



24
STORIES
OF PAYING IT
FORWARD

📍 YOUR GUIDE TO

THE UNIVERSE OF GOOD

Raising
Resources

Sharing
Time

Offering
Skills

Building
Solidarity

The Universe of Good
expands through
various initiatives of
social impact.



GROWN
BY STUDENTS

Championing Early Childhood
 Professionals Designing Programs
 for Dignity Bringing Psychology
 to Students Together to Improve
 Community Well-being Giving
 Just as She Was Given a Help
 and Enriching the Lives of Her
 Volunteering as a Way of Life
 Society, One Community at a
 Making Sure No Child Gets Left
 Behind Tuning in to the Heart
 of Youths Reaching Students in

Initiatives are driven by
 our students, who come
 from different fields.

Our Supporters

(Organisations)

A

Aastar Trading Pte Ltd
 ACCA Singapore Pte Ltd
 Accounting & Corporate Regulatory Authority
 Allgreen Properties Limited
 Angkasa Kargo Pte Ltd
 Arcadis Singapore Pte Ltd
 Asia Philanthropy Circle Ltd
 Assembled Private Limited
 Association for Early Childhood Educators
 (Singapore)

B

Baey Kim Swee & Co Pte Ltd
 BDO Tax Advisory Pte Ltd
 BinjaiTree
 Biosynergy Packaging Pte Ltd
 Building & Construction Authority

C

CAIA Association Singapore Office Ltd
 CapitaLand Limited
 Cengage Learning Asia Pte Ltd
 CFA Society Singapore
 CGS-CIMB Securities (S) Pte Ltd
 Chou Sing Chu Foundation
 CIMA Singapore Pte Ltd
 Copyright Licensing & Administration Society
 of Singapore
 Cortina Watch Pte Ltd
 CoSeClinic Services Pte Ltd
 CPA Australia Ltd

D

D.S. Lee Foundation
 Deloitte & Touche LLP
 DKT Business Services Pte Ltd

E

EM Services Pte Ltd
 Ernst & Young LLP
 Estate of Irene Tan Liang Kheng
 Estate of Wong Lan Eng

F

FEU International Pte Ltd
 Financial Planning Association of Singapore
 Foo Kon Tan LLP
 Frank Tan Research Associates
 Fujitsu Asia Pte Ltd

G

Gerontological Society - ALMS
 GIC Private Limited
 Glocom Marketing Pte Ltd
 Golden Village Multiplex Pte Ltd

H

Harry Elias Partnership LLP
 Harvard Singapore Foundation
 Henry Luce Foundation
 Hill & Knowlton (SEA) Pte Ltd
 Holywell Foundation Limited
 Hong Leong Foundation
 Human Capital (Singapore) Pte Ltd
 Hybrionic Pte Ltd

I

Infocomm Media Development Authority
 Institute of Materials (E Asia)
 Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants
 Intellectual Property Office of Singapore
 International Facility Management Association
 (Singapore Chapter)
 International Property Advisor Pte Ltd
 International Women's Forum (The Community
 Foundation of Singapore)

J

Jada Art Gallery
 JCCI Singapore Foundation Limited
 Jones Lang Lasalle Property Consultants Pte Ltd

K

Kewalram Chanrai Group
 KPMG LLP
 Kuok (Singapore) Limited
 Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple

L

Lee Foundation
 Lembaga Biasiswa Kenangan Maulud
 LHL International Pte Ltd
 Lorong Koo Chye Sheng Hong Temple
 Association

M

Mapletree Investments Pte Ltd
 Marketing Asia
 McGraw-Hill Education (Singapore) Pte Ltd
 Meitoto Pte Ltd

Millenia Private Limited
 MKM Car Leasing Pte Ltd
 Modern Montessori International Pte Ltd
 MV Credit Pte Ltd
 MY World Preschool

N

Nam Leong Co Pte Ltd
 National Council of Social Service
 NCS Pte Ltd
 Nexia TS Pte Ltd
 NTUC First Campus Co-operative Ltd
 NTUC Income
 Nunchi Marine Pte Ltd

O

Octava Foundation
 Ong Teng Cheong Labour Leadership Institute
 Oracle Corporation Singapore Pte Ltd
 OSES Partners Pte Ltd

P

Pavilion Capital International Pte Ltd
 PICO Art International Pte Ltd
 PKF-CAP LLP
 Plymouth International Pte Ltd
 Poh Tiong Choon Logistics Limited
 Porta Pumper Pte Ltd
 PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Q

QQCK Foundation (SymAsia Foundation
 Limited)

R

Raffles Quay Asset Management Pte Ltd
 Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
 Rose Marie Khoo Foundation
 Rotary Club of Singapore East
 RSM Chio Lim LLP

S

S M Jaleel Foundation
 S R Nathan Education Upliftment Fund (The
 Community Foundation of Singapore)
 SAGE Publications Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd
 SAS Institute Pte Ltd
 Scantek
 Serangoon Broadway Studio & Bridal Place
 Sift Analytics Group Pte Ltd
 Singapore Institute of Management Pte Ltd
 Singapore Institute of Surveyors & Valuers
 Singapore Leong Khay Huay Kuan
 Singapore Link Sciences Pte Ltd
 Singapore Logistics Association
 Singapore Press Holdings Ltd

Singapore Tamil Teachers' Union
 Singapore Technologies Engineering
 Electronics Ltd
 SingEx Holdings Pte Ltd
 Society of Project Managers
 Spirit of Enterprise
 Sri Vinayaka Exports Pte Ltd
 ST Engineering Aerospace Ltd
 Synergy Financial Advisers Pte Ltd

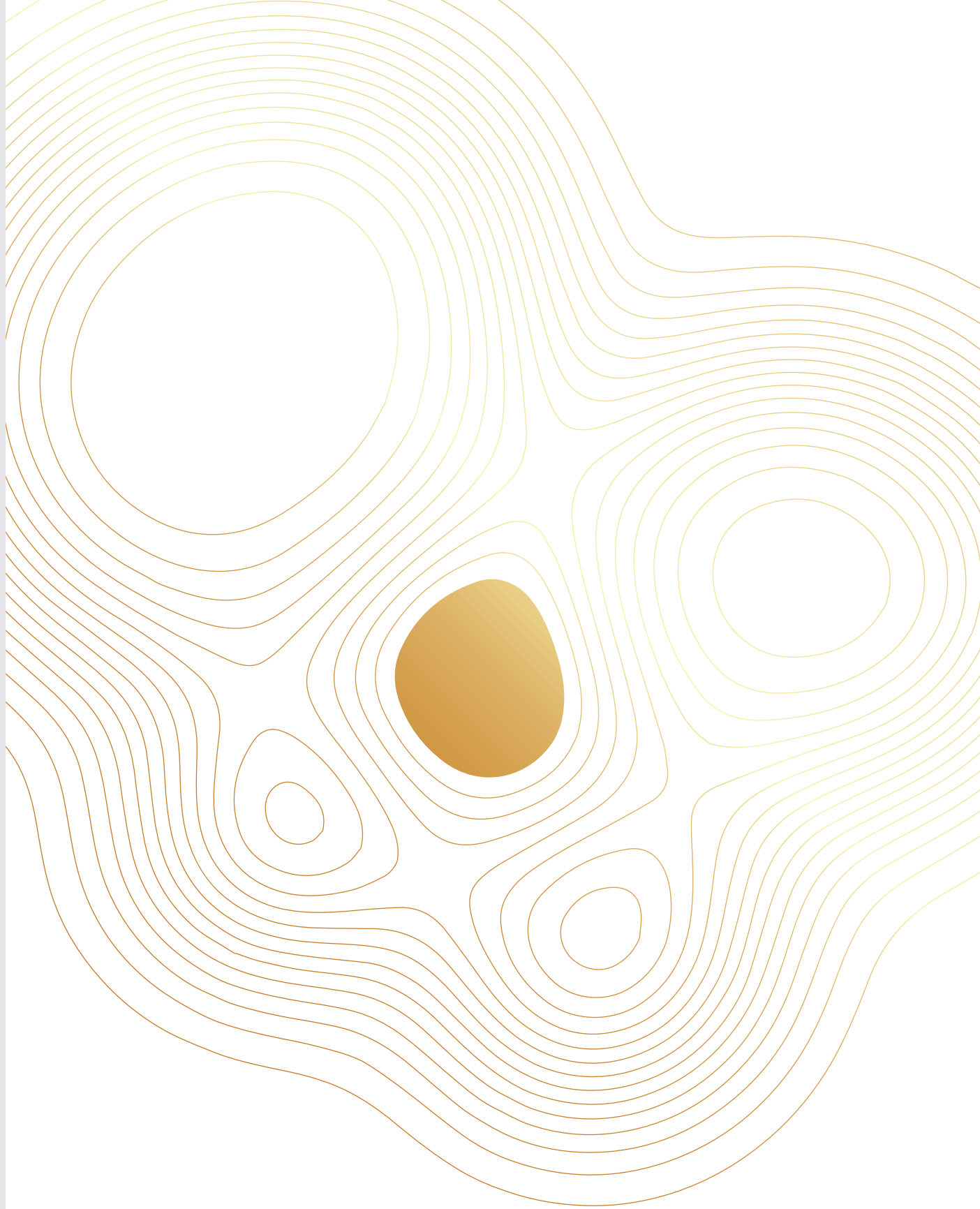
T

Tableau Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
 Taipei Business Association in Singapore
 Taipei Representative Office in Singapore
 Takasago International (Singapore) Pte Ltd
 Tamil Language and Cultural Society
 Tamil Language Council
 Tan Chin Tuan Foundation
 Taylor & Francis Asia Pacific
 Temasek Foundation
 Thatz International Pte Ltd
 The Gallup Organization (Singapore) Pte Ltd
 The Head Foundation
 The Institution of Engineers, Singapore
 The Masonic Charitable Fund
 The Ngee Ann Kongsi
 The UK Online Giving Foundation
 The Write Connection Pte Ltd
 Times Publishing Group
 Tote Board
 Tower Transit Singapore Pte Ltd
 Trans Eurokars Pte Ltd
 Tulsi Ong Trust

Y

Yangzheng Foundation

Names appear in alphabetical order by
 given name or surname in the format
 used by donors when making the gift.
 Every attempt has been made to ensure
 the accuracy and completeness of the list
 of donors. Some donors wish to remain
 anonymous. Should there be an error,
 please accept our sincere apologies and
 contact us to rectify our records.



