Singapore, 4 June 2004

NTU STUDENTS PROVIDE PLATFORM FOR MORE SINGAPOREANS TO BECOME VOLUNTEERS

Students from the Welfare Services Club (WSC) of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have organised an event that provides volunteer welfare organisations (VWOs) with a platform to recruit volunteers from among Singaporeans.

Forty six NTU students worked over nine months to organise Discover!, a fair that promotes volunteerism. Twenty eight VWOs (see list of VWOs) will participate in this fair to be held at IMM in Jurong on 5 and 6 June 2004. Dr Wang Kai Yuen, Vice-Chairman of South West CDC and MP for Bukit Timah Constituency will officiate at the launch of Discover! on 5 June 2004.

The VWOs hope to recruit volunteers for their causes and raise funds at the same time.

One participating VWO is the Whispering Hearts Family Service Centre (FSC). Set up only in 2000, the centre hopes to use Discover!, as an avenue to inform the public of its services such as financial assistance and marital counselling programmes. They also hope to recruit volunteers to support their wide range of activities and programmes, including elderly and student care services.

Mr Hong Weiqing, a 2nd-year student from the School of Materials Engineering and Vice-Chairperson of Discover! explains, “We know there are many kind-
hearted people out there who wish volunteer but do not know how to go about it. Through this fair, we hope to help them discover the avenues that are available and set them on the path to volunteerism."

Working with VWOs is nothing new as NTU WSC also participates in mentoring programmes with VWOs. For example, NTU student volunteers currently interact weekly with children from the Whispering Hearts FSC centre by giving tuition and helping with outings.

NTU WSC is excited to play the role of match-maker by organising Discover! and thus bring together lesser known VWOs and potential volunteers.

This is the second year that NTU WSC students are bringing the fair outside the NTU campus since its inception in 2000. Over 5,000 people attended NTU WSC’s volunteerism fair last year.

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)

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FACT SHEET

Embargoed until 4 June 2004, 5 pm

List of Voluntary Welfare Organisations for Discover!

1. Alife Ltd
2. Autism Association (Singapore)
3. Beyond Social Services
4. Children-At-Risk-Empowerment
5. Handicaps Welfare Association
6. Help Family Service Centre
7. Hospice Care Association
8. Infant Jesus Homes And Children's Centres
9. Inner Wheel Club Of Singapore (West)
10. Jurong Central CO
11. Lion's Befrienders Service Association
12. MINDS Youth Group (MYG)
13. Muscular Dystrophy Association of Singapore
14. Peraptis Welfare Homes
15. Presbyterian Community Services
16. Singapore Association For Mental Health
17. Singapore Cheshire Home, The
18. Society of Moral Charities
19. Sree Narayana Mission
20. Sun-Dac Centre For The Disabled
21. Sunlove Abode For Intellectually-Infirmed Ltd
22. Sunshine Welfare Action Mission
23. Teen Challenge
24. The Thai Embassy
25. Tsao Foundation
26. Whispering Hearts Family Service Centre
27. Young Woman's Christian Association of Singapore
28. Yuhua CDEC