

## President Halimah Quizzed by Residents!

Our Home welcomes visitors and volunteers daily throughout the week. However, on the 27th September, we received a special guest. President Halimah Yacob visited our residents after our seniors' self-produced fundraising video caught her attention.

The President toured our Home and viewed the plans of our new building. She interacted with our seniors and also joined in a birthday celebration for residents born in the month of September. The President even accepted an "interview" from our 8 seniors involved in the fundraising video. She fielded questions like what her meals in Istana are and whether she likes to sing, for which she replied that she liked to hear people sing instead of singing herself. To everyone's delight, our resident, Uncle Tan spontaneously sang his favourite Hokkien number when the President invited him to sing a tune.

Quoting from the Channel 5 news interview, President Halimah Yacob said "because they don't want to be just recipients, they also want to contribute (to the building fund), and social media has allowed them to do that."

Her visit was not only an encouragement to our seniors that they can learn to be tech-savvy and continue to be socially active but also an affirmation to our Home's work, that is to care and provide for the needy elderly in Singapore.

-Monica Chia



President Halimah joining in the birthday celebration for residents born in September.



Uncle Teh showcasing his creativity to the President.



Uncle Tan singing his favourite tune.

## A NEW Chapter in History

A new milestone has been reached! On 1st September 2018, St John's Home for Elderly Persons beat the drums for the Groundbreaking Ceremony of our new building. Braving the hot afternoon sun, more than 60 supporters and friends, including Guest-of-Honour Mr. Sitoh Yih Pin, MP for Potong Pasir SMC, witnessed the ceremony.

It is through the support of donors, volunteers, residents of Sennett Estate, and the general public that our Home can reach this momentous milestone. Looking forward, we pray for the smooth and safe construction towards the completion in end 2020.

-Monica Chia



L-R Mr Harry Lin, Mr Woon Wee Yim, Mr Sitoh Yih Pin, Mr Aamer Taher, Mr Lim Seng Kim



# Diamond Anniversary Gala Dinner 2018

Celebrating a wonderful 60 years of service to the elderly, the occasion was dedicated to our donors, volunteers and those who had supported and encouraged us through the decades.

Up to 460 guests revelled at our Gala Dinner, held at Jubilee Garden Restaurant,

SAFRA Toa Payoh. This includes the 35 volunteers who helped us for the night. Plus Factor volunteered their music talents and the guests danced to familiar evergreen tunes. Three of our elderly crooners charmed everyone with their favourite songs, and ten residents showcased their dance movements which

they had been practising for three months. Undeniably, it was a night of songs and dances!

The night helped us raise more than \$250,000 for our Building Fund!

-Monica Chia



Supported by three volunteers, ten residents showcased their dance movements.

## A Word from our Chairman

The Home has entered into a new phase!

The construction of the new Home commences now and will be completed by December 2020. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on 1st September 2018.

We thank all our stakeholders for the strong support through the years. Support also came in a novel way from eight of our residents, aged 66 to 91. They took to social media with a video they produced on their own to raise funds for their new Home. We are delighted that so far, they have raised about \$200,000.

Their efforts did not go unnoticed! President Halimah Yacob made a visit to the Home on 27th September to encourage them in their use of social media to actively contribute to society. President Halimah interacted with many other residents and encouraged them to actively participate in physiotherapy exercises in our Home.

The building project will cost \$15 million. To complete it, we still need \$5 million more!

The new building's improved elder-friendly facilities will not only better serve our needy elderly residents, but also serve more of them as our bed capacity will be increased to 150 from the current 86.

We thank all of you for your steadfast encouragement and look forward to your continued support, as we begin to see the new building taking shape between now and 2020.

-Woon Wee Yim



A guest presenting a rose as an encouragement to our resident dancer, Uncle Ngoh. Looking on is Ms Anna Tay, our volunteer dance instructor.



Happy 60th Anniversary!

L-R Mrs Kamala Balasundram, Mr Woon Wee Yim, Mr Sitoh Yih Pin, Mr Abu Bakar, Mr Andrew Lioe, Mdm Heng Lee Siang, Mdm Tan Kim Gem.

# The Choice to Empathise

Just the other day, Uncle Seth (not his real name) complained that someone had changed his bedside drawer in his dormitory. Uncle Seth, an octogenarian, treasured his bedside drawer, using it to keep his personal items as well as a table top for cutting his fruits.

We looked into the matter and found that the bedside drawer which he claimed wasn't his, was the same one that he had from the beginning of his stay with us. To aggravate the situation, Uncle Seth had accused one of our staff of selling his drawer to another resident for \$50. As much as it was totally untrue and ridiculous, no amount of explanation can satisfy and appease him.

I discussed the matter with our Management and we concluded that perhaps Uncle Seth, might be experiencing the onset of dementia. This could affect his cognitive judgement and explain the many incidents where he complained of his personal belongings gone missing or stolen.