ROOTED BY SUPPORTERS

Welcome to the Universe of Good!

As travel restrictions around the world ease, more and more of us can start travelling again. Yet, there are always new places to discover right where we are.

Let me then introduce you to the “Universe of Good”, the theme of our 2021 Annual Giving Report, which represents the ecosystem of supporters, students and the community brought together by SUSS to advance social good.

In fact, this Universe of Good is one of the most meaningful places you are already a part of!

In this “Universe”, we are guided by a key belief: paying it forward.

Our **supporters**, such as donors and benefactors, contribute to SUSS to nurture socially-conscious students. These **students** respond to their supporters’ kindness by giving back to the **communities** around them. Hopefully, the empowered communities also pay it forward.

Gradually, through this amplifying effect, a society, a world, a universe, is changed for the better.

To grow the Universe of Good, every role matters.

Our supporters ensure that our “Universe” has a strong, stable core. They provide critical resources to sustain an inclusive learning environment, where SUSS students have equal opportunities to develop to their fullest potential.

Our students then bring this “Universe” to life. Trained to practise the sciences in the service of society, they not only gain skills and knowledge but also understand the role that they play in making social impact.

The community is where our students can truly make a difference in. Together, our students and the community work to meet needs, improve systems and address the issues of our time for a more resilient, united society.

The Universe of Good grows when we bring more socially concerned supporters and students into the ecosystem. This way, more communities can be uplifted, one after another, as all of us play our part.

You will encounter many stories of the Universe of Good in this edition of our Annual Giving Report.

Our supporters come from all walks of life; our students are involved in exciting social community initiatives, and the transformed communities – such as the youth and elderly, the invisible and underserved, as well as culture and the environment – are diverse.

We thank our supporters for seeding this “Universe” with much-needed resources, our students for growing it, and the communities for trusting us.

We hope that you will enjoy your “travel” to the Universe of Good, and we look forward to your continued support in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Professor Cheong Hee Kiat
President
Singapore University of Social Sciences



2021: The Year in Review

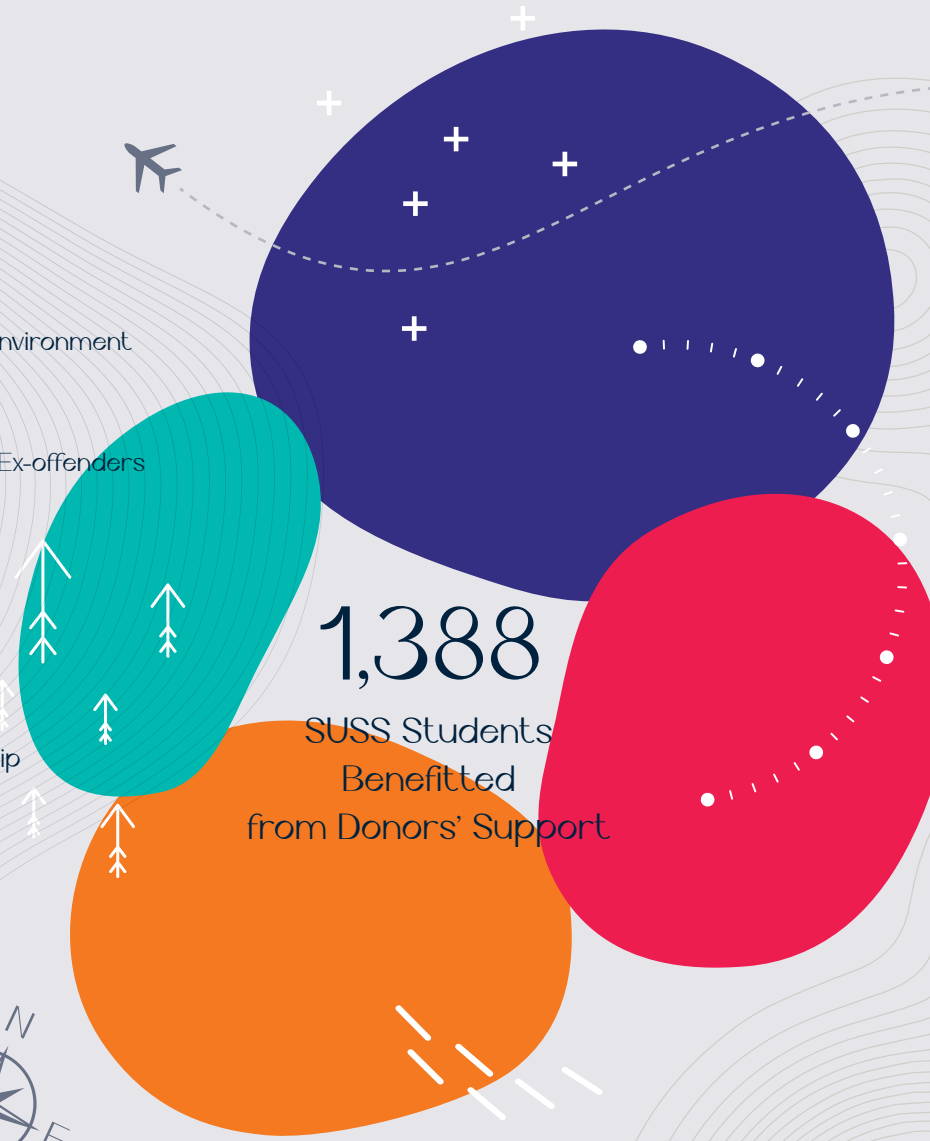
Generous donors continue to give to SUSS. Their gifts strengthen our academic initiatives, benefit students who require financial assistance and help meet emerging needs and opportunities. Students who have received their support go on to make a difference in the communities around them. Stories of these students' community impact are highlighted in this edition of our Annual Giving Report.

\$3,304,709

Raised in 2021 to Support SUSS

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES BENEFITTED
FROM SUSS STUDENTS PAYING IT FORWARD

- Special Needs
- Environment
- Migrant Workers
- Ex-offenders
- Less Privileged Kids
- SUSS Community
- Underserved
- Senior Citizens
- Youth and Leadership
- Culture
- Industry
- Mental Well-being



609
Individual Donors

39
Corporate Donors
(including estates and foundations)

38
Recurring Donors

410
New Donors

322
Staff and
Associate Donors

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

You will meet the local champions – our students – who are actively growing this Universe. Journey with them as they guide and inspire you.

1 Get to know the social initiative that each champion is involved in

2 Discover the champion's motivations; the community helped; and the impact made



3 Find tips on how you can expand the Universe of Good

4 Learn about the supporter behind the champion

Growing the Universe of Good
with a Positive Amplifying Effect

Raising⁺ Resources



Raising the Standards
for Volunteering
Loynes Poh



Continuing the
Legacy of Caring and
Camaraderie
Class Giving 2021



Tiding Migrant Workers
Over Tough Times
Noorul Famina



Championing Early
Childhood Professionals
Early Childhood Curriculum
Leadership & Professional
Development in
Japan and Singapore Online
Symposium



Designing Programmes
for Dignity
Kam Qiang Wei



Bringing Psychology
Students Together to
Improve Community
Well-being
Bryan Chan

Raising the Standards for Volunteering

Volunteers are the lifeblood of many organisations. By leading and training volunteers, Loynes Poh strengthens this vital force to serve community needs better.



CHAMPIONING SKILLED VOLUNTEERISM

LOYNES POH

Bachelor of Social Work
with Minor in Political Science, Year 2

To Loynes, giving back to society is his way of making the world more equitable. He started volunteering at Heartware Network in 2016, and then became a volunteer facilitator in 2018. Heartware Network is an organisation that nurtures and inspires youths to be resilient and active community leaders.

As a volunteer facilitator, Loynes contributes to the goal of building a self-sustaining cycle of competent volunteers, where senior volunteers share their experiences and knowledge with newer ones. This process repeats with every incoming batch of volunteers.

As a facilitator, Loynes develops learning materials for the volunteers and trains them. He believes that when volunteers have the right skills, they can reach their full potential to make a lasting impact on the community.

“Volunteering should never be seen as a liability of time,” he shares. “Instead, the act of volunteering adds to one’s life in more ways than one – fulfilment, skillsets and even life lessons.”

“The act of giving is what keeps the escalator of social mobility moving.”

Loynes Poh

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“For those wanting to volunteer in an organisation or for a cause, look for something that you truly believe in. Only when you feel strongly about the cause will you be committed to serving it.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Loynes received the **Goh Leng Tse & Anthony Teo Scholarship**, which recognises outstanding students from the S R Nathan School of Human Development who demonstrate commitment to student life and a heart for service to the community.

It is made possible through the generous support of Mr Goh Leng Tse and Adjunct Professor Anthony Teo.

MR GOH LENG TSE

Donor

“It is heartening to see how SUSS has enabled students to further their education and attain their degrees, especially during this Covid-19 pandemic, where a change in career or working environment may be needed.

Seeing that there are more applicants than scholarships available, I hope more donors will come forward to support these students. We must play our part, within our capabilities, to support those who are in need.

I believe in offering help whenever the opportunity arises and contributing back to society to show that there is still love in this world.”

Continuing the Legacy of Caring and Camaraderie



Class Giving is a student-led initiative that builds unity in each SUSS graduating cohort through philanthropy and support for one another in times of need. This annual initiative began in 2020. Here is a snapshot of the efforts by Class Giving 2021.

\$16,831
raised by Class Giving 2021
as of 28 February 2022

196
donors contributed

“The impact of the pandemic has been widespread, affecting students and their families. We desire to help as many students as possible so that they can continue their studies without worries.”

Committee Member
Christina Koh
Juris Doctor, Graduate, Class of 2021

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the committee members of Class Giving 2021 have chosen the SUSS Student Care Fund (SCF) to be the beneficiary of their fundraising campaign. The SCF provides short-term contingency financial aid to SUSS students who face sudden financial hardships, such as those brought on by the pandemic.

