

Bridge



**SOUTH WEST
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL**

#1 2026



ROLLING OUT FRESH SUPPORT

New educational and tech efforts were unveiled at South West District Meeting and Partners Appreciation 2025.



“What stands out is that residents care for me as much as I care for them. It keeps me going.”

MR DAVID HOE
Adviser to Jurong East-Bukit Batok GRC
Grassroots Organisations (Clementi)



➔ 8 ADOPT @ SOUTH WEST

ExxonMobil Singapore marked 15 years of support with its annual household pack distribution.



Wellbeing Seminar @ South West 2025

➔ 10 HEALTHIER SCHOOLS @ SOUTH WEST

Helping children build lifelong habits that give confidence and resilience.



➔ 12 WALKING TRAILS @ CDC

Step out and get active on these fun, easy routes winding through the five districts.

Dear friends,

As we begin the new year, we reflect on 2025 with appreciation for the steady progress made by our South West community.

Much of this headway was made possible through close collaboration with our partners and volunteers. Their dedication uplifted residents in practical and meaningful ways, from strengthening family ties to encouraging healthier lifestyles. Together, these efforts have helped make South West a more inclusive and vibrant home.

We have also made strides in promoting healthier living. The Walking Trails @ CDC programme encouraged residents of all ages to stay active while discovering familiar places afresh. The Healthier Schools @ South West effort built on this, with schools and partners introducing wellbeing initiatives for young residents to develop healthy habits and confidence early in life, setting a firm foundation for their future.

In addition, South West CDC strengthened support for residents to upskill during their career journey. Jobs Nearby @ CDC helped connect jobseekers with work opportunities closer to home through the guidance and practical assistance of newly established Job Ambassadors and Community Job Clinics.

I would like to congratulate our South West Caring Partner Awards 2024 and National Day Awards 2025 recipients. Their contributions continue to uplift our district and reflect the shared values that bring our community together.

As we head into 2026, let us build on this momentum by strengthening our partnerships, supporting families at different life stages, and creating more opportunities for residents to grow and connect. With continued collaboration with partners, volunteers and residents, we will shape a caring, vibrant and resilient South West District.

**Rakan-rakan yang dihormati,**

Sambil kita memulakan tahun baru ini, kita renung kembali tahun 2025 dengan rasa bangga atas kemajuan yang telah dicapai oleh masyarakat Barat Daya kita.

Sebahagian besar kemajuan ini berjaya dicapai disebabkan kerjasama erat dengan rakan kongsi dan para sukarelawan kami. Dedikasi mereka telah membantu penduduk secara praktikal dan bermakna, daripada memperkukuh ikatan keluarga sehingga menggalak gaya hidup yang lebih sihat. Secara keseluruhan, usaha-usaha ini telah membantu menjadikan kawasan Barat Daya sebuah tempat tinggal yang lebih inklusif dan bertenaga.

Kami juga telah mencapai kemajuan dalam mempromosikan kehidupan yang lebih sihat. Program Jejak Berjalan @ CDC menggalakkan penduduk daripada semua lapisan usia agar kekal aktif sambil meneroka semula tempat-tempat yang sudah mereka ketahui. Usaha Healthier Schools @ South West dibina atas dasar ini, dengan sekolah dan rakan kongsi memperkenalkan inisiatif-inisiatif kesejahteraan untuk penduduk muda membina tabiat yang sihat dan keyakinan diri di awal kehidupan, lantas membina asas yang kukuh untuk masa hadapan mereka.

Di samping itu, Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Daya mengukuhkan sokongan untuk penduduk pertingkatkan kemahiran dalam perjalanan kerja mereka. Jobs Nearby @ CDC membantu menghubungkan pencari kerja dengan peluang-peluang pekerjaan yang lebih dekat dengan rumah melalui bimbingan dan bantuan praktikal daripada Duta Pekerjaan dan Klinik Pekerjaan Masyarakat yang baru ditubuhkan.

Saya ingin mengucapkan tahniah kepada penerima Anugerah Rakan Kongsi Prihatin Barat Daya 2024 dan Anugerah Hari Kebangsaan 2025. Sumbangan mereka terus membantu kawasan kita dan mencerminkan nilai-nilai bersama yang menyatukan masyarakat kita.

Sambil kita melangkah ke tahun 2026, ayuh kita lanjutkan momentum ini dengan memperkukuh kerjasama kita, menyokong keluarga di peringkat kehidupan yang berbeza, dan mewujudkan lebih banyak peluang untuk penduduk berkembang dan berhubung. Dengan kerjasama yang berterusan dengan rakan kongsi, sukarelawan dan penduduk, kita akan membentuk Masyarakat Barat Daya yang prihatin, bertenaga dan berdaya tahan.

அன்பார்ந்த நண்பர்களே,

புத்தாண்டைத் தொடங்குகையில், நமது தென்மேற்குச் சமூகம் அடைந்துள்ள நிலையான முன்னேற்றத்தைப் பாராட் டுவதுடன் 2025 ஆம் ஆண்டைப் பற்றி சிந்தித்துப் பார்க்கிறோம்.

இந்த முன்னேற்றத்தில் பெரும்பகுதி எமது பங்காளர்கள் மற்றும் தொண்டுகளுடனான நெருக்கமான ஒத்துழைப்பு மூலமே சாத்தியமானது. அவர்களின் அர்ப்பணிப்பு, குடும்ப உறவுகளை வலுப்படுத்துவது முதல் ஆரோக்கியமான வாழ்க்கை முறைகளை ஊக்குவிப்பது வரை நடைமுறை ரீதியாகவும் அர்த்தமுள்ள வழிகளிலும் குடியிருப்பாளர்களை மேம்படுத்தியது. ஒன்றிணைந்து மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்ட இந்த முயற்சிகள், தென்மேற்குச் சமூகத்தை அனைவரையும் அதிகம் உள்ளடக்கிய சமூகமாக மற்றும் துடிப்புமிக்க இல்லமாக மாற்ற உதவியுள்ளன.

ஆரோக்கியமான வாழ்க்கையை மேம்படுத்துவதிலும் நாம் முன்னேற்றம் கண்டுள்ளோம். Walking Trails @ CDC திட்டம், அனைத்து வயதினரும் பழக்கமான இடங்களை புதிதாகக் கண்டறிய வழிவகுத்த அதே வேளையில் அவர்கள் சுறுசுறுப்பாக திகழுவதையும் ஊக்குவித்தது. இதன் அடிப்படையில் கட்டமைக்கப்பட்ட “Healthier Schools @ South West” என்ற முயற்சியின் மூலம், பள்ளிகளும் பங்காளர்களும் இளம் குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் தங்களின் வாழ்க்கையின் ஆரம்பத்திலேயே ஆரோக்கியமான பழக்கவழக்கங்களையும் நம்பிக்கையையும் வளர்த்துக் கொள்ள நல்வாழ்வுத் திட்டங்களை அறிமுகப்படுத்தி, அவர்களின் எதிர்காலத்திற்கு உறுதியான அடித்தளத்தை அமைத்தனர்.

அது மட்டுமின்றி, குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் தங்கள் வாழ்க்கைத்தொழில் பயணத்தின்போது திறன்களை மேம்படுத்துவதற்கான ஆதரவை தென்மேற்கு சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம் வலுப்படுத்தியது. Jobs Nearby @ CDC ஆனது, புதிதாக நிறுவப்பட்ட வேலைவாய்ப்புத் தூதர்கள் மற்றும் சமூக வேலைவாய்ப்பு நிலையங்களின் வழிகாட்டுதல் மற்றும் நடைமுறை ரீதியான உதவி மூலம் வேலை தேடுபவர்களை இல்லத்திற்கு அருகிலுள்ள வேலை வாய்ப்புகளுடன் இணைக்க உதவியது.

எமது தென்மேற்கு பராமரிப்பு பங்காளர் விருதுகள் 2024 மற்றும் தேசிய தின விருதுகள் 2025 பெற்றவர்களுக்கு நான் வாழ்த்துகள் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். அவர்களின் பங்களிப்புகள் நமது மாவட்டத்தை தொடர்ந்து மேம்படுத்துவதோடு, நமது சமூகத்தை ஒன்றிணைக்கும் வகையில் நாம் அனைவரும் சேர்ந்து உருவாக்கிய மதிப்புகளையும் பிரதிபலிக்கின்றன.

2026 ஆம் ஆண்டில் நாம் அடியெடுத்து வைக்கையில், நமது பங்காளித்துவத்தை வலுப்படுத்துவதன் மூலமும், வெவ்வேறு வாழ்க்கை நிலைகளில் உள்ள குடும்பங்களை ஆதரிப்பதன் மூலமும், குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் வளருவதற்கும் இணைப்பில் இருப்பதற்கும் அதிக வாய்ப்புகளை உருவாக்குவதன் மூலமும் இந்த உத்வேகத்தை உருவாக்குவோம். பங்காளர்கள், தொண்டுகள் மற்றும் குடியிருப்பாளர்களுடனான தொடர்ச்சியான ஒத்துழைப்பு மூலம், அக்கறையுள்ள, துடிப்பான மற்றும் மீள்திறன் மிக்க தென்மேற்கு மாவட்டத்தை வடிவமைப்போம்.

