



## Annual Report

FY 2018 - 2019

I am pleased to present the annual report of Lions Community Service Foundation (Singapore) for the period July 2018 to June 2019. The members of the Board of Directors in office during the period are -

Chairman	PDG Eric J P Ng
Vice Chairman	PDG Gilbert Tan Peng Cheng
Secretary	PP Daniel Ong Gim Hai
Treasurer	PP Jean-Luc Anglada
Director (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	PP Francis Woo Yew Mun PP Loh Chuan Fatt (passed away October 2018) PP Cheryl Mah Seok Hean (co-opted wef 4 July 2018) PP Serene Yong (co-opted wef 11 December 2018)
Director (1 <sup>st</sup> year)	PP Lim Ke Lin, Terence PP Eng Chen Lian PP Jasmine Yap Simin
Ex – Officio	DG Jeffrey Yang Zheng Dong IPDG Jerrick Tay Chun Peng 1 <sup>st</sup> VDG Gareth Goh Eu Toh 2 <sup>nd</sup> VDG Victor Yip Chairman LHE PDG Isabel Y M Cheong /Henry W H Tan Chairman LBSA PP William Loh Yuen Fatt

### **PREAMBLE**

Following the completion of the purchase of the office space at Blk 465 Crawford Lane #02-5051 and expiry of its accompanying tenancy, LCSF operation at the new office commenced on 1 February 2019. Credit for completing the renovation within the \$100,000 budget goes to the committee headed by 2VDG Victor Yip ably assisted by Director Lion Cheryl Mah who ensured the renovation was completed according to approved design and specification. Several clubs had since used the premises for their meetings.

The Board appointed Padang Trust, a specialist corporate trustee registered with Monetary Authority of Singapore to hold the title deed of LCSF property. However in completing the legal documentation, the Board was advised by our lawyer that the Constitution & Bylaws of LCSF is not clear in its definition of a corporate trustee who would hold the title in a bare trust as compared to the Board of Trustees who has supervisory powers. Hence she advised to hold off the appointment of the corporate trustee until the constitution is amended. The relevant amendment is being tabled for members' approval at this Annual General Meeting.

As part of Singapore Bicentennial celebrations the government has approved a Bicentennial Fund to match VWO's donation raised between 1 April 2019 through 31 March 2020 subject to a maximum of \$400,000 per IPC. LCSF is eligible to participate in this Fund and has to date raised around \$200,000. Members are urged to raise fund for LCSF to benefit from this matching fund. The matched fund would be disbursed only in the second half of 2020.

The Foundation's charitable giving continues to focus on children and youth particularly on their educational needs. Our support of the Lions elderly programs concentrate on the social aspects of the elderly who live by themselves through funding the Festival Treat and Monthly Hotmeal activities of our member Lions Clubs.

**Charitable giving / Grant Making programs**

	<i>Financial Grants / Direct Donations</i>	<i>Grants to fund Program &amp; Services</i>
<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>	Education Bursaries; Awards & Living Allowance	Tuition for disadvantaged kids  Hospice Care for children  Lions Quest  Annual Camp for Pediatric Cancer patients
<b>Services to Elderly</b>	Lions Home for the Elders  Lions Befrienders	Social Activities Festive Treat Hot Meal Treat
<b>General Population</b>	Financial hardship caused by sudden illness or death of breadwinner	Festive Treat for disadvantaged families  Brain Tumor Society  Public Awareness Events Diabetes Health Screening  Prosthesis Centre

The above diagram illustrates how the scope of LCSF grants to institutions, individuals and other voluntary organisations in Singapore has evolved since its inception.