Beyond raising funds, the advocates of Class Giving also want to perpetuate the tradition of contributing by making it an annual initiative. This way, there can be a longer-lasting, more sustainable impact on the community.

“I’ve utmost admiration for those who have to juggle academia, home, work and finances to study at SUSS. That is why I volunteered to help raise funds for the SCF.”

Committee Member
Kelvin Ang
Bachelor of Science in Marketing
with Minor in Communication (Hons),
Graduate, Class of 2021



Planning Giving in the Time of a Pandemic

Three words: It’s not easy. Class Giving 2021 committee members Kelvin Ang and Christina Koh reveal that many of their early ideas to raise awareness for the campaign had to be shelved due to safe-distancing measures.

They were also wary about Covid-19 fatigue and didn’t want their token of appreciation for the donors to be pandemic-related, such as face masks and hand sanitisers.

Hence, they chose an insulated mug that is evergreen, versatile in its use and a reminder of the good times shared at SUSS and the legacy of giving.

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

Here are some of the lessons that the Class Giving 2021 committee members gained from running a giving campaign.

1. Have a clear vision. Don’t let others dictate what you can or cannot do.
2. Dream big and shoot for the stars.
3. Put your beneficiaries first in all that you do.
4. Your contribution should be meaningful to the communities you serve.
5. Stay on course, even when the going gets tough.

Tiding Migrant Workers Over Tough Times

Noorul Famina has been donating food, clothes and electronics to help the less privileged. As the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded, she found a new special community to make a difference to – migrant workers.



CHAMPIONING CARE FOR OUR UNSUNG HEROES

NOORUL FAMINA
Bachelor of Early Childhood Education with Minor in Special Education, Year 4

When Famina learnt about a campaign that was preparing care packages for migrant workers, she was determined to chip in, no matter how small the sum. The Covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected the livelihoods of these migrant workers, and Famina wanted to do her part to alleviate some of their hardship.

“Sometimes, giving back to the community is as simple as giving, whether it is from a point of overabundance or simply possessing something that is useful to others,” she shares.

The migrant worker campaign was documented in a video, and Famina was moved when she saw the delight on the migrant workers’ faces as they received their care packages.

“I am passionate about donating because of its immediate impact on someone’s life. Unlike other aspects of life that I may not have control over, donating and volunteering allow me to choose where and how I can make a difference,” she says.

“The fulfilment of giving back and contributing to society is unparalleled and has given me a deep sense of purpose.”

Noorul Famina

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Join an existing programme. It is easier and more effective to add your time and resources to local organisations that are already established and recognised in the community.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Famina received the **Elizabeth and Anthony Prakasam Trust Study Award**, which is given to deserving undergraduates to encourage upward mobility.

The award was established in 2020 in memory of the late Mrs Elizabeth Prakasam and Mr Anthony Prakasam, and it is made possible through the generous support of Mr Silvester Prakasam.



MR SILVESTER PRAKASAM
Donor

“My late wife and son, and myself, have always been involved in community and volunteering work. After travelling extensively to emerging countries for both work and leisure, we became firm believers that education is the key to lift people out of poverty and decided that a portion of our assets will go towards education funding.

Initially, I was concerned that our donation would not make much of an impact. However, it was gratifying to learn that we had assisted the students and their families, and that the grant had benefitted the wider community. It is my privilege to help Famina, who has such a heart of generosity. Her contribution to society is far greater than mine in relation to her ability.

It is the duty of every individual who has done well in life to stretch out and lend a helping hand. No donation is too small because collectively, they go a long way. Besides money, many organisations also need volunteers. Every act of kindness counts.”

Championing Early Childhood Professionals

The “Early Childhood Curriculum Leadership & Professional Development in Japan and Singapore” online symposium was held on 25 June 2021. Organised by SUSS’ Early Childhood Education faculty and The Center for Early Childhood Development, Education and Policy Research (CEDEP), the symposium offered a bridge for professionals in Japan and Singapore to gain insights into each country’s practices.

CEDEP is a unit within the Graduate School of Education, University of Tokyo. It is establishing a new interdisciplinary research field that combines early childhood development, early childhood education and care practices as well as public policies.



365

participants from Japan, Singapore and Indonesia

Participants’ Feedback

“The focus was always on the well-being of children. Best practices in both Japan and Singapore were shared.”

“Even though participants were based in different countries, we could really empathise with one another’s challenges.”

Every child deserves a good start in life. This is why early childhood care and education – or ECCE – plays an influential role.

To inspire ECCE practitioners who often work hard behind the scenes to lay the building blocks of learning for kids, the “Early Childhood Curriculum Leadership & Professional Development in Japan and Singapore” online symposium gave these silent heroes the opportunity to be exposed to and learn from a different socio-cultural landscape.

The symposium participants, which included academics, undergraduates, teachers and centre directors, were engaged in exciting discussions on collaborative leadership, the role of culture and case studies from the two countries.

To deepen the conversations, the organisers offered a pre-symposium activity, where participants watched video clips on ECCE systems of Japan and Singapore for context a week before attending the online symposium.

Most importantly, friendships were made, and a camaraderie was formed as ECCE professionals from both countries discovered similarities across their different cultures.

As one participant put it: “The passion of ECCE professionals shone through in the symposium. I was reminded of the joyful mission that we as ECCE educators and caregivers have and how we can make quality improvements to our own systems by learning from other countries.”

“The symposium had insightful information, cross-cultural perspectives and case studies of various centres. Looking forward to more collaborations between Japan and Singapore.”

THE SUPPORTER

The “Early Childhood Curriculum Leadership & Professional Development in Japan and Singapore” online symposium was funded by **JCCI Singapore Foundation**, the corporate social responsibility arm of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) Singapore. The Foundation seeks to sustain the harmonious relationship between Singapore and Japan and support Singapore’s arts, culture, sports and education development.



MR RYOSUKE SHIMIZU
Secretary General,
JCCI Singapore Foundation

“We are heartened by the feedback from the participants and the symposium’s outcomes. In supporting the symposium, we believe that it would be a precious learning opportunity for SUSS undergraduate students. We are also pleased that it has been beneficial to all in the early childhood sector.

Following the symposium’s success in 2021, we are glad to support it again in 2022. We hope more participants will join this time! We wish to see even deeper exchanges of knowledge among the curriculum developers from Singapore and Japan, as well as more discussions by students of both nations. Ultimately, we hope that stronger friendships between Singapore and Japan can be forged.

We look forward to participants applying what they have learnt to their fields. Through this powerful multiplier effect, we want to make meaningful impact on the early childhood sector in Singapore and Japan, for the good of young children of future generations.”



Designing Programmes for Dignity

Kam Qiang Wei saw a gap in the ex-offender community that his research skills could help to fill. He put what he learnt from his Master of Management programme to the test, and the results speak for themselves.



CHAMPIONING DEEP EMPATHY

KAM QIANG WEI
Master of Management, Year 1

One day, Qiang Wei sat in a sharing session that moved him deeply. In the session organised by the Industrial and Services Co-operative Society Limited (ISCOS), a few adolescents were speaking about their life experiences. All of them have at least one incarcerated parent.

By then, Qiang Wei had already embarked on his Master of Management programme. He felt that he could contribute his new skills to ISCOS, which supports ex-offenders and their families to lead meaningful lives.

“I’ve gained skills in research and in understanding the core issues that critical stakeholders face. I’ve also been exposed to best management practices, which I can tap into to develop effective programmes and uplift this community,” he explains.

So, Qiang Wei volunteered with ISCOS as a researcher to design a learning programme for youths that helps reduce the rate of recidivism. He also conducted interviews to better understand the community.

“What I’ve learnt is that this community desires to live and learn independently with dignity,” he says. “They are our equal partners rather than people who just need help.”

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Form a team of enthusiastic individuals; leverage expertise, such as from professors or universities; conduct fieldwork; and always empathise with the community and their struggles.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Qiang Wei received the **Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Scholarship**, which provides high calibre students the opportunity to pursue a graduate programme and develop their full potential.

It is made possible through the generous support of Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple.



Built in 1884, Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple is one of the oldest Buddhist temples in Singapore. Located at 178 Waterloo Street, the temple is recognised as a historic site by the National Heritage Board for its fine Chinese temple architecture and traditional craftsmanship. During the Japanese Occupation, the temple played an important role in providing refuge for the sick, wounded and homeless.

Indeed, the temple continues to be known for its philanthropic work today, where it actively contributes to the arts, educational and social sectors. The temple helps various ethnic groups in its initiatives, as it believes in cultivating a multi-religious and multi-cultural society in Singapore.



Bringing Psychology Students Together to Improve Community Well-being

As the president of the student interest group PsyConnect, Bryan Chan endeavours to create a community for psychology students to connect, put their skills into practice and give back to society.

300

students volunteered with PsyConnect

300+

beneficiaries helped

344

followers on PsyConnect's Instagram account

CHAMPIONING PSYCHOLOGY FOR ALL

BRYAN CHAN

Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Year 4



Bryan's journey into volunteering didn't start with a bang. "When I first joined the University, I thought that I should focus purely on my studies," he says. However, when he saw the potential to develop the student interest group PsyConnect into a stronger community for psychology students to apply their knowledge outside of the classroom while serving the needs of others, he decided to step up and contribute the best he could.

Today, he is the president of the group and spearheads student volunteer activities to support organisations such as the Institute of Mental Health; Metta School, which offers education to students with special needs; and Apex Harmony Lodge, a home for people living with dementia. The activities include doing crafts with the residents, interacting with them and taking them on excursions to attractions like Sentosa and Science Centre Singapore.

He is also the first curator of PsyConnect's Instagram account, a platform for students to stay connected to the faculty as well as learn about fun facts on psychology.

"By building a pool of psychology student volunteers, we can leverage the various abilities of each individual member and have greater strength in numbers," he shares. "Collectively, with more resources, we're able to meet larger objectives and facilitate bigger and more effective programmes for our beneficiaries."



