

Bridge



**SOUTH WEST
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL**

#2 2025



PACKING CARE INTO EACH BAG

Festive Cheers @ South West paired donated groceries with real connection and helped families feel supported.



➔ 6 LAUNCH OF CDC VOUCHER SCHEME 2025 (MAY)

Local spending becomes
a way to uplift households
and heartland businesses.



➔ 8 LAUNCH OF SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY INNO LAB

Turning plans into practical
results, from fixing gaps to
managing waste better.



➔ 12 CLEAN UP @ SOUTH WEST 2025

Schools, residents and
volunteers helped take
care of our shared spaces.

Dear friends,

As Singapore celebrates 60 years of nationhood, we're reminded that it's the bonds we share and the values we live by that have shaped our journey.

In the South West District, we build a better future by staying connected, looking out for one another and doing our part. These values are at the heart of our SG60 celebrations — and they continue to guide us as we grow stronger together.

Across our district, neighbours, partners and volunteers have come together to forge meaningful relationships and support on another. Events like our annual Festive Cheers @ South West bring warmth and joy to families during the festive period and help strengthen the ties that make our community strong. They remind us that small acts of care can make a big difference.

Building caring communities remains a core part of our mission. Through the CDC Vouchers Scheme 2025, we support Singaporean households with daily expenses while giving a boost to our hawkers and heartland merchants. This initiative underscores our commitment to look after one another — especially in uncertain times.

We each have the power to contribute and create meaningful change. That's the spirit behind the new South West Community Inno Lab — which aggregates resources and expertise from grassroots organisations, community partners and students from Institutes of Higher Learning to tackle local issues. Their projects — from improving barrier-free access in West Coast to promoting responsible bulky waste disposal — are real examples of how working together can shape a more inclusive and sustainable future.

We are also committed to protecting our environment. Clean Up @ South West 2025 saw schools, residents, volunteers and corporate partners come together to promote sustainability and eco-consciousness. This shared commitment helps ensure a greener home for all.

As we mark SG60, I want to thank each and every one of you for being part of this journey. Your commitment, generosity and contributions have touched lives and strengthened our social fabric. Let's keep connecting with one another, caring for those around us and contributing purposefully — as we work hand in hand to build a brighter future for Singapore!



அன்பார்ந்த நண்பர்களே,

சிங்கப்பூர் 60 ஆண்டுக்கால தேசிய தினம் கொண்டாடும் வேளையில், நாம் பகிர்ந்து கொள்ளும் பிணைப்புகளும், நாம் கடைபிடித்து வாழும் மதிப்புகளும் தான் நமது பயணத்தை வடிவமைத்துள்ளன என்பதை இத்தருணம் நமக்கு நினைவூட்டுகிறது.

தென்மேற்கு வட்டாரத்தில், ஒன்றாய் இணைப்பில் இருந்து, ஒருவர் மீது ஒருவர் அக்கறைக் கொண்டு, நமது பங்களிப்பைச் செய்வதன் மூலம் சிறந்த எதிர்காலத்தை உருவாக்குகிறோம். இந்த மதிப்புகள் நமது SG60 கொண்டாட்டங்களின் மையமாக உள்ளன - மேலும் நாம் ஒன்றாய் வலுவாக வளர்ச்சியடைகையில் இவை தொடர்ந்து நம்மை வழிநடத்துகின்றன.

எமது வட்டாரம் முழுவதுமுள்ள அக்கம்பக்கத்தார், பங்காளிகள் மற்றும் தொண்டோழியர்கள் அர்த்தமுள்ள உறவுகளை உருவாக்கவும், ஒருவருக்கொருவர் ஆதரவாய் இருக்கவும் ஒன்றிணைந்துள்ளனர். எமது தென்மேற்குப் பகுதியில் நடைபெறும் வருடாந்திர பண்டிகை கொண்டாட்டங்கள் (annual Festive Cheers @ South West) போன்ற நிகழ்வுகள் பண்டிகைக் காலத்தில் குடும்பங்களுக்கு அரவணைப்பையும் மகிழ்ச்சியையும் தருகின்றன, மேலும் இது எமது சமூகத்தை வலிமையாக்கும் உறவுகளை வலுப்படுத்த உதவுகின்றன. அக்கறை நிறைந்த சிறு செயல்களும் பெரிய மாற்றத்தை ஏற்படுத்தும் என்பதை இவை நமக்கு நினைவூட்டுகின்றன.

அக்கறையுள்ள சமூகங்களை உருவாக்குவது எமது நோக்கத்தின் முக்கிய பகுதியாக உள்ளது. சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்ற பற்றுச்சீட்டுகள் திட்டம் 2025 மூலம், எமது உணவங்காடி கடைக்காரர்களுக்கும் குடியிருப்பு வட்டார வணிகர்களுக்கும் ஊக்கமளிக்கும் அதே வேளையில், சிங்கப்பூர் குடும்பங்களின் தினசரி செலவுகளுக்கும் நாம் ஆதரவளிக்கிறோம். இந்தத் திட்டம், குறிப்பாக நிச்சயமற்ற காலங்களில் ஒருவரையொருவர் கவனித்துக் கொள்வதற்கான எமது உறுதிப்பாட்டை அடிக்கோடிட்டுக் காட்டுகிறது.

அர்த்தமுள்ள மாற்றத்திற்குப் பங்களிக்கவும் அவற்றை உருவாக்கவும் நம் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் சக்தி உள்ளது. புதிய தென்மேற்கு சமூக இன்னோ ஆய்வகத்தின் (South West Community Inno Lab) பின்னணியில் உள்ள உத்வேகமும் இதுவே. - இது உள்ளூர் பிரச்சினைகளைச் சமாளிக்க அடித்தள அமைப்புகள், சமூக பங்காளர்கள் மற்றும் உயர்கல்வி நிறுவனங்களின் மாணவர்களிடமிருந்து வளங்களையும் நிபுணத்துவத்தையும் ஒருங்கிணைக்கிறது. வெஸ்ட் கோஸ்ட்டில் தடங்கலற்ற நடமாட்ட வசதிகளை மேம்படுத்துவது முதல் பொறுப்புணர்வுடன் பெரிய அளவில் கழிவுகளை அப்புறப்படுத்துவதை ஊக்குவிப்பது வரையிலான இவர்களின் திட்டப்பணிகள், ஒன்றிணைந்து செயலாற்றுவது என்பதற்கான உண்மையான எடுத்துக்காட்டுகள். அனைவரையும் மிகவும் உள்ளடக்கிய மற்றும் நிலைத்தன்மைமிக்க எதிர்காலத்தை வடிவமைக்கும் என்பதற்கான

எமது சுற்றுச்சூழலைப் பாதுகாப்பதிலும் நாம் உறுதியாக இருக்கிறோம். தென்மேற்கு தூயமையாக்கத் திட்டம் 2025 (Clean Up @ South West 2025), பள்ளிகள், குடியிருப்பாளர்கள், தொண்டோழியர்கள் மற்றும் நிறுவன பங்காளர்களை ஒன்றிணைத்து, நிலைத்தன்மை மற்றும் சுற்றுச்சூழல் பற்றிய விழிப்புணர்வை மேம்படுத்தியுள்ளன. இந்தப் பகிரப்பட்ட அர்ப்பணிப்பு அனைவருக்கும் பசுமையான இல்லத்தை உறுதி செய்ய உதவுகிறது.

SG60 ஐக் கொண்டாடும் இவ்வேளையில், இந்தப் பயணத்தில் பங்கேற்ற உங்கள் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் நான் நன்றி தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். உங்கள் அர்ப்பணிப்பு, தாராள மனப்பான்மை மற்றும் பங்களிப்புகள் பலரது வாழ்வில் நல்ல விதமான மாற்றத்தை ஏற்படுத்தி, நமது சமூகக் கட்டமைப்பை வலுப்படுத்தியுள்ளன. சிங்கப்பூருக்கு ஒரு பிரகாசமான எதிர்காலத்தை உருவாக்கிட நாம் கைகோர்த்துச் செயல்படுகையில், ஒருவருக்கொருவர் தொடர்ந்து இணைப்பில் இருந்து, நம்மைச் சுற்றியுள்ளவர்கள் மீது அக்கறைக் கொண்டு, நோக்கத்துடன் பங்களிப்போம்!

