



Annual Report

1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014

I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lions Community Service Foundation Singapore for FY 2013/2014.

The members of the Board during this period were

Chairman: PDG Eric J P Ng (LCS West)
Vice Chairman: PDG Sylvester M H Heng (LCS East)
Secretary: PP Isabel Kang (LCS Compassvale)
Treasurer: PP Maggie X Z Shen (LCS Sommerville/Broadway)

Directors:
2nd Year: PP Lo Swee Wen (LCS Katong)
Lion Albert Chua (LCS JiYang)
PP Gary Goh (LCS Garden City)
PP Kiran Goswami (LCS City)
1st Year: PP Lily Tan (LCS Ladyhill)
PP Tan Eng Siong (LCS Henderson)

Ex-Officio

District Governor: Lion David Lee
IPDG Lion Irene Tan
1Vice District Governor: Lion Leslie Yong
2Vice District Governor: Lion Nancy Lim
Representing Lions Home for the Elders: Chairman unless otherwise informed
Representing Lions Befrienders: Lion Richard Koong (Chairman)

Preamble

The Board of Directors is pleased to report the further progress of the Foundation as the central organization for Lions fundraising and charitable donations to Lions and other charitable causes.

Notwithstanding the availability of varied and numerous financial assistance schemes from the Government, the Lions Foundation increasingly finds itself serving the charitable needs of cases that somehow 'fall within the cracks' of the eligibility criteria of the various government assistance schemes. LCSF has thus found its niche in the charity sector beyond the Lions charities it supports.

During the fiscal year reported on, awareness of the Foundation's objectives and programs increased among Lions and members of the public as more Clubs named the Foundation or its



funding programs as the beneficiary of their fund raising projects. Through the Clubs and the Foundation's website, more members of the public became aware of and donated cash and kind to the Foundation. The donation in kind took the form of used spectacles for the Lions' Recycling for Sight projects which are channeled directly to the project organisers.

Foundation Charity Programs

Bursaries for needy and deserving students

The bursary schemes of the Lions Education Fund was extended for the first time to students of the Institute of Technical Education ("ITE"). In a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") signed between LCSF and ITE represented by its Deputy CEO (Industry) LCSF agreed to an annual grant 12 bursary awards of \$1,000 each to 12 needy and deserving ITE students selected by its 3 Colleges in accordance with criteria specified in the MOU. The first grant of \$12,000 was presented to ITE during the signing ceremony held at ITE HQ in Ang Mo Kio on 18 December 2013 for their academic year 2014.

With the inclusion of ITE, the Lions Education Fund bursary schemes would have covered needy and deserving students at all levels of the Singapore education system except for Polytechnic students. In addition to academic education from primary, secondary, junior college to tertiary education levels and skills training institutes, LCSF is being approached by and would likely include more niche educational institutions such as schools for disadvantaged students and the Singapore Institute of Commerce being developed into Singapore's 5th university. Fund for the ITE bursaries were raised by a group of social golfers, most of whom are not Lions club members, celebrating their 10th Anniversary as a golfing group that raised a total of \$180,000 for the various programs of LCSF.

Financial assistance to the destitute

During the period reported on, in addition to disbursements to the widow and children of the Late Lim Chee Keong made destitute due to his untimely death from cancer, LCSF adopted one of 3 school going sisters whose parents left them in the care of their maternal grandmother. Unfortunately the grandmother became ill due to old age and can no longer work to raise the 3 grandchildren. LCSF committed to fund the 4 year secondary education of the eldest sister from 2014 onwards. Funding includes a monthly allowance besides payment for all school related expenses.

This shows the Foundation increasing commitment to longer term charitable funding needs in addition to the various one-off funding projects referred by Lions Clubs and other voluntary welfare organisations. These funding commitments are classified under "Club/District Projects" in the Foundation's financial report.



New premises for Lions Home for the Elders

Piling work for the new Lions Nursing Home in Bishan to replace the current Toa Payoh Home has commenced at the time of writing this report. Both the \$100,000 and \$125,000 donations received by the Foundation last year for the new Home has since been disbursed to the Lions Home for the Elders. The Foundation continues to receive fund raised by Lions Clubs for the new Bishan Home and they would be disbursed to the Home at the appropriate time.

Local Application of Lions International programs

(1) Save Sight / Recycle for Sight Projects

The fight against reversible and preventable blindness is the mainstay of the global aid programs funded by Lions Clubs International Foundation, the charitable funding arm of Lions Clubs International, the parent body of Lions Clubs in Singapore. As blindness is not a major social issue in Singapore, the local application of this international program here is confined to the collection of used spectacles, a key element of the Save Sight program as the most expensive part of a pair of spectacles is the cost of the frame. This donation in kind continues to attract local public support, mostly unsolicited, and they come mainly through the enquiry facility of the LCSF website. The enquiry is basically to know where to send the used spectacles to. Lions Clubs has several collection centres throughout Singapore. The Foundation does not incur any fund in the collection of the used spectacles but the Foundation would pay for the cost incurred to clean and sterilize the used glasses and the logistics of redistribution to those in need.

(2) Lions Quest Workshop

This international program that trains teachers and social workers, both volunteers and professionals to handle 'youth at risk' to prevent them from straying into drugs, delinquency, teenage pregnancy, crime and other life damaging activities resumed in the year reported on with 2 workshops conducted for teachers of ITE in December 2013 and March 2014. It was opportune as ITE is currently developing curriculum for their 'Social Emotional Learning' ("SEL") program. Major aspects of the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence program would be incorporated in ITE's SEL curriculum and LCSF hopes to collaborate with ITE to develop local case studies as well as to localize certain part of the workshop curriculum, to justify our continued funding of this program locally.