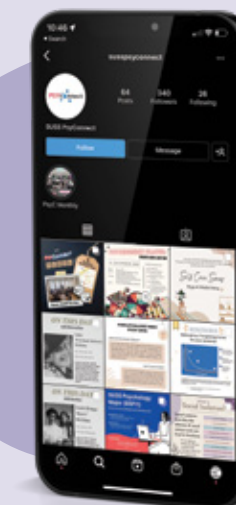
THE CHAMPION'S SUPPORTER

Bryan received a stipend from **The Applied Psychology Placement Fund (TAPP Fund)**, which provides financial support to psychology students during their internships.

This is especially beneficial to students who aspire to be certified psychologists, as they must have two years of relevant working experience.

The TAPP Fund allows them to translate theory into practice without the financial burden of taking no-pay leave or quitting their current jobs. It also enables them to access internships that directly serve the needs of the community.

The TAPP Fund is a community effort with contributions from individuals and corporates.



Follow on Instagram @SUSSPsyConnect



QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS



"Be open and willing to try something out of your comfort zone. You can start with something as simple as listening to someone or lending a helping hand for simple tasks. All it takes is for you to step out and try."

Sharing Time



Giving Back,
Just as She Was
Given a Helping Hand
Lim Yi Zheng



Enriching the Lives
of His Peers
Lim Jing Yang



Volunteering as
a Way of Life
Melissa Tan



Uplifting Society,
One Community at
a Time
SUSS Hearts



Making Sure No Child
Gets Left Behind
Jamie Tan



Tuning in to the Hearts
of Youths
Valerina Tang

Giving Back, Just as She Was Given a Helping Hand

Lim Yi Zheng offers her time to the community through a variety of ways, such as volunteering at legal clinics and serving underprivileged children.



CHAMPIONING SUPPORT FOR THE LESS PRIVILEGED

LIM YI ZHENG
Bachelor of Laws, Graduate

As a child of a lower-income family, Yi Zheng received help from many people while she was growing up.

“I’ve been inspired by the numerous individuals who have made a lasting impact on my life, such as my secondary and tertiary school teachers and a social worker whom I’d met at a Family Service Centre,” she says.

Today, she wishes to give back to society in the same way that others had given to her so generously.

She recalls her volunteering stint with Project Hearts, a programme led by a group of volunteers in her constituency. “Before the pandemic, we would take the kids from lower-income families out to visit tourist attractions almost every month,” she says. “Those were such fun times!”

Yi Zheng has also volunteered at legal clinics. She believes that the criminal justice system plays an important role in helping offenders rehabilitate and reintegrate back into society.

“As we enter the new normal, I hope to dive back into spending time with kids and helping out at legal clinics.”

Lim Yi Zheng

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Ask around about where or how you can contribute – the people from various organisations will be more than happy to welcome new volunteers.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Yi Zheng received the **Vangat Ramayah Memorial Prize in Criminal Law**, which recognises the top graduating student from the criminal law courses offered at the School of Law.

The Vangat Ramayah Memorial Prize, which also recognises the top graduating student in family law, was established in 2018 by Madam Renugadevi Kuppusamy to honour the memory of her late husband, Mr Vangat Ramayah. He was an outstanding lawyer and arbitrator who made invaluable contributions to the legal community in Singapore.

Mr Ramayah was a fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators and sat on the panel of various arbitral institutions, such as the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, Singapore Institute of Arbitration and Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group.

He was also a member of the Law Reform Committee of the Singapore Academy of Law, a Magistrate, Deputy Registrar and Coroner in the State Courts, and a Judge Advocate and President of the General Court Martial in the Singapore Armed Forces.



Enriching the Lives of His Peers

Lim Jing Yang recalls feeling lost as a freshman during the Covid-19 pandemic. This year, he is determined to help his peers and juniors thrive in university.

“Knowing that I made a positive difference to someone’s day is a feeling that money cannot buy.”

Lim Jing Yang



CHAMPIONING FRIENDSHIPS

LIM JING YANG
Bachelor of Accountancy, Year 2

Volunteering is familiar ground to Jing Yang. Since he was a teenager, he has been involved in various activities and programmes to help underprivileged children.

This year, Jing Yang decided to step out of his comfort zone to make a difference to his peers in school. Spurred by the challenges he faced as a freshman during the Covid-19 pandemic, he resolved to help his juniors transition to university life more smoothly.

As part of the executive committee of the SUSS Accountancy Interest Group and the organising committee for the 2021 Freshmen’s Orientation Programme, Jing Yang plans revision and networking sessions for students and ensures the smooth onboarding of freshmen.

“It was not easy to balance my academic and non-academic endeavours, but through these experiences, I learnt to manage my time better and experienced the joy of giving – it’s truly better to give than to receive,” he says.

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Take the first step and don’t hold back. It doesn’t matter if you are a leader or a member as long as you make the world a better place. Life is all about opportunities and what you make of them.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Lim Jing Yang received the **Foo Kon Tan LLP Scholarship**, which is presented to outstanding students from the Bachelor of Accountancy programme.

It is made possible through the generous support of Foo Kon Tan LLP, one of Singapore’s most established accountancy practices.



Founded in 1968, the Firm provides holistic one-stop business and advisory solutions to companies to help them navigate the everchanging business and regulatory environments in the domestic and global markets.

Today, Foo Kon Tan LLP is among Singapore’s top seven accountancy practices. It believes in building positive relationships and making an impact on the community. Over the years, it has awarded scholarships and book prizes to nurture young talents, as well as volunteered and donated to various organisations such as The Food Bank Singapore and YMCA.



Volunteering as a Way of Life

Melissa Tan takes volunteering seriously. She spent her youth helping different communities and eventually joined the Master of Non-Profit Management programme to contribute more effectively. She'd be one of the firsts to say that volunteering benefits us far more than we can ever give.

"Volunteering has been my passion since my school days. It has given me a profound sense of purpose, allows me to meet new friends and generally makes me happier!"

Melissa Tan



MELISSA TAN
Master of Non-Profit Management,
Graduate

A HISTORY OF HELPING

Melissa has been an introvert since young, which does not make her the most natural befriender, she says, "but I've found many ways to contribute to the community."

For example, in her secondary school and junior college days, she was a volunteer tutor for children who were chronically ill.

In university, she volunteered on a long-term basis for the THK Home for Disabled @ Eunus. "This longer term involvement allowed our group to understand the needs of the beneficiaries deeply, so we could better interact with them," Melissa explains. Apart from doing regular visits, the group also supported the Home's events and cared for the children.

GIVING BACK TO SUSS

As a Convocation 2021 Award Winner, Melissa donated all of her cash prize to SUSS.

She is grateful for her time in the University. The Master of Non-Profit Management programme, she says, provided a well-structured learning journey comprising case studies of the local social services sector and skills relevant to the industry.

"Classes were intimate and highly interactive," she adds. "I also treasure the interactions with my classmates from the sector - they were all so passionate and willing to share their experiences. The programme has certainly prepared me well if I ever want to pursue a full-time career in the industry."

CHAMPIONING SKILLS-BASED VOLUNTEERING

Melissa had the opportunity to volunteer with a non-profit organisation in Detroit in the United States, where her team provided its management with practical recommendations on board dynamics, revenue opportunities and operational efficiencies. These are her expertise from years of experience in the corporate sector. "It was really fulfilling," she says. "I returned to Singapore wanting to contribute more."

However, Melissa realised that she needed to balance her corporate experience with stronger knowledge of Singapore's social services environment. She decided to embark on the Master of Non-Profit Management programme, which she graduated from in 2021 and received the **Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Gold Award**.

Today, even as she works for a financial institution, she also spends time volunteering as a board member for the Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN). "I put what I've learnt in the programme to practical use," she says. "In the future, I'd like to advocate skill-based volunteering, as I have personally experienced the effectiveness of using my non-profit management skills in APSN."

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS



"There are many volunteering opportunities available in Singapore. It's not difficult to identify a role that can suit each of us at our different life stages. I encourage everyone to integrate volunteering into your way of life and discover that we have a lot more to gain than give."

Uplifting Society, One Community at a Time

SUSS Hearts is a student-led interest group that believes in improving society through purposeful volunteering. Since 2019, they have been contributing their time and effort to a wide range of causes, from developing a fundraiser to helping at a local food bank and connecting with senior citizens.

At the core of SUSS Hearts is a strong team of volunteers with a common passion: to serve the vulnerable. With that in mind, the team has reached out to various communities over the past few years and developed strong ties, especially with the elderly and people with disabilities.



“For many of us, the camaraderie among the SUSS Hearts team is what drives us to commit to volunteering. It’s a privilege to work so seamlessly and with such synergy with a group of like-minded, sincere and passionate individuals.”

Leader of SUSS Hearts
V Parameswari
Bachelor of Science in Psychology
with Minor in Security Studies,
Year 4

Among their many community projects, Hearts of SUSS Fundraiser 2020 has been the biggest and most meaningful one so far.

Lots of preparation took place behind the scenes, where the SUSS Hearts volunteers wrote to sponsors, managed administrative duties, liaised with the SUSS Advancement Office and promoted the fundraiser online. The team surpassed their initial target of \$10,000 and raised a total of \$24,354 (including a matching grant from Tote Board) for the SUSS Student Care Fund.

“Many hands make light work, and we’re grateful for surpassing our target. Our hard work and effort paid off.”

Vice-leader of SUSS Hearts
Muhammad Amirul Akmal Bin Nazam
Bachelor of Communication
with Minor in Digital Content Marketing,
Year 4



QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

The SUSS Hearts volunteers share some lessons they learnt from creating their fundraiser.

- 1. PLAN AHEAD.**
“Be clear of your purpose. Have a rough idea of what or who you want to help and the execution method. Discuss with your stakeholders to see how your idea can be best executed.”
- 2. STAY NIMBLE.**
“Be open to the ideas and advice offered to you, especially from those who are familiar with such work.”
- 3. BE OPEN TO COLLABORATE.**
“As the project developed, we found more stakeholders to work with, such as SUSS’ Communications & Marketing Department.”
- 4. ENJOY THE PROCESS!**
“It’s all about the journey and not just the destination.”

