

Embargoed until 18 March, 10am



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14 March 2023

To News Editor

SELFLESS VOLUNTEERS STEP FORWARD TO UPLIFT RESIDENTS

*Contributions and sacrifice of over 100 volunteers and partners
recognised at the North West Volunteers Award 2023*

77 student and individual volunteers, as well as 54 corporate and community partners, will be recognised for their immense contributions in serving the North West community. Many of whom have dedicated their time and service to support the community, working closely with **North West Community Development Council (CDC)** to lend a helping hand to needy residents, spur the community to adopt a healthy lifestyle, and champion green causes.

2 At the **North West Volunteers Awards 2023**, one of the awardees is **Mr Gary Aw**, 52, a passionate and committed volunteer at New Life Community Services. He volunteers at least nine hours a week on the Kids Champ Club programme, contributing a total of 460 volunteer hours a year. To Mr Aw, his sense of achievement does not come from the number of hours clocked, but the meaningful interaction he has with these children. He became a father figure to the children-at-risk, guiding them with the right values and tutoring them on not only school subjects, but also life-skills such as self-confidence and public speaking.

3 Similarly, for **Mr Lee Wei Yung**, 59, who despite his busy schedule as a Commercial Litigation Lawyer, has been serving as a committed volunteer with Pro Bono SG, supporting needy residents in the North West District with legal advice. In addition to providing legal guidance to navigate through legal issues, he goes the extra mile to ensure that residents are referred to relevant agencies for further assistance, and on occasions representing them. Mr Lee was a regular Senior Officer in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) prior to continued full time legal practice. The same sense of making a difference in people's lives led him to believe that all residents should have equal access to justice and legal aid, regardless of their background. Mr Lee has now with the committed support of Pro Bono SG served as a volunteer lawyer for over 15 years, with the determination to provide legal aid to needy residents who may not have the means to hire a lawyer.

4 On the healthy living front, **Mdm Ho Wai Hing**, at the golden age of 75, leads a group of seniors at Qigong practice and Brisk Walk sessions, rain or shine, for 6 days a week. Despite being one of the oldest members

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in our healthy living clubs, she remains a strong advocate for fitness activities. For over 10 years, Mdm Ho has helped to build up the membership for both clubs, bringing together many seniors and providing an avenue for them to bond through similar interests. She also takes the initiative to organise gatherings outside of her daily healthy living activities, encouraging family members and friends to join her in leading a healthier lifestyle. A fellow Brisk Walking Club (BWC) leader, **Mdm Kamisha Sumad**, 64, who initially joined the Club to spend her time more meaningfully, has now served for over 13 years. From strangers to buddies, these weekly walks with friends keep her motivated to stay active and she continues to encourage more residents to participate.

5 These volunteers are among 131 individuals and organisations who will be recognised at the annual **North West Volunteers' Awards 2023**, which will be hosted by **Mayor of North West District, Mr Alex Yam**, and held on 18 March 2023 at The Republic Cultural Centre. The awards are based on four categories, including North West WeCare Volunteer Award, North West WeCare Partner Award, Outstanding School Partner Award, and Outstanding All Rounder Student Award.

6 Elaborating on the crucial role of volunteers, **Mayor of North West District, Mr Alex Yam** says “Our volunteers and partners are the backbone of the CDC’s programmes and initiatives, enabling us to connect the available resources to the needs in the community. I’m heartened to be able to recognise many of our volunteers and partners who have demonstrated outstanding commitment in serving our community. Having emerged from the pandemic, I hope that collectively

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as a community, more volunteers can step forward to provide the support needed to uplift our North West residents."

7 The CDC will continue to aggregate the available resources, build capabilities, and connect them to community needs – aligning to the CDC's mission of building a caring and healthy North West community. To explore volunteerism opportunities, please write to northwestcdc_partnerships@pa.gov.sg.

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Media Invitation

Media is invited to **North West Volunteers' Awards 2023** at The Republic Cultural Centre on 18 March 2023. A Media doorstep with spokespersons, Mayor of North West District, Mr Alex Yam, as well as corporate and individual volunteers, could be arranged. See below for details of the media event.

North West Volunteers' Awards 2023

Date: Saturday, 18 March 2023
Media arrival: 9.45am
Venue: The Republic Cultural Centre (TRCC)
Republic Polytechnic
9 Woodlands Avenue 9 Singapore 738964

Contact Person for Media:

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Enclosed:

- 1) Annex A – Media Programme for North West Volunteers' Awards 2023
- 2) Annex B – Key Translations
- 3) Annex C – Media FAQs (Appended separately)

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About North West Community Development Council (CDC)

The Community Development Councils (CDCs) were established to build a tightly knit, compassionate and self-reliant community. North West CDC works closely with various community and corporate partners to strengthen Singapore's social fabric; and encourages the more able and successful to come forward to help the less successful, and to foster greater sense of community ownership and self-help among the residents.

We strive to align our activities and efforts with our mission:

(a) Aggregator of Needs and Resources

To help the less fortunate through local assistance programmes

(b) Builder of Capabilities and Capacities

To bond the community through projects & programmes to bring them closer to one another

(c) Connector of Communities

To develop strategic partnerships with corporate and community partners to better serve our residents

To achieve our mission, North West CDC continues to build programmes to provide support to residents under four key pillars:

i. Uplifting the Community

To support for residents through local assistance schemes and encourage self-reliance and empower residents to improve their lives and employability.

ii. Promoting Health and Wellness

Through a range of healthy living programmes, we hope for our North West residents to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle, and join our health and wellness movement.

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iii. Advocating Green Living

Working towards a sustainable future, we aim to imbue a green mindset and spark behavioral change among residents. Through various green initiatives, residents are encouraged to adopt green habits starting from the simplest actions.

iv. Enabling Partnerships and Volunteerism

We will play our enabler role in connecting our community and corporate partners' resources and volunteerism, to serve the various needs in the community.

The North West District comprises Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC, Nee Soon GRC, Sembawang GRC, Holland-Bukit Timah GRC, and Bukit Panjang SMC.

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Annex A

North West Volunteers' Awards 2023

Saturday, 18 March 2023

The Republic Cultural Centre, Republic Polytechnic

MEDIA PROGRAMME

| Time | Programme |
|-------------|--|
| 9:45am | Media arrival |
| 10:00am | Opening Address by Mayor Mr Alex Yam |
| 10:10am | Commencement of Awards Ceremony |
| 11:30am | Media Doorstop with spokespersons (on request) |
| 11:45pm | Lunch Reception |

Key Translations

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|--|----------------------------|
| North West Community Development Council (CDC) | 西北社区发展理事会 / 西北社理会 |
| North West Volunteers' Awards | 西北义工答谢会 |
| North West District | 西北区 |
| Mr Alex Yam Mayor of North West District Adviser to Yew Tee GRC GROs | 任梓銘先生 西北区市长 油池基层组织顾问 |
| Assisting the Needy | 协助贫困居民 |
| Connecting the Community | 与社区密切联系 |
| Grassroots Organisations | 基层组织 |