



Annual Report

For the period 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012

I am pleased to present this report to members on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lions Community Service Foundation (Singapore) for FY 2011/2012. The members in office during this period were:

Chairman: PDG Eric J P Ng (LCS West)
Vice Chairman: PDG Anthony K S Tay (LCS Marine Parade)
Secretary: PP Benny A K Goh (LCS Khatib Mandarin)
Treasurer: ZC Tan Eng Siong (LCS Henderson)

Directors:

2nd Year: ZC Peter S S Chua (LCS Jiyang)
PP Andrew C H Tan (LCS East)
PP Lo Swee Wen (LCS Katong)
1st Year: PP Soh Kam Giap (LCS Evergreen)
PP Lily Tan (LCS Ladyhill)
PP Samuel (LCS Seletar)

Ex-Officio

IPDG: Lion Steven S K Seah
District Governor: Lion Singaretnam
1Vice District Governor: Lion Irene Tan
2Vice District Governor: Lion David P H Lee
Representing Lions Home for the Elders: PDG Isabel Cheong (until 31 December 2011)
Representing Lions Befrienders: Lion David P H Lee (until 30 September 2011)
Lion Richard Koong (from 1 October 2011)

Executive Summary

The Board of Directors is pleased to report that the Foundation progressed and continued its development as the central organisation for Lions fundraising and charitable donations to Lions charities and third party beneficiaries in the Singapore during the fiscal year 2011/2012. Besides the poor sick and lonely elderlies covered by Lions entities, needy and deserving students, the disadvantaged as well as sudden destitute families also benefitted from the LCSF's givings during the year.

The focus of the annual renewal of the IPC status of the Foundation by the authorities is the increasing level of activities of the Foundation each year. To this end, for the year under review,

- 1) besides the renewal of the bursary awards for both NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Science and the SMU Social Studies Department, continuation of annual bursaries for primary and secondary school students, the **Lions Education Fund** was extended to cover Junior College students (primarily the Temasek Junior College). The Board continues to find suitable Polytechnic and ITE or similar skill orientated level studies to complete the whole spectrum of education for its bursary scheme. The La Salle School of Art & Music would likely come within the Fund next year
- 2) another **Lions Quest** workshop was conducted for teachers and social workers, this time extending to Institute of Education lecturers and students, both under and post graduates
- 3) extension of donations and support to more charities through various Lions Clubs projects
- 4) cash donations to more families in need of financial support due to the sudden death of the bread winner or for a much needed surgical operation of a family member with serious illness.

An important principle of the management structure of the Foundation is the inclusion of elected district officers and representatives of district programs as voting members of its Board of Directors. The Foundation's Constitution & By Laws was thus amended to include Vice District Governors in addition to the District Governor and Immediate Past District Governor and 2 representatives each from Lions Home for the Elders and Lions Befrienders Association. However due to the demand on their time by their other duties, most of these ex-officio members were not able to attend Board meetings regularly making it difficult for the Board to form a quorum. Due to the increase in elected district officers, the total number of ex-officio members now almost equals the elected Board members, thereby reducing the influence of elected Directors in Board policy making. The Board therefore decided that the number of ex-officio members be reduced by having only one representative of each district program instead of two each, since at most meetings only one representative is present. The ratio of elected board members to ex-officio would then be 5:3 instead of the present 5:4. The relevant amendment is presented for members' consideration at this AGM.

The Singapore Lions Education Fund

The Singapore Lions Education Fund was established by Lions District 308-A1 (Singapore) on 25th October 2008. The purpose of the Fund is to establish scholarships, bursaries or other schemes with institutions of learning in Singapore to provide financial assistance for the benefit of needy and deserving recipients.

The initial 3 year bursary funding agreement that the Lions Community Service Foundation (LCSF) signed with both the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore Management University (SMU) to respectively set up the Singapore Lions Clubs' Bursary and Singapore Lions Clubs' Study Award expired and was renewed during the period reported on. To date 30 needy and deserving students from NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Science and 15 from SMU Social Service Department had benefitted from the bursaries.

