

## CommunityCare FRIENDS AWARDS 2023 WINNER

## People's Association



PA staff providing assurance to senior

Helping frail and mobility challenged seniors to get to Mobile Vaccination

The COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented with periods of uncertainty and anxiety. But what was clear was the critical need to protect the vulnerable groups and keep the community safe. We are heartened to work alongside with our AIC/SGO colleagues in this fight against COVID, in reaching out and supporting the seniors to achieve a high vaccination rate.

## Pow Choon Ghee, Group Director (Grassroots)



their vaccination.



Providing transport arrangement for seniors to nearby Vaccination Centres

The People's Association (PA) was established since 1960 to promote racial harmony and social cohesion in Singapore. Since 2015, PA has been an important partner to the Agency of Integrated Care's (AIC) Silver Generation Offices (SGO) in their outreach to seniors. The partnership was even more crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic. To combat COVID-19, the Ministry of Health (MOH) led a whole of government effort in the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme to enable the safe re-opening of our economy, society and borders as quickly as feasible. PA led the community mobilisation efforts to vaccinate residents, supported by SGO and Government Technology Agency.

With the support of PA, SGO was able to reach out to over one million seniors through the vaccination operations. They also helped to schedule home vaccination and interim meals for seniors who have difficulty getting around. PA also enhanced their system for SGO's use during the vaccination operations which was vital for SGO to track their engagement status, and mitigate data loss.

Being in the community, PA was also able to support seniors under quarantine to buy food or essentials. Although community outreach was challenging, PA's strong network on the ground allowed them to mobilise resources quickly. They were able to recruit and train volunteers in a short timeframe to sustain the outreach and engagement efforts. To reach out to the population in areas that were underserved and with relatively lower vaccination take-up rates, PA worked closely with MOH and AIC to deploy Mobile Vaccination Teams to provide better accessibility to seniors with mobility issues. Volunteer doctors were recruited to support ground engagement as they helped to allay the residents' concerns.

PA's efforts helped achieve a high vaccination rate amongst the population in Singapore, in particular the seniors.