



Media Release

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\$135,000 DONATION DEDICATED FOR RESIDENTS FROM RENTAL UNITS

All hands on deck – South East District exemplified the kampong spirit with corporate donor, community partner, neighbours came alongside South East CDC to support fellow residents in need

Singapore, 29 September 2022 – “We had a hard time falling asleep the first three nights that we moved here. The environment was new, and we were worried that we can’t get used to the things around here”, 66-year-old Mdm Lee expressed. In March 2022, Mr Lam, 68, and his wife, Mdm Lee, had to make a big move to their new home in MacPherson due to a relocation exercise. The elderly couple was troubled and stressed about the relocation as they were comfortable with their old ways in their previous home, having lived there for the past 12 years. However, they were able to quickly assimilate and ease into their new home with the readily available support and assistance rendered by nearby Social Purpose Entities (SPEs) and friendly neighbours.

Apart from the suitability of their environment, the monetary sum of relocating was also a major stressor for the couple as they did not want to burden their only son with a hefty moving bill. Mr Lam works as a pump attendant at a nearby petrol station while Mdm Lee is unable to work due to her medical conditions. They were able to ease this burden due to the financial assistance rendered through the **MacPherson Transition Grant**.

South East Community Development Council (CDC) worked with one of our partners, **Apricot Capital Foundation**, to conceptualise the MacPherson Transition Grant with the aim to alleviate the cost of relocation for South East residents staying in rental units. The fund covers mover’s cost, capped at \$500 per household. The total grant sum of \$135,000 is targeted to support up to 270 rental households, to be completed by March 2023. As of September 2022, the MacPherson Transition Grant has supported 146 families for this relocation exercise.

For Mr Lam and Mdm Lee, \$500 was more than enough for them to pay for their moving cost. **CareElderly Seniors Activity Centre**, a SPE located in the South East District, helped the couple with the MacPherson Transition Grant application and assisted to engage the moving company, **New Charis Enterprise Pte Ltd.**, who provided moving services at a subsidised rate. A team of four helped to pack Mr Lam and Mdm Lee’s furniture with care and transported them to their new home. Mr Wilson Chng, a staff member at New Charis Enterprise Pte Ltd. highlighted, “We may not get to do great things all the time, but our organisation has a deep belief that people can do small things with love. It brings us great

joy and satisfaction to be part of this meaningful process to support residents like Mr Lam who need our help during their relocation.”

Mr Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East district, said, “This is a great example of the kampong spirit we should continue practicing. Through the MacPherson Transition Grant, South East CDC was able to help many of our residents from the Merpati Estate in the relocation to their new homes. This was only made possible due to the support of our many partners who joined hands, for the benefit of these residents. As your social broker, South East CDC hopes to continue to doing this and taking it to greater levels. We welcome ground up initiatives from schools, non-profit organisations, corporate companies and individuals. We are ready to connect and facilitate platforms for anyone to reach out and make a difference to support fellow Singaporeans.”

Similarly, **Mr Darren Teo, Managing Partner of Apricot Capital Foundation**, shared that “The impact of Covid-19 and rising inflation are difficult issues faced by the ground and many of the residents may not have the resources to make the move themselves. We hope our facilitation of transport will ease the relocation for the residents. Apricot Capital Foundation is dedicated to support meaningful cause as we grow together as one team, one community.”

Interviews with Mr Lam and Mdm Lee, Mr Fahmi Aliman and Mr Darren Teo can be arranged upon request. For more information, you may reach **Ms Beatrice Yap** at 9233 0765/Beatrice.YAP@pa.gov.sg.

About South East Community Development Council

South East CDC was set up on 24 November 2001. It oversees the Marine Parade Group Representative Constituency (GRC), East Coast GRC, Mountbatten Single Member Constituency (SMC) and MacPherson SMC, and serves a population of about half a million residents. At the helm of South East CDC is Mayor Fahmi Aliman, who leads the team in fulfilling the CDC’s function – an Aggregator of Needs and Resources, Builder of Capability and Capacity in Partners and Networks and Connector of Communities. South East CDC initiates and manages programmes in collaboration with both community and corporate partners, so as to nurture a vibrant and self-reliant community.

More information on South East CDC at www.cdc.gov.sg/southeast, be our Facebook fan at www.facebook.com/secdc or be our Instagram follower at www.instagram.com/southeastcdc.