

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SHATEC DISHES UP LOVE IN BENTOS FOR THE SOUTH WEST DISTRICT

Singapore, 29 August 2016 – SHATEC, Singapore’s pioneer institution for hospitality studies and training arm of the Singapore Hotel Association (SHA), rounds off celebrations for the birthday month of the nation by serving up more than 200 hot dinners to the doorsteps of beneficiaries residing in the South West District, in a school-wide Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) campaign named “SHATECare Movement”. For the third year in a row, SHATECare Movement will be partnering the South West Community Development Council (CDC) to have their students apply culinary and hospitality skills in community help programmes, from creating healthy menus to food collection drives for the needy.

The latest CSR effort under SHATECare Movement, entitled “Love in a Bento”, is SHATEC’s largest community-based initiative to date, and the first of its kind in Singapore which sees a hospitality school partnering community development agencies, South West CDC and JTC, as well as Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs), TOUCH Home Care, Dorcas Home Care and Thye Hua Kwan Home Help Service West.

The objective of the initiative is to generate greater awareness among SHATEC staff and students on the plight of needy families present within our society. It is aligned to the “caring” virtue in SHATEC’s culture statement, to nurture students to become caring individuals with a heart for those around them. SHATEC’s Chief Executive, Ms Margaret Heng, deeply values the character development of all her students and encourages them to give back to society whenever they can.

“In Singapore, we are blessed with a supportive government where there are subsidy schemes in place for the less fortunate. However, this does not absolve us of our social responsibility towards the society, of which we are a part of. We believe that individuals who are sensitive towards the needs of others and who have the heart to serve will grow into exceptional hospitality professionals,” says Ms Heng.

SHATEC alumnus and team initiator for “Love in a Bento”, Mr Helmekhan Bin Mohd Jamil hopes the effort will propagate the intrinsic value of doing good and encourage greater involvement within the SHATEC community. “We wish to apply our skills in culinary and hospitality in improving the lives of others. We are extremely fortunate to gain the support of the school and other partners in making this possible,” he says.

“We are very encouraged by the enthusiasm of the SHATEC students in putting their culinary skills for a good cause by preparing nutritious meals and delivering them to the seniors under our Meals-On-Wheels service. Love in a Bento is a good example of how the community can come together to support the needs of vulnerable seniors to help them age in place in the community. Many of our clients are frail and homebound. Hence, this special treat will definitely bring a smile to their faces. We also wish to thank the other community partners including SouthWest CDC for co-organising this meaningful event and the JTC for roping in their staff to deliver meals,” says Director for TOUCH Home Care (THC) and TOUCH Caregivers Support, Mr Kavin Seow.

The programme will benefit beneficiaries under the Meals Service @ South West and is made more significant as there will be a National Day-theme dinner prepared for seniors who are unable to cook or buy their own meals, bringing them together as we celebrate our nation’s birthday.

“My sister was smiling when I told her some students who are training to be chefs will be cooking a special meal and delivering it to her. She suffers from poor health and seldom has visitors. She also has to take care of her husband who is blind and has difficulty walking. It is nice of them to remember the elderly folks. They are very kind,” says Mdm Ann Toh, 58, whose sister Mdm Toh Yian Meng, 55, a THC client, suffers from cognitive disability.

Mayor of South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling, will be joining over 100 volunteers comprising students, staff and alumni from SHATEC as well as 22 staff representatives from JTC to deliver dinner sets to the elderly under the care of the VWOs, in all 17 constituencies across the South West District. Six staff from JTC are also volunteering their personal vehicles to help in making the deliveries. To cater to the dietary needs of the meal recipients, four types of meals will be prepared (normal, diabetic, porridge and vegetarian). Each meal set will include brown rice or porridge with a three-dish menu, which is high in

fibre, low in salt and oil content. Less sweet red bean soup will be served for dessert, with a fruit and pastry of the day to complete the meal.

Mayor Low says, “SHATEC has been a supportive partner of the South West CDC since 2014. It is wonderful to see how the students are using their culinary skills to create nutritious food for the less privileged. They have thoughtfully customised the dishes to meet the recipients’ dietary needs. This labour of love in a bento uplifts our community in a tangible way. Their food not only feeds the stomach, but nourishes our soul too.”

Participating in SHATECare Movement for the second consecutive year, student volunteer Soe Wing Kit says, “It feels wonderful knowing that we are able to brighten somebody’s day by doing something as simple as cooking them a meal and serving it to them personally. It reminds me of how fortunate I am to have easy access to basic necessities daily. I have learned to appreciate the little things in life.”

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About SHATEC

SHATEC was set up in 1983 by the Singapore Hotel Association to equip Singapore's hospitality industry with a skilled workforce. Since then, SHATEC has distinguished itself as arguably Singapore's most recognised hospitality school with many of its 30,000 strong alumni from more than 20 countries helping key positions in the hospitality and tourism industry.

It is a strong advocate of creative teaching methods. Lessons and programmes at SHATEC are further enhanced by exposing pupils to experiential learning experiences that are as close to a working environment as possible. Students also reap the benefit of interacting with local and international instructors and guest speakers who eagerly share a wealth of knowledge in their respective fields and impart important people-to-people skills gleaned from experience.

Besides nurturing young minds and talents, SHATEC is also a key player in preparing career switchers and mature workers to join the hospitality industry. As the industry school, it also offers a myriad of programmes and workshops to upskill practitioners in the hospitality industry.

About SHATECare Movement

SHATECare Movement was conceptualised in 2014 by student leaders who saw a role which SHATEC students can play in contributing to the society with the skills set acquired in school. From small scale efforts by the Student Council and individual classes, SHATECare Movement soon gathered awareness among students and staff within the school. In 2015, student leaders led over 100 SHATEC staff and students in a food collection drive to raise sufficient supplies for 300 needy households in Bukit Batok area, identified through the help of South West CDC and FoodBank. This was the first student initiated school wide CSR which also set the direction for SHATECare Movement.

About TOUCH Home Care

TOUCH Home Care (THC), a service of TOUCH Community Services, aims to enable the frail elderly live with dignity, and enjoy greater independence and quality of life at home. Each elderly client is served in their home by a trans-disciplinary team comprising doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, senior care associates and befrienders. Besides home medical and nursing services, THC's team also provides housekeeping, personal hygiene services, and escort services to hospitals for appointments. Meals are also delivered daily for lunch and dinner under the Meals-on-Wheels programme which is almost entirely volunteer-driven. THC operates out of three centres located in Ang Mo Kio, Jurong West and Toa Payoh.

Since 2007, five of THC's staff received the Healthcare Humanity Award that is given to outstanding and inspirational healthcare workers who go the extra mile to care for the sick and infirmed. For more information, please visit <http://www.touch.org.sg>.

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