亲爱的朋友们，

踏入新的一年，我们欣慰地回顾西南社区在2025年所取得的稳健发展。

这当中的许多成果，都有赖于我们与众多社区合作伙伴和义工的紧密合作。他们的付出实实在在地改善了居民的生活：无论是增进家庭关系、或是鼓励健康生活方式。大家的共同努力，正让西南社区逐步发展成一个更具包容性、更充满活力的家园。

在推广健康生活方面，我们也取得了良好的进展。社理会齐步乐探计划（Walking Trails @ CDC）鼓励不同年龄层的居民活动身心、重新探索熟悉的社区环境。在此基础上，西南健康校园计划（Healthier Schools @ South West）进一步联合学校与合作伙伴，为年轻居民推行多项健康计划，帮助他们从小培养良好的生活习惯、建立自信、为未来打下坚实的基础。

此外，西南社理会也加强了对居民职业发展与技能提升的支持。社理会职业配对计划（Jobs Nearby @ CDC）通过就业大使和新建立的社区求职诊所，为求职者提供贴心的指导和实际的帮助，协助他们匹配住家附近的工作机会。

在此，我谨向2024年西南社区关怀伙伴奖（西南社区关怀奖）以及2025年国庆奖章获得者表示祝贺。他们的奉献持续提升本区居民的福祉，也体现了凝聚社区的共同价值观。

展望2026年，让我们乘势而上，进一步强化伙伴关系，支持不同人生阶段的家庭，并为居民创造更多成长与交流的机会。在合作伙伴、义工与居民的持续携手的努力下，我们定能共同打造一个更关爱、活力、与坚韧的西南社区。



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WHAT'S HAPPENING SOUTH WEST

20 NATIONAL DAY AWARDS 2025

Congratulations to the award recipients! District Councillors Ms Jenny Wee, BBM, and Mr Foo Hee Jug, PPA(P), BBM, reflect on the work that keeps jobseekers better guided and families healthier across the South West District.



>> Bridge

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Ms Wilna Tan
Ms Lim Yee Leng
Ms Lauren Neo
Ms Mindy Chia
Ms Yasmin Zafrullah

EDITORIAL AND DESIGN

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For enquiries, please email southwest_cdc@pa.gov.sg



The JTC Summit
8 Jurong Town Hall Road
#26-06 Singapore 609434
Tel: 6316 1616



<https://southwest.cdc.gov.sg/>

BRINGING JOBS CLOSER TO HOME

A nationwide initiative connecting resident jobseekers with jobs closer to where they live.



FINDING A JOB NEAR HOME CAN BE DIFFICULT, especially for caregivers, those less familiar with technology or residents with health concerns.

Jobs Nearby @ CDC, announced by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong during the National Day Rally 2025 and officially launched on 23 October 2025 at Taman Jurong Community Club, aims to bridge this last-mile gap by connecting resident jobseekers to opportunities in their neighbourhoods.

Speaking at the launch, PM Wong said the five Community Development Councils (CDCs) play an active role in nurturing volunteerism and strengthening Singapore's social fabric. He noted that while many community initiatives are already underway, the CDCs were ready to roll out a major nationwide effort to address one of Singaporeans' most pressing concerns – jobs.

"We will continue to do all we can at the national level, and we have plans to do more. But national efforts alone are not enough. They have to be complemented by community initiatives because some jobseekers have very specific needs," he said.

He cited examples of jobseekers who may prefer to work near home

to better balance work and family responsibilities, or who may prefer more flexible arrangements. At the same time, heartland businesses and merchants have said they need more workers but cannot find them.

"So there is a gap, and this gap is best bridged at the local or community level and that is where the CDCs come in," PM Wong said.

Mayor of South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling, said earlier job fairs showed that many residents, such as seniors and caregivers, need more support in their job search while job opportunities exist in the heartlands but might not be known to residents looking for them.



Jobseekers attend virtual interviews for nearby opportunities.



A Job Ambassador discussing suitable job options with a resident.

"This is where the CDCs can bridge the gap between jobseekers and employers in the neighbourhood. We can help meet each other's needs, improve livelihoods and sustain businesses," she said.

Central to the initiative are Job Ambassadors, who are stationed at community job clinics at Community Centres/Clubs (CCs) in all five districts. They guide residents through job hunting, from understanding their needs to arranging interviews and following up once a job has been secured.

Job Ambassador, Ms Goh Lay Choo, said technology helps them reach jobseekers more proactively. Residents who register for jobs are placed in a referral portal that Job Ambassadors can access. "We contact them to ask what job they are looking for and link them with potential employers," she said.

Her fellow Job Ambassador, Ms Cheryl Tan, said the support provided often extends beyond matching jobseekers to vacancies. "Some jobseekers struggle with writing a resume. We help them draft resumes, apply for jobs, and follow up within a week and again after a month after they've secured a job," she said, adding that such follow-up is important in helping some jobseekers adapt to their roles.

One jobseeker, Ms Jariis Tan, 36, had been a stay-at-home mother caring for her children. When she was ready to return to full-time work, she needed a job near her home in Boon Lay with flexibility for family duties. With support from Job Ambassador, Ms Cheryl Tan, interviews were arranged with suitable employers, and she secured a customer service role at Ebenezer Logistics Pte Ltd within two weeks.

SOFT LAUNCH IN THE SOUTH WEST

The programme began in the South West District, soft-launched by Mayor Low on 31 August 2025 at Hillview CC, ahead of its nationwide rollout. A South West Community Job Fair was held at the same venue as part of the launch event.

Employers said flexible work arrangements had made hiring easier. Food services company Select Group, for example, offers six-hour, six-day-a-week roles for stall assistants, kitchen helpers and cashiers. "These appeal to housewives who need to care for children, and to seniors who cannot stand for long hours," said Assistant HR Manager (Recruitment), Ms Kristi Chng.

The Bukit Gombak Traders' Association has also met jobseekers from varied backgrounds. Its Chairman, Mr Chee Chin Young, said, "We met highly educated candidates who are retiring, and want jobs near home, as well as residents with long retail experience seeking similar roles."

For many resident jobseekers, Jobs Nearby @ CDC offers a practical route to stay active and independent as they return to work. Mr Rosman Ibrahim, 59, has a chronic medical condition and managed to find a part-time role with Focus Security, just a short distance from home. "Jobs Nearby @ CDC is a really helpful initiative," he shared. "For me, working closer to home has been such a blessing, as it saves me time on commuting and makes it easier to attend medical appointments and manage my health." **B**

HOW TO GET started

For more information on Jobs Nearby @ CDC, visit go.gov.sg/jobsnearbycdc. Resident jobseekers can register at go.gov.sg/cdcjobsnearby or book an appointment with a Job Ambassador at their nearest CC.



BANDING TOGETHER TO UPLIFT THE COMMUNITY

A new AI-powered learning programme in the South West District is giving students from vulnerable families extra support in their studies, while community partners and volunteers continue to step up with initiatives that meet residents' everyday needs.



Minister for Education and Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration, Mr Desmond Lee; Acting Minister for Transport and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance, Mr Jeffrey Siow; Mayor of South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling; and Chief Executive Director of People's Association, Mr Jimmy Toh, launched the Learning with AI Personalisation @ South West (LAP @ South West) programme with representatives from KiteSense Pte Ltd, Temasek Foundation, Quantedge Foundation and the Singapore University of Social Sciences.

ROUND-THE-CLOCK SUPPORT FROM AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TUTOR IS NOW WITHIN REACH FOR 1,500 PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE SOUTH WEST DISTRICT, THANKS TO A NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVE.

The programme, Learning with AI Personalisation @ South West (LAP @ South West), was launched by Minister for Education, Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration and Adviser to West Coast-Jurong West GRC GROs, Mr Desmond Lee, at the South West District Meeting & Partners Appreciation 2025 on 13 September 2025 at SAFRA Choa Chu Kang.

Developed with KiteSense Pte Ltd and supported by Temasek Foundation, Quantedge Foundation and the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), it gives Primary 4 to 6 students access to a digital learning platform, which uses AI to support learning in core subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science.

The platform personalises each student's experience based on their habits, pace and needs, offering bite-sized guidance at any time of the day. During study sessions at some Community Centres/Clubs, community volunteers are also on hand to help students navigate the platform, build independent study habits, and provide motivation and emotional support.

MAKING LEARNING FUN

Since its soft launch in February 2025, LAP @ South West has enrolled nearly 250 students. SUSS will be studying the results to identify best practices that can guide the volunteers and strengthen the programme.

