



EMBARGOED TILL 4 OCTOBER 2017, WEDNESDAY, 11.30AM

PILOT PROGRAMME ON WHEELCHAIR SERVICING BY SENIORS FOR SENIORS

Seniors on manual wheelchairs living in rental flats in Bedok and Tampines can tap on complimentary wheelchair servicing and basic repairs offered at five Senior Activity Centres (SACs) till March 2020. About 600 seniors are expected to benefit from the three-year pilot, Temasek Foundation Cares – Kampung Senang WHEELS programme, the first-of-its-kind in Singapore.

2. The WHEELS programme trains active seniors to undertake wheelchair servicing for low income seniors who are reliant on their wheelchairs to move around. Regular servicing extends the lifespan of the wheelchairs and ensures that they are safe for daily usage. If the wheelchairs are beyond repair, the programme also provides second-hand replacement wheelchairs for these low income seniors.

3. The pilot programme is funded by Temasek Foundation Cares, and administered by Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), in partnership with Kampung Senang. The five participating Senior Activity Centres (SACs) will recruit seniors, who will be trained by Kampung Senang, to do the servicing and hold monthly servicing sessions at their centres.

4. There are around 30 blocks of rental flats in Bedok and Tampines. In these blocks, many seniors who are frail or have disabilities rely on manual wheelchairs for daily activities. They would often mingle at the nearby SACs and participate in fun activities or chit chat with friends over a cup of coffee. This makes SACs the ideal place to introduce the WHEELS programme as they are conveniently located near seniors who can potentially benefit from it. With the WHEELS programme, those who require wheelchair servicing can now find necessary help right here in the community.

5. Dr Jason Cheah, AIC's Chief Executive Officer said, "For seniors who require the support of wheelchairs, it is important that their devices are maintained and in working condition so they can move around and stay active in the community. My congratulations go to Kampung Senang and Temasek Foundation Cares for the launch of this pilot. AIC will continue to work with our Community Care partners to find more ways to support seniors and their caregivers in ageing well at home, in the community."

SERVICING DONE BY SENIORS FOR SENIORS

6. The WHEELS programme was launched by the Minister for Social and Family Development, Mr Desmond Lee, at Sunlove-Kampong Chai Chee SAC this morning. He observed a manual wheelchair servicing demonstration by trained seniors.

7. Among them was Mr Tan Seng Kin, 73, a retired cook, who lives at Tampines Street 43. He is a member of Lions Befrienders SAC's wheelchair servicing team. A cyclist when he was younger, he used to do his own bicycle maintenance and found some of those skills applicable to wheelchair servicing. He is happy to play a part in ensuring that his neighbours have well-maintained wheelchairs to travel around in. Being able to contribute back to society also gives him a sense of purpose.

8. Thirty seniors will be recruited by the SACs to provide manual wheelchair servicing and basic repair services. This is part of their active ageing efforts by engaging seniors to learn new skill and participate in meaningful activities. These seniors will need to complete six hours of theory lessons on top of supervised practical sessions provided by Kampung Senang. The training will include understanding the wheelchair components, maintenance, inspection and safety evaluation.

9. Mr Richard Magnus, Chairman of Temasek Foundation Cares shared, "We now have a Temasek Foundation Cares wheelchair brigade (so to speak). It comprises active seniors who have technically trained to do the services and repair support for wheelchair-reliant seniors. These seniors picked up the skills from the

training provided by Kampung Senang. The wheelchair service will be piloted at the Tampines and Bedok SACs. This is an interactive and innovative partnership programme that brings together active seniors to help their frailer peers in our society.”

10. The five SACs on board this programme are managed by Sunlove Home, Chee Hoon Kog Moral Promotion Society, Lions Befrienders and Thye Hua Kwan Bedok Radiance. Basic wheelchair servicing covers rust removal and cleaning. Should the seniors’ wheelchairs be beyond servicing, Kampung Senang will also provide free replacements under the programme.

