

Embargoed until 12 April, 7pm



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MEDIA ADVISORY ♦♦ MEDIA ADVISORY ♦♦ MEDIA ADVISORY ♦♦ MEDIA ADVISORY

9 April 2024

To News Editor

SELFLESS VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES IMPACT LIVES

*Contributions of over 150 individuals and organisations recognised at the
North West Volunteers' Appreciation 2024*

Over 150 volunteers young and old will be recognised for providing care, support, and inspiration to uplift the lives of beneficiaries, and build a caring and healthy North West community together. Through causes such as providing respite care, to inspiring fellow students to give back, to advocating a healthy lifestyle, these volunteers have dedicated their time and service to support the community, collaborating with **North West Community Development Council (CDC)** to harness the CDC's networks and resources in serving the community (*see Annex A for media programme*).

2 At the **North West Volunteers' Appreciation 2024**, 65 students will be awarded the **North West Outstanding All-Rounder Student Award**. 7 of the awardees serve in the North West Youth Assembly (YA), the CDC's youth volunteer group which is actively involved in community work and leading projects that would benefit the less-privileged residents in the North West. One all-rounder student is Admiralty Secondary School's **Ms Elly Estiqah Binte Mohamed Fadli**, who has been an active YA volunteer since 2021. In school, Elly was the President of the Student Council, and has led her peers through many successful school events including National Day and Secondary 1 Orientation. When Elly was nominated by her school to join YA, she became involved in YA's many community projects and even spearheaded an interfaith initiative called Open Voices, which aims to better educate students about racial issues in Singapore, as well as provide them with a new perspective about the different races in Singapore. Through this project, students can share their personal experiences and learn about sensitive societal issues faced by those around them. As part of her team, she leads and trains nine youth volunteers in facilitation skills to organise dialogue sessions with students. Inspired by her first-hand experience, Elly has enrolled for a Diploma in Community Development, determined to make an even greater impact in the community.

3 Admiralty Secondary School is also one of the 10 schools awarded the **Platinum Award for North West Outstanding School Partner Awards** today for its commitment in providing a platform for students to volunteer and contribute their time in the North West community through various community events such as Block Party @ North West which brings residents together to forge community bond within their neighbourhood.

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4 On top of celebrating the school community's contributions, 22 volunteers will also be recognised for their efforts. Among them are **Mr Peter Tierney, 57** and **Ms Gurbir Kaur, 55**, who will receive the North West WeCare Volunteer Award, presented to individuals for their stellar contributions to the community. The couple and their two children were introduced to Boys' Town in 2009, and the family has been active volunteers and fundraisers for the organisation for many years. Inspired by Ms Kaur's sister who is a respite carer, the couple began working directly with Boys' Town Sanctuary Care when their own children left home for NS and university. Since 2019 the couple have opened their home to numerous children in need, aged from new born to 5 years old, and often with only a few hours' notice. The Tierneys treasure the memories of their extended respite family and feel privileged to be in a position to help other families through difficult situations.

5 On the healthy living front, another husband-and-wife duo is **Mr Leng Tian Poh, 61** and **Mdm Ong Kwee Heong, 61**, North West Brisk Walking Club leader and assistant leader of Marsiling Zone 4, who lead a group of brisk walkers for weekly expedition walks. Not just encouraging their members to lead an active lifestyle, the couple take the initiative to scout for interesting scenic routes and even educates them on historical sites such as Fort Canning Park, Bukit Timah Hill, through their weekly walks. The couple's commitment helped to build up the membership to over 100 members, bringing together many seniors and providing an avenue for them to bond through similar interests (*see Annex B for details of media profiles*).

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6 These volunteers are among 153 individuals and organisations who will be recognised at the annual **North West Volunteers' Appreciation 2024**, which will be hosted by **Mayor of North West District, Mr Alex Yam**, and to be held on 12 April 2024 at Singapore University of Social Sciences, Performing Arts Theatre. The awards are based on four categories, including North West WeCare Volunteer Award (for individuals), North West WeCare Partner Award (for organisations), Outstanding School Partner Award, and Outstanding All-Rounder Student Award (*see Annex C for media FAQs*).

7 Sharing on the crucial role of volunteers and how they amplify the impact in our North West, **Mayor of North West District, Mr Alex Yam** says *"The work of the CDCs can only be achieved through collaborations with partners and volunteers. I'm heartened to see many partners and volunteers stepped forward to lend their support – enabling us to engage our residents on a deeper-level and connect resources to promptly meet the needs in the community."*

8 The CDC will continue to aggregate resources, build capabilities, and connect them to community needs – aligning to the CDC's Vision of building a caring and healthy North West community. North West CDC will continue to work closely with volunteers, who are a key pillar supporting the CDC's effort to build up five communities – Caring, Healthy, Sustainable, Inclusive and Learning (*see boilerplate for more details about North West CDC's Vision and Mission, and the five communities*). To explore volunteerism and partnership opportunities, please write to northwestcdc_partnerships@pa.gov.sg.

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Media Invitation

Media is invited to **North West Volunteers' Appreciation 2024** at Performing Arts Theatre, Singapore University of Social Sciences on 12 April 2024. 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' Appreciation 2024

Date: Friday, 12 April 2024
Media arrival: 6.30pm
Venue: Performing Arts Theatre, Block D
Singapore University of Social Sciences
463 Clementi Rd, Singapore 599494

Contact Person for Media:

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Enclosed:

- 1) Annex A – Media Programme for North West Volunteers' Appreciation 2024
- 2) Annex B – Media Profiles
- 3) Annex C – Media FAQs (Appended separately)
- 4) Annex D – Key Translations

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[About North West Community Development Council \(CDC\)](#)

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

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 develop cohesive and resilient communities, through growing networks, promoting volunteerism, fostering collaboration, cultivating social innovation.

