

Read on for the latest TCTF news, updates on our popular programmes and the various causes the foundation supports.

# Our Philosophy of Giving

*A Tan Chin Tuan Foundation initiative*



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## CEO's Message

"The coronavirus pandemic snowballed a reset on every facet of our lives. On the values we hold dear. On the people and relationships we need to repair, heal and cherish more.

From March 2021, I will be transitioning from the foundation after leading it for 13 years. The journey has been humbling and rewarding, from spearheading new programmes to expanding its domestic and regional grant portfolio in the areas

of education, healthcare, aged, special needs and, a group close to my heart - disadvantaged children and youth in Singapore and the ASEAN region. COVID-19 presented several opportunities in bringing partners together to improve the lives of many pockets of our community in need of extra support and encouragement. Let's continue to do more and better. "

Yap Su-Yin

Chief Executive Officer

## TCTF's COVID-19 RESPONSE

TCTF provided **Emergency Relief Funding** to various charities to ensure isolated and frail seniors in our community continue to receive food supply, for needy children to access laptops and overcome the Digital Divide, create jobs for furloughed breadwinners and migrant workers receive hygiene supplies. Educational supported was also extended to needy students and scholars.

### Helping Needy Children access laptops and overcome the Digital Divide

This year, **Engineering Good** (EA) stepped up to meet the needs of school-going children from needy families and children's homes who urgently needed laptops for home-based-learning. TCTF's donation enabled EA to continue their good works of tirelessly repairing and distributing donated laptops for 2,600 beneficiaries to use, as part of its "Computers against Covid" initiative.

TCTF also connected Engineering Good to another TCTF-supported charity, **The Salvation Army Kids-In-Play**, a programme for children (ages 5 to 18) who face parental incarceration which includes casework, counselling and family bonding. 33 young beneficiaries received refurbished laptops in time for Christmas, ending a turbulent year on an uplifted note.

### Vulnerable Families

TCTF donated to Beyond Social Services "Covid-19 Family Assistance Fund" for vulnerable families to receive emergency relief of food and basic essentials, household needs, electricity top-up, medical needs and children's schooling needs. Beyond Social Services saw a sharp rise in number of applications, half of which experienced job losses.

### Migrant Workers

Covid-19 shone light on the plight of migrant workers in Singapore. With rampant spread of Covid-19, workers had to remain in their dorms and were unable to come out to replenish supplies. TCTF's support went to **Project Chulia Street and Migrant Workers' Centre** providing 350,000 toothbrushes and toothpaste, essential toiletries to upkeep the personal hygiene of workers housed in *Bedok, Clementi and Jurong*. Most importantly, to convey that they are not forgotten, we stand together through adversity.

## Food for the Aged



**Food From The Heart (FFTH)** recorded a drastic drop in food and cash donations from corporates and individuals yet there was a rise in the number of beneficiaries. TCTF's funds helped to ramp up packing capacity and provide upsized food packs to last longer as more beneficiaries were staying home. TCTF's donations went towards supporting food packs for 309 of 400 (77%) needy households in Punggol West which included elderly and young families in June – July 2020.

A donation to **Care Corner Singapore (CCS)** provided 366 seniors living in rental flats in Woodlands with no family support, to tide them through Circuit Breaker period, by providing groceries, hygiene items, diapers, radios, anti-slip mats etc.

Following the disbursement for household essentials, TCTF donated to CCS's Hot Meals programme which offered nutritious lunches and dinners for seniors (including home-bound seniors) residing in Toa Payoh.



**Man Fut Tong Welfare Society's** Project Love & Care focussed efforts to provide lunch & dinners to 100+ beneficiaries from 4 blocks of Hougang rental flats.

Every weekend, over 400 needy individuals get fresh supplies of vegetables and fruits for free. Non-ambulant seniors get hot food at their doorstep. In December, they distributed back to school packs (books and stationery) to single-parent, needy households with children.

### Creating Jobs for furloughed breadwinners

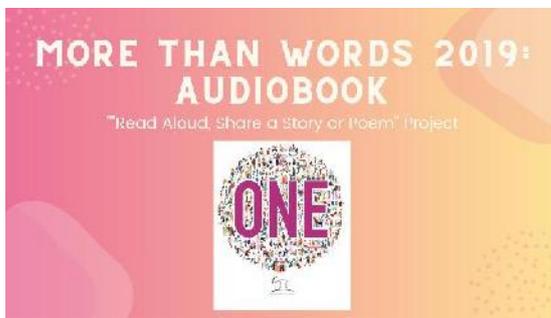
Through **TOUCH Community Services**, 22 able-bodied clients were deployed to deliver 2,000 meals (twice daily) to 225 frail, home-bound seniors living in Jurong. TCTF's donation to the Meals-on-Wheels (MOW) service enabled clients, who were jobless breadwinners, to step up to serve and earn an income to cover daily expenses. They brought food hygiene packs right to the doorsteps of high-risk, low mobility seniors. This allowed for the doubled impact of beneficiaries under TOUCH Community Services' care while addressing the issue of shortage of volunteers during the Circuit Breaker.

## TCTF Signature Programme - More Than Words



*(Clockwise from top left corner: Children from Hougang Sheng Hong Student Care Centre used recycled materials to create their artwork and presented to their friends; Teens from Melrose Home sketched and wrote poems; Elderly from St Luke's ElderCare created artistic collages; St Luke's Madam Wong shared about her collage.)*

For children and elderly who were unable to go on excursions, TCTF brought snippets of The Art of Birding Exhibition from the Singapore Botanic Gardens to teens living in Melrose Home and children from **Hougang Sheng Hong Student Care Centre**. TCTF then sent their artwork and poems to **St Luke's ElderCare**, where the foundation sponsored an art therapy programme. The elderly there created artistic collages in response to the teens' works. [Click here to view the interview from a St Luke's senior.](#)



Despite restrictions to movements locally and across borders, TCTF galvanised 57 children, youth and adults in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand to contribute to the inaugural More Than Words audiobook. This cross border, multi-national and multi-ethnicity, multi-age group is TCTF's most diverse project yet. Overseas contributors included scholars from **St. Joseph's Institution International Malaysia (SJIIM)** and **Grace International School (GIS)** in Chiangmai, Thailand.



Riding the wave of digitisation catalysed by COVID-19, volunteers lent their voices to record their renditions of poems and stories of past editions of More Than Words books. Tech-savvy volunteers Fadzli Jambari, Lee Shi Wen, Tina Nguyen, Eunice Salanga and Colin Ong contributed their video and sound editing skills to weave together the audiobooks. The inaugural More Than Words 2019 audiobook was released on Children's Day, 9 October 2020 via a zoom book launch, where over 300 children and seniors tuned in. The audio version enabled the visually handicapped or children with reading difficulties to enjoy the collection of stories and poetry composed by other children and youth.



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