亲爱的朋友们，

在我们欢庆新加坡建国60周年之际，我们深刻体会到：正是国人彼此之间的情谊和共同秉持的价值观，塑造了国家的发展历程。

在西南区，我们以同心协力、相互关怀、齐心贡献的精神共创更美好的未来。这些价值观正是我们新加坡建国60周年庆祝活动的核心主题，也将继续指引我们携手成长。

西南区各处，我们的邻居、社区伙伴和义工们纷纷挺身而出，互相扶持、彼此鼓励，建立了深厚而有意义的关系。我们的多项活动，例如“欢庆佳节在西南”（Festive Cheers @ South West），不仅为家庭带来了节庆的欢乐与温暖，也增强了社区的凝聚力。这些暖心的举动提醒了我们，每一份关怀都能带来深远的影响。

建设充满关怀的社区始终是我们的核心使命之一。通过2025年社区发展理事会推出的社理会邻里购物券计划，我们既帮助新加坡家庭应对日常开销，也为邻里商家和小贩摊位提供支持。这项计划体现了我们互相关怀和守望相助的精神和承诺，尤其是在充满挑战的时期。

我们每个人都有能力出一份力，为社区带来有意义的改变。新成立的“西南社区创新实验室”（South West Community Inno Lab）汇聚了基层组织、社区伙伴以及高等学府学生的资源与专长，一同解决社区在地课题。从改善西海岸的无障碍通道、到推动大型废弃物的处置等项目，这些项目都生动地体现了团结协作如何打造更具包容性、更可持续性的未来。

我们致力于保护环境。2025年“全面环保在西南”（Clean Up @ South West）集结了学校、居民、义工和企业合作伙伴，共同推广可持续发展并提升社区环保意识。这一份共同的担当将为我们守护一个更加翠绿的家园。

在举国欢庆新加坡建国60周年之际，我衷心感谢每一位为社区贡献心力的居民。正是各位无私的奉献和热忱参与，温暖了人心，也让社区的纽带更加坚韧。让我们继续同心协力、相互关怀和齐心贡献，携手为新加坡共创更美好光明的未来！

Rakan-rakan yang dihormati,

Sambil Singapura merayakan 60 tahun pembangunan negara, kita diingatkan bahawa ikatan serta nilai-nilai yang kita kongsi dan amalkan telah membentuk perjalanan kita.

Di Daerah Barat Daya, kita membina masa hadapan yang lebih baik dengan kekal berhubung, menjaga antara satu sama lain dan memainkan peranan kita. Nilai-nilai ini merupakan teras dalam sambutan SG60 kita — dan ia terus menjadi panduan sambil kita maju dan kukuh bersama-sama.

Di kawasan kejiranan kita, jiran-jiran, rakan kongsi dan sukarelawan berkumpul untuk menjalinkan hubungan yang bermakna dan menyokong satu sama lain. Acara seperti Festive Cheers @ South West tahunan membawakan keceriaan dan kegembiraan kepada keluarga semasa musim perayaan dan membantu mengeratkan jalinan ikatan yang mengukuhkan masyarakat kita. Ia mengingatkan kita bahawa aksi-aksi kecil yang kita lakukan untuk mempamerkan keprihatinan kita boleh memberikan perubahan positif yang besar.

Membina masyarakat yang penyayang kekal sebagai sebahagian daripada misi penting kami. Melalui Skim Baucar CDC 2025, kami membantu keluarga Singapura menampung perbelanjaan harian dan pada masa yang sama merangsang perniagaan para penaja dan peniaga di kawasan kejiranan kita. Inisiatif ini menekankan komitmen kami untuk menjaga satu sama lain — terutamanya dalam masa-masa yang tidak menentu.

Setiap daripada kita mempunyai kuasa untuk menyumbang dan mencipta perubahan yang bermakna. Itulah semangat di sebalik South West Community Inno Lab yang baru — yang mengembleng sumber-sumber dan kepakaran daripada pertubuhan akar umbi, rakan kongsi masyarakat dan para pelajar daripada Institut Pengajian Tinggi untuk menangani isu-isu tempatan. Projek mereka – daripada mempertingkatkan akses bebas halangan di West Coast kepada menggalakkan pembuangan sampah besar secara bertanggungjawab – adalah contoh-contoh sebenar bagaimana bekerjasama dapat membentuk masa hadapan yang lebih inklusif dan mampan.

Kami juga komited untuk melindungi alam sekitar kita. Clean Up @ South West 2025 menyaksikan sekolah, penduduk, sukarelawan dan rakan kongsi korporat bersatu untuk mempromosikan kemampanan dan kesedaran eko. Komitmen bersama ini membantu memastikan tempat tinggal yang lebih hijau untuk semua.

Sambil kita menyambut SG60, saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada anda semua kerana telah menjadi sebahagian daripada perjalanan ini. Komitmen, kemurahan hati dan sumbangan anda telah mempertingkatkan kehidupan dan mengukuhkan fabrik sosial kita. Ayuh kita teruskan berhubung antara satu sama lain, mengambil berat terhadap orang-orang di sekeliling kita dan menyumbang secara bermakna — sambil kita berganding bahu membina masa hadapan yang lebih cerah untuk Singapura!

Baby Blisscard



Who can Apply?

Newborns must fulfil ALL of the following:

- a) Reside in South West District;
- b) Have at least one (1) parent who is a Singapore Citizen; and
- c) Be under two (2) years old upon application.

To find out whether you are a resident of South West District, go to: www.gowhere.gov.sg/cdc

How to Apply?

STEP 1 Fill in the Baby Blisscard @ South West application form at <https://go.gov.sg/babyblisscard>.

STEP 2 Attach a soft copy of:

- a) Birth certificate of newborn;
- b) Identity card (both sides) of at least one (1) parent who is a Singapore Citizen and a resident of South West District; and
- c) Photo of newborn.

STEP 3 Submit the form.

How will the Baby Blisscard be presented?

Successful applicants will be notified to collect their Baby Blisscards.

For more details, please contact us at:
Tel: 6316 1616
or email: southwest_cdc@pa.gov.sg

Welcome Gift for Newborns!

Receive a limited edition EZ-Link card with a complimentary stored value of \$20

Brought to you by:

SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

the Good Parent

FAMILY BLISS

Sign up for **Family Bliss @ South West**

E-Card Membership to enjoy:

- Exclusive discounts and promotions from participating merchants; and
- Invitation to educational events and activities for families

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Residents who reside in South West District
- Must be a Singapore Citizen / PR

HOW TO APPLY?

Scan the QR code to submit your application

thegoodparent.com.sg

9180 7382

For more information, please visit <https://southwest.cdc.gov.sg/> Contact South West Community Development Council if you have any further queries:

southwest_cdc@pa.gov.sg

6316 1616

The JTC Summit, 8 Jurong Town Hall Road, #26-06, Singapore 609434




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>> Bridge

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

HOW A COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO LEND A HAND

From seniors learning to use digital tools to off-duty firefighters and student volunteers guiding them — the CDC Vouchers redemption drive at West Coast Community Centre (CC) showed that helping one another goes beyond dollars and cents.



PM Lawrence Wong launches the CDC Vouchers Scheme 2025 (May) at Nee Soon South Community Club.

AT WEST COAST CC, SENIORS APPROACHED THE CDC VOUCHERS HELP BOOTH FOR GUIDANCE ON HOW TO CLAIM THEIR VOUCHERS DIGITALLY.

Many were there to claim their vouchers for the first time. Among those assisting them was a group of off-duty firefighters, seated at the help desks and showing residents how to use their smartphones for the digital vouchers.

"I wanted to give back," said Mr Daniel bin Zailan, 34, a firefighter from Clementi Fire Station. "Some seniors needed help claiming the vouchers. I guided them through the steps and got them to repeat it, so they'd be confident doing it on their own. One auntie even asked me to take her photo to send to her son — to show she wasn't out shopping for fun but helping the family!"

Fellow firefighter Addison Tan, 19, said some residents were unsure but warmed up quickly. "They were hesitant at first but opened up when I asked if they would like to try to claim their vouchers digitally. I'd gladly volunteer again."

Apart from the 21 firefighters who had volunteered their time, student volunteers from ITE College West, such as 17-year-old Ng An Min, were also on hand. "Some weren't confident at first, but once we guided them step by step, they picked it up quickly," she said. "One elderly auntie even asked



PM Wong, Mayor Low Yen Ling and Mayor of North West District, Mr Alex Yam, using their CDC Vouchers at a heartland shop.



Musicians from Nee Soon South Interest Group The JustUke Strummers add a dose of light entertainment at the launch.

to take a photo with me and my friend after we helped her — that made my day."