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

Five Communities

i. Caring Communities

Encourage a giving culture and uplift the lives of residents through social support programmes and networks

ii. Healthy Communities

Promote healthy lifestyle, encourage residents to bond and take charge of their own health

iii. Inclusive Communities

Strengthen social fabric by embracing and involving different segments of society

iv. Learning Communities

Promote lifelong learning mindset for personal and professional development

v. Sustainable Communities

Cultivate an eco-friendly lifestyle and building a green environment for our future generations

North West Volunteers' Appreciation 2024

Friday, 12 April 2024

Performing Arts Theatre, Singapore University of Social Sciences

MEDIA PROGRAMME

Time	Programme
6:30pm	Media arrival
7:00pm	Arrival of Mayor Alex Yam
7:15pm	Media Doorstop with spokesperson (on request)
7:45pm	Opening Address by Mayor Mr Alex Yam
7:55pm	Commencement of Awards Ceremony
9:00pm	End of Programme

Media Profiles

Ms Elly Estiqah Binte Mohamed Fadli, 17

Ms Elly Estiqah Binte Mohamed Fadli, from Admiralty Secondary School has been an active YA volunteer since 2021. In school, Elly was the President of the Student Council, and has led her peers as the project lead for school events such National Day, Secondary 1 Orientation, and Open House. As Council President, she also inaugurated Council-Principal dialogues to better represent the needs of the student body.

After being nominated by her school, Elly joined North West Youth Assembly and became involved in its many community projects, such as YA Paints where they help less-privileged families in the North West refresh their homes with a fresh coat of paint. Tackling sensitive social topics, she also spearheaded her own project, Open Voices, which exposes students to new perspectives on racial issues and leads her own team of volunteers in facilitating dialogues with students. Inspired by her first-hand experience, Elly has enrolled for a Diploma in Community Development, determined to make an even greater impact in the community.

Admiralty Secondary School

Admiralty Secondary School is awarded the Platinum Award for North West Outstanding School Partner Awards for its commitment in providing a platform for students to volunteer and contribute their time in the North West community. The school has been active in forging community bond and strengthening community spirit by organising community events such as Block Party @ North West to bring residents together through meals and activities. Their students also volunteer at North West Service Weeks, our quarterly necessity distribution to serve needy residents living in the public

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rental flats. Active in the North West community, Admiralty Secondary School also sends their student leaders to be part of the North West Youth Assembly, helping them grow and be involved in making a meaningful impact in the North West community.

Mr Peter Tierney, 57 and Ms Gurbir Kaur, 55

Mr Peter Tierney (PR Irish), 57 and his wife Ms Gurbir Kaur (Singaporean), 55, will receive the North West WeCare Volunteer Award, presented to individuals for their stellar contributions to the community. The couple and their 2 children were introduced to Boys' Town in 2009 and the family have been active volunteers and fundraisers for the organisation for many years. Inspired by the work of another respite carer (Ms Kaur's sister) the couple began working directly with Boys Town Sanctuary Care when their own children left home for NS and university.

Since 2019, the couple have opened their home to numerous children in need, aged from new born to 5 years old, and often with only a few hours' notice. The Sanctuary Care team have been very supportive and professional in managing the care process and are very careful and respectful of the families that need their help. The Tierneys treasure the memories of their extended respite family and feel privileged to be in a position to help other families through difficult situations.

Mr Foo Fang Boon, 70

Mr Foo Fang Boon, 70 has been a North West Brisk Walking (BWC) Champion for over 20 years, advocating healthy living in Nee Soon Central. When North West CDC launched two new programmes – North West FitnessX Club and North West Running Club, Mr Foo drove participation for the clubs and recruited more than 100 members to join. He suffered a stroke in 2023, but that did not stop his commitment towards the Healthy Living Clubs under his care. He continues to encourage members to participate in various key events such as HealthierSG Fest @ North West, FitnessX Sports Fiesta @ North West, and Running Clinic @ North West, to pursue a healthier lifestyle. Through his efforts and active engagement for North West Health Living programmes, there are over 10 BWC, FitnessX and Running clubs in Nee Soon Central and has led to improved holistic health and wellness in his community.

Mr Leng Tian Poh, 61 and Mdm Ong Kwee Heong, 61

Mr Leng Tian Poh, 61 and Mdm Ong Kwee Heong, 61, North West Brisk Walking Club leader and assistant leader of Marsiling Zone 4, who lead a group of brisk walkers for weekly expedition walks. Not just encouraging their members to lead an active lifestyle, the couple take the initiative to scout for interesting scenic routes and even educates them on historical sites such as Fort Canning Park, Bukit Timah Hill, through their weekly walks. Together, they take great care in ensuring the well-being of their club members, ensuring seasoned members assist those who may need more assistance. Mdm Leng also maintains a sense of emergency preparedness as a first aider, always carrying a basic first aid kit with her. The couple's commitment helped to build up the membership to over 100 members, bringing together many seniors and providing an avenue for them to bond through similar interests.

Key Translations

North West Community Development Council (CDC)	西北社区发展理事会 / 西北社理会
North West Volunteers' Appreciation	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
Aggregator of Needs and Resources	顺应需求，汇集整合资源
Builder of Capability in Partners and Networks	提升能力，扩大网络
Connector of Communities	加强联系，造福社群
Grassroots Organisations	基层组织