17 26

community projects completed in 2021

student and alumni volunteers in 2021

You’ll Be Heartened by Their Efforts

Here are some of the ways that SUSS Hearts uplifted various communities in 2021.

November 2020 – January 2021

January 2021

February 2021

March 2021

February – April 2021,
October – December 2021

October 2021 – March 2022



Creating Hearts of SUSS Fundraiser 2020 in support of the SUSS Student Care Fund.



Spring cleaning the home of a beneficiary from the SPD in time for Chinese New Year.



Setting up Chinese New Year decorations in Clementi Library to spread the festive mood to the public in an otherwise difficult year.



Volunteering at Food Bank Singapore including sorting and packing food donations.



Conducting 11 virtual engagements to connect with senior residents from SASCO Senior Citizens’ Home.



Tele-befriending seniors from **Surya Nursing Home** under Sunlove Abode for Intellectually-Infirmed.



Making Sure No Child Gets Left Behind

Jamie Tan hopes for every child to have equal rights to education. She contributes to this cause by offering her time and assistance to children from less privileged families.

“When people from all walks of life join hands and work together to serve the needs of our communities, it will lead to a sustainable growth of societies and greater good for the world.”

Jamie Tan



CHAMPIONING EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

JAMIE TAN

Bachelor of Science in Marketing with Minor in Analytics, Graduate

Jamie’s heart for children brought her to volunteer at the Healthy Start Child Development Centre, a programme by Beyond Social Services that educates and cares for disadvantaged children.

She sees education as key to lifting these children out of their circumstances and hence devotes her time to helping those whose learning and development needs are hindered by their socio-economic backgrounds.

Jamie provides a range of support and care activities to develop the children’s knowledge and skills. She also helps to coordinate school programmes such as educational activities and festive celebrations.

“I believe the world needs more collective social consciousness and civic responsibility,” she says. “Only when we are aware of the important social issues in our local communities can we then strive to alleviate these issues and bring about social change.”

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Choose a cause that you are passionate about so that you will be motivated to go the extra mile for it. Besides volunteering your time, you can also provide other forms of monetary and non-monetary support.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Jamie received the **Synergy Financial Advisers Award (Gold)**, which is presented to the top three graduating students from the Bachelor of Science in Marketing programme.

It is made possible through the generous support of Synergy Financial Advisers Pte Ltd, a financial advisory firm that harnesses technology and innovation to help people achieve financial freedom.



MR ADRIAN PEH

Chief Executive Officer, Synergy Financial Advisers Pte Ltd

“It is our hope that our award encourages the next generation of youths to excel and break boundaries, so learning about Jamie’s efforts to make a difference to disadvantaged children is heartwarming.

In Synergy, we have a volunteer group called SynergyCare. Our motto is: ‘Advisers with a Heart’. We believe in the spirit of paying it forward. SynergyCare organises and participates in several initiatives such as blood donation drives, charity runs and fundraisers.

There are many charity organisations in Singapore. If it is within your means, do reach out. Listen to your heart and find a cause that you are passionate about. When every one of us steps up in our own ways to support those who need a hand, our society will grow together into a kinder and more caring one.”

Tuning in to the Hearts of Youths

As a struggling adolescent, Valerina Tang found comfort in music. Today, she hopes to impart her musical skills and life experiences to youths-at-risk.



"I'm passionate about music, so to be able to bond with underprivileged youths through this medium gives me much joy."

Valerina Tang

CHAMPIONING MUSIC FOR HEALING

VALERINA TANG

Bachelor of Social Work, Year 2

Valerina is all too familiar with the struggles of growing up. As a teenager, she wrestled with many emotions and often felt down. Music was one of the few things that comforted her. Since her family was not able to afford lessons for her, she taught herself to play the guitar and found an outlet to express her thoughts and feelings.

Knowing the healing power of music, she hopes to spread this form of empowerment to youths-at-risk through volunteering with REACH Community Services. Besides teaching the guitar to the youths, she also nurtures and bonds with them through time spent together and conversations.

"Music brings people together and creates opportunities for us to share about our lives. Through our music sessions, I began to understand the youths more deeply," she says.

And the youths are not the only ones who are learning. Valerina says that she is moved by their tenacity and resilience to take up a new instrument, and that some of the youths can play the guitar even better than her.

"They inspire me to improve my skills and to never give up," she says.

THE CHAMPION'S SUPPORTER

Valerina received the **Tan Sri (Dr) Tan Chin Tuan Scholarship**, which supports students from the Bachelor of Social Work programme and encourages them to become effective change agents.

It is made possible through the generous support of the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation.



The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation was established by the late banker and philanthropist Tan Sri (Dr) Tan Chin Tuan in 1976. A firm believer in helping the deserving and the less fortunate, Tan Sri Tan spent decades in philanthropy, sharing the fruits of his highly illustrious career and success with society.

Over the years, the Foundation has supported various causes for the aged, children, youth and disabled, with an emphasis on education and community development. The Foundation reflects Tan Sri Tan's philosophy of channelling money for social good and strives to support projects that are viable, sustainable and well-managed, with definable social outcomes that can achieve a multiplier and lasting benefit.

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

"Youths are at an age where they yearn for independence. Be open to hearing them out. By truly empathising with them, we can impart something of value to them."

Offering Skills



Reaching Students in the Most Remote Areas

Edwin Ho



Ensuring Work Is Safe for All

Tang Bihui



Serving in a Special Education School

Michael Sng



Imparting Sociovation Skills, Inspiring Change

STEP Sociovation Forum 2021



Making Justice More Accessible

Pheodora Wong



Equipping Offenders to Make a Positive Change

Parvin Kaur Sandhu



Reaching Students in the Most Remote Areas

Edwin Ho was initially not accepted into many universities despite his desire to learn. So, it is not surprising that he is now passionately enabling educational opportunities for all – especially through digital platforms.

200

children using Edsy Bitsy

50

teachers using Edsy Bitsy

\$50,000

pre-seed funding raised



CHAMPIONING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

EDWIN HO

Bachelor of Science in Finance with Minor in Entrepreneurship, Graduate

While in the thick of completing his final year project on fintech, Edwin became more attuned to the global digital divide. At the same time, he was witnessing how the pandemic was disrupting learning, when schools closed during lockdowns.



DEEVAK PREMDAS, co-founder of Edsy Bitsy

Together with co-founder Deevak Premdas, Edwin developed Edsy Bitsy, an app to address both the digital divide and learning disruption. The edtech startup's mission is to make learning continuity possible – and more so for students in rural areas with poor Internet connection.

The app requires minimal data and memory. It is also disruption-free when Wi-Fi connection drops. Edwin

explains, “With the app, parents can go to work, where there is Internet, and download engaging lessons and quizzes for their children, who can tackle them offline at home. The next day, parents can upload their children’s answers to be marked.”

During the app development, Edwin and Deevak spent 14-hour days problem-solving, collecting quantitative data and talking to teachers, parents and students. The app is now being used in Africa and Southeast Asia.

“With Edsy Bitsy, children not only have an educational tool at their fingertips; their parents also get to be part of the learning experience,” Edwin says.

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“To help or improve a community, you have to make their dreams come true.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Edwin received the **SUSS-EMP Alumni Entrepreneurship Award**, which recognises graduating students who have demonstrated commendable entrepreneurial attributes and high potential for achieving a positive impact on society.

This award has its roots in SUSS’ Executive Management Programme (EMP), an initiative that equips directors and C-suite executives with contemporary knowledge that can benefit their business decision-making in the digital age.

To encourage budding entrepreneurs, the EMP Alumni Committee established the EMP Alumni Fund in 2019 to support the SUSS-EMP Alumni Entrepreneurship Award, which is presented annually at SUSS convocations. Those who receive the award are recognised for having created jobs, meeting a real-world need, persevering in spite of failure or improving society.

The EMP Alumni Fund is currently supported by 13 donors. They are all business leaders passionate about lifelong learning and building a culture of entrepreneurship among today’s university students.

Ensuring Work Is Safe for All

Tang Bihui helps to improve the technology used in Singapore’s fight against dengue. Most importantly, she makes sure that workers use the technology safely.



“Workplace safety not only protects employees from injuries but also increases their productivity.”

Tang Bihui

CHAMPIONING SAFETY FIRST

TANG BIHUI
Bachelor of Science in
Human Factors in Safety, Graduate

Singapore will soon see fewer cases of dengue thanks to Project Wolbachia. In this project, male *Wolbachia*-carrying *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are encouraged to mate with female *Aedes aegypti* that do not carry *Wolbachia* – this way, their eggs do not hatch and the dengue mosquito population is suppressed.

Bihui is part of the project’s automation team, which has innovated several inventions such as a larvae feeder and pupae dispensing system. These automate and speed up the mosquito rearing process.

“As I studied Human Factors in Safety, I’m able to apply what I learnt about safe design and operations to my job, improve the work process and make our equipment more user-friendly,” she says.

For example, a staff suffered a small cut from a sharp component of a machine. The team redesigned the technology by adding a protective cover and warning signs.

Bihui believes that workplace safety not only protects workers; it also increases the quality of work and encourages better automation processes that boost productivity. “Automation can help reduce man hours, human errors and risks, as people no longer need to handle the machines manually,” she explains.

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Study and work hard. When you have the right knowledge and skills to contribute to your organisation, you will find your career very meaningful.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Bihui received the **Choo-Lim Study Grant**, which supports deserving students from the School of Science and Technology.

It is made possible through the generous support of Professor Choo Chiau Beng.



PROFESSOR CHOO CHIAU BENG
Donor

“Having experienced how education changed my life and that of my family members, I have a strong passion to help young people like Bihui with their studies.

My family, like many in Singapore in the 1960s, was poor. I remember receiving a bursary for bus fares, and fortunately, was later awarded the Colombo Plan Scholarship to read Naval Architecture at the University of Newcastle, UK.

After graduation, I was posted by the Public Service Commission to Keppel Shipyard as a management trainee. Similar to what Bihui shared about her work, I, too, could contribute to my organisation in meaningful ways that has given me a rewarding career.

We can give back to society in different ways. A kind and generous Singapore is important for all of us to strive for. We can also extend our empathy beyond our shores, to Asia and the world.”