Her schoolmate Mansoor Bin Shaul Hameed noted that while some seniors preferred physical vouchers, others were open to trying something new. "Tech isn't just for young people," he said. "We can help our seniors too, and we learn from them in return."

For Madam Doris Tan, 71, the digital option proved convenient for her family. She and her husband care for their elderly parents, aged 97 and 103, and often rely on supplements to support their health. "The vouchers help us afford the supplements we need," she said. "The digital version is so convenient — I just tap and pay."

A NATIONAL SCHEME WITH LOCAL REACH

The CDC Vouchers Scheme 2025 (May) was launched by Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong on 13 May at Nee Soon South Community Club. Each Singaporean household received \$500 in CDC Vouchers, the first tranche of the additional \$800 in CDC Vouchers that was announced at Budget 2025.

At the launch, PM Wong acknowledged concerns about rising costs and economic uncertainty. "In Singapore, inflation



With guidance from Clementi Fire Station firefighter volunteers, Madam Doris Tan and her husband learnt to claim their CDC Vouchers digitally.



Firefighter Addison Tan walks a senior through the steps to claim his CDC Vouchers on his phone.



At West Coast CC, volunteers coach seniors on using their smartphones to claim their CDC Vouchers.

has already started coming down. In fact, it has come down faster than in most other places. But prices remain high, and people do feel the impact," he said.

"The overall economic situation is also adding to anxieties, because we can see so much uncertainty around us. We can feel the effects of the economy slowing, and people do get worried about the prospects for the coming year."

"The Government is fully committed to helping Singaporeans tackle these challenges. And that is why today, we are happy to launch a new tranche of CDC Vouchers."

To enhance support, youth and student volunteers from various institutions as well as staff from public agencies, SG Digital Office's (SDO) Digital Ambassadors and Silver Infocomm Wellness Ambassadors were stationed at CCs to provide assistance to residents who needed help to claim their digital vouchers.

Mayor of South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling, described the scheme as a reflection of community effort. "The latest tranche of CDC Vouchers affirms our spirit of unity to support and help one another as a community to overcome the odds," she said. "Whether as an individual, business or organisation, we can each make a

difference and together, as a community, strengthen our resilience and ability to weather the challenges ahead successfully."

VOUCHERS THAT GO FURTHER

The May roll-out builds on earlier rounds of support. In January 2025, the sixth tranche of CDC Vouchers had helped many households manage their daily expenses. Retiree Madam Asiyah, from Bukit Gombak, said her son showed her how to claim the vouchers on her phone. "I use them mainly for groceries and food at FairPrice, Sheng Siong and nearby heartland shops and coffee shops," she said.

This year's CDC Vouchers Scheme also coincides with Singapore's 60th birthday, with many merchants offering SG60 promotions such as \$1.60 meals, 60-cent drinks and other deals to help residents stretch their vouchers while supporting local businesses.

"I'm quite digitally savvy, but I still enjoy learning something new," said 77-year-old Koh Hui Khuan, who attended a help booth at West Coast CC to learn how to save the voucher link on his phone's home screen. The CDC Vouchers, he said, help him and his wife manage their grocery and hawker expenses. **B**



PM Wong, Mayor Low, and Mayor for Central Singapore District, Ms Denise Phua, Mr Alex Yam, former Mayor of North East District, Mr Desmond Choo, and former Mayor of South East District, Mr Fahmi Aliman.

BY THE numbers: CDC VOUCHERS SCHEME

- ▶ Additional support announced in **Budget 2025** (delivered on 18 February 2025)
- ▶ \$800 worth of CDC Vouchers per household in total:
 - **\$500** disbursed in May 2025
 - **\$300** to be disbursed in January 2026
- ▶ Claim CDC Vouchers via **go.gov.sg/cdcv** and log in with SingPass
- ▶ Share the unique voucher link **sent from "gov.sg"** with household members
- ▶ **23,000+** participating hawkers and heartland merchants



BRIGHT YOUNG MINDS, REAL-WORLD CHANGE

A bold initiative unites students from Institutes of Higher Learning to turn creativity into practical solutions for challenges in the community.

AFTER SIX MONTHS OF BEING UNABLE TO WALK DUE TO ILLNESS, Singapore Management University (SMU) undergraduate Arielle Goh discovered a profound connection with people with aphasia — a communication disorder often caused by stroke or head trauma. “I relate to people with aphasia who face communication problems due to their medical condition,” she shared. This personal experience led her to join Espresso IV, a programme by SMU’s SoundFoundry and Aphasia SG, which empowers people

with aphasia by enhancing their communication skills and confidence. From singing familiar songs during choir sessions to casual “chit-chat cafes” exploring a range of topics, the programme fosters inclusion and connection. In 2024, the programme took things up a notch with new initiatives, including a Toastmasters club and a book club for participants with more advanced communication skills. For Arielle, the journey has been eye-opening. “We learn patience and empathy

by working with them, and hearing their life stories has changed my perspective on life,” she said. Arielle and her peers are now working to extend the programme’s reach to the new South West Community Inno Lab. Collaborating with other Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), they aim to raise awareness about aphasia, partner with corporations to create workforce opportunities and provide job support through training organisations — paving the way for greater independence.



Participants of SUTD’s STEAMUnity programme, which empowers students to develop solutions to address real-world challenges.



SMU’s Arielle Goh is dedicated to raising awareness about aphasia, a communication disorder often caused by stroke or head trauma.

Host
Ms Low Yen Ling
Senior Minister of State
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth &
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Mayor of South West District

The MOU signing ceremony between South West CDC and nine IHLs marked the launch of the South West Community Inno Lab.

BUILDING SOLUTIONS, CHANGING LIVES

The South West Community Inno Lab was officially launched on 5 November 2024 by Mr Desmond Lee, Adviser to West Coast GRC Grassroots Organisations (GROs), then Minister for National Development and now Minister for Education and Minister-in-Charge of Social Services Integration, alongside Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District. A



Mr Desmond Lee and Ms Low Yen Ling with representatives of the IHLs and guests.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the South West Community Development Council (CDC) and nine IHLs to kick off the initiative.

This first-of-its-kind lab unites students across schools to tackle pressing community challenges. Working in inter-school teams alongside partners like grassroots organisations and healthcare providers, students address issues in health, disability, sustainability and mental wellness. Through brainstorming sessions, mentorship and funding, they design and test solutions that can meaningfully improve lives for residents.

“The South West District will serve as an open classroom and living laboratory for students to test creative and practical solutions,” said Mr Lee. “By pooling together our collective ideas, resources and relationships, we can better catalyse changes to address challenges in the community.”

Ms Low echoed the importance of collaboration. “For the first time, nine IHLs are coming together with community stakeholders to address the needs of society and vulnerable residents in our district,” she said.

“This collaboration will nurture an inclusive and caring culture in the South West District.”

FRESH THINKING IN ACTION

One participating IHL, the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), has already made strides with its STEAMunity programme. This initiative blends science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) with design and artificial intelligence (AI) to tackle community challenges.

For Ngee Ann Polytechnic student Charmaine Lau, 18, joining SUTD’s STEAMunity programme meant solving a real-world problem. Her team, which included students from Nan Chiau High School and Temasek Polytechnic, collaborated with mobility company Anywheel to address poorly parked shared bicycles, which often block walkways and pose safety risks.

Their solution? An AI-powered system requiring users to upload a photo of the parked bike to confirm it is correctly positioned before ending their ride. They also introduced a gamified feature to reward proper parking, encouraging better habits.

“It was an eye-opening experience visiting Anywheel’s HQ and seeing how their technology works,” said Charmaine. She gained hands-on skills in AI and design thinking, which she plans to apply to future projects. “Working with students from different schools and backgrounds allowed us to bring unique skills and ideas to the project,” she added.

The South West Community Inno Lab gives students an opportunity to step outside the classroom and make a real difference. These young innovators are bringing their ideas to life with practical solutions, improving the daily lives of residents in tangible ways. As Charmaine put it: “It’s inspiring to know that our solutions can make a difference. We hope to learn more about using STEAM solutions to solve community problems!” **B**

BIG ideas FOR LOCAL IMPACT

What to know about the South West Community Inno Lab.

- **Nine institutions onboard:** ITE College West, Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore Management University, Singapore Polytechnic, Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore University of Technology and Design, and University of the Arts Singapore.
- **Funding opportunities:** Students receive support to bring their ideas to life, including:
 - **South West Youth Fund:** Up to \$5,000 per project to promote youth volunteerism.
 - **South West Eco Fund Plus:** Up to \$10,000 per project tackling environmental issues.





