

For immediate release

Media Release

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News Editor

1,000 VULNERABLE FAMILIES RECEIVED GIFTS OF LOVE

- **Over 1,000 vulnerable families in 5 Boon Lay rental blocks received GIFTS OF LOVE from South West CDC and ExxonMobil**

The COVID-19 pandemic can have a significant impact on one's mental health, especially the elderly and the vulnerable, the South West Community Development Council (CDC) partnered ExxonMobil to check in on 1,000 vulnerable families in Boon Lay and at the same time, present them with Gifts of Love.

2 The gift pack is a mixture of grocery and sundry items, and includes the South West Caregiving Care Guide self-assessment checklist and mental health resources for residents to turn to if they need assistance. Over 100 students in these rental blocks who were given transport bursary worth up to \$150, also received a stationery pack from ExxonMobil as part of Gifts of Love. In addition, ExxonMobil volunteers wrote motivational and thoughtful notes to these students to encourage them to stay happy and healthy during such times.

3 Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development and Adviser to Boon Lay Grassroots Organisations and Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District joined ExxonMobil staff and volunteers from Boon Lay GROs to distribute the household and stationery packs to families and students living in rental blocks in Boon Lay.

4 "Every effort to uplift the lives of vulnerable residents counts. It is heart-warming to see the volunteers coming back year on year to give back to the vulnerable residents in Boon Lay. We are appreciative of their support and

dedication to contribute in one way or another to help the vulnerable residents in Boon Lay,” said Minister Desmond Lee.

5 “We are greatly heartened that our long-time partnership with Exxon Mobil continues to strengthen amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The ExxonMobil Transport Bursaries and long-standing Adopt @ South West programme have met the needs of families and students at risk in very tangible ways. Over the years, the continuous support of dedicated partners like ExxonMobil has woven an enduring social safety net to assist and uplift the vulnerable in South West district. This has helped build our community’s resilience and ability to overcome challenges, especially in these difficult times,” said Mayor Low.

6 Ms Geraldine Chin, Chairman and Managing Director, ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd said, “We’re glad to do our part for the Boon Lay residents, who are our neighbours and immediate community in the South West District. We are grateful for the long-standing partnership with the South West CDC on annual outreach activities such as Adopt @ Southwest and the South West CDC–ExxonMobil Transport Bursary.”

7 2021 marks the eleventh year that ExxonMobil has supported the Adopt @ South West programme. This year, ExxonMobil contributed over \$90,000 to help the vulnerable in the district through the South West CDC-ExxonMobil Transport Bursary and household and stationery packs. ExxonMobil's yearly contribution of \$60,000 to the Transport Bursary, matched dollar-for dollar by the CDC, had supported 1,000 beneficiaries by defraying their transport expenses with transport e-vouchers worth up to \$150 each this year.

8 Nafisah Sahul Hameed, volunteer from ExxonMobil said, “Volunteering at Adopt @ Southwest allows me to connect with our community and make it a better place though building relationships, improving well-being, and helping those in need. I'm glad that we can do our part for this neighbourhood amidst the pandemic.”

9 “I am thankful to the volunteers for giving us a gift pack every year. The items in the pack are useful, especially the masks and the bacterial spray,” shared 64-year-old Mr Dogol Bin Watimin.

10 “I am excited and happy to receive the stationery pack as it contains useful items for school. My favourite item is the multi charging cable as I am able to charge multiple devices at once. I also really appreciate the thoughtful note written by the volunteers,” shared 13-year-old Sameerudin s/o Saburudeen, who also wrote a card for the ExxonMobil volunteers to express his thanks.

11 The Adopt @ South West programme reaches out to needy families and vulnerable elderly living in rental to ensure that no one falls through the cracks. This is part of the WeCare Plus @ South West Initiative, which aims to strengthen the social safety net for the needy and vulnerable by getting the more able to help the less able, creating an environment of greater community ownership and collective responsibility, as well as a more caring society. The suite of programmes is developed to meet the five core needs of Adopt @ South West namely social wellness, healthcare, home safety & improvement, education and enrichment, to uplift and enrich the lives of vulnerable residents in the South West District.

12 More photos and videos from the distribution may be downloaded from this Wetransfer [link](#). For more information, please contact our media liaison officers below.

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About the South West Community Development Council (CDC)

The South West Community Development Council (CDC) was formed on 24 November 2001, with the mission to Assist the Needy, Bond the People and Connect the Community.

Through local help programmes, the South West CDC provides assistance to help the less fortunate in our community. The South West CDC also organises projects and programmes to promote community bonding and social cohesion. The South West CDC adopts the "Many Helping Hands" approach to encourage community ownership among residents, community partners and corporations to realise its vision of "Owning Your Community".

Ms Low Yen Ling was appointed the Mayor of South West District on 27 May 2014. Ms Low is also the Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) & Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) & Adviser to Chua Chu Kang GRC.

For more information, please visit: www.cdc.gov.sg/southwest