"Working with schools, the programme combines the passion, resources and expertise of our volunteers and partners with AI to provide personalised guidance, motivation and encouragement for students in their studies," said Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District. The programme also showcases how different sectors can work together to make education accessible to all, she added.

For Primary 6 student Muhd Aqil, who joined the Nanyang Sayang community programme that provides free mentorship and tuition for children from low-income families, the platform has become part of his exam prep routine. "It is easy and I can understand the explanation for each answer well, so I can learn

independently," he said. "When I get bored or tired, I can use the chat function for some fun."

REACHING RESIDENTS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

The new AI learning programme is part of South West Community Development Council's (CDC) wider effort to uplift residents. In 2024, a total of 27 assistance schemes and programmes benefitted around 60,000 residents. These efforts were made possible through partnerships with more than 420 corporate and community partners. The CDC's partners also contributed more than \$3.6 million in cash and kind, while close to 4,000 volunteers gave their time.

At the appreciation event, 12 partners received the South West Caring Partner Award for their outstanding contributions in 2024. "As we reflect on South West CDC's work over the past year, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all our partners and volunteers," said Ms Low. "Your collective efforts have been vital in meeting the diverse and evolving needs of our residents."



Students from ITE College West opened the event with an energetic hip-hop performance.

PARTNERS SUPPORTING DAILY NEEDS

Among those recognised were longstanding and newer partners whose efforts go beyond learning support to provide residents with practical help in their daily lives.

ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, a partner for over two decades, was once more recognised with the South West Caring Partner Award. Its steady contributions include the annual Household Pack Distribution and the South West CDC-ExxonMobil Transport Bursary. "We are very humbled by the recognition that we get from the South West CDC every year," said Ms Karen Wong, the company's Public and Government Affairs Director.

Community organisation Hao Ren Hao Shi, a partner since 2023, has focused on bringing groceries to vulnerable families, especially elderly residents. Through the Mobile Groceries @ South West programme, its monthly distributions not only deliver food and daily necessities but also give residents and volunteers a chance to connect with one another. Its founder, Mr Anson Ng, said, "We like that the initiative's collection point gathers everyone together. They can interact with and perhaps look out for one another. Many seniors have also shown appreciation for not having to walk too far to pick up their items."



Twelve corporate and community partners received the South West Caring Partner Award 2024 for their contributions towards building an inclusive and resilient South West District.

Recipients OF SOUTH WEST CARING PARTNER AWARDS 2024

► Corporate MNC

Diamond Siltronic Singapore Pte Ltd
Diamond ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Diamond P&G Singapore
Sapphire Singtel
Ruby HP Singapore

► Corporate SME

Diamond Koh Kock Leong Enterprise Pte Ltd
Diamond The Social Equity Pte Ltd
Emerald Select Group Pte Ltd

► Community

Diamond Hao Ren Hao Shi Ltd
Diamond Singapore Polytechnic
Sapphire ITE College West
Ruby Bo Tien Welfare Services Society



New partner and South West Caring Partner Award 2024 recipient Select Group Pte Ltd has helped vulnerable residents through the Value Meals @ South West programme. In March 2025, it introduced vending machines across the district that dispense ready-to-eat halal meals at \$3 or less, to help households manage rising cost of living.

Managing Director of Select Group, Mr Vincent Tan, said, "When we developed the Value Meals, we took their concerns and cost into consideration. We wanted to make tasty and nutritious food that's also affordable. At the launch of the Value Meals @ South West in March, we contributed \$600,000 worth of credits for families in South West District to claim their Value Meals."

Together, these collaborations show how cross-sector partnerships continue to address the diverse needs of the South West community. In light of the SG60 milestone year, Ms Low also called on everyone to stay united in their shared mission. "Through our collective strength and shared commitment, we truly are Stronger Together, As One Singapore," she said. **B**



The Happy Ukers Group (HUG) from Bukit Gombak Division entertained the audience with a lively performance.



Themed "Stronger Together, As One Singapore", the South West District Meeting and Partners Appreciation 2025 celebrated the unity and inclusivity of the South West community.

A LASTING BOND OF GIVING AND GRATITUDE

ExxonMobil and South West CDC mark 15 years of bringing care and community connection to residents through the distribution of household packs.



Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Education and Adviser to West Coast-Jurong West GRC GROs, and Mayor Low Yen Ling, together with ExxonMobil staff volunteers and their families.

FOR 42-YEAR-OLD MADAM NOVA HARIYANA, the household pack distribution at Boon Lay Drive was the first time she met the volunteers who had quietly left the packs outside her door in past years. "I'm very happy to thank them face-to-face for the support they've given us," said the single mother, who works full-time as an admin assistant while raising her seven-year-old daughter. "The toothpaste is very useful. So is the rice, because I cook every day for my daughter, who doesn't like eating outside food."

Held on 19 July 2025 at the sheltered basketball court at Blk 177 Boon Lay Drive, the event marked the 15th edition of the annual ExxonMobil Household Pack Distribution, as part of Adopt @ South West.

The initiative is part of a longstanding partnership between ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd and South West Community Development Council (CDC) spanning more than two decades, to support vulnerable families and students across the district.

Over 300 ExxonMobil staff and their families turned up to pack and distribute essential items — including rice, soap, toothpaste and more — to about 1,100 households in Boon Lay. Much effort goes into ensuring each pack meets residents' needs.

In celebration of SG60, ExxonMobil also donated 30 refurbished laptops to families with school-going children. The initiative was spearheaded by the

company's Women Interest Network and Parent Support Group, with employees rallying together to raise funds for local charity Engineering Good to refurbish the devices.

Mdm Nova's daughter was among the recipients. "My child was very happy. The laptop helped her complete her schoolwork more easily," she shared.

VOLUNTEERING THAT INSPIRES

For 58-year-old Mr Isham bin Murni, the household pack was a welcome relief as he recovers from a torn arm ligament and searches for a new job. "It helps defray some expenses as I'm not working now," said the father of three.

Despite his challenges, Mr Isham

volunteers actively in his neighbourhood. Over the past two years, he has helped organise events at Boon Lay Community Club, and distributed subsidised groceries and free vegetables to vulnerable residents. "It's important that we not only receive, but give as well," he said. "I also try to teach my children to help and support those in need."

Meanwhile, ExxonMobil employee, Mr Arni Rajaram Tharakaran, has been regularly volunteering for this initiative. What began as a one-off activity is now something he looks forward to.

"Volunteering should come from the heart, without expecting anything in return," he said. "We should do something meaningful with our free time instead of just scrolling on our phones or watching TV." Through volunteering, he has connected with people from all walks of life and built strong bonds with fellow colleagues and residents.

Another long-time ExxonMobil volunteer, Ms Dawn Lim, served on the organising committee for the fourth year running. "I get to build on previous years' experience to make each event run smoother," she said. She has even brought her then-boyfriend — now husband — to volunteer, and looks forward to involving her children when they are older.

A LEGACY OF PARTNERSHIP AND CARE

The household pack distribution was graced by Minister for Education and Adviser to West Coast-Jurong West GRC GROs, Mr Desmond Lee, and Mayor of South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling, who commended the long-running partnership and the dedication of volunteers.

"As we celebrate Singapore's 60th year of independence, we are reminded of the vital roles that families and community resilience play in our journey of nation building," said Mr Lee. He also shared how Mdm Nova's story reflected the deeper impact of the initiative. "Apart from the items she received, the warmth that the volunteers bring makes her day brighter," he said.

Ms Low noted the significant milestone. "This year, we mark 15 years of partnership between the South West CDC and ExxonMobil on this care pack initiative — a collaboration that has touched the lives of many residents," she said.



The distribution included a household pack and 30 refurbished laptops to families with school-going children.

HOW EXXONMOBIL supports THE SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY

- ▶ About **1,100** families in Boon Lay received household packs worth \$40 each.
- ▶ As part of SG60, **30** refurbished laptops were donated to families with school-going children.
- ▶ ExxonMobil and South West CDC have worked together for more than **20** years to uplift vulnerable residents across the district.



Madam Nova Hariyana was thankful for the household pack and laptop from ExxonMobil.



Residents received household packs, curated based on their needs and feedback.

She also paid tribute to Mr Tharakaran's commitment. "What started as a one-time volunteer activity has become a regular commitment. He believes that volunteering is not just about helping others, it brings him a sense of satisfaction and joy, especially when he gets to do it together with his team members and colleagues," said Ms Low. She added that his spirit of service goes beyond company programmes, as he has also volunteered in grassroots activities to serve residents in his neighbourhood.

For ExxonMobil, the heart of this initiative lies in sustaining meaningful relationships.

Ms Geraldine Chin, Chairman and Managing Director of ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, highlighted that the company is committed to long-term support in the communities where it operates. She shared how the household and essential items were curated based on residents' needs, and how the refurbished laptop initiative reflected the company's effort to promote digital inclusion.