DPM Gan Kim Yong and Mayor Low Yen Ling, alongside staff volunteers and beneficiaries at the launch of Festive Cheers @ South West 2024.



An interactive science demo booth at the Festive Cheers @ South West launch showcased P&G Singapore's household products, bringing science to life for attendees.



- Pack of toothbrushes • Shampoo
- Toilet freshener, fabric freshener spray or dishwashing liquid • Vitamins

A SEASON OF GIVING BACK

With thoughtful gestures and practical support, P&G Singapore and South West CDC bring festive cheer to families across the district.

LOVE, WARMTH AND HOPE FILLED HILLVIEW COMMUNITY CLUB ON 23 NOVEMBER 2024 AS FESTIVE CHEERS @ SOUTH WEST WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED. The three-month initiative, running from December 2024 to February 2025, aimed to ease the burden of families in need while spreading joy during the festive season across the South West District.

Around 60 Procter & Gamble (P&G) Singapore staff volunteers kicked off the event by presenting gifts and South West Festive Cheers Packs to 60 children and their families, as well as 290 other families from Chua Chu Kang division.

Part of the Adopt @ South West programme, the annual Festive Cheers initiative provides vulnerable residents with essential household items and festive gifts to make the season merrier. The launch was officiated by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Gan Kim Yong and Mayor of South West District Ms Low Yen Ling.

Between December 2024 and February 2025, 8,000 families across the district received South West Festive Cheers Packs worth a total of \$700,000, generously contributed by P&G Singapore and Koh Kock Leong Enterprise. Each pack, valued at \$88, was filled with food and household items to help families meet their daily needs during the festive period.

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

For Ms Liang Ping, 39, a childcare teacher and single mother, receiving a Festive Cheers pack was a heartfelt reminder of the kindness in her community. "I am thankful to receive this pack during the festive season," she said. "It makes me feel that there are a lot of people sharing their love and warmth with us."

Having left a decade-long career in hospitality for a lower-paying childcare role to spend more time with her daughter, Ms Liang has faced financial challenges. The pack helped to stretch her budget as she balanced other expenses for rent, utilities and school fees

while awaiting her Build-to-Order (BTO) flat.

Another recipient, Madam Shima Nur Yashima, 35, expressed her appreciation. A mother of three, she and her husband, a bus driver, manage a tight household budget. "The toiletries are helpful for my daily shower and household cleaning," she said. "The food items will also support my daily cooking."

A COMMUNITY UNITED

Since 2019, P&G Singapore has partnered with the South West Community Development



- Brown rice (1kg) • Vermicelli • Light soya sauce
- Cream crackers • Instant malt drink • Disinfectant spray
- Toilet cleaner detergent • Toothbrush
- Gardenia California Raisin Loaf (sponsored by Gardenia Foods (S))



DPM Gan and Mayor Low joining volunteers from P&G Singapore, Koh Kock Leong Enterprise, and Bukit Gombak and Chua Chu Kang grassroots organisations, as well as about 60 families from the South West District.



DPM Gan and Mayor Low with recipients of the Festive Cheers packs.



The carnival featured balloon sculpting and other engaging booths for residents.

Council (CDC), contributing more than \$8 million in care packs and household essentials. These efforts include support for migrant and healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as festive gifts for vulnerable families.

The event marked six years of collaboration between the consumer goods company and the South West CDC for Festive Cheers @ South West, highlighting the enduring partnership that has consistently brought meaningful impact to the community.

At the heart of the initiative is the South West CDC's steadfast commitment to uplifting the lives of its residents. By collaborating with partners like P&G Singapore and engaging schools and Grassroots Organisations, the CDC has transformed Festive Cheers @ South West into more than just an annual event. It has become a powerful platform for community empowerment and shared responsibility, ensuring no resident is left behind during the festive season.

"Their continued support strengthens our Festive Cheers @ South West programme and its impact on the community," said Ms Low. "We hope these gifts will lighten the residents' load during the festive period, which typically incurs higher household expenditure."

DPM Gan also commended these efforts. "It is truly inspiring to see the whole community coming together to uplift others, especially those who need more help,"

he said. "Such efforts help to build a more united, inclusive and resilient Singapore." He encouraged more Singaporeans to step forward and play their part in empowering others so everyone can continue to build a Singapore to proudly call home.

Reflecting the growing spirit of community volunteerism among young people, more than 100 students from schools like ITE College West, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) were also involved in the packing and distribution of the festive cheers packs. Their enthusiasm showed that anyone, regardless of age, can make an impact.

GIFTS THAT MATTER

Volunteers from P&G Singapore and ITE College West went the extra mile, delivering the festive cheers packs directly to families' doorsteps in Chua Chu Kang. "Seeing the challenges many families face, especially during the festive season, motivated me to get involved," said P&G staff volunteer Tan Mingjie. "I believe it's important to share blessings, and this initiative aligns with my desire to make a tangible difference in people's lives. It's always better to give than to receive."

Fellow volunteer and colleague Indahwati Hartono shared similar sentiments. "Volunteering for this initiative felt like a perfect opportunity to help those in need during a time that should be filled with joy and celebration."

An additional highlight was the Festive Grant-A-Wish @ South West, also supported by P&G Singapore, which fulfilled the wishes of around 300 children, including clients from Movement for the Intellectually Disabled Singapore (MINDS). The wishes ranged from back-to-school supplies and sports equipment to toys and arts and crafts materials. "These gifts support both academic needs and personal interests," Ms Low said.

Take eight-year-old Mohammed Shamiir Khan from MINDS, for example. A fan of police vehicles, his wish for a toy police car came true. "This simple gift allows him to explore his curiosity and the world around him through play," Ms Low added.

BEYOND THE SEASON

For P&G, giving back extends beyond the festive season. Mr Ajit Nayak, Senior Vice President, Hair Care Enterprise Markets, APAC, P&G, explained the company's ongoing commitment to community support. "P&G's core values of caring and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need inspire us to give back," he said.

From health and hygiene initiatives to long-term well-being programmes, P&G's commitment to building stronger communities is unwavering. "Truly, witnessing a child's joy as they receive a personalised gift reminded me that even small gestures can create lasting happiness and hope in our communities," he said. **B**

CLEAN UP @ SOUTH WEST 2025

全面环保在西南
25 JANUARY 2025

NEW ECO-CURRICULUM INSPIRES YOUNG GREEN CHAMPIONS

Through creative recycling projects and zero-waste efforts, students and residents took part in Clean Up @ South West to exchange ideas, adopt green habits and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Gan Kim Yong, launching the enhanced Green Schools @ South West curriculum together with Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District, Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim, Adviser to Chua Chu Kang GRC GROs (Keat Hong), Mr Tiew Chew Meng, BBM, Chairman of South West CDC Environment Committee, and Mr Koh Yan Leng, Vice-President (Campus Infrastructure), National University of Singapore.

THE SOUND OF TAMBOURINES AND BISCUIT-TIN DRUMS FILLED KEAT HONG COMMUNITY CLUB as children from PCF Sparkletots @ Chua Chu Kang Blk 10 kicked off Clean Up @ South West 2025 with a spirited rendition of "Gong Xi, Gong Xi". Their instruments — crafted from recycled materials — set the tone for a day dedicated to sustainability, just as many residents were decluttering their homes ahead of the festive season.

Held on 25 January, this year's event brought an added buzz with the launch of an enhanced eco-curriculum under the South West Community Development Council (CDC)'s Green Schools @ South West programme.

Tailored for primary and secondary school students, this enhanced curriculum equips young minds with practical ways to care for green spaces, cut waste and save energy. It reinforces the district's long-term push for a cleaner, greener future with the Singapore Green Plan 2030 and the 10-year Sustainable South West Masterplan.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Gan Kim Yong, and Mayor of South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling, unveiled the curriculum in the presence of educators, students and corporate and community partners. The new modules — Green Spaces, Zero Waste and Energy Conservation — offer practical ways for students to engage in sustainability. The students will learn to care for school gardens,

small ACTIONS, BIG IMPACT

- Clean Up @ South West has collected over **1,145 tonnes of recyclables** — equivalent to saving more than **19,400 trees** or filling **two Olympic-size swimming pools**.
- **46 community recycling points** have been set up across the district for this year's initiative.
- In 2024, **39 primary and secondary schools** and **41 preschools** took part in the Green Schools @ South West and My Preschool Shines @ South West programmes.