Serving in a Special Education School

Michael Sng believes that students with special needs can succeed in life just like any of us. With his tech skills, he creates a conducive learning environment for them, where they can participate in meaningful ways.



“Ever since I was given the opportunity to serve in a special education school about three years ago, I’ve made it my mission to improve the quality of learning for children with special needs.”

Michael Sng

CHAMPIONING INCLUSION

MICHAEL SNG
Bachelor of Science in Information and Communication Technology, Graduate

Since he was 19 years old, Michael has been a guitarist in his church’s ministry that serves people with special needs. His passion for the community continues to grow. Today, Michael is an IT specialist at Pathlight School, the first autism-focused school in Singapore.

“Through digital tools, students with special needs can have the opportunities to perform at their highest levels,” he says.

Michael maintains the school’s network security and digital services. He ensures that staff and students get uninterrupted access to systems, applications and data so that daily lessons and activities can be carried out smoothly.

He also protects the tech infrastructure to prevent malicious activities from occurring. More recently, he embarked on several organisation-wide digital transformation projects to enhance productivity among staff, for example, by implementing two-factor authentication and adopting cloud services.

Still, what makes Michael perfect for the job is how comfortable he feels being around children with special needs. “They’re often misunderstood,” he says. “These kids are so capable, and they are the nicest people I’ve met!”

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Making education more inclusive requires creativity and an open heart and mind. Be receptive to new ideas and roles. Upgrade your skillsets so that you can contribute in the best way possible.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Michael received the **Fujitsu Asia Pte Ltd Award (Bronze)**, which recognises the top three graduating students from the Bachelor of Science in Information and Communication Technology programme.

It is made possible through the generous support of Fujitsu Asia Pte Ltd, a global leader in technology and business solutions.

FUJITSU ASIA PTE LTD Donor

“You’re an inspiration, Michael! It is our pleasure to witness the students whom we have supported along the way flourish and live their lives to the fullest.

We live in an interconnected world and therefore need each other. At Fujitsu Asia, we try our best to give back by inspiring the young people of today, so they can grow up to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Our role as a catalyst in this ‘Universe of Good’ is to create a response similar to the reaction in a chemical solution: the original elements become more than what they formerly were. Likewise, we hope we can enable others to become more than what they might have been if they were on their own.

Any of us can be a catalyst to bring about an impact far larger than what we imagine. The key is, simply, to start!”



Imparting Sociovation Skills, Inspiring Change

The STEP Sociovation Forum, supported by Temasek Foundation, was launched in 2019 by SUSS' Centre for Experiential Learning (CEL) as an annual platform for young leaders in Asia to be equipped with social innovation, or sociovation, skills. In the 2021 edition, storytelling techniques were the focus, and participants learnt to create impactful videos that amplify environmental causes.

70
participants across Asia

In 2 weeks,
15
videos were created by the participants

Watch their videos



The videos address a range of UN Sustainable Development Goals such as Clean Water, Responsible Consumption and Food Waste.

"I've learnt that as a storyteller, I should not provide an answer [to my audience] but to amplify and centre the voices of people who might not have the platform to tell their stories."

Fikri Haikal Panggabean
Participant from Indonesia

Today, many young people, having witnessed weather extremities, are concerned about environmental sustainability. They yearn to bring change in effective ways.

Observing that one of the ways of creating change is to tell a powerful story that can invoke conversations and inspire action, CEL focused STEP Sociovation Forum 2021 on equipping young leaders with storytelling skills for environmental advocacy.

The forum was held in July 2021. In its first hybrid format, the forum included face-to-face and virtual experiences, where participants acquired creative skills such as research, story scouting, narrative writing, visual literacy and basic filmmaking.

Under the intensive coaching of international storytelling experts, the participants also produced shareable short videos covering diverse environmental issues close to their hearts. These videos featured interviews with non-profit leaders and footage of communities in China and Southeast Asia.

Data may not be enough to get people to turn their attention to climate change. Instead, a well-told story might just touch someone's heart. STEP Sociovation Forum 2021 demonstrated to participants how storytelling can be an innovative way of creating social change, and that it can be part of the solution to climate challenges.

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

Working on your cause includes equal part investment in understanding how best to amplify your cause. With effective amplification, your stories can be carried further and louder.

"Listening to the stories [of the invited filmmakers], I've been so inspired by the way they have pursued their passion."

Ngan Ngoc Kim Nguyen
Participant from Vietnam

THE SUPPORTER

STEP Sociovation Forum 2021 was funded by **Temasek Foundation**, a Singapore-based non-profit philanthropic organisation that helps to build capabilities in Asia and beyond. The Foundation supports a wide range of activities such as the STEP Sociovation Forum, where youths in Asia can build bridges of friendship, goodwill and understanding.



MR GERALD YEO
Senior Director, Temasek Foundation

"Innovation will continue to drive change in the world. Apart from the technology, the social bit – or community advancement – also matters, hence the importance of 'sociovation'. Here is where we want to empower young leaders.

Through the STEP Sociovation Forum, we hope that young leaders will be better informed about issues. We also want to inspire them to ideate and bring their solutions to life. By enabling the young to take risks with their ideas and saying it's okay to fail, we can build resilience in them.

In the 2021 edition, the participants had a very hands-on experience using media and tech to express spot-on views about our home planet. Their videos also revealed the heavy responsibility and urgency they feel about bringing environmental change.

For any programme that we support, the aim goes beyond the programme itself. We wish to see the participants become catalysts and go on to influence others in their own communities. This way, their impact can multiply.

What we do today must make a positive impact on tomorrow. The STEP Sociovation Forum, which taps innovation for social good, shares the same belief and stays relevant by having its eye on future challenges."

Making Justice More Accessible

With a diploma in law, Pheodora Wong hopes to use her skills and knowledge to help those who are suffering but cannot afford legal advice.



"If all of us practise more compassion and kindness and help each other out, we can achieve great things."

Pheodora Wong

CHAMPIONING JUSTICE FOR ALL

PHEODORA WONG
Bachelor of Accountancy, Year 1

As a volunteer at the Community Justice Centre, Pheodora has witnessed the immense stress and helplessness of those who face legal difficulties but cannot afford a lawyer.

"Most of the people who come to the Centre are at the lowest point in their lives, so with my background in law, I hope to help them as much as possible," she says.

The Community Justice Centre is an independent charity that provides self-represented or unrepresented parties access to legal information and advice – this is just one of its many social support programmes. At the Centre, Pheodora has assisted lawyers in note-taking and registering applicants for their consultations.

She recalls a particularly heartbreaking case, where an applicant broke down and wept because of both marriage and financial issues. Thankfully, the Centre was able to offer the applicant several solutions and recommendations.

"Seeing the huge relief on the faces of applicants after they realise that there is a solution to their problems is what motivates me to continue volunteering," she says.

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

"Don't be afraid to reach out. Often, those who need help don't know where to seek it from, so just knowing that someone is there for them gives them great comfort."

THE CHAMPION'S SUPPORTER

Pheodora received the **Masonic Charitable Fund Study Grant**, which provides support to alleviate students' financial burdens.

It is made possible through the generous support of The Masonic Charitable Fund, which provides financial assistance to less advantaged students from public institutions.



DR BRIAN SHEGAR
Chairman, Board of Trustees,
The Masonic Charitable Fund

"Helping others and doing charity are key Masonic principles, and empathy for others, particularly those who are disadvantaged, is a valuable quality in human beings. We are delighted that Pheodora is providing pro bono legal advice so passionately and willingly. This is exactly the virtue we would like to promote among the students who have received our study grants.

We believe in the importance of contributing to society as much as we can, not necessarily through financial assistance only, but also through other means such as social service and being kind and considerate to fellow members of society regardless of race, language or religion.

To start, give in a modest way, within one's capacity, and this act of giving will eventually be part of one's psyche. If everyone practises generosity and kindness, we will evolve into a more gracious and dignified society, and Singapore will be a better place for us all."

Equipping Offenders to Make a Positive Change

Behind every offence is an individual who yearns to be understood and has dreams of a good life. In her work at the Singapore Prison Service, Parvin Kaur Sandhu uses her counselling skills to equip offenders to lead fulfilling lives and be valuable members of society.



“Due to their challenging circumstances, offenders may resist counselling. It is important to be patient in order to build trust and a relationship with them. This way, they will feel safe to allow us into their lives.”

Parvin Kaur Sandhu

CHAMPIONING SECOND CHANCES

PARVIN KAUR SANDHU
Master of Counselling, Graduate

One of the skills that Parvin, an assistant director and a correctional rehabilitation specialist at the Singapore Prison Service, teaches offenders is to regulate their emotions through techniques such as deep breathing exercises and progressive muscle relaxation.

“When they can recognise their warning signs and regulate their emotions, they can better create and hold mental spaces for themselves to make better decisions,” she says.

She recalls an offender who would consume drugs to cope with his negative emotions whenever he quarrelled with his wife. Through counselling, Parvin helped him to identify his unhealthy coping methods and communication patterns, as well as his hopes of mending relations with his wife. After several sessions, he saw improvements in his marriage and other areas of his life.

“It has been very meaningful for me to be able to apply my skills in psychology and counselling to impact lives, and the Esther Tan Award that I’ve received is a reminder for me to persevere and not give up. When you put your heart and mind into something, with good support, anything is possible,” she shares.

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Volunteering doesn’t always require a big effort or an official platform. A simple check-in, listening to a troubled peer or neighbour, or running errands for someone in need is a good start. Every effort is helpful and meaningful no matter how small.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Parvin received the **Esther Tan Award (Gold)**, which is given to the top three graduating students from the Master of Counselling programme.

The Esther Tan Awards were established in 2020 by Eileen Tan in honour of her mother Dr Esther Tan.



Dr Esther Tan’s experience in education and counselling spans over 40 years. She worked as a teacher in Hong Kong, a school counsellor in Canada and a teacher educator in Singapore. She is also a pioneer in counsellor education, having helped to develop counsellor education programmes at the National Institute of Education and UniSIM. To date, she has published 60 journal papers and four books and is a member of the Programme Advisory Committee for the counselling programmes at SUSS.