Through such collaborations, ExxonMobil's ongoing partnership with the South West CDC demonstrates that when businesses, volunteers and the community come together, even small acts of kindness can leave a lasting impact. **B**



Volunteers helping to pack rice and other essentials for the families.

These household packs bring relief to the vulnerable residents of South West.



Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District, launching Healthier Schools @ South West alongside Dr Quek Lit Sin, PPA (G), Co-Chairman of the Healthy & Active Lifestyle Committee, South West CDC; Mr Andrew Mah, Principal of Westwood Primary School; and Anya and Raoof, students from Westwood Primary School.

HEALTHY LIVING STARTS YOUNG

Healthier Schools @ South West supports schools in promoting student wellbeing through education.

HEALTHY HABITS FORMED IN CHILDHOOD CAN LAST A LIFETIME – AND SCHOOLS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN SHAPING THEM. In line with the national Healthier SG movement, the South West Community Development Council (CDC) launched the refreshed Healthier Schools @ South West programme at the inaugural Wellbeing Seminar on 23 July 2025 at Westwood Primary School. The initiative aims to nurture healthy, resilient students by helping schools integrate wellness education into daily learning environments.

“With stronger, all-round support, our students learn to develop resilience and form healthy lifestyle habits that protect them for life,” said Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District. “This foundation is vital as our young people face multi-faceted pressures in today’s fast-evolving world.”

Anchored by five community goals – Eat Smart; Move More; Think Bright; Be Wise; and Rest Well – the programme promotes physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. It also addresses rising concerns

such as cyberbullying, mental wellness and emotional stress, and excessive screen time.

SHARING IDEAS AND INSPIRATION The Wellbeing Seminar brought together health experts, educators and community partners for a meaningful exchange of insights and resources.

Speakers from the National University Health System (NUHS) and Ng Teng Fong General Hospital (NTFGH) shared practical strategies to support student wellbeing. Meanwhile, exhibition booths by Westwood Primary School, Hwa Chong Institution and community partners – such as SHINE Children and Youth Services and Focus on the Family – showcased wellness initiatives that schools could adopt.

“I saw that the Hwa Chong Institution booth featured a mental wellbeing week – our school does not have that yet, so we might explore it from next year onwards,” said Mdm Aneeshah Binte Shaik Uthuman, Subject Head for Student Wellbeing and Discipline Teacher at Hua Yi Secondary School. “The seminar is a good platform to learn about other schools’ practices.”

Mr Muhammad Taufiq Bin Rozman, Professional Mentor (Friend) of SHINE Children and Youth Services’ STAR Programme, concurred. “It is a good opportunity to share more about our different services,” he said. SHINE supports children and youths in building social-emotional competencies through a range of programmes and resources.

At the Westwood Primary School booth, student representatives presented their school’s efforts. “Our *Hope* booklet is very special to us,” said Primary 6 student Lovey Wong, referring to a student journal that helps children set achievable goals and reflect on their growth.

Lovey also shared about other wellbeing initiatives her school organises, such as picnics and camps. “These activities

make me happy and help me think about positive education,” she said. “After each session, we reflect on our THRIVE values. For example, I learnt teamwork through the camp and sharing through the picnic.”

Key focus areas in Westwood’s THRIVE Model for Positive Education include

Voices FROM THE WELLBEING SEMINAR

- **Westwood Primary School** shared its Positive Education journey and showed how resilience and character can be embedded in school life.
- **Ms Claire Ong, Co-Founder of Positive Movement**, explained how organisations can foster wellbeing by applying evidence-based practices.
- **Mr Thomas Tsang, Counsellor at Eagles Mediation and Counselling Centre**, spoke on self-care during grief and described ways to cope with loss.
- **Dr Chee Tji Tjian, Consultant Psychiatrist, Department of Psychological Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUHS**, outlined how to enable wellbeing in children and offered practical advice for parents.
- **Dr Soh Poh Choong, Principal Resident Physician, Department of Emergency Medicine, Ng Teng Fong General Hospital**, addressed the health risks of youth vaping and drug-laced vapes, and how schools and parents can better protect and educate students.



A SHINE Children & Youth Services representative sharing about the organisation’s wellbeing initiatives.



Hands-on activities engaged students, educators and community partners on wellbeing topics.

nurturing lasting positive relationships, sustaining positive emotions, fostering mindfulness and resilience, encouraging the state of flow, cultivating a growth mindset, deepening one’s sense of meaning and purpose, and increasing awareness of character strengths in oneself and others.

GROWING A STRONG ECOSYSTEM FOR WELLNESS

While more schools are actively supporting student wellbeing, the journey is not without its challenges. “Sometimes you need to have a certain rapport with the student for them to be able to open up to you,” said Mdm Aneeshah, reflecting on how it can be difficult for some students to express their struggles.

Mr Taufiq echoed this sentiment: “My biggest challenge is understanding what the child needs, since there’s no one-size-fits-all approach to wellbeing.” At SHINE, mentors work closely with students to assess their needs and tailor appropriate interventions.

As the Healthier Schools @ South West

initiative continues to grow, collaboration remains key. “As we aspire towards a healthier South West District, I invite all schools to come on board the programme,” said Ms Low. “Together, we can create a more supportive and nurturing environment for our students to grow and develop well.”

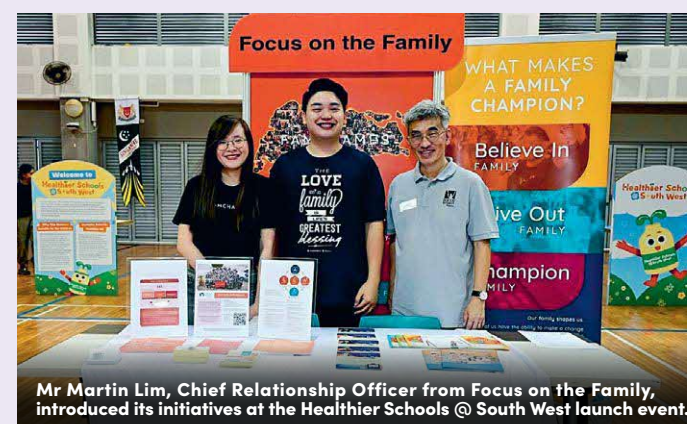
Healthier Schools @ South West will continue to expand its reach with new efforts, including a roving wellness exhibition and a new 3-star programme – a structured

and practical pathway that guides schools in incorporating wellness activities into daily learning. From 2026, participating schools that achieve set wellness milestones under this framework will be recognised annually for their commitment to student wellbeing.

“I hope that more educators can benefit from this programme,” said Mdm Aneeshah. “Mental wellbeing is very important for child growth and development. At the end of the day, we want to show the students that we are always standing by them.” **B**

5 COMMUNITY goals OF HEALTHIER SCHOOLS @ SOUTH WEST

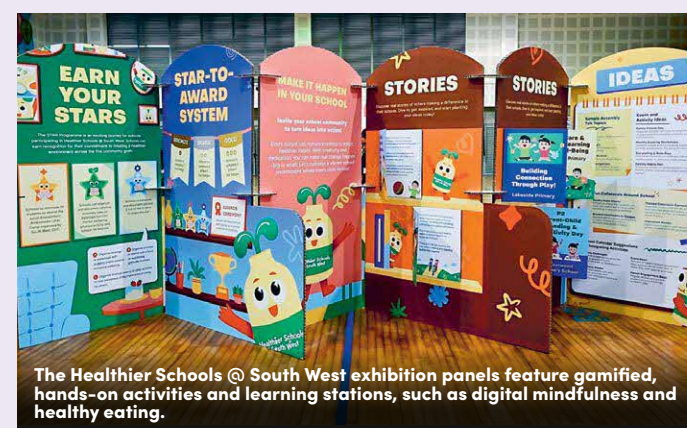
- **Eat Smart** • **Move More** • **Think Bright**
- **Be Wise, Be Kind** • **Rest Well**



Mr Martin Lim, Chief Relationship Officer from Focus on the Family, introduced its initiatives at the Healthier Schools @ South West launch event.



Lovey Wong introducing Westwood Primary School’s *Hope* booklet to educators and community partners.



The Healthier Schools @ South West exhibition panels feature gamified, hands-on activities and learning stations, such as digital mindfulness and healthy eating.



Ms Wendy Goh, School Counsellor of Hwa Chong Institution, shared about the school’s wellbeing centre.



Educator Mdm Aneeshah Binte Shaik Uthuman learning about Westwood Primary School’s wellbeing initiatives.

TAKING STEPS TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER COMMUNITY

The new Walking Trails @ CDC encourages residents to embrace healthy living, connect with others and rediscover the rich heritage and hidden gems of Singapore.



Minister Edwin Tong, Mayor Low Yen Ling, Mayor Denise Phua, Mayor Baey Yam Keng, Mayor Alex Yam and Mayor Dinesh Vasu Dash with participants at the launch of Walking Trails @ CDC.