DPM Gan and Mayor Low helping to sort recyclables for the event.



Residents playing a ring toss game made from upcycled waste at Hillgrove Secondary's exhibition booth.

rewild urban spaces, reduce waste and recycle more effectively using data-based problem-solving skills. The Energy Conservation module also links electricity use to climate change, encouraging energy-saving habits.

To inspire their peers, three schools showcased sustainability projects. Blangah Rise Primary School, in collaboration with a National University of Singapore (NUS) alumni, introduced a Sustainability Resource Pack, an educational toolkit that equips educators with resources to nurture students into young leaders who will champion sustainability and urban greening efforts.

DPM Gan said that sustainability is critical for Singapore, a low-lying island that is vulnerable to climate change. He noted that Clean Up @ South West and the enhanced Green Schools @ South West curriculum complement Singapore's Green Plan by equipping students with the knowledge and skills to take ownership of a greener future.



Residents listening intently as Blangah Rise Primary students share their school's recycling initiatives.



Kranji Countryside Association showcasing its members' sustainable farming practices.

Ms Low also shared about the positive impact of the district's zero-waste efforts, a key initiative since 2006. "In 2024 alone, 46 partners, 28 schools and seven corporate partners contributed to the district's recycling drive, with 45 tonnes of recyclables collected from 11 collection points," she said. "Since its inception, Clean Up @ South West has collected over 1,145 tonnes of recyclables — equivalent to saving more than 19,400 trees or filling two Olympic-size swimming pools."

South West CDC continues to nurture young sustainability champions through its Green Schools @ South West and My Preschool Shines @ South West programmes. Last year, 39 primary and secondary schools and 41 preschools participated, engaging students in creative eco projects. "We are proud to recognise 13 preschools and 31 Green Schools for their exemplary efforts in building sustainable communities," said Ms Low.

FUN HANDS-ON PROJECTS AT SCHOOLS

For the My Preschool Shines @ South West 2024 Award, multiple preschools received first prize. Among them was My First Skool @ Boon Lay 3, which has introduced eco-activities using recycled materials. Its students organised Sustainability Day, played a recycling game called Eco Hero and ran DIY workshops. "We created a game to encourage recycling across all levels," said English teacher Sarah Chan.

The school also promotes eco-friendly habits like using washable plates and switching off lights, she said, while parents join clean-ups and sustainability workshops, which have reinforced green habits at home. "Students are not only recycling and bringing reusable bags but are also excitedly sharing these habits at home, inspiring their families to join the green journey," she added.

My First Skool @ Telok Blangah Heights, the second-place winner, has a recycling corner where parents contribute recyclables like plastic bottles and cardboard for children's art projects, some of which are showcased at the National Gallery Singapore. "We also organise clean-up drives at Tiong Bahru Park, where children sort recyclables and learn about waste management and its impact," said teacher Cloydane Matilac.

The preschool's annual donation drives also collect toys and books for organisations such as Green Sproutz and the



Chua Chu Kang Secondary students giving vermicomposting tips to residents.



Residents trying a recycling game.

7 EXHIBITION BOOTHS AT CLEAN UP @ SOUTH WEST 2025

Booth	Theme
Chua Chu Kang Secondary School	Vermicomposting: Recycling food waste into compost for plants using earthworms
City Sproutz	Scent memory game with different types of mint leaves
Green Sproutz	Crafting name card holders from recycled banners
Hillgrove Secondary School	Upcycling plastic waste into innovative games
Kranji Countryside Association	Local produce distribution and sustainable farming practices
National Environment Agency	Interactive game on recycling right
NUS & Blangah Rise Primary School	Introduction to the Sustainability Resource Pack

Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS). The school plans to expand their sustainability efforts in the coming years.

Other Green School award winners also shared their experiences. Blangah Rise Primary School student Dave Nick, 12, was surprised by what he learnt from the NUS masterclass. "I used to think it was just sorting trash into different coloured bins," he said. But after attending the session, he realised that proper recycling could extend Singapore's landfill capacity by up to 10 years. Now, he sorts recyclables, brings his own reusable bags and actively encourages his friends and family to do the same. He also hopes to discuss environmental issues with friends and spread the message through social media when he gets older.

RETHINKING CONSUMPTION AND HABITS

Hillgrove Secondary School took an innovative approach to sustainability with a circular fashion initiative. Inspired by Nanyang Girls' High School's Interschool Circular Fashion Seminar 2024, Hillgrove students organised a clothes donation drive, collecting 132 pieces of second-hand clothing. The event included a fashion swap, a circular fashion workshop and a student-led fashion show. "The Swap Shop not only reduces fast fashion's impact but also fosters responsibility for sustainable living," said Madam Chia Yee Ping, Subject Head of Science at Hillgrove Secondary School.

For student Ong Rui Xuan, 14, the experience reshaped her shopping habits. She now ensures her family fully uses products before buying new ones and finds ways to recycle and upcycle packaging.

At the event, residents also picked up green tips from the exhibition booths. Ms Serene Chew, 36, shared that her son learnt from the National Environment Agency's booth that old clothes should not go into the blue recycling bin. Meanwhile, Madam Lam Mee Fong, 60, discovered from Chua Chu Kang Secondary School's booth that vegetable and fruit peels can be turned into fertiliser. These hands-on lessons demonstrated how small, everyday changes can make a big impact, inspiring both students and residents to adopt greener habits. **B**



A Green Conversation was held, as part of the event, where the panellists shared about how schools can achieve net zero.



The new Public Hygiene Council CleanPod at West Coast Park is equipped with litter-picking tongs and pails, enabling the public to organise their own clean-up activities with ease.



Volunteers contributing to tree-planting efforts.

BY THE *numbers*: CLEAN & GREEN SINGAPORE

- ▶ **1 million** more trees to be planted by 2030 (Singapore to have more than 8 million trees in total by then)
- ▶ **700,000+** trees have been planted to date
- ▶ **50,000** trees already planted at NUS
- ▶ **1963**: launch of first nationwide tree-planting campaign by Mr Lee Kuan Yew
- ▶ **21** CleanPods across Singapore
- ▶ **7** new Community In Bloom Ambassadors appointed in 2024

ROOTED IN SUSTAINABILITY

Tree planting, community action and green champions took centre stage at Singapore's cornerstone event for a cleaner, greener tomorrow.

FOR 19-YEAR-OLD PRISHA ALAGU SUBRAMANIAN, a first-year environmental studies undergraduate at the National University of Singapore (NUS), the recent tree-planting ceremony at NUS University Town was an inspiring and memorable experience. "It's my first time at such an event, and I feel proud to be here," she said. "It's a community engagement effort, so I feel like I'm part of something bigger."

She joined 160 NUS students and staff to plant trees as part of

Clean & Green Singapore Day 2024, held on 3 November 2024. This annual event, which began in 1963, reflects Singapore's longstanding commitment to environmental care and sustainability. Over the decades, the initiative has grown into a nationwide movement uniting individuals, organisations and communities.

Jointly organised by the National Environment Agency (NEA), South West Community Development Council (CDC), National Parks Board (NParks) and

NUS, the event celebrated sustainability milestones and highlighted collaborative efforts to protect the environment.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Mr Heng Swee Keat, who was a Guest of Honour at the event, recalled Singapore's journey towards greening its cityscape. "Mr Lee Kuan Yew, our 'Chief Gardener', started more than 60 years ago with a single Mempat tree at Farrer Park," he shared. "Mr Lee was a 'greenie' before the term was invented. I am glad that we have crossed the 70 per cent mark in our national target to plant a million more trees by 2030 — well ahead of schedule!"

Under NParks' OneMillionTrees movement, NUS has pledged to plant 100,000 trees on campus by 2030. At the event, Mr Heng and Ms Low helped plant the university's 50,000th tree, a *Margaritaria indica*, which is recognised as a National Heritage Tree.

A LASTING COMMITMENT

Mr Heng also highlighted the deeper meaning behind the initiative. "A Clean and Green Singapore has always been more than a slogan," he said. "It is a

commitment. A commitment that we make to one another — to our family and friends, and to the wider community — as well as to future generations."

The initiative, he added, extends beyond improving the physical environment. "It is also about the society we live in — one where we care for one another, and practise being good neighbours and active citizens." These efforts are all investments in our shared future.

