

# Supporting families, empowering youths: How community champions are fostering a more caring and cohesive S'pore

The People's Association Community Spirit Awards celebrates local groups and organisations that represent the very best of Singapore's kampung spirit.



*Community Pantry, established by Bukit Panjang Division and Al-Iman Mosque in 2022, provides essential groceries to lower-income families to help ease their financial strain. PHOTO: PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION*

In a time when community bonds are more crucial than ever, the [People's Association \(PA\) Community Spirit Awards](#) shines a spotlight on partner organisations that have demonstrated outstanding dedication and efforts in building a more caring and cohesive society.

Here is a look at five of this year's 143 award recipients on their collaborations with PA to uplift the community.

### **Alleviating cost of living for families through free groceries**

In a heartfelt effort to alleviate the cost of living for lower-income families, Bukit Panjang Division and Al-Iman Mosque joined hands to establish the Community Pantry in 2022 (pictured above), providing families with the opportunities to redeem essential groceries, thereby reducing their financial strain.

Al-Iman Mosque played a crucial role in maintaining the stores and coordinating the distribution of groceries. They also brought in partners such as Sri Arasakesari Sivan Temple and Assumption Pathway School to regularly replenish the pantry. In just two years, Community Pantry has touched the lives of about 1,000 residents, making a significant impact in the local community.

“Through our partnership with the PA, we can reach out to more residents who can benefit from the Community Pantry. It has been vital in sustaining the programme.”

Mr Muhammad Khaider Rohani  
Head of Community Engagement & Social Development, Al-Iman Mosque

### **Empowering young minds with digital skills**

Recognising the importance of empowering young ones with digital skills and fostering innovation within the community, Kampong Chai Chee Division initiated the Tech Saturday programme in 2021 and brought in partner VIVITA Singapore to equip these young learners with digital skills at no cost.



*Kampong Chai Chee's Tech Saturday programme, in partnership with VIVITA Singapore, offers free monthly digital skills workshops for children. PHOTO: PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION*

Through engaging monthly hands-on sessions, the programme not only nurtures digital skills such as robotics, graphics design and coding, but also fosters friendships and boosts their confidence. VIVITA Singapore has played a pivotal role by rallying their network of partners to engage youths from schools to share their digital skills with the younger children.



“PA has been extremely supportive of our effort to reach out to the community and empower children with digital creative skills. By providing a platform for us to nurture these young minds and supporting in reaching out to targeted beneficiaries, we have impacted more children than if we had done it ourselves.”

Mr Lee Hoi Leong  
Co-Founder, VIVITA Singapore

## **Refreshing homes, rejuvenating lives**

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, student volunteers from Global Indian International School (GIIS) dedicated their time and energy to clean and refresh the homes of vulnerable seniors and lower-income families.



*Student volunteers from the Global Indian International School help to clean and freshen up the homes for seniors and lower-income families under North East CDC's Project Refresh Programme. PHOTOS: GLOBAL INDIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL*

Their dedicated efforts included cleaning and scrubbing windows, doors, kitchens and floors, rejuvenating the homes of those in need. GIIS onboarded the North East CDC's Project Refresh Programme in 2022.

While the initiative was designed to improve living conditions, it has also fostered meaningful connections as the students reached out to befriend isolated seniors, offering comfort and companionship.

“Project Refresh was a great platform for our students to help the vulnerable community. It was an eye-opening experience for them as they learned to be empathetic and make a difference in the lives of others.”

Mr Atul Temurnikar  
Chairman and Co-Founder, Global Indian International School

### **Instilling self-discipline among youths through floorball**

Since 2021, Smol Sports Pte Ltd has been a champion for floorball in Cheng San-Seletar Division, actively engaging children from lower-income families and vulnerable youths in weekly floorball training sessions, providing them a safe and nurturing environment to thrive in.



Smol Sports engages low-income children and at-risk youth via weekly floorball sessions in Cheng San-Seletar Division. PHOTO: SMOL SPORTS PTE LTD

The collaboration has also led to the formation of a Floorball Interest Group, a testament to their shared objectives and positive impact. With Smol Sports' ongoing support to make the sport more accessible, the children and youths went on to form a team to compete in the ActiveSG Cup Floorball Year End Smash 2023, showcasing their skills on a larger stage.

**“PA provides a safe place to conduct our floorball programme. The children and youths feel comfortable joining the programme and the floorball training has served as a platform for instilling a sense of self-discipline in them.”**

Ms Sonia Teo  
Director, Smol Sports Pte Ltd



## **Building a sustainable and green community**

As a strong advocate for sustainability, ITE College West has partnered with Brickland Division since 2020 to spearhead exciting green initiatives in the community. One of the signature programmes was the Brickland-ITE Green Festival in 2023, where students facilitated a wide range of programmes and hands-on workshops to educate residents on environmental sustainability.



*As part of the Brickland-ITE Green Festival 2023, students from ITE College West educated residents on sustainability through hands-on workshops. PHOTO: PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION*

ITE College West also leveraged its partner network Komoco Pte Ltd to showcase the latest advancements in electric vehicles and their environmental protection benefits. The two-day festival was a resounding success, drawing over 2,000 residents eager to learn more and support green practices.

“PA has provided our students the opportunity to engage in community service projects which allow them to apply their skills and knowledge in real-world settings, addressing local needs such as environmental conservation and supporting underprivileged families.”

Ms Janice Tan Yuan Zhen  
Student Development Officer, ITE College West

Our warmest congratulations to the 143 award recipients for their kind contributions and valuable partnerships

#### MERIT AWARD

Aleta Planet	L'Oréal
Al-Iman Mosque	Lih Ming Construction Pte Ltd
Allspice Institute	Loyang Tua Pek Kong
American Women's Association	Malay Youth Literary Association
Amitabha Buddhist Society (S)	Malayan Daching Co Pte Ltd
Anderco Pte Ltd	Master Contract Services Pte Ltd
Ang Mo Kio Avenue 4 (Neighbourhood 1) Shopkeepers' and Hawkers' Association	Mediline Clinics Pte Ltd
Applied Materials	Metta Welfare Association
Asian Medical Foundation Limited	Micron Technology
ASM International	MoneyMax Financial Services Ltd
Bedok Reservoir Village Merchants' Association	Neo Group Limited
Bizlink Centre Singapore Limited	New Creation Church
Blangah Rise Primary School	Northbrooks Secondary School
Bo Tien Welfare Services Society	<b>Nunchi Marine Pte Ltd</b>
Bukit Panjang Primary School	Pan Pacific Hotels Group
Bukit Timah Seu Teck Sean Tong Institution Limited	Pasir Ris Drive 4 and 6 Merchants and Hawkers Association
Care Community Services Society – CareElderly@Golden Ginger Active Ageing Centre	Pentecost Methodist Church
Caregivers Alliance Limited	Pro Bono SG
CBM	Qigong Shi Ba Shi Association (Singapore)
Chamber Music and Arts Singapore Limited	Raffles Institution
Changi General Hospital	Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation
Cheng Hong Welfare Service Society	REACH Community Services Ltd.
China Oriental Singapore Pte Ltd	Republic Polytechnic
	Rigel Technology (S) Pte Ltd

#### Reference:

Published On: 19 July 2024 | The Straits Times