HERE WAS A BUZZ AT ASSUMPTION PATHWAY SCHOOL AS RESIDENTS GATHERED FOR THE LAUNCH OF WALKING TRAILS @ CDC, a national initiative by the five Community Development Councils (CDCs) and the Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech Singapore).

Launched in support of Healthier SG, Walking Trails @ CDC takes a fresh approach to active living. The “phygital” experience — combining physical walks with digital engagement — lets participants collect CDC Ollies (see sidebar) at trail checkpoints.

“This is a great initiative because it encourages us to walk, to be active and most importantly, to be able to do it with friends and family,” said Guest-of-Honour Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs.

“Fitness is one thing, but building social capital, building cohesion, walking together with friends, is really something else.”

Echoing his view, Ms Low Yen Ling, Chairman of Mayor’s Committee and Mayor of South West District, said, “Walking Trails @ CDC aims to build healthy and inclusive communities across Singapore. The phygital trails offer families and friends of all ages a novel way to walk and discover their neighbourhood together.”



Led by Madam Tan Hoon Kheng (second from left), 30 members of the Fun Walkers Club from Bukit Gombak-Hillview Connections Residents’ Network joined the trail.



Bright skies and brisk steps carried the walkers from Cashew Road to Bukit Timah.

She added that the initiative helps bond generations through shared experiences: “Technology can enhance our social activities and support active living. We hope this SG60 collaboration with GovTech Singapore, in support of Healthier SG, will encourage Singaporeans to have fun together, explore and experience our home truly.”

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

One of the most spirited groups at the launch was the Fun Walkers Club from Bukit Gombak-Hillview Connections Residents’ Network (RN), led by Madam Tan Hoon Kheng, 61. She rallied 30 members aged between 50 and 84 for the trail.

Before every walk, Mdm Tan conducts a 15-minute warm-up to prepare seniors physically. Over the years, the group has explored areas such as MacRitchie Reservoir and the Singapore Botanic Gardens, and walked routes leading to Holland Village Market & Food Centre, Senja Hawker Centre and Yuhua Village Market & Food Centre.

To add novelty, she keeps the routes a surprise. “Not everyone needs to finish the walk,” she said. “What matters is that they enjoy the experience.” She also guides older members on how to get home safely by bus or MRT if they get tired.

Her care has made the group more than just a walking club. “Most of us have been friends for over 10 years. We walk, we talk and we make friends,” she shared. “My goal is to get the seniors out of the house — and bring them to places with a good breakfast!”



Minister Edwin Tong, Mayor Low Yen Ling, Mayor Denise Phua, Mayor Baey Yam Keng, Mayor Alex Yam and Mayor Dinesh Vasu Dash launching Walking Trails @ CDC.

FINDING FRIENDSHIP AND RESILIENCE ON THE TRAIL

For Ms Diana Lim, 64, joining the Bukit Gombak-Hillview Fun Walkers two-and-a-half years ago was a turning point. After leaving her corporate job to care for her mother with dementia, she sought companionship and found it through the walks. “I’ve made good friends in the group. We’ve gone on outings to places like museums and Little Guilin,” she said.

The walks also led her to try new activities like chair yoga and helping less-active seniors with group exercises. “It’s comforting to be part of a community that lives nearby and shares common interests,” she said.

She is not alone in finding renewed purpose through walking. Mr Lau Tin San, 65, has been part of the group since 2014. What began as a way to improve his health became much more. “I enjoy the walks and going for breakfast with my fellow Fun Walkers afterwards,” he said. “My health has improved since I joined, and I also take part in Taichi and Qigong classes at Hillview Community Club.”

Mdm Tan said her group also embraced the gamified element of the trail. “We had a lot of fun catching the Ollies. It wasn’t just about completing the walk — our members were laughing, encouraging one another and waiting for those who walked more slowly so that nobody felt left behind. That’s how we bond as a group,” she added.

EXPLORING FAMILIAR PLACES WITH FRESH EYES

Spanning a total of 23.95km across five districts, each curated trail weaves through heritage zones, nature trails and community landmarks across Singapore.

At the launch, residents took a scenic 5.5km route that began at Assumption Pathway School, wound past Cashew MRT station and Singapore Quarry, and ended at the former Bukit Timah Railway Station. Along the way, they enjoyed a refreshing mix of greenery and urban sights — a glimpse of what the other four district trails across Singapore offer.

As groups wrapped up their walk with cheerful snapshots and laughter, the spirit of the initiative stood out: Walking Trails @ CDC is not just about staying active. It is about strengthening social ties, creating shared memories, discovering our community and taking active steps towards a stronger, more connected Singapore. **B**

MEET THE CDC Ollies — YOUR DIGITAL TRAIL BUDDIES

Add extra fun to your walk with the CDC Ollies — five playful digital mascots you can collect along the trails. Each Ollie represents a key CDC community value:

- ▶ **Trailblazer Ollie** (Caring)
- ▶ **Social Ollie** (Learning)
- ▶ **Carefree Ollie** (Inclusive)
- ▶ **Wellness Ollie** (Healthy)
- ▶ **Chic-Eco Ollie** (Sustainable)

Collect all five CDC Ollies in the Side Quest and receive a \$5 RedeemSG Rewards voucher.



Visit go.gov.sg/walkingtrailscdc or scan the QR code to start your journey to a healthier, happier you.



At Bukit Gombak ActiveSG Stadium, residents designed and penned their SG60 wishes on 6,000 LED floating lanterns.

LIGHTING UP SG60: A HEARTLAND CELEBRATION IN THE SOUTH WEST

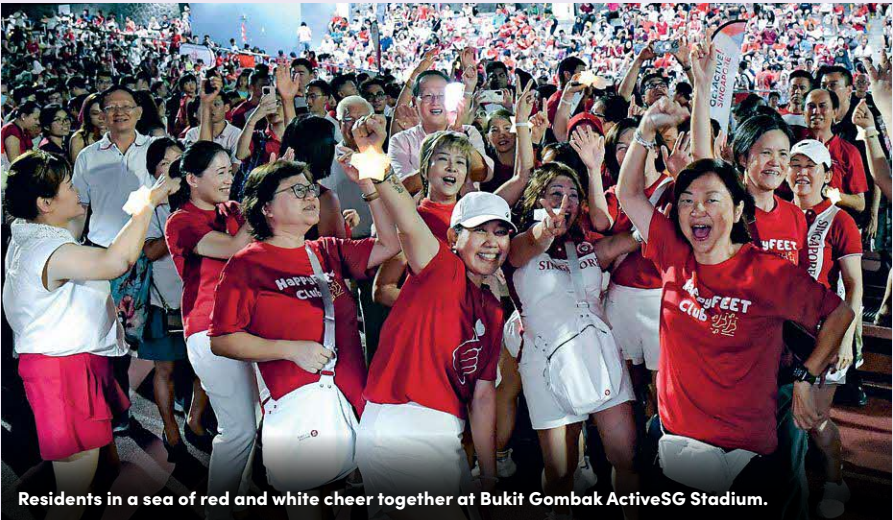
The South West District marked Singapore's 60th birthday with a heartfelt celebration filled with meaningful tributes, local talent and a record-breaking light display.

AS THE SUN SET ON 10 AUGUST, BUKIT GOMBAK ACTIVESG STADIUM LIT UP WITH THE ENERGY OF THE NATIONAL DAY HEARTLAND CELEBRATIONS 2025. Families laid out picnic mats, children waved flags and neighbours chatted warmly – a true reflection of the theme, *Together We Shine and Spark*. For resident Ms Josie Ng, 33, it was the simple joy of celebration that drew her in.

"I came because I enjoy the vibrant mood and sense of togetherness," she said. "My wish for Singapore is for its people to be more gracious and caring towards one another."

THREE ACTS AND ONE HEARTFELT STORY
The evening's programme centred around three segments: *South West Town Centre*; *Ignite the Hope, Extend the Glow*; and

Symphony of Us, One South West. At *South West Town Centre*, residents explored interactive booths that showcased meaningful community-driven initiatives. One highlight was the "Barbershop of Kindness", which offered free haircuts to seniors with mobility or financial challenges. Over at the Brickland-Tengah Division's sustainability-themed booths, residents learnt about zero-waste living – from the collection of "ugly" produce, which are imperfect but edible, to cooking demonstrations and planter workshops promoting home-grown greens. Adding a heartfelt touch to the festivities was 18-year-old artist Mr Lee Jun Le, who has autism. His custom-designed font and vibrant artwork adorned the event souvenirs distributed to participants. Through illustrations of everyday life in the South West, his contribution was a moving reminder that every individual adds colour and meaning to a truly inclusive community. At *Ignite the Hope, Extend the Glow*, residents designed and penned their wishes on LED floating lanterns, each one a reflection of hope for the nation. As 6,000 lanterns lit up the venue, a new milestone was set in the Singapore Book of Records for the Largest Display of Floating Lanterns – transforming the space into a dazzling sea of lights.