To support these efforts, Mr Heng launched a new Public Hygiene Council CleanPod at West Coast Park. Stocked with litter-picking tongs and pails, the modern-day toolshed allows the public to organise their own clean-up activities. Found in parks, beaches and housing estates, they encourage a hands-on approach to sustainability. Mr Heng and Ms Low joined NUS students, grassroots leaders and residents in a park clean-up to put the CleanPod into action.

For frequent West Coast Park visitor, Ms Lim Lean Li, 34, the initiative was a welcome addition. "I can grab the pail easily from the CleanPod, and from now on when I see anything, I can just pick it up," she said. "It's a good initiative for the park."

CELEBRATING GREEN CHAMPIONS

Singapore's clean and green future is also powered by grassroots community stewards whose efforts foster a nationwide culture of environmental care.

Mr Heng acknowledged the volunteers in the NParks Community In Bloom programme, which fosters gardening and nature appreciation in neighbourhoods, and thanked them for their efforts to spark a nationwide culture of environmental stewardship.

To honour exceptional contributions, Mr Heng also presented the Environmental Services Star Awards and the Community In Bloom Ambassador Awards. These accolades recognise individuals



A total of 160 NUS students and staff participated in the tree planting as part of Clean & Green Singapore Day 2024.



The 50,000th tree was planted at NUS last year. The Institute of Higher Learning has pledged to plant 100,000 trees on campus by 2030.

and Environmental Services employees dedicated to building a cleaner, greener Singapore.

One awardee, 48-year-old Mr Jon Tay, a hobby gardener from South West District, was appointed a Community In Bloom

Ambassador for his dedication to local gardening projects and community engagement. "It takes time," Mr Tay said, "As long as we persist and embrace the clean and green spirit, it will continue to grow and remain strong." **B**



Minister Desmond Lee, Mayor Low Yen Ling and Mr Heng Swee Keat exchanging insights on environmental care with booth representatives.



Volunteers from Siltronic Singapore packing groceries to be distributed to families in Taman Jurong on 9 November 2024.

TARGETED HELP FOR FAMILIES

Practical support from Siltronic Singapore provides groceries and school supplies, offering relief to families and their children.

AT 69, MR OMAR RAMLAN HAS FOUND VITAL SUPPORT IN THE MOBILE GROCERIES @ SOUTH WEST INITIATIVE BY THE SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CDC). "It helps me save about two weeks of grocery expenses, and that means a lot," he said. The savings allow the part-time security officer to prioritise his medical bills. "I have some chronic conditions and need to visit the polyclinic every few months," he added, reflecting on the mounting costs since his thyroid surgery.

A collaboration between the South West CDC and Hao Ren Hao Shi, the initiative was launched in April 2024 to help residents cope with rising expenses. A lorry stocked with essential items travels

to neighbourhoods, allowing families to choose up to \$40 worth of groceries and household essentials that suit their needs.

The programme aims to support 7,200 families with nearly \$300,000 worth of goods over two years.

On 9 November 2024, Siltronic Singapore staff volunteers joined the effort, distributing groceries at Yung Kuang Road, Taman Jurong. Despite heavy rain disrupting plans for the mobile lorry, the team quickly adapted by setting up stations indoors at an HDB pavilion, ensuring a smooth and comfortable collection process for residents. For many families, initiatives like this provide not just practical assistance but also the opportunity to focus on priorities beyond daily necessities.

BRINGING ESSENTIALS TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

For Madam Ang Kwee Lee, 61, the Mobile Groceries @ South West programme has been a boon. Every week, she buys groceries for her 82-year-old mother. "She suffered a mini stroke, which affected her mobility, so I come down every week to help with groceries," she said. With items like bananas, vegetables, biscuits, canned food, bread and eggs, Mdm Ang ensures her mother has nutritious ingredients for daily meals and snacks. "It also helps us save on grocery expenses, and we feel very thankful," she added.

The initiative's impact also inspires those who help drive its success. For Mr Kevin Lee, Vice President of Technology



Volunteers distributing groceries to families in Taman Jurong.



A resident picking up essential groceries like biscuits and canned food, supported by volunteers.



Siltronic Singapore volunteers distributed schoolbags and essential supplies to students and gave them a much-needed boost for the school year.

at Siltronic Singapore, supporting Mobile Groceries @ South West is deeply personal. "I didn't come from a well-to-do family, so I empathise with the underprivileged," he said. Siltronic Singapore's partnership with South West CDC goes beyond financial aid; it reflects Siltronic Singapore's commitment to community care and encourages employees to take an active role. "I'm happy to see our staff working together for a good cause," he said. Watching residents collect groceries reminded him of the community's ongoing needs and reinforced his commitment to backing such programmes.

The experience was equally fulfilling for Siltronic Singapore staff volunteer Cecil Wong, who spent a Saturday afternoon helping with the distribution alongside his family. "I learnt that pooling manpower resources is just as important as monetary donations," he said. Inspired by the experience, he hopes to join door-to-door delivery efforts in the future. It was equally rewarding for his children, who enjoyed it so much that they are already eager to volunteer again.

PREPARING YOUNG STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Siltronic Singapore's community efforts extend beyond helping families with

groceries to supporting children in need.

In another partnership between the company and South West CDC, the My Schooling Needs @ South West programme provides essential items like schoolbags, accessories and bookshop vouchers to help identified K2 students transition to Primary 1.

On 7 November 2024, Siltronic Singapore staff took part in a distribution exercise for the programme at Bukit Batok West Avenue 6. Employees contributed by packing schoolbags and other essentials, aiming to bring warmth and encouragement to the children. "Education is a key pillar that our company supports, and we want every child to have equal opportunities," explained Ms Pearly Tan, Human Resources Director at Siltronic Singapore. She shared a touching moment when a young girl received her new schoolbag with uncontainable joy. "Seeing the smiles on the children's faces brightened our day," she said.

My Schooling Needs @ South West has supported more than 3,500 children since its launch in 2017. While Siltronic Singapore's own bursary initiative has traditionally supported primary school students in the East, its involvement in My Schooling Needs @ South West has expanded its reach to even younger learners in the district.

Staff volunteer Mr Chung Choon Hiang

was deeply moved by the kindness of some children, who expressed a desire to share their supplies with their siblings. "Their thoughtfulness at such a young age is very commendable," he said.

For families like Ms Pham Thi Bich Lien's, the programme has been a significant source of relief. With two young children and a husband who works as a taxi driver, the savings on school supplies make a tangible difference. Practical items, such as coloured pencils and poster colours, have also brought joy to her son, who now has more tools to nurture his love of drawing.

Madam Dieyana Jailani, 32, shared a similar sentiment. Balancing the cost of food and education expenses for her children has been a persistent challenge, but receiving bookshop vouchers, school accessories and a new schoolbag has eased her financial strain. "With three kids, we need to buy a lot of food as they are growing up fast and need more nutrition," she explained.

Siltronic Singapore's support for both the Mobile Groceries and My Schooling Needs @ South West programmes continues to make a meaningful impact on families in need. By easing financial burdens and providing practical assistance, these initiatives empower residents to focus on what truly matters, from ensuring their children's health and education to creating opportunities for a brighter future. **B**

SILTRONIC SINGAPORE'S support AT A GLANCE

► Empowering young learners:

My Schooling Needs @ South West has supported more than 3,500 K2 students since 2017.

► What's in each bag:

Students received schoolbags, water bottles, pencil cases, scissors, erasers, rulers, sharpeners, 2B pencils, magic pens, colour pencils, poster colours and bookstore vouchers.

► Community outreach:

On 9 November 2024, about 30 Siltronic Singapore volunteers were involved in the Mobile Groceries @ South West initiative, where 76 residents benefited from groceries.



LANTERNS, LAUGHTER AND LIVELY ARTS

From creative workshops to cultural performances, Jurong Lake Gardens transformed into a Mid-Autumn haven, delighting visitors of all ages.



Lanterns depicting Chinese mythological characters, such as Chang'e and Nezha, lit up Jurong Lake Gardens in a stunning display.

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD NICOLE CHING did not expect more than a quirky sketch when she sat down for a caricature at Lights by the Lake 2024 x ArtsEverywhere@CDC. "I used to think caricatures made people look ugly, but mine turned out to be quite cute," she said with a laugh.

What started as a spontaneous visit turned into an unforgettable evening brimming with artistic surprises, festive traditions and dazzling lantern displays.

ILLUMINATING FOLKLORE

Lights by the Lake, a 15-day extravaganza that ended on 22 September 2024, transformed Jurong Lake Gardens with more than 300 handcrafted lanterns. On 15 September, midway through the festivities, the third edition of the event drew large crowds with its vibrant designs inspired by timeless Chinese folklore.