Active in community service, Dr Tan was a founding member of SHINE Children and Youth Services (formerly known as Students Care Service) and served on its board for 30 years. She was on the Panel of Advisors to the Juvenile Court for 30 years. She helped to set up SAGE Counselling Centre in 2008, where she served as Board Chair until 2020 and is currently an advisor to the Board. Dr Tan was appointed Justice of the Peace from 1998 to 2018. She is a recipient of three National Day awards for her contributions to education and her valuable public services.

Building Solidarity



Sharing His Passion
for Film
Joshua Wong



Connecting with
Mother Nature
Andrea Lye



Sustaining a Culture
of Giving
Advancement Alumni Advisory
Committee (AAAC)



Preserving the Chinese
Language and Culture
Teo Jwee Chiang



Widening Access to
Psychological Support
Chloe Tay



Advocating for Equality
Ignatius Pereira



Sharing His Passion for Film

Films have expanded Joshua Wong's world. Grateful for this form of storytelling, he spreads his love of film through small ways to his immediate community.



"I hope that my conversations about film not only encourage a deeper appreciation for filmmaking but also act as a lens through which we gain insights into the real world."

Joshua Wong

CHAMPIONING FILM FOR CHANGE

JOSHUA WONG
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
with Minor in Film Studies, Graduate

Joshua lives and breathes film. By day, he is a writer for a video production studio. By night, he checks out both local and international films, plans movie screenings for his colleagues or hosts discussions about movies with friends.

"Films aren't just for entertainment. They are also a powerful way to create conversations about social issues," he says.

He raises the example of the critically acclaimed film *Parasite*. "It's a masterfully-told story with characters who portray the class divide in a way that feels hauntingly real," Joshua describes.

Movies can indeed transform audiences. He mentions *Figures* and *The Imitation Game*, as they have made him reflect seriously on his own hidden biases towards people. "That's the magic of film," he says. "We get to engage fully in a character's world and we emerge from the theatre a different person."

Joshua encourages people to check out venues like Filmgarde or The Projector for local films, as well as Viddsee and YouTube for Singapore stories told from the heart. He says, "Buying a ticket, leaving a view count or creating conversations about films motivates filmmakers to keep telling stories. These acts also prove that we as a society are hungry to watch quality local content."

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

"The easiest way to support the film community - local or not - is to watch films!"

THE CHAMPION'S SUPPORTER

Joshua received the **IMDA Excellence Award for Film Studies**, which recognises the top graduating student in the Film Studies Minor.

It is made possible through the generous support of the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA).



IMDA leads Singapore's digital transformation with infocomm media.

To do this, IMDA develops a dynamic digital economy and a cohesive digital society, driven by an exceptional infocomm media (ICM) ecosystem - by developing talent, strengthening business capabilities and enhancing Singapore's ICM infrastructure.

IMDA also regulates the telecommunications and media sectors to safeguard consumer interests while fostering a pro-business environment, and enhances Singapore's data protection regime through the Personal Data Protection Commission.

Connecting with Mother Nature

Andrea Lye wants more people to know that engaging in simple nature activities can increase happiness – because that is exactly how she stays joyful in life.



“So often, it’s easy to neglect our natural environment. I’m learning the importance of sustainable practices to better care for Earth.”

Andrea Lye

CHAMPIONING ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

ANDREA LYE
Bachelor of Early Childhood Education with Minor in Business, Year 3

Every weekend, you may find Andrea hard at work among green foliage, where she is weeding, planting or harvesting. She is one of the many nature-lovers serving at Ground-Up Initiative (GUI), a volunteer-driven non-profit community that deepens people’s relationship with the land.

“I help to maintain the operations of the GUI farm, which include cooking and baking,” she says. “Being part of GUI has brought me closer to Mother Nature, where I’ve definitely learnt to appreciate her even more. She keeps my spirits up!”

Andrea has taken the lead to spread awareness about sustainable practices to GUI’s new volunteers. She hopes that young kids, too, can learn about how nature affects them even as they grow up in a highly urban environment.

The gutsy girl also led a team to Indonesia to raise awareness of Peduli Sungai Surabaya, a non-profit community organisation that educates locals about the consequences of littering and recruits long-term volunteers to clean up Surabaya River. Her team designed posters and created #7dayschallenge, a campaign video to promote the organisation’s efforts.



THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Andrea received a stipend under the student assistance initiative of the **S R Nathan Endowment Fund**. The initiative supports students from the Social Work and Early Childhood Education programmes during their attachments to organisations.

The S R Nathan Endowment Fund was set up in 2019 to support the initiatives of the S R Nathan School of Human Development. This move honours Singapore’s late former president Mr S R Nathan, whose legacy of social work, community service and steadfast leadership continues to inspire generations.

The S R Nathan Endowment Fund is made possible through the generous support of individual and corporate donors.

PROFESSOR LEO TAN
Donor

“The S R Nathan School of Human Development at SUSS has a vision that resonates with me: Transforming Lives, Serving Society.

I benefitted from those who transformed my life, for example, my parents and those of their generation who worked hard and sacrificed for us; and a strong and honest government that laid the foundation for a city we can be proud of. I also came to realise that education is the key to a nation’s success and the well-being of its citizens.

These are the reasons why contributing to the S R Nathan Endowment Fund has been meaningful for me.

I’m impressed by Andrea’s efforts. Besides education and caring for the less fortunate, it is important to practise sustainability, as we have only one home planet. We obtain all our needs from nature and anything we can do to sustain it means it will sustain us in return. As part of a collective effort, Andrea is making our environment more resilient and liveable.”

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“It’s not difficult to care for nature if we set our hearts on it. By taking care of the environment, we do good and feel good. Try it and you can enjoy the positive effects almost immediately.”



Sustaining a Culture of Giving

Find out how the Advancement Alumni Advisory Committee (AAAC), a team of SUSS alumni volunteers, rallies fellow alumni to support the University's goal of community impact and creating inclusive opportunities.



"We have to start somewhere to build a culture of giving. Where else better to start than from ourselves, the alumni of SUSS?"

AAAC President
Vijayan Suriaputhuran
Master of Business Administration, Graduate,
Class of 2017

How can a culture of giving and caring be made more sustainable through SUSS' alumni? AAAC has a few ideas.

First, it entails cultivating a mindset that embraces giving, says AAAC president Vijayan Suriaputhuran. When more alumni talk about how they creatively contribute to the community, they remind others to do the same.

Second, it requires action. AAAC volunteers give a leg-up to those who need that extra bit of help to achieve their dreams. Both benefactor and beneficiary embark on a purposeful journey. "AAAC volunteers aren't waiting for anyone else to act," Vijayan says. "The call to action comes from within."

Finally, it is about galvanising support from the very students who have benefitted and encouraging them to pay it forward. Vijayan says, "When these students use the help given to them to fulfil their ambitions, it is hoped that they, too, will contribute to the community and be part of the giving culture."

He adds, "Alumni giving is hence not only about giving or volunteering. It is more than that. We aim to set off a multiplier effect, where the impact of giving keeps growing."

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS



"Any contribution matters – be it a donation or offering time and effort to community events. This is because every single action has the ability to cumulatively create a positive impact on society."

Rallying Alumni to Give

AAAC continually taps various ways to connect with the large base of SUSS alumni. Here are some of its 2021 initiatives.



Regular meetups strengthen the bond among AAAC volunteers and alumni donors and provide an ideal platform to brainstorm about fresh ideas to help.



Sharing sessions by AAAC members about their school, work and life experiences as well as their contributions to the community inspire others.



Creative comics and social media presence are some recent AAAC efforts to reach out to the younger generation.



Preserving the Chinese Language and Culture

Teo Jwee Chiang, at age 72, is the oldest graduate of the Class of 2021. He earned the Provost 3H Fund – Habit Award, which recognises passion for lifelong learning. Mr Teo, formerly working in the housing and development sector, is now retired, while his journey of promoting Chinese culture has just begun.

600

articles published in local newspapers, Buddhist publications and websites



CHAMPIONING CHINESE HERITAGE

TEO JWEE CHIANG

Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language and Literature, Graduate

To nurture his love for writing and the Chinese language, Mr Teo contributed hundreds of columns to Chinese-language daily Lianhe Zaobao between 2015 and 2018.

He says, “Writing is my small way of preserving Chinese culture. At the same time, I want to encourage others to be brave, to write and submit their pieces.”

That was also why, during his studies at SUSS, he created a bi-annual newsletter titled 《日新跃艺》 (SUSS Literature). It acted as a platform for his classmates to publish their works and promote Chinese literature and related research.

Mr Teo believes in what he describes as a “live to learn” approach. However, he feels that learning should not just be about textbooks and exams but also about nurturing practical skills such as writing from a young age.

He adds, “I intend to use the money from the Provost 3H Fund – Habit Award to set up a free TCM centre and a Chinese tuition website to help the less privileged. I want to use my strength in the Chinese language to make a difference in the community.”

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Many senior citizens continue to pursue knowledge in their golden years and achieve the dreams that they could not achieve when they were younger. It’s possible with effort. It also keeps the mind sharp and the body, healthy. So, never stop learning!”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Mr Teo received the Provost 3H Fund – Habit Award, which recognises the graduand who most exemplifies the Habit component of SUSS’ 3H (Head, Heart and Habit) educational philosophy.

The Provost 3H Fund was established to honour SUSS’ Founding Provost, Professor Tsui Kai Chong, for his pioneering spirit and innovative leadership. Various donors contribute to the fund.



MR SAMUEL NG
Donor

“Mr Teo is a perfect model of a lifelong learner: he possesses curiosity, passion and a sense of adventure. These qualities have little to do with age. It is all about our attitude towards our personal development.

With the pandemic running through its second year and uncertainties beyond, many livelihoods and relationships have gone through tremendous challenges. This recent crisis further reinforces the need for lifelong learning so that we can build personal resilience and skillsets beyond our existing qualifications.

I congratulate Mr Teo for taking on such an endeavour. He’ll derive great satisfaction from applying his new skills and knowledge. I await the exciting news about his online Chinese tuition platform. Ultimately, the hope is that we can all pay it forward with the abilities we have.”