Instead of trying to convince Uncle Seth that he was wrong about his allegations of the beloved bedside drawer being swapped, our Management suggested that we offer him a replacement. We scavenged the Home for an unused bedside drawer, and finally found one. We got it cleaned and polished just for him. Uncle Seth was happy with it. He stopped complaining about the incident and smiled again.

Why are we trying so hard to accommodate someone who constantly complains, accuses others and seems to be ungrateful? There is only one reason why we are here and that is to help our elderly residents. Many a time, it is not a matter of whether who is right or who is wrong. It is about understanding and empathising with what the resident is going through, especially when he or she is exhibiting disdainful behaviours the aging process sometimes bring. Their world view is one which we may not fully understand, however, we choose to give our elderly residents the benefit of the doubt. Most importantly at the end of the day, harmony is maintained and that we have achieved our objective to give comfort to our residents.

I am thankful that this is how our Home operates; with patience and empathy and I am proud to be part of it.

-Samuel Quek, Assistant Counsellor



## Building Redevelopment Update

**Architect:** Aamer Architects

**Main Contractor:** Lim Wen Heng Construction Pte Ltd

### Funds

Project Amount: S\$15 million

Current Collection: S\$10 million

### Dates

Groundbreaking: 1st September 2018

Demolition: Planned November 2018

Piling: Planned December 2018

Completion: Planned end 2020

### One Highlight Feature

A 134sqm Physiotherapy Lounge with state-of-the-art and interactive equipment to promote physical and mental health.

### Name-a-Room Campaign

To find out more about this donation campaign, call Monica at 6285 4446 or email [cp.frm@StJohnEldersHome.org.sg](mailto:cp.frm@StJohnEldersHome.org.sg)



# Throwback! Serving, Loving & Caring

My First Skool getting to know the trees and plants in our compound.



Sugarcane or another type of bamboo?



I want the mango!

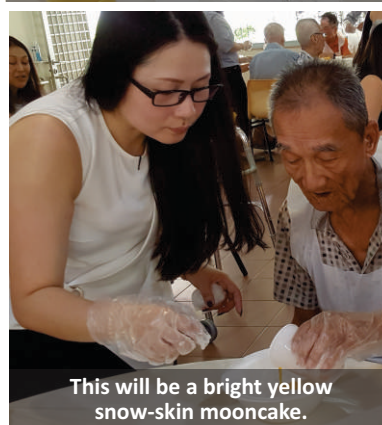


Do I smell Pandan?

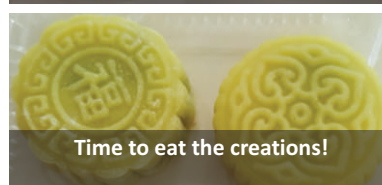
LF Centennial Pte Ltd making mooncake and sharing the joy of the Lantern Festival with our residents.



A volunteer preparing the snow-skin dough with Uncle Eber.



This will be a bright yellow snow-skin mooncake.



Time to eat the creations!

Pre-school By-The-Park (PBTP) Fundraising Family Carnival.



Balloon sculptures brought colours to the carnival.



Uncle Wong challenging the target board. Bull's Eye!



Auntie Heng and Auntie Tan having a shopping spree.

## Contact Details

St. John's Home for Elderly Persons  
69 Wan Tho Avenue Singapore 347601  
T: 6285 4446  
F: 6285 4885  
E: [stjnhome@StJohnEldersHome.org.sg](mailto:stjnhome@StJohnEldersHome.org.sg)  
W: [www.StJohnEldersHome.org.sg](http://www.StJohnEldersHome.org.sg)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/StJohnsHomeSg](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsHomeSg)

### Editorial Board

**Editor:** Monica Chia

**Editor Executive:** Pearl Lee

**Publisher:** St. John's Home for Elderly Persons

## Donations In Cash

- Donate online at [www.giving.sg/StJohnsHomeSg](http://www.giving.sg/StJohnsHomeSg)
- Monthly gift [www.giving.sg/StJohnsHomeSg#monthly](http://www.giving.sg/StJohnsHomeSg#monthly)
- Issue cheque in favour of 'St. John's Home for Elderly Persons', and mail it to:  
The General Manager  
St. John's Home for Elderly Persons  
69 Wan Tho Avenue Singapore 347601
- Walk-in donation at our office at 69 Wan Tho Avenue Singapore 347601



We are not a government-funded charity. As an Institution of a Public Character (IPC), monetary donations to the Home are eligible for tax deduction of 2.5 times the amount donated.

## In-Kind

We welcome donations-in-kind including food and household items.

For ease of donating, visit and buy at [www.fairprice.com.sg/DonatetoSSOrg](http://www.fairprice.com.sg/DonatetoSSOrg) and choose St John's Home for Elderly Persons as your beneficiary.