

NTUC-U CARE FUND DONATION OF \$1 MILLION TO CONTRIBUTE TO ENHANCED CARE FOR ELDERLY AT NTUC HEALTH DAY CARE CENTRES

1. The NTUC-U Care Fund donated \$1 million to the Eldercare Trust (ECT) this morning to support the growing care needs of elderly.
2. At a cheque presentation ceremony graced by NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Heng Chee How, it was also highlighted that NTUC Health's Silver Circle at Dakota Crescent, where the event was held, is among the first social day care centres to be converted into a Senior Care Centre (SCC) in Singapore. SCCs are integrated one-stop centres that offer enhanced care services such as community nursing, active rehabilitation and community dementia care services. Together with NTUC Health's Senior Care Centre at Fengshan, NTUC Health's converted SCCs are in line with the government's plans to provide more comprehensive services for the elderly in the neighbourhood, enabling more Singaporeans to age in place.
3. The added care services also give elderly the convenience of staying within the premises of the centre instead of having to make additional trips to get their nursing, rehabilitation and dementia needs met. Existing clients at the centres will also benefit from enhanced facilities such as quiet rooms, safety fixtures, and re-furbished settings which promote a calm and relaxing environment especially for dementia patients.
4. Besides Dakota Crescent and Fengshan, two other day care centres at Punggol South and Jurong Central are slated to complete their conversion into SCCs by early 2015. These four converted centres add to two newly built SCCs at Braddell Heights and Toa Payoh, bringing to a total of six SCCs operated by NTUC Health.
5. Apart from contributing to the conversion to SCCs, a large part of NTUC-U Care Fund's donation will go towards financial assistance to elderly from low to middle income families at NTUC Health's day/senior care centres as well as those using its

home care services. The NTUC-U Care Fund through the Eldercare Trust, has benefited more than 400 seniors who are currently receiving financial assistance in 2014, and aims to help close to 700 seniors in 2015.

6. 66 year-old Mr Teng who is a client at the Silver Circle Senior Care Centre at Dakota Crescent, is one of beneficiaries of the U Care Fund. He depends on his sister for his day-to-day expenses. His sister sends him to the centre so that he will not be alone during the day. Said Mr Teng, "I am single and live alone. The financial support helps my sister with my care expenses, and enables me to come down to the centre to be together with my peers. I am very happy here," said Mr Teng.

7. Mr Heng Chee How said, "Since its inception in 2009, the NTUC-U Care Fund has contributed a total of \$5.6 million to the Eldercare Trust, including today's donation of \$1 million. This is one of the ways that the Labour Movement supports the elderly in our community, especially when our population is ageing rapidly. I am happy that the NTUC-U Care Fund has made a positive difference to the lives of our seniors."

8. Eldercare Trust, Chairman Mr Matthias Yao said, "We are grateful for the generous support from the U Care Fund which enables us to reach out to more working families and their elderly dependents, and to do more for them. As the population ages, and needs become more complex, we want to do more to meet these needs and provide better support to caregivers, especially those who are juggling with work and family."

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