11. Mr Phuah Teck Shin, General Manager of Kampung Senang shared, “The seniors’ wheelchairs are prone to daily wear and tears. Hence they require some form of servicing for their devices. With this pilot, seniors can send their wheelchairs to the participating SACs for maintenance and servicing. This ensures that they are able to move around safely in their wheelchair and prevent injuries. Through servicing, it prolongs the wheelchair’s lifespan. It is also environment-friendly as one would not need to buy multiple wheelchairs to replace the old ones.”

12. Mdm Jamilah Bte Gulam, 66, a resident of Block 31 Chai Chee Avenue, was among the first to benefit from the programme. She was diagnosed with polio, an illness which causes muscle weakness resulting in limited mobility, in her legs when she was one year old. After a severe fall nine years ago, she was wheelchair-bound but remained independent, travelling on her own on wheelchair to Jurong and Tiong Bahru to visit siblings and friends. Last Friday, she sent her wobbly manual wheelchair for inspection and repairs at Sunlove - Kampong Chai Chee SAC. With the WHEELS programme, she no longer needs to worry about repairing her wheelchair, and is happy that the service is available near home.

13. Members of the public who wish to find out more about the WHEELS programme can call AIC’s Singapore Silver Line at 1800-650-6060. Seniors who wish to join the SACs’ WHEELS servicing teams can call 6783-9023 or walk in to the participating SACs to sign up.

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About Agency for Integrated Care

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) is set up by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to oversee, coordinate and facilitate all efforts in care integration. Our mission is to achieve best care outcomes for our patients by empowering them with health and social care information and arranging for their care when they are discharged from hospitals. We enable stakeholders to raise the quality of care, and also enhance collaboration by working with health and social care providers to increase services to support the ageing population. Our work in the community brings care services and information closer to those in need. For more information, please visit www.aic.sg.

About Kampung Senang

Kampung Senang is an eco-conscious charity with IPC status that seeks to reach out to serve all people regardless of cultural or religious background, through compassion-filled charity programmes and education on holistic environmentally friendly lifestyles. They are dedicated to the protection of life and our planet. Kampung Senang was established in February 1999. For the past 18 years, over 40,000 have benefited from Kampung Senang's charity events and education programmes. For more information, please visit www.kampungsenang.org

About Temasek Foundation Cares

Temasek Foundation Cares is a Temasek funded non-profit philanthropic organisation that aims to help improve lives of underprivileged individuals, families and communities in Singapore; and to build capability and capacity of all people in Singapore to be prepared for emergencies.

Set up in 2009 as an Institution of a Public Character, it works in partnership with various voluntary welfare organisations, non-profit organisations, government agencies, Ministries and other institutions to support programmes that contribute to the well-being, dignity, livelihood, and emergency preparedness of its beneficiaries. For more information, please visit <http://www.temasekfoundationcares.org.sg>.

ABOUT THE TEMASEK FOUNDATION CARES - KAMPUNG SENANG WHEELS PROGRAMME

1. Who can benefit from the programme?

Seniors aged 60 and above, staying around the participating Senior Activity Centres (SACs) who rely on manual wheelchairs to move about can benefit from it.

2. Who will carry out the wheelchair servicing?

It will be carried out by seniors recruited by the respective SACs. They will be trained by Kampung Senang.

3. Where are the participating SACs located?

Senior Activity Centres (SACs)	Locations
1. Moral SAC (Chee Hoon Kog Moral Promotion Society)	544 Bedok North Street 3, Singapore 460544
2. Lions Befrienders Tampines @ 434	434 Tampines Street 43, #01 – 77, Singapore 520434
3. Lions Befrienders Tampines @499	499C Tampines Avenue 9, #01 – 256, Singapore 52349
4. Sunlove Chai Chee SAC	31 Chai Chee Avenue, #01-150 Singapore 461031
5. THK Bedok Radiance SAC	12 Bedok South Ave 2, Singapore 460012

4. Where is Kampung Senang's workshop located?

It is located at 254 Tampines Street 21, Singapore 521254.