Widening Access to Psychological Support

Psychological services are vital to mental health but can be difficult to access for many. Chloe Tay, armed with her knowledge and skills in psychology, endeavours to change that.



“My experience at Myloh was enriching and inspiring. I learnt so much and got to support a passionate team in building an app that would benefit users and their mental health.”

Chloe Tay

CHAMPIONING MENTAL HEALTH CONVERSATIONS

CHLOE TAY
Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Graduate

As a mental health advocate, Chloe firmly believes that society will thrive if everyone has better access to psychological services.

“These services are not just for individuals with mental health conditions,” she shares. “One can also use the additional support to cope with life’s challenges or understand oneself better. This translates to improved well-being and relationships, increased productivity and showing more kindness to others.”

To help widen the public’s access to these services, Chloe volunteers for the National Care Hotline, where she provides psychological first aid to callers. She has also organised mental wellness campaigns and interned at Myloh, a start-up that launched a personalised e-buddy app to offer physical, social and mental health support to users.

“It can be very isolating to go through a tough time and feel like things will never improve,” Chloe says. “As humans, we are social creatures and crave connection and intimacy. To be healthy mentally, we need genuine connections with others to feel supported and less alone.”

THE CHAMPION’S SUPPORTER

Chloe received a stipend from **The Applied Psychology Placement Fund (TAPP Fund)**, which provides financial support to psychology students during their internships.

She did her internship at Myloh Pte Ltd, a digital health start-up that enables SUSS psychology students to gain industry and working experience. Powered by psychometric chats, Myloh’s e-buddy app has been deployed in several social service agencies, schools and organisations.



MR STEVE LOH
Founder and CEO, Myloh Pte Ltd

“Myloh was created in response to society’s rising mental health issues and the mounting pressures psychologists and counsellors face in their line of work. Myloh stands for My Life of Hope, and our mission is to empower individuals and communities to build mental resilience for a positive future.

It has been a delight working with interns such as Chloe, who are mature, thoughtful and insightful. Many interns have surprised us with their creativity and willingness to push boundaries. We want to partner with interns who share our ideas and values and who can build a legacy with us through their expertise.

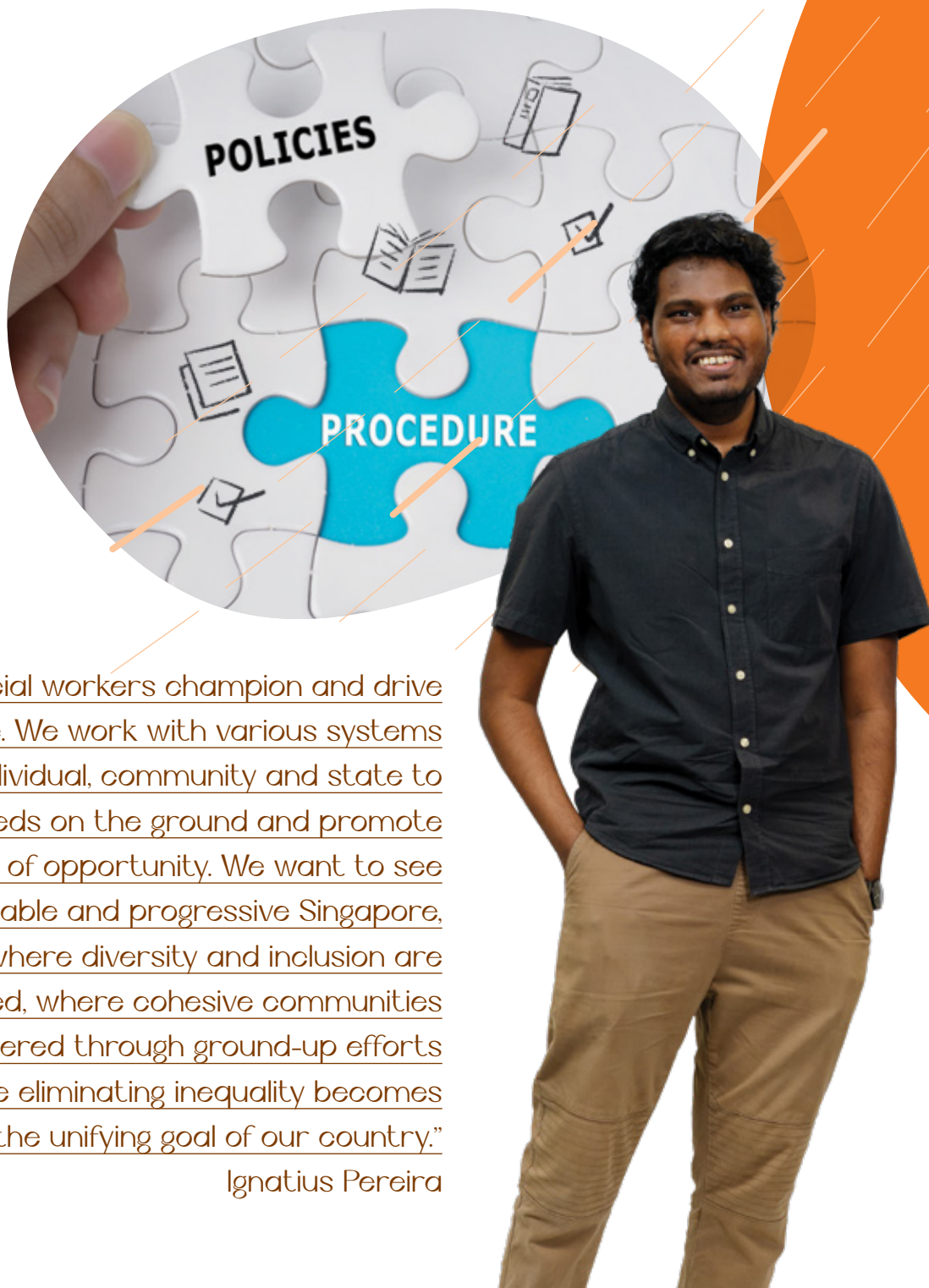
We believe that mental illness is a silent and escalating pandemic. Whether you are trained in psychology, counselling or technology, or simply someone who would like to help, you can make a difference. When passion and purpose meet expertise, great things can happen!”

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Connect with the organisation you wish to work with, even if you don’t have the relevant skills. Everyone has unique strengths and the ability to learn new skills, so dive in and take the first step.”

Advocating for Equality

Ignatius Pereira has seen them all: single-parent and low-income households, families with heavy caregiving responsibilities from debilitating illnesses and people experiencing unforeseen tragedies. As a social worker, he believes in bringing their needs to society's attention.



“Social workers champion and drive change. We work with various systems like the individual, community and state to address needs on the ground and promote equality of opportunity. We want to see an equitable and progressive Singapore, where diversity and inclusion are embraced, where cohesive communities are fostered through ground-up efforts and where eliminating inequality becomes the unifying goal of our country.”
Ignatius Pereira

CHAMPIONING SOCIAL EQUITY

IGNATIUS PEREIRA
Bachelor of Social Work, Graduate

Since young, Ignatius' interest is in social equity. He had seen his parents struggling for upward mobility due to a lack of educational opportunities that was beyond their control.

Policy and community, he says, play an essential role in allowing families like his to access opportunities. “What these families need are resources like affordable housing, educational bursaries, additional childcare subsidies and community tuition programmes,” he explains.

It's no wonder, then, that Ignatius chose to be a social worker. “Social workers can advocate to the relevant authorities for these resources to be made available to those who need it most, as well as provide emotional support – among other roles,” he says.

In fact, at work in the THK Family Service Centre, it is Ignatius who often ends up being inspired by the people asking for help.

He shares a case: “A visually impaired man, who needed to resolve ownership issues after his mother passed away, displayed tremendous resilience in navigating various bureaucracies. He travelled independently to pay bills and settle outstanding matters. His positive attitude is just one example of the hidden strengths in the people I work with.”

QUICK NAVIGATION TIPS

“Collaboration – rather than just aid – is what vulnerable communities need and appreciate.”

THE CHAMPION'S SUPPORTER

Ignatius received an internship stipend from the **Eurokars Group Endowed Fund**.

It is made possible through the generous support of Eurokars Group, a leading automotive organisation in Asia that aims to make a positive impact on the communities in which it operates.



MR KARSONO KWEE
Executive Chairman, Eurokars Group

“The Eurokars Group Endowed Fund was established two years ago, providing financial aid to students from SUSS' Bachelor of Social Work programme.

We strongly believe that education strengthens the calibre and quality of Singapore's workforce to enhance economic productivity. In addition, it is a vital key to unlock opportunities in life, open doors to a bright future and pave the way to promising career paths.

It is in this spirit that we have contributed to the S R Nathan School of Human Development at SUSS. We are glad to witness beneficiaries such as Ignatius rise to their potential with the education they have received.”

How You Can Help

Expanding the Universe of Good Together

With your support, students have the opportunity to develop their fullest potential and make their impact on society. Contact us to find out more about empowering the lives of future generations.

Annual Gifts

Choose to give monthly or annually, regardless of the amount, via GIRO or credit card to advance education at SUSS.

Major Gifts

Demonstrate your deep personal commitment and connection with SUSS by contributing to our mission of equipping lifelong learners to serve society.

Legacy Gifts

Pledge your properties, savings, CPF, securities or life insurance policies to SUSS by designating the University as a beneficiary in your will.

Graduating Class Gifts

Also known as Class Giving, this is a great way for graduating students to mark the beginning of your lifelong relationship with SUSS. Besides alleviating the financial burden of your juniors, you enable students to benefit from a holistic educational experience – just as you did.

Honorary Gifts

Pay tribute to someone who has touched your life with this meaningful gift, while celebrating their achievements and creating a special legacy in their name.

Celebratory Gifts

Consider naming SUSS as the beneficiary of your major celebrations, be it a birthday, wedding or anniversary. In doing so, you help deserving students make an impact on society and effect change in the community.

In Memoriam Gifts

Honour someone whose contributions have impacted your life by creating an award or grant in their name to ensure that their legacy lives on.

SUSS GIVING





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