

**Media Release**

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## OCBC EXPANDS CSR PROGRAMME WITH S\$600,000 IN ANNUAL FUNDING AND A NEW NAME

*#OCBCCares widens corporate social responsibility focus beyond vulnerable children and education to include the elderly, special needs persons and environmental sustainability; over 3,000 people and 2,500 families to be helped in the first year*

Singapore, 2 March 2017 – Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited (OCBC Bank) today launched an expanded Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme – named #OCBCCares and funded with S\$600,000 in the Bank's own cash – to support viable projects and initiatives proposed by its 15 charity partners (refer to Annex A for information on these charity partners). The causes supported by these 15 charity partners range from vulnerable children, youths and families and disadvantaged elderly to people with special needs and environmental sustainability.

#OCBCCares was soft-launched in December and OCBC Bank has already agreed to fund nine CSR projects, committing a total of S\$300,000. Some of these proposals may conceivably not have otherwise received the same measure of support – which would have limited the number of individuals who can be helped.

One of the first projects to be funded by #OCBCCares is the setting-up of a disability clinic by the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled in Singapore (MINDS) – the first of its kind in Singapore. Many special needs persons face difficulty in expressing themselves, especially when they are ill. Having a clinic manned by doctors who are trained to work with such patients would minimise the risk of an erroneous diagnosis. Each patient will have his or her own health history booklet. This will facilitate understanding, communication and hence the correct treatment when the patient is referred to other specialists or seeks treatment at hospitals.

#OCBCCares will also fund the regular distribution of trays of eggs to 2,500 families for the next 12 months, an initiative by the Food from the Heart. Upon hearing of this initiative, OCBC customer Mr Ang Song Mong – proprietor of Ang Seng Eggs Supplier – promptly decided to provide the eggs at a discounted price. Beyond that, Mr Ang is donating an additional 1,500 eggs per month, as his own CSR effort. “I am just doing my part to help. If everyone chips in, we will succeed in building a caring society,” he said.

### Focus on environmental sustainability

In recent years, OCBC Bank has been rallying behind several environmental projects, starting with the S\$8 million sponsorship of the OCBC Skyway at Gardens by the Bay in 2012. This enabled visitors to get a closer view of the iconic Supertrees, which are embedded with environmentally sustainable energy and water technologies that help cool the Gardens' famed Conservatory. In 2016, volunteers helped protect marine life by cleaning up the Pasir Ris coastline in 2016, collecting more than 1,500 kg of trash. In the same year, we partnered the students of Yu Neng Primary School to convert food remains into compost. As part of this initiative, we received support from our business partner, BreadTalk, to participate in a pilot project that successfully turned cake trimmings into nutrient-rich compost.

Putting muscle behind the cause of environmental sustainability, OCBC Bank will support several "green" programmes this year. The first begins tomorrow, at the i Light Marina Bay 2017 festival – a sustainability exhibition featuring energy-saving technology and recycling efforts.

Taking centre-stage at the OCBC Urban Garden, located at the i Light Marina Bay 2017 festival, are two large-scale see-through tanks that showcase an odourless way of composting food waste, as well as two prototypes of smaller composting kits that can be constructed for home use. Each year, food waste contributes approximately 23% of all waste in Singapore. This equates to 785.5 million kg of food waste. Of this, only 13% of the food waste is recycled. Working with the students of Yu Neng Primary School, we hope to make the public more aware of the need to minimise food wastage and the option of recycling food remains into nutrient-rich compost for their gardens.

More environmental projects will be announced by OCBC Bank during the course of the year.

### Promoting volunteering in a structured way

Beyond financial support, OCBC staff volunteers continue to contribute their time and skills to engage the Bank's charity partners.

Over the past 10 years, the number of staff volunteers has increased by 2.5 times. Volunteer hours swelled three-fold in the same period and in 2016, 1 in 4 OCBC employees gave back to the community, each contributing an average of 5 hours of their time.

The growth can be attributed to the structured way that volunteering is managed at OCBC Bank – from conducting surveys to better understand our employees' preferences to planning a broad spectrum of volunteer activities, with a choice of causes for our employees to support. OCBC Bank's divisions, from areas in consumer banking to investment banking and from human

resources to risk management, each adopt a charity partner to ensure that none of our 15 charity partners is neglected. Co-ordinators in these divisions help to rally support from the ground up.

Said Ms Doreen Tow, a manager at OCBC Bank's Learning and Development unit who has been with the Bank for more than 25 years: "Volunteering enables me to give back in a meaningful way. It is made easier at OCBC because of the comprehensive volunteer options that are available – I can use my skills as a dragon boater to help youths to develop strength and teamwork; I've learnt to cook and prepare meals for more than 5,000 people by volunteering in a soup kitchen; and I have experienced the joy of having elderly residents welcome us with open arms when we visit them. Volunteering is my way of giving back to Singapore."

## SOCIAL MEDIA ASSETS

**Official hashtags:** #OCBCCares #ocbcbank

**Keywords:**

OCBC, #OCBCCares, OCBC CSR,

 **Suggested tweet:** OCBC's expanded CSR programme, #OCBCCares, to help over 3,000 people and 2,500 families in 2017.

 **Suggested Facebook post:** OCBC launches expanded CSR programme, #OCBCCares, to widen focus beyond vulnerable children and education to include the elderly, special needs persons and environmental sustainability; over 3,000 people and 2,500 families to be helped in the first year.