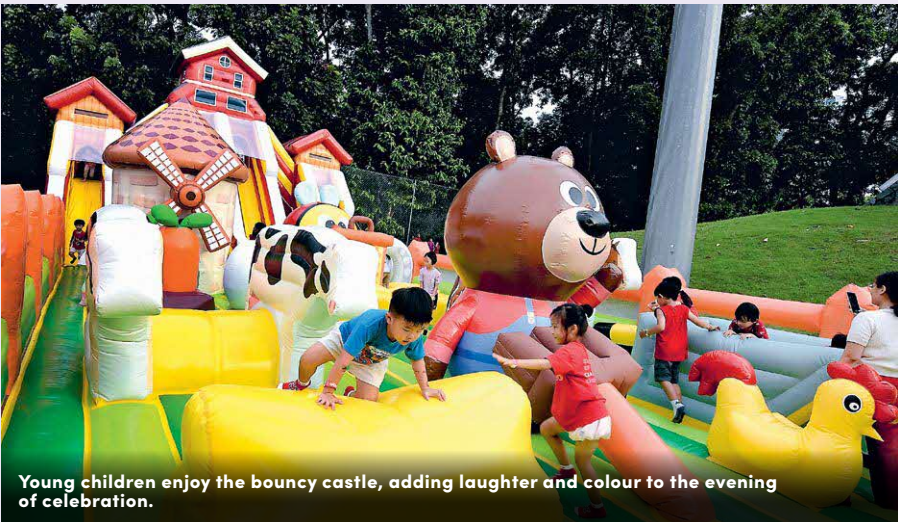


Residents in a sea of red and white cheer together at Bukit Gombak ActiveSG Stadium.

As night fell, the community gathered to watch *Symphony of Us, One South West* – a heartwarming music video tribute featuring the beloved National Day song, *Home*. Voices of hawkers, bus captains, caregivers, students, cleaners and volunteers came together in a moving chorus that celebrated shared stories and diversity of the South West community. The performance sparked a spontaneous singalong, with flags waving proudly in unison. The Mobile Column, a familiar crowd favourite, also returned to the heartlands, drawing cheers and awe from children as the Singapore Armed Forces and Home Team vehicles – including armoured carriers and fire engines – rolled past. For many parents, it was a teachable moment to explain the significance of national defence and the unsung heroes who protect our nation. The military display also struck a chord with residents like Ms Ng, who was attending her second heartland National Day celebration. "I enjoyed seeing the Mobile Column up close as I never had a chance to do so before," she said.

HANDS THAT HELPED THE EVENING SHINE

Beyond the performances, installations and displays, the evening was ultimately about connection between neighbours, across generations and among residents of diverse backgrounds. It was a celebration that embraced Singapore's diversity while strengthening community bonds, reminding us that the heartlands are the very pulse of



Young children enjoy the bouncy castle, adding laughter and colour to the evening of celebration.

our national identity. That spirit was clear among the volunteers who kept the event running. "This is my third time volunteering for a National Day event," shared Mr Lutfir Rahman, 22. "Volunteering has to come from the heart. I love interacting with people, meeting new friends and sharing community initiatives with residents. It's about making real connections." For veteran volunteer Mr AJ Deen, 58, the event evoked memories of his participation in the 1995 National Day Parade as a member of People's

Association youth wing. "It was a very big event, with the whole Jurong Central community coming together," he recalled. "Seeing so many people here today shows that many still have the passion to celebrate Singapore's birthday. I hope we will continue to stay united as our nation progresses." As fireworks illuminated the night sky and lanterns twinkled across the stadium, the evening closed on a warm and hopeful note. It was a reflection of the everyday unity that continues to define the South West community. **B**



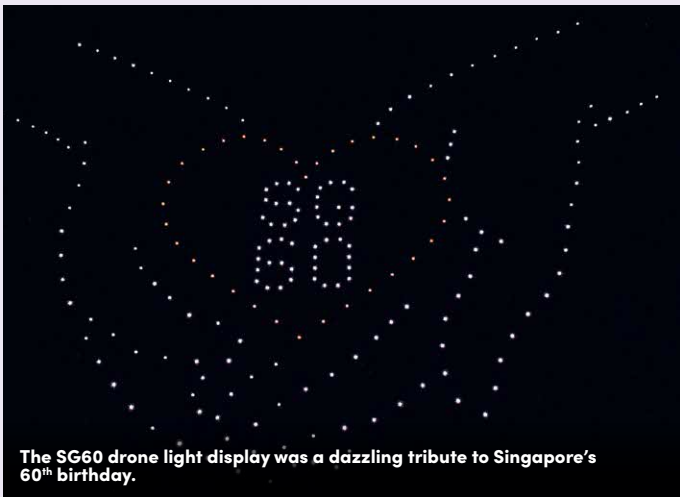
Mayor Low Yen Ling joins smiling residents at the National Day Heartland Celebrations 2025.



The crowd was captivated by music performances.



Mr Lutfir Rahman (left) joins fellow residents in celebrating the National Day spirit.



The SG60 drone light display was a dazzling tribute to Singapore's 60th birthday.



PAYING IT FORWARD AS A WAY OF LIFE

From socially disadvantaged student to accomplished changemaker, Adviser to Jurong East-Bukit Batok GRC Grassroots Organisations (Clementi), **Mr David Hoe**, shares how he strives to make opportunities accessible to all, regardless of background.

“OUR ASPIRATIONS ARE A FUNCTION OF OUR EXPERIENCES,” said Mr David Hoe, Adviser to Jurong East-Bukit Batok GRC Grassroots Organisations (Clementi), when asked how he became a teacher and later, a Grassroots Adviser.

One pivotal moment came from his secondary school mentor, Priscilla, whose act of kindness left a lasting impression. When he was short on money, she gave him \$50 and told him to “pay it forward” when he asked when to return it.

Another defining point came when Mr Hoe successfully helped his peers understand mathematical concepts —

an experience that sparked his interest in teaching. However, as a Normal (Technical) student, he did not qualify to be a teacher, as the role required an O-Level certificate at the time. Determined to pursue his goal, he wrote to then Minister for Education, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, to request permission to take the O-Levels after completing his N-Levels. Although that meant spending two more years in secondary school, the opportunity set him on a path to becoming a teacher.

Mr Hoe started mentoring youths since his late teens and went on to establish various ground-up

initiatives such as I Am Talented — a programme that empowers students to discover their strengths and pursue success through academic and non-academic pathways. He also served as a District Councillor with the Central Singapore Community Development Council.

“I am where I am today because many have invested in my life,” said Mr Hoe. “I’m very grateful, and I want to create opportunities for others too.” He sees serving in his current role as a privilege and takes “full responsibility” for the residents under his care.

EMBRACING NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONNECTIONS

Since becoming a Grassroots Adviser, Mr Hoe has made it a point to stay close to the ground. Over the past months, he has connected with many residents and gained new perspectives — especially from groups he was less familiar with, such as seniors and pet owners.

“I love house visits,” he said. “They help me understand residents’ concerns and connect more personally — something that’s harder to do at large events.”

One such case involved seniors who shared that they felt tired walking the sheltered path between Clementi MRT station and Clementi Avenue 4. While Mr Hoe can walk the entire path without having to take a break, their feedback made him realise the need for more benches — which were subsequently added — so that they can sit down when they need to. Conversations with dog owners also highlighted a desire for a dog park, and he is now assessing its feasibility.

At another house visit, an elderly resident thanked him for a ramp that had just been built. “It’s a small ramp but it’s the little things that matter,” he said. “If it matters to them, it matters to me. Helping seniors age well brings me joy.”

Mr Hoe is touched by how residents care for him and his volunteers. “One family came from Clementi Avenue 1 to Avenue 5 to bring me soup. More recently, a resident gave my team some fruits and packed fried noodles for me,” he said. “What stands out is that they care for me as much as I care for them. It keeps me going.”

His passion for the role matches that of his earlier teaching career. “I feel strongly about helping people discover their strengths,” he said. “You can’t define success if you don’t know what you’re good at.” That belief led him to start Ignite @ JEBB — a programme in the pipeline to help youths in Jurong East-Bukit Batok Cluster explore their interests and different professions and make informed decisions about their future.

Mr Hoe also has a vision for residents of all ages: to help seniors age well by reducing social isolation and improving



access to healthcare and services, to make play more accessible and parenting more affordable for families, and to support youth in exploring and pursuing their aspirations.

GROWING IN HIS CAPACITY TO CARE

Since stepping into his new role, Mr Hoe said he has grown by listening to the diverse perspectives of Clementi residents. Putting himself in others’ shoes has helped him better understand their concerns and led him to prioritise replying to messages quickly, even if it means working late.

“Residents who reach out are probably in a tough spot,” he explained. “I think silence is very painful so I want to respond as soon as I can.”