LCSF pays the full cost of the workshop including the cost of bringing in a trained instructor from USA or Australia, copyrighted training material while ITE provides the venue for the workshop. No fee is charged for the teachers and other participants of the workshops. LCSF receives a grant from Lions Clubs International to defray 75% of the cost of the workshops. The 25% local funding element comes from LCSF own funds.



Inculcating moral value in schools

The primary school continued with the program initiated last year as part of their moral education program to encourage their students to donate some of their Chinese New Year ang pow money to charity. This year the Foundation introduced the school to one of the senior citizen activity center managed by Lions Befrienders and arranged for the students to experience 'giving' the ang pow to the seniors that normally gather at the Tampines SAC from the collection made by the school.

A secondary school also initiated a similar program where both students and teachers did a collection of ang pow money and made a direct donation to LCSF.

Social activities for the poor and lonely elderlies

Every 4 years Lions Club members from Malaysia and Brunei meet in Singapore for a Lions Convention. As part of the 3 day program of business and fellowship, the Malaysian Lions will join their Singapore counterparts to give a 'treat' to the poor and lonely elderlies by taking them on a 'day out' to visit some of the 'tourist spots' around the island. LCSF would sponsor the cost of this function (transport and food) as part of its contribution to the social activities of the seniors. This is in addition to funding other events to help the poor and lonely to celebrate traditional cultural festivities organized by various Lions Clubs.

Care and Share Program

As part of Singapore's 50th Anniversary celebration, NCSS introduced the Care and Share Program for charities under its wing. LCSF applied for and was approved to participate in this program.

Under this initiative, all donations received by LCSF from 1 December 2013 through 31 December 2014 would attract a dollar for dollar matching grant from the government \$50 million Care and Share Scheme administered by NCSS. Proceeds from the matching fund can only be used for capability and capacity building and new programs.

LCSF submitted its first claim under the Care and Share Scheme on 14 June 2014 as required under the program for just below \$200,000 based on tax exempt donation it received from 1 December 2013 through 31 May 2014.

New initiatives in furtherance of its objectives

A new program that will be funded by LCSF this year from the proceeds of the Care and Share Program would be its sponsorship of the publication of a handbook for caretakers of dementia patients. This handbook is being prepared by students and faculty of the NUS School of Architecture. It is a follow up to its first handbook which was aimed at architects designing buildings that would house dementia



patients. This follow up hand book would be distributed to other institutions involved in taking care of dementia patients and would also be made available to the public who are taking care of dementia patients in their homes. Through the handbook, the care givers would be encouraged to make their abode more accommodating to the particularities of dementia patients.

LCSF would sponsor the cost of content development and printing of the handbook and would determine the distribution of 70% of the books printed, while the School of Architecture would distribute the rest of the books. Should the demand exceed the print run, the Faculty would seek bear the cost of reprint and donate 15% of the reprint run to LCSF distribute or sell to members of the public.

Corporate development of LCSF

- 1) The enhancement of the Foundation's Website has been completed and is being rolled out.
 - a. The improvement would enhance management of online donation received through the Foundation website. The enhanced portal capability would alert foundation officials of any donation made online to enable us to acknowledge and thank the donor immediately before we receive disbursement from ENETs, who receive the cash on behalf of the Foundation.
 - b. The upgraded portal capability would also enable better communication with donors and volunteers to publicise more widely the activities of the Foundation as well as secure their financial support and participation. This covers both the Lions Clubs membership as well as the public.
- 2) As part of its capability development in utilizing the proceeds of the matching funds from the Share and Care program of NCSS, the Foundation has recruited an executive staff to take over some of the administrative work currently handled by volunteer officials. The executive staff would not only enhance the efficiency of the administration of the existing programs of the Foundation, but also expedite the Foundation's response to request for financial assistance or charity giving, fund raising, public relations (updating the website) and volunteer management.

Conclusion and Thanks

In the period under review, LCSF continues to attract both public and Lions Clubs members support for and attention to its activities as manifested by the donations it received and the charity givings it dispensed. As can be seen from its financial report uploaded on the Charity Portal, LCSF received an average of about \$400,000 - \$500,000 in fund raised annually over the past several financial years and in



FY 2013 dispensed doubled the amount it did the previous year. This took into account the time difference in bookkeeping due to the bursary disbursement to tertiary institutions which academic year starts around the time of the closing of the Foundation's financial year.

The Foundation would end this financial year with more than half a million dollars in fund raised, taking into consideration the amount claimed under the Care & Share program, the highest amount since its registration as a charity and IPC in 2003. Notwithstanding its commitment to raise its targeted \$30 million endowment, with its growing array of longer term charitable commitments each year, the Foundation Board would be donating not less than 30% of the annual fund raised to charitable causes within and outside of the Lions movement each financial year.

Needless to say, LCSF owe the success of its ability to raise substantial fund and contribute to the disadvantaged in our community due to its IPC status. We hope that with our continued achievement of our charity objectives, the Commissioner of Charities would continue to approve the extension of our IPC status for a longer period than the one year duration to minimize administrative work for our volunteer officials.

Though there is no term limit in the Foundations' constitution and by-laws, it would be good charity governance that a volunteer not hold the same office for an extended period. It also does not reflect well on members' interests in the affairs of the organization if a particular volunteer continues to remain in the same position. Hence I would not seek re-election to the post of Chairman, Board of Directors for the new fiscal year.

I take this opportunity to thank all members of LCSF for the support given to me during the time I helmed this organization and urge all to give similar support to my successor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J P Ng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Eric J P Ng
Chairman, Board of Directors
16 June 2014