For all other updates on OCBC, follow @OCBCBank on Twitter and "like" facebook.com/ocbcbank on Facebook.

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## About OCBC Bank

OCBC Bank is the longest established Singapore bank, formed in 1932 from the merger of three local banks, the oldest of which was founded in 1912. It is now the second largest financial services group in Southeast Asia by assets and one of the world's most highly-rated banks, with an Aa1 rating from Moody's. Recognised for its financial strength and stability, OCBC Bank is consistently ranked among the World's Top 50 Safest Banks by Global Finance and has been named Best Managed Bank in Singapore and the Asia Pacific by The Asian Banker.

OCBC Bank and its subsidiaries offer a broad array of commercial banking, specialist financial and wealth management services, ranging from consumer, corporate, investment, private and transaction banking to treasury, insurance, asset management and stockbroking services.

OCBC Bank's key markets are Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Greater China. It has more than 610 branches and representative offices in 18 countries and regions. These include the 340 branches and offices in Indonesia under subsidiary Bank OCBC NISP, and over 100 branches and offices in Hong Kong, China and Macau under OCBC Wing Hang.

OCBC Bank's private banking services are provided by its wholly-owned subsidiary Bank of Singapore, which operates on a unique open-architecture product platform to source for the best-in-class products to meet its clients' goals.

OCBC Bank's insurance subsidiary, Great Eastern Holdings, is the oldest and most established life insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia. Its asset management subsidiary, Lion Global Investors, is one of the largest private sector asset management companies in Southeast Asia.

For more information, please visit [www.ocbc.com](http://www.ocbc.com).

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**List of Charity Partners**

S/N	Name	About the Charity Partner
1	AWWA	AWWA is a multi-service charity that reaches out to children with special needs and the senior citizens. Established in 1970, their programme includes early intervention, special education for children and youth with special needs and multiple disabilities, support to the senior citizens at the community home, as well as health and social outreach programmes to enable active-aging for the elderly.
2	Care Corner Singapore Ltd	Care Corner supports the less privileged through a holistic range of services. Each year more than 50,000 beneficiaries from infants from as young as two months old, to seniors over 90 years of age, are served by the network of centres to enable them to face life's challenges.
3	Dyslexia Association of Singapore	The Dyslexia Association of Singapore supports people with dyslexia, who have difficulty in reading, spelling and/or writing. The association provides support to primary and secondary school students through programmes such as preschool, Mathematics, Chinese, English exam skills, speech and language therapy, and speech and drama arts.
4	Food from the Heart	Food from the Heart is a non-profit, voluntary food distribution programme established in 2003. Their mission is to avoid wastage through re-channeling excess food items to needy families and individuals in Singapore.

5	HCA Hospice	The HCA Hospice Care (HCA) provides comfort and support to patients with life-limiting illnesses. They operate a day hospice centre which services more than 200 patients annually and provides free home hospice service for more than 3,500 patients annually.
6	Kampung Senang Charity and Education Foundation (Kampung Senang)	Kampung Senang reaches out to serve all people in need, regardless of cultural or religious background through compassion-filled charity programs and education on holistic environmentally friendly lifestyles.
7	KK Children and Women Hospital (KKH Health Endowment Fund)	The Hospital provides tertiary services to handle high-risk conditions in women and children. The Fund helps needy patients to ease financial burden so that they can concentrate on recovery.
8	Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS)	MINDS reaches out to children and adults with intellectual disabilities, averaging IQ levels of 90 to 100 or some as low as 20 to 25.
9	National Library Board (kidsREAD)	kidsREAD is a nationwide reading programme collaborated by the National Library Board (NLB), the People's Association (PA) and five self-help groups to promote the love of reading and to cultivate good reading habits among young Singaporeans, particularly children from low income families.
10	Singapore Children's Society	Singapore Children's Society helps protect and nurture children and youth of all races and religions, especially those who are abused, neglected and/or come from dysfunctional families.
11	South East CDC	The SE CDC supports its partners from schools, grassroot organizations, VWOs and other social service agencies to assist the needy, bond the people and connect the community.
12	St Andrews Autism Centre	The Centre caters to children and adults with autism. The special school for autistic children reaches out to children and youth aged 7 to 18 years old. The Day Activity Centre is for youth adults beyond 18 years old.

13	Student Care Services	The Students Care Services reaches out to marginalised students and youth-at-risk between five to 18 years old. Social workers and educational psychologists work with families and schools to enable students to understand and discover themselves, and to learn life-skills to deal with the difficulties they face in life. Majority of the students come from lower-middle income to low income families.
14	Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities Limited (THKMC)	THKMC is a subsidiary welfare arm of Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society (THK), established in October 2011. THKMC offers help to Children, Disabled, Elderly and Family regardless of their race, colour, language, culture and religion through its centres and services in Singapore to help in the areas of social, health, emotional, educational, family and disability.
15	Willing Hearts	Willing Hearts is a local soup kitchen that prepares and distributes more than 5,000 meals daily for the less fortunate. The meals are distributed at over 40 locations in Singapore by the volunteers daily.