

SMA Charity Fund Achieves the Next Milestone

By Martin Ho



What is the SMA Charity Fund?

The SMA Charity Fund (UEN: 201305017N), or SMACF, is a company limited by guarantee incorporated by SMA on 25 February 2013. It was then registered as a charity upon approval from the Ministry of Health on 17 April 2013. More recently, SMACF successfully received Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status on 27 December 2013. The founding and development of SMACF marks a new milestone in SMA's history, bringing together SMA's current charitable initiatives and its goals of meeting the greater needs of the larger society under one giant umbrella, managed by an independent and diverse board of directors.

What does this mean?

IPCs are charities that are able to issue tax-deductible receipts for qualifying donations to donors. In other words, those who donate to SMACF will be able to claim tax relief from their assessable income based on the amount donated, at prevailing deduction rates. SMACF's IPC status is also an indication of the impact of its work, and the strength of its governance put in place to safeguard the donations and funds received.

Why should we support SMACF?

SMACF aims to create a bigger impact towards better healthcare in Singapore by focusing on the strategic areas of:

1. **Financial needs:** SMACF works with all three medical schools in Singapore and their student bodies to determine the appropriate quantum of funding for each school, and leverage their current systems to identify potential beneficiaries. The funds will be fully disbursed to these students and not offset against their tuition fees, so that the basic living expenses of the students and their families can be met.
2. **Volunteerism:** SMACF promotes volunteerism among the medical profession and taps on their unique technical skills by creating targeted avenues to share volunteering opportunities.
3. **Learning exposure:** SMACF supports medical students to attend conferences, seminars, workshops, or the like that will lead to enhanced medical knowledge and better health outcomes for the public.

Students from the National University of Singapore Medical Society conducting a public health screening in 2013

4. **Mentorship:** SMACF develops awards in recognition of outstanding mentors and researchers, with a special focus on research with significant contributions to public health.

Through the SMA-National University of Singapore Medical Students' Assistance Fund, SMA has to date disbursed more than \$370,000 to 105 needy medical students and their families to support their living expenses. SMA and SMACF have also provided various charities and charitable projects with media outreach worth more than \$25,000, to allow them to share their volunteering opportunities with the medical profession. SMA, in partnership with the Wong Hock Boon (WHB) Society, has presented more than 15 WHB-SMA Outstanding Mentor Awards to mentors considered outstanding by medical students, to recognise and appreciate their guidance.

When can we start supporting?

Online donations can now be made through the SG Gives Charity Donation Portal (<http://www.sggives.org/smacf>) where SMACF is listed. Alternatively, cheque donations can be made payable to "SMA Charity Fund" and mailed to the following address:

SMA Charity Fund
c/o Singapore Medical Association
2 College Road
Level 2, Alumni Medical Centre
Singapore 169850

More information about SMACF can be found at <http://www.sma.org.sg/smacares> or you can send your queries to smacharity@sma.org.sg. **SMA**