

Fund-raising Initiatives for SARS Victims

SARS RELIEF FUND

On 2 April, the SARS Relief Fund was launched by the Singapore Medical Association (SMA) and the Singapore Nurses Association (SNA), to raise funds as a form of relief for patients and their families affected by the SARS outbreak. The fund is managed under the auspices of the SMA Trust Fund. This fund-raising effort was spearheaded by Dr Ho Choon Hou and a group of young doctors from the Department of General Surgery, Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

The SARS Relief Fund has received tremendous community support (including pledges), and as of 11 April, it has raised more than \$600,000, of which more than \$127,000 was donated through the SMA Trust Fund.

THE COURAGE FUND

On 11 April, The Courage Fund was launched. The SARS Relief Fund has merged with this new entity so as to consolidate all fund-raising efforts in this national endeavour. Donations collected through the SARS Relief Fund will be pooled with The Courage Fund.

This fund raising effort is jointly organised by National Healthcare Group (NHG), Singapore Health Services (SingHealth), Singapore Medical Association, Singapore Nurses' Association, Singapore Press Holdings and National Council of Social Services (NCSS).

The Courage Fund is set up to provide aid to victims and their families as well as healthcare workers. The Fund is named in honour of all healthcare workers in Singapore, especially those who have fallen or suffered in the battle against SARS. The Fund will also provide an avenue for Singaporeans to show their appreciation and support for the dedication and sacrifices of healthcare workers in caring for SARS patients and in keeping the public healthcare system running during this

difficult time. Their dedication, selflessness and courage in fulfilling their duty, while risking their own lives, bring honour to the healthcare profession and are a source of inspiration to the human spirit.

President S R Nathan will be the Patron-in-Chief of the Fund. The Board of Trustees is chaired by Mr Michael Lim (Chairman of NHG), and the NCSS will oversee the disbursement of the fund independently. The Fund Working Committee, chaired by Dr Lim Suet Wun (CEO of TTSH), comprises management representatives from the various joint organisers.

SINGAPORE RED CROSS

As an expression of support, the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) has designed a peach ribbon that is to be worn as a public demonstration of gratitude and appreciation for SARS caregivers. A special song, "Through Your Eyes" has also been written and produced as a CD single, through the initiative of SRC volunteers, as a tribute to healthcare workers.

A ribbon and details on how you can help in SRC's efforts, can be found in this month's SMA mailbag. Funds raised will go towards The Courage Fund.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE COURAGE FUND

Cheque donations should be made payable to "**The Courage Fund**", and mailed to:

The Courage Fund, c/o National Healthcare Group, 6 Commonwealth Lane, Level 6 GMTI Building, Singapore 149547. Please include full name, address and contact number, so that receipts can be issued.

Courage Fund Cash Donation boxes are also provided at various locations by the Community Chest.

For more information, please call **6471 5933** or email couragefund@nhg.com.sg ■