Families and friends wandered through the gardens, taking in illuminated scenes of Chang'e and her moon palace, the legend of the White Snake and Nezha's battle with the Dragon King. Floating lanterns, always a favourite, cast a serene glow over the water, while origami-inspired installations added a modern touch. The celebration captured the essence of the Mid-Autumn Festival, symbolised by the full moon and the themes of unity, hope, abundance and love.

In support of President's Challenge 2024, National Parks Board, South West Community Development Council (CDC) and A-Smart Media came together to jointly organise meaningful fundraising activities as part of Lights by the Lake, where residents could purchase floating water lanterns, 3D-printed souvenirs and solar-powered tulips to add a heartfelt touch to the evening. All proceeds went directly to the President's Challenge Charity Fund to support vulnerable communities in Singapore.

CELEBRATING CULTURE AND CHARITY

Guest-of-Honour President Tharman Shanmugaratnam toured the vibrant lantern showcase at Lakeside Field. His visit spotlighted the President's Challenge 2024, with activity booths and exhibition panels highlighting fundraising efforts for vulnerable communities.

President Tharman officiated the event with the traditional eye-dotting ceremony to symbolically "awaken" two lions for a lion dance performance. Steeped in Chinese tradition, the ceremony represents blessings of protection, good fortune, health and prosperity for those present. Performed by students



Residents having their caricatures drawn by an artist at the ArtsEverywhere@CDC event.

from Yuan Ching Secondary School, the lion dance set a high-energy tone for the evening.

Later, President Tharman visited the Chinese and Japanese Gardens, where the newly spruced-up Cloud Pagoda was illuminated by the light projection show, "Mid-Autumn Symphony", marking the gardens' transformation after extensive rejuvenation. Throngs of visitors eagerly took out their phones, capturing videos and photos of the vibrant, pulsing display in an impressive array of rainbow colours.

President Tharman also recognised the sponsors of the President's Challenge, a long-standing initiative that has uplifted vulnerable communities in Singapore since 2000 through volunteering and public donations. He presented tokens of appreciation to the sponsors, acknowledging their significant contributions to this meaningful effort.

ARTS MEETS COMMUNITY

This time, Lights by the Lake embraced an artistic twist, with the inclusion of ArtsEverywhere@CDC performances. A collaboration between the National Arts Council, People's Association and the five CDCs, and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, the initiative brings the arts closer to the heartlands through performances, workshops and activities.

Contributing to the evening's electric atmosphere was 'My Identity: Beyond Artistry', a dance musical performance by the Brahmastra ensemble and led by award-winning composer and flautist Niranjana Pandian. Staged near PAssion Wave at Wave Plaza, the show combined Indian folk, fusion and classical melodies with themes of unity, hope and love.

The performance explored the lives of five arts practitioners dedicated to their craft. "We presented it in an abstract manner, which is usually only seen in theatres and concert halls," explained Mr Niranjana. He added that bringing such performances to the community allows residents to experience high-quality art close to home while gaining a deeper appreciation for the arts.



Mr Ankit Goyal, his wife, Ms Priyenka Supta, and their children enjoyed the performance and drumming workshop.

Among those who attended were Mr Ankit Goyal, 39, and his wife, Ms Priyenka Supta, 36, who brought their two children. The family enjoyed both the performance and a hands-on workshop on traditional drumming. "Playing the drums connects us with Indian music and folk songs," he said, adding that the experience strengthened their connection to their cultural heritage.

Mr Thirukumar, founder of traditional Indian drumming school Damaru Singapore, which conducted a *parai* drum and *karagam* (pot dance) workshop with the Brahmastra ensemble, noted that the session provided an opportunity for people from all walks of life to engage with and appreciate another culture.

Lights by the Lake 2024 x ArtsEverywhere@CDC united residents in a celebration of the arts, culture and compassion, leaving the neighbourhood aglow with shared memories and a stronger sense of togetherness.



The Brahmastra ensemble captivating the audience with their dance performance.



The event's fringe activities included a fun workshop where residents crafted their own paper *tanjak* (Malay headgear).



Residents engaging in a hands-on session to learn the art of playing traditional Indian drums.

EVERY STEP COUNTS

Participants of Walk Challenge @ South West 2025 shared the joys of making walking a way of life.

EVERY MORNING WITHOUT FAIL, 55-YEAR-OLD MR ZHANG WEIDONG SPENDS HALF AN HOUR WALKING HIS DOG AROUND BOON LAY MEADOW ESTATE. The project manager said this energises him for the day ahead. "While I used to walk only on weekends, getting a dog four years ago turned me into a daily morning walker," he shared. "Doing so helps me control my weight, and it's nice to chat with my wife when we walk together."

In the evenings and on weekends, his wife, Madam Liao Lirong, 58, joins him for walks around their estate or in parks. "We like walking. It has become an essential part of our lifestyle and keeps us healthy," she said.

BRINGING LIKE-MINDED FRIENDS TOGETHER

Both are active members of Eat Fat Fat Boon Lay Team — a group of 10 enthusiastic walkers from Boon Lay Meadow. Most of the team members also participate in Fun Walkers @ South West, a programme by South West Community Development Council (CDC) promoting active ageing and healthy living in the South West District since 2006.

Last December, they signed up for Walk Challenge @ South West 2025 as a team. Participants each received an event T-shirt, and those who clocked at least 15km individually, or 120km collectively, between 1 January and 28 February this year stood a chance to win \$20 supermarket vouchers.

Mr Zhang's team, who alternated between solo walks and group strolls to Jurong Lake Gardens, emerged champions of the challenge after logging an impressive 644.77 km.

Ms Elisa Chua, leader of Eat Fat Fat Boon Lay Team, shared, "We tracked our progress by submitting our individual walking data to the challenge portal and could see how other teams were doing."

She added that at one point, competition was tight between her team and the eventual runners-up, who covered 573.35km.



Eat Fat Fat Boon Lay Team joining others on a walk in Pasir Ris Park organised by Boon Lay Active Ageing Committee.

Madam Ang Mei Ling, 62, another team member, said, "Walking is already part of our routine, but the challenge made it more fun and competitive." She exemplifies active ageing through her well-rounded fitness routine — combining daily walks with Health Promotion Board's MOVE IT classes that include Zumba, qigong and yoga.

Explaining the group's quirky name, Ms Chua said she and her teammates love eating and often share meals after their walks. Like Mr Zhang, she credits walking with helping her manage her weight. The 54-year-old also stays active by participating in ActiveSG events and volunteering with Team Nila, a national movement fostering social cohesion through sports.



Members of the walking group striding ahead on one of their walks.

REAPING BENEFITS BEYOND GOOD HEALTH

Eat Fat Fat Boon Lay Team's enthusiasm has led them to join other walking events both within and outside their neighbourhood. Last year, the group of like-minded *kakis* participated in Walk Challenge @ South West 2024, Boon Lay Race 2024 and an outing to Pasir Ris Park organised by Boon Lay Active Ageing Committee.

Besides keeping healthy and supporting active ageing, walking has also strengthened their friendships and deepened their appreciation for nature. "The atmosphere is livelier when we walk together," Mdm Liao said, adding that they have spotted animals such as wild chickens, monitor lizards and otters on their walks. **B**



(Clockwise from left) Ms Lina Wati Ng, Mr Zhang Weidong, Ms Elisa Chua and Mr Yeo Boon Lye clocking their distance from their estate in Boon Lay Drive to Jurong Lake Gardens for Walk Challenge @ South West 2025.

Fun Walkers @ South West is part of the CDC's efforts to foster community bonding and build a healthier South West District.

Fun Walkers @ South West is designed for everyone to participate as a group or individual. You can look forward to regular walking sessions in the community, embark on unique nature trails with your family and friends, and take part in community events.



西南乐乐走是西南社理会通过步行以提倡社区凝聚力及健康社区的活动之一。西南乐乐走是为男女老少而设计的。您将在社区里参加乐乐走活动，并参与独特的步行活动及社理会活动。



If you are keen to join **Fun Walkers @ South West**, please approach your nearest Community Centre/Club (CC) or Residents' Committee (RC) Centre. Should you have any queries, please contact:
欲知详情，请联络：
South West Community Development Council
西南社区发展理事会
Tel: 6316 1616 Fax: 6316 7250
Email: Southwest_CDC@pa.gov.sg
Website: <https://southwest.cdc.gov.sg/>

Health Qigong @ South West

is an initiative by the CDC to encourage active ageing through regular bonding and engagement in qigong.