Traditionally Lions Clubs had provided bursaries to primary and secondary students and this continued through the Lions Education Fund that facilitated fund raising by the Lions Clubs through its tax benefits. Last year the bursaries were extended to junior college students and this year another 5 students from Temasek Junior College benefitted from the bursaries. The Board continues to look for an appropriate course of study at Polytechnic and Institute of Technical Education or similar level institutions to complete the coverage of the Education Fund to all levels of studies in Singapore. Discussion is ongoing with the La Salle School of Art and Music for a Lions Bursary Scheme to fund the study of needy and deserving talented students in these fields.

LCSF is grateful to Lions Clubs, corporations and individuals who have donated to the Lions Education Fund. In particular, we record our thanks to Lion Serene Yong (LCS Ladyhill) and to the Overseas Academic Link Pte Ltd for the substantial donations they made to the Fund. For their most recent donation of \$100,000 this fiscal year they were placed on the Foundation Roll of Honour.

Lions Quest

The Lions Quest Workshop on Skills for Adolescence, was conducted in Singapore on 18 and 19 June 2012. It is financially supported through the drawdown of the second tranche of the Core 4 grant by Lions Clubs International Foundation with local matching fund from the Foundation.

The focus of the training continued to be teachers and social workers attached to institutions for delinquent youth run by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports. However the training was extended to lecturers and students of the National Institute of Education for the first time. It is hoped that by introducing this program to the student teachers, they would acquire additional pedagogical skills that would be invaluable when they are posted to schools after graduation.

A start was made to communicate and keep in touch with the trained LQ participants through a meeting with the previous batch of trainees although some of them have already left their former employers. With Director Lily Tan, a school teacher herself, in charge of this program, the LQ program in Singapore may finally get to be institutionalized as an ongoing Lions activity in the district. As more countries in the region also initiate their Lions Quest program, Singapore may yet be able to lend its expertise and experience to the region for more youth to benefit from this program.

The LQ Committee is tasked with

- 1) organizing LQ training in Singapore
- 2) promoting LQ awareness in the District and the community
- 3) organising follow up activities to keep track of the progress of LQ implementation in Singapore with a view to develop a track record of success with target group to attract future local funding for LQ activities
- 4) building a core group of trained LQ practitioners with a view to develop the LQ program including developing local case studies

- 5) developing sufficient core practitioners to conduct a TTT for future LQ trainers.

Family in financial hardship due to diagnosis of serious illness, death of breadwinner

This was one of the original programs included when the IPC of the Foundation was approved. During the year in review the Foundation supported two such beneficiaries.

Mdm Yong Yok Ling's only child was born with congenital hole in his heart. Though the limited income family had the child treated and operated by more affordable Malaysian doctors, the ultimate and most complicated operation could only be done by a Singapore surgeon in a Singapore hospital that has the requisite medical facilities. Though the Singapore surgeon reduced his fee substantially in view of the family's financial situation and also allowed the family to pay in installments, the family still could not afford the medical expenses and turned to Lions Clubs for assistance. The Lions Club through the Foundation contributed \$8,000 of the more than \$20,000 needed for the operation.

Mr Richard Aaron Lim was a healthy man in his late thirties/early forties when he was suddenly diagnosed with fourth stage cancer. He died within 6 months of diagnosis as the treatment and hospitalization were ineffective, leaving behind a housewife widow who was a foreign national married to a Singaporean, and two pre school age children. The Lions Clubs raised fund for the destitute family and created a trust for the widow and her children. The fund raised that enjoyed the tax benefit of the Foundation is retained in the Foundation accounts to be drawn down as needed when the fund that were given directly to the trust are exhausted.

The Foundation also received appeals from community grassroots organisations to assist financially families in need due to prolonged unemployment of the main breadwinners resulting from the recent economic crisis and will extend the groceries distribution and outreach as a temporary relief to elevate the economic hardship of such families as recommended by the community based organisations who are more familiar with and are in closer touch with these families. The first such ration relief project will take place in the new financial year.

Gift of Sight – recycling of used spectacles

Another approved program of the Foundation IPC is the local application of programs of Lions Clubs International. Conduct of Lions Quest training for teachers and social workers in Singapore is one such application. The other is the Gift of Sight program which is aimed combating preventable and reversible blindness. One such activity to help restore sight to the poor and disadvantaged who cannot afford eye glasses or cure eye illnesses such as cornea transplant is the recycling of used spectacles as the spectacle frame is usually the most expensive part of eye glasses.