For the year under review, based on records as at 30 April 2019, LCSF grants totaling nearly a million dollars benefitted a total of 46,582 beneficiaries measured both in terms of the capacity of the organisation to whom grants were made or the actual number of individual beneficiaries served under its various grant programs as follows:-

	<b>FY 2018-19 as at 30 April 2019</b>	
<b>Grant Program</b>	<b>Capacity/No of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Grant made</b>
Lions Education Fund	62	\$215,000.00
Tuition for underprivileged children	2,107	\$354,268.71
Financial Hardship	3	\$5,377.21
Lions Home for the Elders	450	\$2,500.00
Youth activities	100	\$3,000.00
Elderly Socials	3,475	\$20,292.80
Festive Treats	31,662	\$341,835.79
Public Awareness Prog	800	\$10,100.00
Fresh Grocery Distribution	7,923	\$15,853.65
<b>Total current FY</b>	<b>46,582</b>	<b>\$968,228.16</b>

By indicating capacity of the organisation that benefitted from the grants of LCSF, there would be less repetition in beneficiary count even though services may be rendered to residents of these organisations more than once within the period under review. A good illustration is the Fresh Grocery project that is conducted weekly with the number of beneficiaries of these organisations receiving benefits 52 times a year but is only counted once. For Festive Treats and Elderly Socials it is likely that the same beneficiary participated in more than one event during the year.

### **Lions Education Fund**

This restricted fund, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year of bursary giving continues to attract designated donations from individuals and organisations concerned with the educational needs of children from less privileged homes. Bursaries for needy and deserving students covers all levels of education in Singapore – from primary, secondary, junior colleges, ITE, polytechnic and other skill colleges to universities. It also provides annual book prizes and financial assistance to students from very low family per capita income without which these students would have to seek part time employment to continue their education.

An extension to the need to foster the educational achievement of the very young at perhaps the lowest rung of the social mobility ladder is to provide tuition in English and Mathematics to those who need it most but whose parents cannot afford the tuition fee. The Catch Them Young tuition program attracts strong financial support from certain commercial enterprises as part of their corporate social responsibility endeavours. The donations are channeled to LCSF which reimburse the expense on a monthly basis. The Lions Education Fund bridges the funding needs should such needs arise.

### **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.

This program, after being approved by the People's Association, is beginning to attract the attention of grassroots leaders at constituency level, including several MPs whose constituencies are benefitting from the reach of this program and it is likely to grow substantially in the near future.

### **Lions Fresh Grocery Collection and Distribution program**

The Lions Clubs in Singapore conduct 4 such weekly 'Fresh Grocery (Market)' projects. It is a program where LCSF disburse the minimum of fund to benefit the most number of beneficiaries as the beneficiaries (who are residents of VWO run homes and elderly living by themselves) receive their fresh grocery "benefits" in kind rather than cash. The fresh grocery supplies are donated by the market stall holders supplemented every now and then by the participating Lions Clubs purchase of dry groceries such as rice, sugar, eggs, biscuit to ensure that each week distribution is adequate for the increasing number of welfare homes participating in the grocery distribution program. Donations are made to LCSF by both well wishers of this project and Lions Clubs members and participating Lions Clubs may apply for grants from LCSF to fund such cash requirements including cost of transportation to deliver the grocery to the beneficiaries.

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. Clubs that drop out due to members weariness are easily replaced by other Lions clubs whose members find this endeavour meaningful and are willing to commit to a weekly volunteer schedule.
- ii. more VWOs and charities request to join as beneficiaries of the weekly grocery supply. Some of these charities do not have vehicles to collect the groceries themselves, so the groceries are delivered to them by Lions Clubs members in their cars, vans or even hired transport.
- iii. the grocery distribution has been extended beyond the residents of 'welfare homes' to the lonely elderly who live by themselves but come under the ambit of our Lions Befriending program.
- 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 role played by LCSF in this project is to facilitate these donations through its tax exempt facility.

### **Festive treats for the poor and lonely senior citizens and disadvantaged children**

Organizing events for the poor and lonely elderly and disadvantaged children from low income families and orphanages to provide opportunities for them to celebrate major local festivals is a traditional service activity of Lions Clubs in Singapore.