If you are keen to join **Health Qigong @ South West**, please approach your nearest Community Centre/Club (CC) or Residents' Committee (RC) Centre. Should you have any queries, please contact:

South West Community Development Council

Tel: 6316 1616

Email: Southwest_CDC@pa.gov.sg

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

GIRLS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW

Girl Guides Singapore's South West Community Guiding Programme nurtured growth, friendship, teamwork and leadership skills at a memorable two-day Brownie camp, supported by Young Adults and Adult Leaders.



The Inter-Unit Brownie holiday camp at the Girl Guides Singapore headquarters included activities such as a terrarium workshop and a campfire singalong.

SOFEA ELLYSHA, 17, HAS BEEN WITH GIRL GUIDES SINGAPORE (GGS) SINCE PRIMARY SCHOOL. Beginning her journey as a Brownie, she has progressed to the Young Adult (YA) branch, where she now mentors girls aged 7 to 12 in the South West Community Guiding Programme. This collaboration between GGS and the South West Community Development Council (CDC) helps young girls develop leadership and life skills through engaging activities beyond the classroom.

"I learnt so much about how to communicate with children," said Sofea. "As you grow older, you sometimes forget how to connect with the younger ones." Her fellow YA, Bernyce Leng Kit Yen, 19, agreed, adding, "In Guiding, we aim to instil good values in them."

Some 32 girls, including seven Brownies from the Agnes 1st Pack of the South West District's Community Guiding Programme, took part in a two-day, one-night Inter-Unit Pack Holiday at the GGS headquarters in Bishan from 28 to 29 December 2024.

Typically, the Agnes 1st Pack meets on the last Sunday of each month at Hillview Community Club, making this camp a special treat during the school holidays. Led by YAs and Adult Leaders, the camp was the first Inter-Unit event for Brownies, and organisers hope to make it a regular tradition.

Through a series of interactive and skill-building activities, the girls developed confidence, teamwork skills and a sense of independence — through the monthly Community Guiding Programme.

The camp kicked off with a morning visit to Gardens by the Bay, followed by a terrarium workshop, where the Brownies



At the camp, Brownies picked up new skills, made new friends and learnt from mentors.



YAs and Brownies singing and clapping at the campfire singalong.

created their own miniature green spaces. Their mentors provided guidance, ensuring each terrarium was beautifully assembled.

A standout moment of the camp was the campfire singalong. Guide House came alive with cheerful singing and clapping as the Brownies performed classics like "Kookaburra", "Peace Like a River" and "Adiji Yell". Stumbling over the more challenging clapping sequences only added to the fun and made the experience all the more memorable.

BROWNIES BUILDING BONDS

The camp gave the Brownies a chance to bond and grow while trying new activities. With mentors guiding them, the girls fully immersed themselves in a fun, supportive environment. "My favourite activity was making flowers for Teachers' Day," said Clara Lim Qin Yi, 9. "The YAs taught us how to make them, and we made them together."

A key moment was the enrolment ceremony during the camp's finale, when the Brownies received their proficiency badges and were officially enrolled. This reflects the programme's goal of instilling responsibility, teamwork and leadership from a young age. The South West Community Guiding Programme provides a supportive environment for girls to develop life skills while forming meaningful friendships. "It was exciting meeting Brownies from other Packs," said Clara. Another Brownie, Ava Maya Rose Betts, 10, shared, "I like that I get to spend time with them," adding that she made several new friends.

The camp left a lasting impression on many participants. Ava shared her dream of following in her mother's footsteps, adding that her mother had been a Girl Guide in secondary school. Clara also felt inspired and hopes to become a mentor one day. "I can teach the younger kids," she said.

Beyond the camp, the South West Community Guiding Programme continues to create opportunities for young girls to explore new skills, take on responsibilities and grow as individuals. Through team activities, skill-building workshops and leadership roles, the experience is designed to create lasting memories. "They meet friends here, so hopefully those friendships will stay with them," said Bernyce. Sofea added, "I hope that even when they grow up, they'll still remember their time here." **B**

WHAT IS THE SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY GUIDING PROGRAMME?

- ▶ A collaboration between the South West CDC and Girl Guides Singapore
- ▶ Encourages girls aged 7 to 12 to explore their potential beyond home and school
- ▶ Builds key skills in citizenship, creativity, character, communication, collaboration and commitment
- ▶ Features engaging, learner-led activities such as camping, cooking and first aid
- ▶ Promotes collaborative learning among peers of all ages
- ▶ Fosters meaningful friendships and lasting memories

Know a girl who would love to explore, learn and grow with Girl Guides Singapore? Scan the QR code to enrol in the Agnes 1st Pack through the South West Community Guiding Programme.



A WeCare @ South West Initiative by:



SOUTH WEST TERTIARY GRANT

\$600 for successful applicants to defray educational expenses

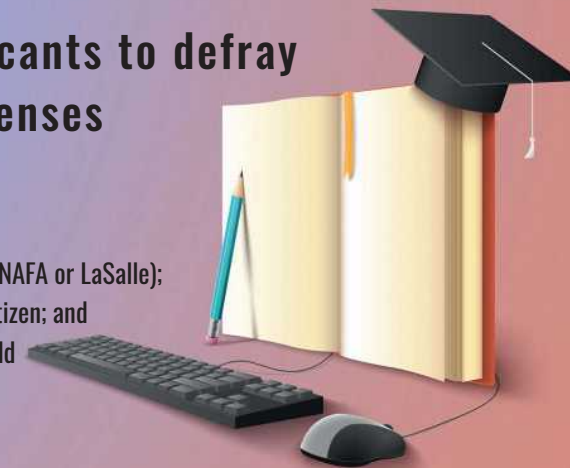
Eligibility Criteria

- Resident of South West District;
- Full-time student at localised tertiary institutions (polytechnics, universities, NAFA or LaSalle);
- Singapore Citizen or at least one immediate family member is a Singapore Citizen; and
- Combined Gross Monthly Household Income of \$3,500 or Per Capita Household Income of \$1,000, whichever is lower.



Scan the QR code to download the application form.

Application is open throughout the year. Visit <https://southwest.cdc.gov.sg/> for more information or email us at swcdc_bursaries@pa.gov.sg for further enquiries.



How to Claim and Spend your CDC Vouchers

1

Visit go.gov.sg/cdcv
Tap on CDC Vouchers
2025 (May).



2

Log in with Singpass
Only one household member needs to claim on behalf of the household.



3

Receive your CDC Vouchers link by SMS, from gov.sg
Forward the SMS to share with household members.



4

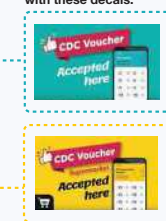
Select the voucher type and amount you want to use
Show the QR code to the participating merchant to scan.



Where to spend your CDC Vouchers:
go.gov.sg/cdcvouchers



Spend your CDC Vouchers at shops with these decals:



Visuals are for illustrative purposes only.

Scan to Claim your CDC Vouchers!



go.gov.sg/cdcv

Use your CDC Vouchers by 31 December 2025

If you do not have a smartphone, Singpass, or need assistance, visit your nearest Community Centre/Club (CC) between 10am and 6pm (except Public Holidays).

Hotline: 6225 5322 | Website: vouchers.cdc.gov.sg/residents/info

Brought to you by:



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Knowing my district

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

Circle the correct answer.

1. **Where was the latest tranche of the CDC Vouchers Scheme launched on 13 May 2025?**
 A) Clementi Community Centre
 B) Nee Soon South Community Club
 C) Marine Parade Town Centre
2. **How many families received South West Festive Cheers Packs worth a total of \$700,000 between December 2024 and February 2025?**
 A) 6,500
 B) 7,500
 C) 8,000
3. **How many exhibition booths were set up at Clean Up @ South West 2025 to promote sustainability and environmental awareness?**
 A) 7
 B) 8
 C) 12
4. **What traditional Malay headgear did participants craft using paper during a fun workshop at Lights By The Lake x ArtsEverywhere@CDC?**
 A) *Songkok*
 B) *Bergunung*
 C) *Tanjak*
5. **Which two organisations collaborated on the South West Community Guiding Programme to support young girls in developing leadership and life skills?**
 A) Girl Guides Singapore and South West Community Development Council
 B) People's Association and National Youth Council
 C) Ministry of Education and Singapore Tourism Board

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 September 2025



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: _____