Singapore, 19 June 2004

NTU STUDENTS’ PEDAL-KARTS WITH A HEART

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) students have marshalled 400 upper secondary school students from four schools to befriend some 200 less-privileged children from six welfare centres (see fact sheet) through a pedal-kart relay around Marina City Park on 20 June 2004.

This is an event of NTU Welfare Services Club’s (WSC) Project Challenge Your Limits (CURL). Project CURL is an annual project that seeks to establish a deeper understanding between the less fortunate and society-at-large. In their bid to involve secondary school students as volunteers, NTU WSC students had spent over three weeks approaching and contacting schools to interest and recruit their students.

Since Feb 2004, the student volunteers, together with some local undergraduates who served as their mentors, worked with the less-privileged children to build and decorate the three-wheel pedal-karts from scratch. During this process, the student volunteers learnt more about the challenges faced by the children. The student volunteers also learnt to reflect and share their feelings on the development of the project.

Says Calista Phua, a 2nd year student from NTU’s School of Biological Sciences and chairperson of Project CURL 2004, “We hope to encourage volunteerism among youths by including secondary school students in this year’s Project
CURL. At the same time, we are fulfilling a need by providing the less-privileged children with positive role models with whom they can identify.”

Calista explained, “Project CURL is about overcoming challenges and limits for the participants as well. The process of overcoming challenges and obstacles and the sense of achievement in completing a pedal-kart, initially thought ‘impossible’, proved very rewarding and meaningful.”

Adds Calista, “We want the kids to have a fun yet meaningful experience with the student volunteers they are paired up with.

Whispering Hearts Family Service Centre (FSC) is very pleased to be one of the participating organisations for Project CURL 2004. Says Ms Hah Yu Wei, Programme Coordinator with the centre, “The children are very excited about this event and are looking forward to enjoying themselves on the pedal-karts. It has been a good learning experience for them during this June school holidays as they learned more about teamwork through working as part of a group on the kart. We are very heartened by the efforts of NTU WSC students in organising such interesting events for our children, and we are looking forward to more collaboration with them in the future.”

The Guest-of-Honour for the pedal-kart relay is Dr Amy Khor, Member of Parliament of Hong Kah GRC. She will flag off the pedal-kart relay and ride on a specially-designed kart around Marina City Park. Prizes will be presented to the best pedal-kart design, best design structure and best overall pedal-kart.

Southwest CDC is the co-organiser for Project CURL 2004, which is supported by the Singapore Sports Council and the Youth Development Fund grant from the National Youth Council.

Last year’s inaugural Project CURL was a five-km canoeing expedition involving over 100 participants including canoeists from junior colleges, youths-at-risk and the hearing-impaired. For Project CURL 2005, the NTU WSC team plans to turn its attention to help chronically-ill children.

About Nanyang Technological University

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a top-tier university, ranked among the best science and technological universities in Asia. It has a business school that is consistently ranked among the top ten in Asia.

Established in 1991, the university has since been positioning itself to be a global university of excellence and is committed to its mission in Educating Leaders and Advancing Knowledge for Singapore and Beyond. NTU has an undergraduate and graduate enrolment of about 25,000 and an international faculty of over 1,500. It offers a broad-based curriculum, which focuses on the development of global views, entrepreneurship and adaptability, through the following schools:
1. College of Engineering, which consists of five schools:
   - Civil and Environmental Engineering
   - Computer Engineering
   - Electrical and Electronic Engineering
   - Materials Engineering
   - Mechanical and Production Engineering

2. Nanyang Business School
3. School of Biological Sciences
4. School of Communication and Information
5. School of Humanities and Social Sciences
6. School of Art, Design and Media (to be established by 2005)
7. School of Physical Sciences (to be established by 2005)

For more information, visit http://www.ntu.edu.sg
FACT SHEET

NTU STUDENTS’ PEDAL-KARTS WITH A HEART, 20 JUNE 2004, MARINA CITY PARK

Organiser

NTU Welfare Services Club

Programme

1300 -  Arrival of Guest-of-Honour, Dr Amy Khor
1315 -  Opening Address by Guest-of-Honour
1330 -  Presentation of Certificates of Participation
1340 -  Presentation of tokens of appreciation and photo-taking
1345 -  Judging of best pedal-kart
1350 -  Guest-of-Honour to ride in pedal-kart designed by NTU WSC students
1400 -  Pedal kart Relay
1630 -  Prize presentation

Prizes

Best pedal-kart design
Best design structure
Best overall pedal-kart

List of participating schools

• Jin Tai Secondary School
• Ngee Ann Secondary School
• Nan Hua Secondary School
• Swiss Cottage Secondary School

List of participating beneficiaries

• Children’s Society – Henderson Student Care Centre
• Whispering Hearts Family Service Centre
• Bethesda Care & Counseling Centre
• Hougang Sheng Hong Family Service Centre
• Boy’s Town
• MacPherson Moral Family Service Centre
Background

The South West Community Development Council (SWCDC) was formed on 24 November 2001, with the official appointment of Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon as the Mayor of South West District. Mrs Yu-Foo is the first woman mayor.

The South West district spans the south-western region of Singapore, covering a third of Singapore’s land area. The District has about 252,000 households with about 700,000 residents, across Hong Kah GRC, Jurong GRC, West Coast GRC, Ayer Rajah SMC, Bukit Timah SMC and Chua Chu Kang SMC.

SWCDC Vision

“Owning Your Community”

SWCDC Mission

- To build a self reliant community
- To promote active citizenry
- To partner residents, corporations, institutions and community organisations in our work
- To bridge social and cultural divides.
- To help people help themselves

SWCDC Programmes & Services

The SWCDC bonds the community through its 13 functional committees. Projects and programmes are themed according to the arts, youth, environment and community safety and security, elderly and more. The SWCDC also provides services to help the community such as job-matching and the administration of social assistance schemes.

YEAH! – Youth Excellence Award in the Heartlands

YEAH! is a NEW, VOLUNTARY, and NON-COMPETITIVE award programme launched by the South West Community Development Council (SWCDC) to promote and recognize community service, achievement and initiatives among youths in our District.

Available for those aged between 13 – 25 years old, YEAH! promises to be fulfilling, exciting, fun and challenging all at the same time! YEAH! is supported by City Development Limited.

For more information, please visit our website at http://www.southwestcdc.org.sg or write to:
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