Currently participants of Festive Treats organised by Lions Clubs include the lonely elderly covered by the Lions Befriender program and resident participants of Lions Befrienders Senior Activity Centers in addition to residents of homes for the elderly. 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 professional and volunteer caregivers to the venue of the function, entertainment during the dinner or lunch as well as 'goody bag' and ang paws. Usually the cost of entry to places of interests or tourist attractions that formed part of the Festive Treat would be sponsored while other major expenses are covered by donations to the Foundation from well wishers including corporations as these events form part of their corporate social responsibility programs.

### **Social Opportunities for senior citizens living by themselves**

The Lions Befriender Senior Activity Centers cater primarily to elderly residents of HDB estates who mostly live by themselves in one room or rental 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. Even if they do cook, they tend to cook only the most rudimentary of meals and eat by themselves.

Lions Clubs, as part of their service projects to these lonely elderly would organize, 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 are opportunities for these lonely elderly to socialise with

each other over a tasty meal as most of them would not be able to treat so many of their fellow residents.

In the period up to 30 April 2019, an amount totaling \$20,292.80 was disbursed by LCSF benefiting 3,475 elderly under the Hot Meals program slight lower than the number of beneficiaries for the whole of last financial year. Hot Meals are usual held at the Senior Activity Centers nearest to where the elderly beneficiaries live, so the main expense incurred is only for the cost of food purchased.

## **Local Application of Lions International Programs**

### **Sight Screening / Diabetes Awareness**

The collection of used glasses continues to attract local public support albeit on a reduced scale and the distribution of used glasses benefit mainly the poorer population of neighbouring countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, rural Thailand and Indonesia rather than locally. The main activity in Singapore related to saving sight now take the form of Lions organised sight screening and testing service projects in conjunction with the Lions Diabetes Awareness campaign.

The main activity now takes the form of public forums and distribution of public literature on sight preservation, awareness of sight deterioration and preventable blindness as we aged and as a result of diabetes. Hence the prevention of diabetes which may result in loss of sight has become a major service priority of the Lions movement internationally. LCSF provide financial grants to help Lions Clubs organise such public awareness programs.

### **Children Peace Poster Competition**

An important component of LCSF focus on children and youth is the participation of children between 8 to 12 years old in an international drawing competition based on the theme of a 'world at peace'. Each year Lions Clubs International in conjunction with the United Nations organize this international competition. The best drawing or painting by Singapore children compete with the best 3 drawings from Malaysian children before competing with the best children drawings in the world.

Through LCSF, Lions Clubs in Singapore raised funds from individual and corporate sponsors to fund the cost of the competition and cash prizes and each year more than 100 entries are received from Singapore schools. LCSF own fund is not disbursed for this program as the Lions Clubs have been able to work within the funds they raise each year for this competition.

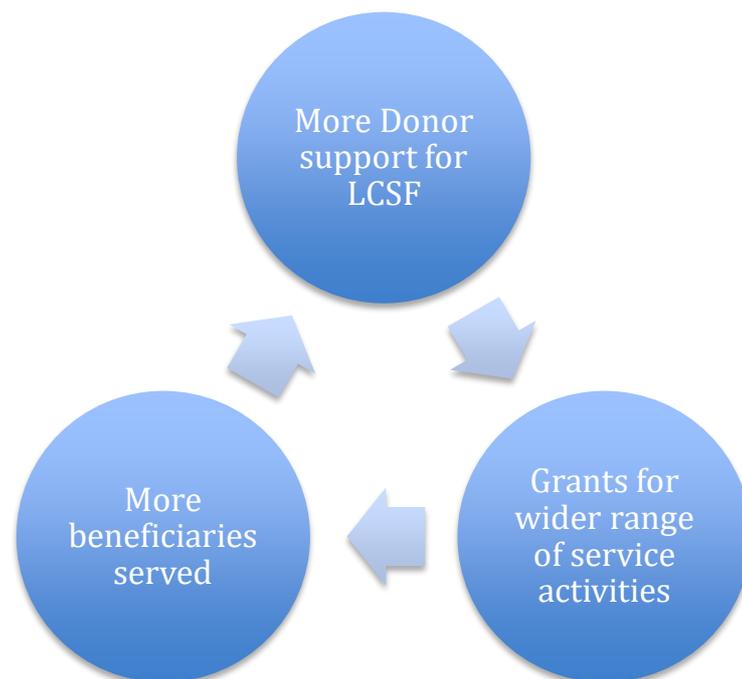
Although no Singapore entry has won the competition at international level yet, LCSF finds it a worthwhile application of a Lions International activity that not only promotes the concept of international peace among school children but also encourages the development of a personal skill.