As a father to a preschooler daughter and a baby boy, Mr Hoe is adjusting to parenthood amid a packed schedule. With most evenings and weekends spent at events, he treasures every moment with his family. “My wife once asked why I went home when I only had 10 minutes for dinner. I told her, ‘Every minute matters,’” he shared.

Mr Hoe’s heart for his loved ones and residents is clear. As he continues to balance both roles, he hopes his story can inspire others. “I hope my life encourages people to pursue what they care about.”



5 MORE THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT MR DAVID HOE



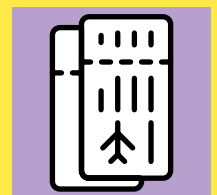
→ He is often spotted at the new BTO flats at Clementi Avenue 1, helping young families and working from a nearby cafe.



→ He runs four to five times a week to stay fit and care for his family and residents.



→ He believes in exploring one’s strengths before picking a career, not just following trends.



→ He once took his two-year-old daughter on a five-day solo trip to Hong Kong.



→ If he had a superpower, he would choose the ability to solve everyone’s problems.

以善心接力让关爱常在

从弱势学生成长为积极推动改变的社会领袖，裕廊东-武吉巴督集选区（金文泰）基层组织顾问**许德财先生**，分享他如何致力为不同出身背景者创造平等机遇。

当被问及为何选择成为教师乃至基层顾问时，裕廊东-武吉巴督集选区（金文泰）基层组织顾问许德财先生坦言：“我们的志向往往源于人生经历。”

他人生的一个转折点来自于中学导师 Priscilla 的善举，在他心中播下了永续善行的种子。有一次他手头拮据，导师塞给他50元。当他询问归还期时，对方只叮嘱“将来把这份善意传递下去”。

另一个转折点出现在他帮助同学理解数学概念时，教学带来的成就点燃了他从教的热情。然而，作为一名普通工艺学生，

当时因未持有“O”水准文凭无法圆梦。怀着破釜沉舟的决心，他致函当时的教育部长尚达曼先生，请求允许他在完成“N”水准后参加“O”水准考试。尽管这意味着需多读两年中学，这次机会最终铺就了他的教师之路。

许先生自十八九岁起便开始积极指导青年，陆续创立了多项基层倡议活动，例如，“I Am Talented”计划——通过学业和非学业途径，帮助学生发掘潜能。他亦曾担任新加坡中区社区发展理事会理事。

“是因为许多人的倾力栽培，成就

了今日的我。”许先生表示，“这份感恩之心驱使我为他人创造机遇。”他将当前职务视为殊荣，并对辖区居民承担“全然全责”。

倾听民声 建立纽带

担任基层顾问以来，许先生始终坚持深入基层。在过去几个月里，他通过与居民互动获得新视角——尤其来自乐龄人士和宠物主人等以往接触较少的群体。

“我喜欢家访，”他说，“这能让我更好地理解居民的顾虑，建立更深情感联结——这是大型活动难以达成的效果。”



Mr. Hoe spending time with Clementi Residents at the Breakfast with Love event in Casa Clementi.

其中一个例子是金文泰地铁站至四道的有盖走廊。虽然许先生能一口气走完全程，但乐龄居民反馈步行疲惫让他意识到增设休息长凳的必要性。随后社区及时增置了座椅，方便居民随时休息。在与养狗居民的交流中，也有人提出建设狗狗公园的构想，他目前正在评估其可行性。

一次家访中，一位年长居民感谢他新建无障碍坡道。“虽然那只是一个小斜坡，却关乎民生福祉。”他强调，“凡是居民在意的事，就是我的份内事。帮助乐龄人士健康安老，让我感到非常快乐。”

居民对许先生及其团队的关怀也让他深受感动。“有家庭特地从金文泰一道步行至五道来给我送汤。最近还有居民给我的团队送来水果，还特地为我打包炒面。”他感念道，“这种双向奔赴的关怀，正是我不断前行的动力。”

他对社区服务的热忱不逊于当年从教的初心。“我坚信帮助

人们发现自身价值至关重要，”他说道。“如果你不知道自己擅长什么，你就无法真正取得成功。”正是这种信念，催生了 Ignite @ JEBB 计划，该计划旨在帮助裕廊东-武吉巴督集选区的年轻人探索他们的兴趣与不同职业方向，从而为更好的未来作出规划。

许先生更构想了全龄友好社区蓝图：通过减少社会孤立、优化医疗资源助力乐龄安养；增设游乐空间帮助家庭更容易享受亲子休闲时光、减轻育儿开销；支持青年探索与追寻自己的志向。

在关怀中不断成长

许先生表示，在金文泰居民的多元观点的滋养下，他在新岗位上不断成长。设身处地为他人着想，让他更能精准把握居民的需求，也促使他坚持高效回复讯息，即便常常工作至深夜。

“主动求助的居民很可能正处于困难中，”他解释道，“不回应会让对方感到极度不安，因此我会及时回应。”

作为一名幼儿园年龄女儿和男婴的父亲，许先生也在繁忙的日程中逐渐适应育儿生活。由于大部分夜晚与周末都被工事占据，他格外珍惜与家人共处的时光。“我妻子曾问我为什么明知道只有十分钟吃晚饭还要赶回家。我告诉她：‘陪伴你们的每一分钟对我来说都很重要’。”

许先生对家人与居民的爱心和关怀感表露无遗。在平衡双重角色之际，他也希望自己的自身经历能激励更多人。“我希望我的故事能够鼓舞更多人追求他们真正关心的事物。”

关于许德财先生的五件轶事



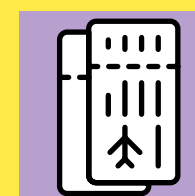
→ 他经常现身金文泰一道的新组屋区，协助年轻家庭，并常在附近咖啡厅办公。



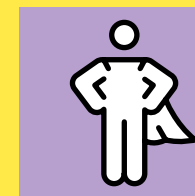
→ 每周跑步四五次保持体能，只为以最佳状态照顾家与居民。



→ 主张择业前应先探索自身优势，而不是盲目追随潮流。



→ 他曾独自带着两岁女儿赴香港完成了五天的亲子之旅。



→ 如果可以选择超能力，他最希望能解决所有人的难题。



Conversations with dog owners on the feasibility of a pet park in Clementi.



Mr. Hoe engaging with a resident during the Clementi SG60 Family Carnival.

National Day Awards 2025

CONGRATULATIONS TO RECIPIENTS IN THE SOUTH WEST DISTRICT WHO HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED FOR THEIR COMMENDABLE PUBLIC SERVICE.



Mr Koh Kian Hong, BBM
Patron
Jurong Central CCC

Mr Cheah Kok Keong, BBM
Assistant Secretary
C2E Council EXCO

Mr Karsono Kwee, BBM
Patron
West Coast CCC

Mr Foo Hee Jug, PPA(P), BBM
District Councillor
South West CDC

Mr Selvakumar s/o Panneerselvam, BBM
Vice-Chairman
Ayer Rajah CCC

Mr Lee Chee Peng, BBM
Member
Bukit Batok CCC

Mr Yeah Hiang Nam, BBM
Patron
Clementi CCC

Mdm Rosalind Tan Kwee Lian, BBM
Chairman
Ayer Rajah CCC

Ms Wee May Ling, Jenny, BBM
District Councillor
South West CDC

Mr Lim Bong Guan, BBM
Patron
Bukit Gombak CCC

South West CDC
also congratulates the
following individuals:

Mr Khoo Hang Choong, BBM
Patron
Bukit Gombak CCC

Late Mr Ng Leng Kim, Jimmy, BBM
Former Chairman
Boon Lay CCC

Mr Ang Chee Guan, BBM
Vice-Chairman
Nanyang CCC



CHUA CHU KANG
GRC



Mr Leow Boon Tong, PBM
Patron
Brickland-Tengah CCC



Mr Png Chong Beng, Anthony, PBM
Auditor
Brickland CCMC



Mdm Janica Ng, PBM
Chairperson
Chua Chu Kang CCC
Community Development
and Welfare Fund



Mdm Sim Mui Eng, PBM
Chairperson
Chua Chu Kang Zone 2 RN



Mdm Tuty Adilah Bte Sapri, PBM
Vice-Chairperson
Keat Hong CCMC



Mr Edwin Ho Yan Hui, PBM
Member
Keat Hong CCC

JURONG EAST-
BUKIT BATOK
GRC



Mr Ong Chee Ping, PBM
Vice-Chairman
Bukit Batok CCC



Mdm Lim Bih Fen, Catherine, PBM
Member
Bukit Batok East CCC



Mr Goh Peck San, PBM
Chairman
Bukit Batok East CCC



Mdm Thevani d/o Sinnappan, PBM
Member
Clementi CCC



Mr Tan Ying Peng, PBM
Secretary
Hong Kah North CCMC



Mr Christopher Thomas, PBM
Vice-Chairman
Hong Kah North Zone 1 RN



Mdm Amy Quak Wei Suan, PBM
Vice-Chairman
Yuhua CCMC



Mr Goh Miaoguang, PBM
Secretary
Yuhua CCMC



WEST COAST-
JURONG WEST
GRC



Mr Lai Sheow Seong, Raymond, PBM
Member
Boon Lay CCC



Mr Ang Mong Soon, PBM
Member
Jurong Spring-Gek Poh CCC



Mr Chua Seng Hiap, PBM
Vice-Chairman
Jurong Spring-Gek Poh CCC



Mr Nua Wan Seng, PBM
Chairman
Nanyang Zone 5 RN



Dr Yeo Chuo Hao, PBM
Assistant Secretary
Taman Jurong CCC



Mr Adrian Lum Wen-Hong, PBM
Assistant Treasurer
West Coast CCC



The awards are given to individuals who have made **significant contributions** to the nation in the civil or military service, social and community work, or performed outstandingly in their fields.

