continues to attract local public support without which there would be no beneficiary of this program. 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 to be deposited in 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 and during the period under review LCSF did not disburse any fund for this program. The cost incurred to clean and sterilize the used glasses was funded by either Lions Save Sight Center or the Lions Clubs that organise the redistribution of the used spectacles to poor folks in the Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and rural Thailand as part of Lions 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 which may result in loss of sight. LCSF provide financial grants to help Lions Clubs organise such public awareness forums.

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 to represent us at international level competing with the best children drawing from other countries.

Lions Clubs pay for the cost of the paint and brushes in their sponsorship of children from various Singapore schools to participate in the annual competition. Through LCSF, Lions Clubs in Singapore raised funds from individual and corporate sponsors to fund the cost of the competition and cash prizes for the top 10 entries. Since 2015 this children art competition has attracted more than 100 entries each year and interests continues to grow.

Although no Singapore entry has won the competition at international level, nevertheless LCSF finds it a worthwhile application of a Lions International activity that not only promotes the concept of international peace among school children but also encourages the development of a personal skill. No actual fund from LCSF is disbursed for this program as the Lions Clubs were able to work within the funds they raise each year for this competition.

Corporate development of LCSF

Website

LCSF website continues 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 would be upgraded technically in the coming year to update its security features as well as to reflect the current program emphasis which has changed substantially from when it was first developed in order for it to continue to attract public attention to LCSF and associated Lions programs such as Lions Home for the Elders and Lions Befrienders. The enquiry facility of this portal is useful to the public when seeking to donate, volunteer as well as appeal for financial assistance.

Executive function

LCSF is now staffed with two part time administrators, one of which handles the accounting function. As the Foundation programs continue to expand its reach the executive function should extend to developing and promoting the Foundation activities in order to attract further funding from private sector individuals and corporations, conduct due diligence on appeals for financial assistance currently handled by board members to ensure we support only genuine cases and to utilise more of the government support facilities available to the non profit sector.

As a result of our increasing charitable grant making activities LCSF now falls into the intermediate category (>\$200,000 < \$10,000,000) as a charity and Institution of Public Character. It implies that a higher level of corporate governance responsibility is required of the Board and members.

Purchase of office space

As reported in the Preamble to this report, LCSF purchased the office space to both provide a permanent base of operation as well as to strengthen the asset base. However we can only move into this new premise only when the current tenancy lease expires end of 2018. The office premise would also enable member clubs and the district to hold their meetings.

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. LCSF 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.

Preserving the IPC status of LCSF must be the highest priority of the Board of

Directors as it seeks to fulfill the Foundation's Vision and Mission. Without the tax exempt donations the Foundation's programs and grant making ability would be severely curtailed. To ensure the longevity of the Foundation existence and usefulness the Board looks to the wisdom of its members as they fulfill their membership responsibilities in electing capable Lions with some idea of how they can bring the Foundation forward, to form the next board at the coming AGM.

The Board of Directors thank all Lions in District 308-A1 who share and promote and continue their participation in both fund raising and grant making activities to serve the local community. On behalf of the Board for FY 2017/2018, I express our deep and sincere appreciation to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric J P Ng', with a stylized, flowing script.

Eric J P Ng
Chairman, Board of Directors
31 May 2018