## **Growth & Development of LCSF**

At its inception as a registered society and charity in 2003, LCSF inherited \$162,724.29 from the former District 308-A1 foundation. It now has a net worth of \$3 million, including its own office premises, thanks largely to the SG50 Care & Share Scheme that motivated Lions fund raising through its dollar for dollar matching incentive. We would soon receive the final tranche of \$323,004 in matched grant.

The increased funding enabled LCSF to support a much wider range of charitable services as numerated in this report benefitting an almost three fold increase in the number of disadvantaged beneficiaries.

The below diagram illustrates a virtuous cycle of increased activities benefitting more sectors and members of the local community resulting in increased donations from the public to support worthy causes espoused by LCSF. Increased funding support through direct donations or fund raising activities would enable LCSF to further enhance its grant making capability for a wider range of charitable causes benefitting more underprivileged members of the community.



This would be the direction of growth for LCSF in the foreseeable future. The ability to undertake and drive this growth function is an important element in our search for an executive staff for the Foundation.

### **Website**

LCSF website continues to provide a reliable source for public seeking information about the Lions Foundation for purpose of making as well as to be updated on the application of their donation and for those seeking help when in distress. 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 range of services and beneficiaries supported by LCSF.

The technical upgrading of our website to reflect the current program emphasis and improve its security features continues to be a work in progress.

### **A Tribute to Late Lion Loh Chuan Fatt**

During the year our foundation lost a very solid supporter in the late Lion Loh Chuan Fatt, who unexpectedly passed away in October 2018. Lion Chuan Fatt served as a member of LCSF Board of Directors from 2014 through 2018 during which he held the office of Treasurer for a complete term of 2 years in FY 2015-2017. He would be

remembered for his most active promotion of fund raising among Lions Clubs for the foundation, particularly during the SG50 Care & Share program which raised a total of \$2,150,775.71 netting a matched grant of \$2,348,004.21 for LCSF from the Care & Share fund.

The late Lion Chuan Fatt did not just encouraged other Lions Clubs to raise fund for LCSF but was a model himself with his own club LCS Nanyang raising the most fund to support LCSF grant especially to organise festive treats for senior citizens from homes for the elders and those being served by Lions Befrienders programs for the lonely elderly during major festivals in Singapore such as National Day, Lunar New Year, Hari Raya, Deepavali, Christmas and Vesak Day.

Late Lion Chuan Fatt was also the prime mover in the search and purchase of an office premises for LCSF. Not only would a permanent office enhance the service capability of LCSF but it would also be a worthwhile asset investment in the application of LCSF fund. Lion Chuan Fatt's aspiration for LCSF was realised but he did not live to see his vision brought to fruition when it was fully renovated.

For these contribution, LCSF remains indebted to the late Lion Loh Chuan Fatt for his unswerving support for the foundation in achieving its objective as a charity.

### **Conclusion**

The need to reach out to more members of LCSF to meet its objective as the central organisation for fiscal resources generated by Lions fund-raising efforts should be a focus of the incoming board of directors. Increased support for LCSF not only enables it to complement the Lions service commitment to the poor, sick and lonely elderly but also extends Lions services to children and youth and other disadvantaged within the local community.

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. This can be assured through the fulfillment of the growth strategy of increased services to more beneficiaries illustrated in the earlier part of this report. Members should fulfill their responsibilities in electing Lions capable of bringing the Foundation forward.

On behalf of the Board for FY 2018/2019, I express our deep and sincere appreciation to all Lions who participated in fund raising and grant making activities to serve the local community.

Eric J P Ng  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
6 June 2019