JURONG
CENTRAL
SMC



Mr Leong Xingquan, PBM
Vice-Chairman
Jurong Central CCC

PIONEER
SMC



Mr Loh Yew Fatt, PBM
Vice-Chairman
Pioneer CCC



Mdm Sharon Ong Suan Hong, PBM
Member
Pioneer CCC

South West CDC also congratulates the following individual:

Mr Tang Yi Keong, Jeremy, PBM
Vice-Chairman
Taman Jurong CCC



GOOD HEALTH LIES IN PREVENTION

Mr Foo Hee Jug, PPA(P), BBM, draws on three decades in healthcare to help South West residents live well, one healthy habit at a time.

WHEN MR FOO HEE JUG LOOKS BACK ON HIS 33 YEARS IN HEALTHCARE, he recalls not only patients who recovered from heart attacks or cancer, but the fulfilment of keeping people well. "Working in a hospital is satisfying because you see miracles every day," he said. "But the greater miracle is prevention of illness, and that starts in the community."

That belief has shaped his 14 years as Chairman of the South West Community Development Council (CDC) Healthy and Active Lifestyle Committee.

He saw the role as a natural extension of his hospital work. Instead of prescribing treatment, he would focus on encouraging healthier habits in homes, schools and neighbourhoods.

HEALTH FOR EVERY STAGE OF LIFE

Under Mr Foo's stewardship, the committee has rolled out health and wellness programmes for residents at different stages of life. For frail residents and their caregivers, Caregiving @ South West offers support through activities and financial assistance. "Caregiving can be very stressful," Mr Foo explained. "But if we see it as a virtuous activity, where you can find support, it helps to sustain people."

Then there are seniors who join Fun Walkers @ South West, which encourages them to stay active and socially connected. He recalled being inspired by a woman in her 70s during an early morning walk.

"She was so full of life," he said. "She told me, 'Of course I join the walks. It's fun — I meet friends, and after we walk, we go for roti prata together!' That's the kind of life I hope to lead when I retire too."

In schools, the Healthier Schools @ South West programme promotes five simple but powerful habits: Eat Smart; Move More;

Think Bright; Be Wise, Be Kind; and Rest Well — to instil lasting wellness habits in students. "Healthy habits from a young age are important," he said. "When children bring these messages home, they influence their parents too, sometimes, it's the child who convinces the parent to quit smoking or eat healthier."

MAKING EVERY INITIATIVE COUNT

Mr Foo's approach to community health centres on quality and reach. "It is not about how many initiatives we run, but how we make each one count," he said.

The committee continues to evolve with the times, addressing modern issues such as sleep deprivation, while embracing technology tools — including social media and apps that use artificial intelligence — to help residents track their health and take charge of their wellbeing. "The factors leading to a healthy lifestyle are still the same — exercise, eat well, manage stress — but technology can now make those habits easier," Mr Foo shared.

Mr Foo was conferred the Public Service Star (BBM) as part of the 2025 National Day Awards, a recognition he described as unexpected but heartening. "Of course it is nice to be appreciated. But this cannot be the reason we serve," he said. "Each of us needs to find our own purpose and meaning in what we do."

For him, that purpose lies in serving alongside energetic and dedicated volunteers who give their time to help others live better. "You may walk past them and think they're just ordinary folks," he smiled. "But they're extraordinary in every sense of the word."

Mr Foo's wish is simple: that residents continue to value their health and wellbeing. "When you are healthy, you have many problems to solve. But when you are sick, you have only one problem — your health," he said. "Without health, there is nothing." **B**

TWO DECADES AGO, A YOUNG MOTHER WALKED INTO A MEETING ROOM WITH HER INFANT SON IN HER ARMS. That mother was Ms Jenny Wee, who had been invited by the South West Community Development Council (CDC) to share her views as a parent during a dialogue session.

She recalls feeling nervous but determined. "Even as a single individual with a kid, I could still contribute meaningfully," she said. "They were inclusive, they heard my voice. I felt valued and empowered to play a part."

That moment in 2003 marked the start of her journey with South West CDC. By 2009, she had become a District Councillor, and today serves as Co-Chairman of the Family and Community Resilience Committee.

One of her earliest contributions was the introduction of the Baby Blisscard @ South West initiative, which offered deals and discounts for young families. It later evolved into Family Bliss @ South West, an e-Card membership and learning platform for all families. "Family Bliss was about recognising that every family matters, not just those with young children," she said.

The programme includes webinars on parenting — from sleep routines to starting primary school — and a roving roadshow with intergenerational bonding activities. The aim, she added, is to keep resources relevant to the changing needs of families.

JOBS AS THE CORNERSTONE OF STABILITY

Ms Wee believes that employment underpins household stability. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she spearheaded the South West Community Job Fairs to help residents shaken by retrenchments. "If a parent has a stable income, they look after the household and everyone benefits," she said.

Unlike online portals, the job fairs focused on face-to-face hiring to reach jobseekers who may be overlooked. "A resume doesn't always reflect the whole person," she said. "At our job fairs, employers met mid-career switchers, stay-at-home mothers and persons with disabilities. Many were hired on the spot once employers saw their potential."

Since 2021, the committee has held more than 60 job fairs across different sectors, from F&B to small and medium-sized enterprises.

ADAPTING TO NEW PRESSURES

Ms Wee is keenly aware that families face mounting challenges, including financial stress and parenting. "Every family has different needs," she said. "Our role is to provide options so none feel left behind."

She also champions lifelong learning and adaptability, noting that digital literacy is crucial in today's economy. "Beyond hard skills, resilience and a growth mindset make the difference," she added.

Being conferred the Public Service Star (BBM) in the 2025 National Day Awards was, for Ms Wee, meaningful because it recognised collective effort. "This award is about the friends and volunteers who give back to the community," she said.

She remains inspired by the friendships formed and the shared purpose of partners supporting South West CDC initiatives. "I've stayed on so long because of the people I've met," she said. "It's about journeying together to uplift others."

Looking ahead, Ms Wee hopes to expand intergenerational programmes that connect seniors, youth and families. "My aspiration for South West is to continue to be a caring, inclusive and future-ready community," she said. "One where families feel supported, seniors feel valued and youth feel empowered to lead." **B**

HELPING FAMILIES AND JOBSEEKERS BE MORE RESILIENT

Ms Jenny Wee, BBM, draws on two decades of community service to guide the South West CDC's family programmes and organises job fairs for residents across the district.



Knowing my district

TAKE THIS QUIZ AND STAND A CHANCE TO BRING HOME THE SOUTH WEST CDC TEDDY BEAR!

- When was Jobs Nearby @ CDC officially launched?**
A) 31 August 2025
B) 23 October 2025
C) 9 August 2025
- How many years has ExxonMobil supported the annual Household Pack Distribution initiative?**
A) 15
B) 20
C) 25
- What does the annual South West District Meeting and Partners Appreciation event recognise?**
A) Residents who complete health training courses
B) Partners who contribute to district programmes and support residents
C) Businesses that achieve outstanding environmental ratings
- Which set of community goals anchors the Healthier Schools @ South West programme?**
A) Eat Smart; Move More; Think Bright; Be Wise, Be Kind; Rest Well
B) Study Hard; Train Often; Lead Boldly; Care Deeply; Achieve Together
C) Grow Strong; Play More; Share Freely; Explore Happily; Rest Easily
- How many kilometres does Walking Trails @ CDC span across the five districts?**
A) 10.55km
B) 23.95km
C) 40.65km

Complete the quiz and photo puzzle,
take a picture of the page and upload to:
<https://go.gov.sg/swcdcbridge>



Or

Send your entries to us at: **South West CDC,**
Jurong Town Hall Road, #26-06, Singapore 609434.

**If your entry is selected, you
will win a South West CDC
teddy bear!**

DEADLINE: 30 April 2026



Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

PHOTO PUZZLE

**Can you guess which event these photos
are from?**

(Hint: Flip through the pages of this issue to find out!)



Answer: _____