- a) The Foundation donated \$10,000 this year for a sight saving project for beneficiaries of the Association for Persons with Special Needs (ASPN, formerly the Association for the Mentally Retarded). The fund paid for the setting up of a centre for recycling of used spectacles, eye screening services for their members and others in need who could not afford eye glasses. The

recycling centre also serves as an employment opportunity for the members of ASPN for organisations that wish to recycle used spectacles.

LCSF Funding for Lions Clubs' projects

To support the work of Lions in the community, LCSF matches fund raised by Lions Clubs for Lions service projects that extend beyond the scope of traditional club and/or district fundraising activities.

In FY 2011/2012, LCSF approved the following applications for funding:

- a) LCS West to help a poor family pay for a hole in the heart operation for their infant child
- b) LCS Compassvale for a sight saving project for beneficiaries of the Association for Persons with Special Needs (ASPN)
- c) LCS Astrid to raise fund for Girl Guides' Association and Lions Home for the Elders
- d) LCS Khatib Mandarin to help families seriously affected by the economic recession and who have still not found meaningful employment
- e) District 308-A1 for their volunteer leadership development programs

With the continued growth of the Endowment Fund, LCSF aims to extend the scope of its support and funding to include a wider range of deserving programmes and hence enhance the scope of community service carried out by Lions Clubs in Singapore.

Promoting awareness of and support for LCSF activities

Board members continue their effort to publicise, promote and to extend the activities of the Foundation, both with members of their own clubs and that of their zone and regions. The LCSF Website has been up and running at www.lcsf.org.sg and where all pertinent information on the Foundation activities are regularly updated. The website has been effective in attracting both volunteers, (they are channelled to the appropriate Lions organisations) donors through its online donation capability as well as potential beneficiaries seeking financial assistance. The Board is presently looking into extending the capability of the website to publicise its events (both pre and post event) and encourage participation in fund raising and extending the scope and activities of its charity giving.

LCSF Donors

The Lions Community Foundation is grateful to all donors for their generous contributions this fiscal year. The year under review saw a record amount of donations received especially the significant amount donated by PCC Goh Seng Chee and Lions Club of Singapore Lotus. The significant donations were motivated by the need for a new Home that will be built to replace the existing Toa Payoh Home that would be demolished to make way for highway extension.

PCC Goh Seng Chee's donation of \$250,000 is the highest received by the Foundation since its establishment and is designated to the new Bishan Lions Home. Lions Club of Singapore Lotus raised and donated \$100,000 to the Foundation also designated to the new Bishan Lions Home.

With these significant donations the accumulated fund of the Foundation will exceed \$1 million for the first time in its history.

The Lions Foundation Award Scheme

The LCSF Award Scheme was established by the Foundation to recognize individuals (Lions and non Lions) and corporate donors for their contributions. This year the Foundation is pleased to award the following at its AGM.

Lions Club of Singapore Vanda – Lion Felicia Fu and Mrs Betty Kheng Phillips
Lions Club of Singapore Ladyhill – Lion Serene Yong and Overseas Academic Link Pte Ltd
Lions Club of Singapore Lotus and Avitra Aviation Services Pte Ltd
Lions Club of Singapore West
Lions Club of Singapore Katong
Lions Club of Singapore Royal
Lions Club of Singapore Astrid
Lions Club of Singapore Evergreen
Lions Club of Singapore Khatib Mandarin

LCSF Trustees

The Foundation deeply appreciate the services of Lion Tan Kah Hoe (LCS Jurong) and Lion Chim Hou Yan (LCS North) for completing their 2 year term as trustees of the Foundation. Both trustees are invited to attend Board meetings to familiarise themselves with the policies and activities of the Foundation. The Board recommends Lion Chim Hou Yan for election as a trustee at the coming AGM to serve for a period of 2 years.

Conclusion

The Lions Community Service Foundation must continue its efforts to further its objects as stated in the LCSF Constitution & By Laws as the central organisation for fiscal resources generated by Lions fund-raising efforts. The Board of Directors looks to all Lions in District 308-A1 to share and promote the Foundation's Vision and Mission.

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 and Presidents and Members of the Lions Clubs in the district. As Chairman for FY 2011/2012, I am indeed indebted to them.

Eric J P Ng
Chairman
Board of Directors FY2011/2012