

SMACF Adopt-A-Bear Campaign

A Cause Worth Supporting

Text by Sara Kwok, Executive, SMA Charity Fund

"Doctor" – this title draws a lot of attention, along with some misconceptions. A common perception among the public is that doctors are rich and have made it to the upper echelons of society – a reasonable assumption that is however not always accurate. Unknown to many, it takes years for medical professionals to earn an above-average income and be "top earners" (as how our society defines them). Behind the glamorous title, people tend to overlook the extraordinary amount of expenses incurred and the financial stress some doctors have had to endure just to pursue a medical education. However, despite the financial challenges they may face, many doctors in training still dive into it in pursuit of their passion and are mentally prepared to be debt-ridden for many years after graduation.

Medical education, even if highly subsidised, is undoubtedly costly for many. Besides tuition fees, that may be defrayed by bursaries, financial assistance schemes and loans, basic living expenses

prove to be one of the largest hurdles for underprivileged students. The daily expenses of medical students are significantly higher as compared to that of students from other faculties. As a result, medical students may engage in part-time jobs during the course of their medical studies to support themselves, often at the expense of their studies. Some may even have the added burden of trying to support their families.

This year, in conjunction with SMA's 60th anniversary, SMA Charity Fund (SMACF) launched a fundraising campaign in support of underprivileged medical students. The "Adopt-A-Bear Campaign" is a fundraising initiative where uniquely designed bears clad in various doctors' attires are presented to donors in appreciation of their support. Donors who contribute \$1,000 receive a limited edition set containing five bears, while the single exclusive bears are given away with every donation of \$60.

This campaign is dedicated to helping medical students cope with the struggle

of their living expenses through the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund, thereby easing their families' financial burden and allowing them to focus on their studies so that they may graduate as competent doctors.

Your support provides underprivileged students with an equal opportunity to pursue their dreams, alleviate their family's social economic struggles and ultimately pay it forward by serving the community.

Let us help bring about a positive impact on our country's healthcare by supporting our future doctors. Have you done your part? ♦



To donate, please scan the QR code or visit our donation portal at <https://giving.sg/smacf/adopt-a-bear>.

