



Media Release

SBF Foundation Signs MoU with people-public-private partners to spearhead a new initiative, Project MigrantWell

- A donor-initiated project, Project MigrantWell, will receive a SGD 20 million seed funding, collectively donated by Estate of Khoo Teck Puat and Estate of Ng Teng Fong to support migrant workers in Singapore

Monday, 29 November 2021, Singapore - The SBF Foundation, the social impact arm of Singapore Business Federation (SBF), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), Estate of Khoo Teck Puat, Estate of Ng Teng Fong and St. Andrew's Mission Hospital to launch Project MigrantWell. The Estate of Khoo Teck Puat and Estate of Ng Teng Fong have collectively donated SGD 20 million seed funding. SBF Foundation aims to raise another SGD 15 million towards this cause.

Initiated in 2020 by the Estate of Khoo Teck Puat and Estate of Ng Teng Fong, SBF Foundation then spearheaded the project and brought it to fruition today. In 2020, SBF Foundation embarked on similar industry-led initiatives such as the [Compassion Fund](#) and [Employability Fund](#), to build a more resilient workforce and help employees in need. Project MigrantWell takes on a holistic approach to support the health and wellbeing of migrant workers. It will incorporate the establishment of a charity, MigrantWell Singapore, a MigrantWell Welfare Fund and a medical centre at Penjuru.

With the migrant workforce playing a key role in the business ecosystem by bolstering our local workforce, the project will include a medical centre at Penjuru which will serve 57,000 migrant workers. This centre will be operated by St. Andrew's Mission Hospital. A MigrantWell Welfare Fund will support niche care programmes for the migrant workforce. MigrantWell Singapore will partner community agencies to identify care gaps, and develop the criteria and guidelines for the usage of the Fund. More details would be available at a later stage.

Mr Hsieh Fu Hua, Chairman of the SBF Foundation said, “People are at the heart of any organisation and also whatever we do. As business organisations, we can contribute to alleviate social issues of those in our employ and of the community at large. In this spirit, Project MigrantWell is SBF Foundation’s latest initiative to encourage a compassionate business community. I thank our partners for their support, and the Estates of Khoo Teck Puat and Ng Teng Fong for their generous contributions.”

The MOU was signed by Mr Hsieh Fu Hua, Chairman of SBF Foundation, Mr Chia Der Jiun, Second Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Manpower, Dr Arthur Chern, Group CEO, St. Andrew’s Mission Hospital (SAMH) and Singapore Anglican Community Services (SACS), Mr Edward Ng from the Estate of Ng Teng Fong, and Mr James Khoo from the Estate of Khoo Teck Puat. The MOU exchange was witnessed by Guest-of-Honour, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Manpower Dr Tan See Leng, and Senior Minister of State for Manpower and Health, Dr Koh Poh Koon.

A panel discussion was also organised during the event, where Mr Ho Meng Kit, Chairman, MigrantWell Singapore, Dr Arthur Chern, Group CEO of SAMH and SACS, Mr Mark Lee, Managing Director, Vac-Tech Engineering Pte Ltd, and Mr Govindaraj Mathiyalagan, migrant worker at BJ Harvest Services Pte Ltd shared about “*Enabling holistic care for the well-being of our migrant workers*”. Moderated by Ms Janet Ang, Deputy Chairman of SBF Foundation, the panellists shared how MigrantWell Singapore and the medical centre will better support the healthcare needs of migrant workers, and the critical role that employers and businesses can play in the partnership to enable holistic care.

Mr Lim Ming Yan, Chairman of SBF added, “The COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated the important role migrant workers play in our business ecosystem. As an essential part of our workforce, businesses can do their part to take care of the well-being of migrant workers. SBF is glad to partner SBF Foundation in rallying our business community towards this meaningful cause.”

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SBF Foundation

The SBF Foundation is an Institution of Public Character (IPC) established by the Singapore Business Federation in 2013 in response to the Prime Minister's call for businesses to be more active in corporate philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. The SBF Foundation aims to amplify the individual efforts of the business community in corporate social responsibility and corporate giving to benefit the workforce and community. For more information, please visit our website: www.sbfoundation.org.sg

Annex A: Quote sheet from partners, donors and migrant workers

By Ms Mavis Khoo, Estate of Khoo Teck Puat

“As trustees of the Estate of Khoo Teck Puat, we have continued the legacy of our late father through the distribution of funds centred on Medical, Healthcare and Education. In supporting Project MigrantWell, we hope to provide quality medical care and improve the physical and mental health of migrant workers.

By Mr Philip Ng, Estate of Ng Teng Fong

“We hope to show the love of our Lord Jesus Christ to the foreign workers who have left their families and homes to come here to toil for the progress of Singapore.”

By Dr Arthur Chern, Group CEO, St. Andrew’s Mission Hospital (SAMH) and Singapore Anglican Community Services (SACS)

“The Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic brought about new ways of delivering essential and accessible healthcare for all, including our migrant worker communities who have worked alongside Singaporeans, contributing to our country’s development and growth.

For St. Andrew’s Mission Hospital (SAMH), the provision of migrant worker healthcare had been ongoing work. From 2012 till just before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Andrews Community Hospital (SACH), a service of SAMH, was operating a regular free mobile clinic service for migrant worker dormitories.

This meaningful endeavour taking shape at the temporary site at Penjuru Recreation Centre will eventually transform into a permanent medical centre sited at a purpose- designed facility. To be named, St. Andrew’s Migrant Worker Medical Centre (SAMWMC), it will be part of the Ministry of Manpower’s (MOM) network of medical centres.

SAMWMC will provide accessible, affordable primary care as well as radioimaging, dental, therapy, counselling, telehealth and case management services relevant to the workers' needs.”

By Mr Govindaraj Mathiyalagan, Migrant Worker, BJ Harvest Services Pte Ltd

“I used to travel to Little India to seek medical help in the past. The medical centre at Penjuru will be helpful to my colleagues and I to reduce the amount of time needed to travel to the nearest clinic if we are sick. Medical support will thus be more accessible and I can return back to work healthily after.”