

"Unsung Heroes" exemplify "Service Above Self" Rotary Motto

Five outstanding individuals will receive the "Rotary Shine On Singapore Award for Unsung Heroes" on 23 February in conjunction with Rotary International World Understanding & Peace Day. The Award is to honour individuals who have dedicated their life to advancing the well-being of their fellow men.

Mr Chew Ban Seng, Charter President of Rotary E-Club of 3310 and Chairman of the Rotary District 3310 Vocational Service Committee said that the Awards are to recognize "outstanding individuals who have used their vocational skills, natural talents and passion to help those in need within the community. We are looking for individuals who have gone the extra mile to serve others before self without seeking fame or glory."

"These unsung heroes are ordinary people with extraordinary achievements in advancing the interests and welfare of others by

reaching out to those who need help with compassion to share their experience, knowledge and skills."

The five Award winners were picked from among ten finalists by the Selection Committee comprising senior Rotarians of the Rotary Clubs Civic District, Garden City, Raffles City, Singapore South, Singapore West, Bukit Timah, Victoria, and Rotary E-Club of 3310. More than 45 nominations were received for the "Unsung Heroes" Award.

Each of the Award winners – Foo Fook Jee, Joyce Lye Lan Fong, Darren Ong Wei Sheng, Eugene Tan Teck Hock and Ruby Song Choo Lian will receive a trophy, cash vouchers and a Certificate. The other five finalists will also receive cash vouchers and a Special Commendation Certificate each.

Joyce Lye Lan Fong



Born in 1951, Joyce was widowed in 1985. As a single parent Joyce has to struggle to raise her two young daughters single-handedly. Having experienced the difficulties faced in dealing with her own pain while working to provide financially for her own children, Joyce started an informal support group comprising about 12 members in 1994 to reach out to other widows and their children. In October 1998, the group registered itself with the Registrar of Societies as "Wicare Support Group". Wicare is now an Institution of Public Character under the auspices of the National Council of Social Services (NCCS), with 497 widows on its members' list and about 500 children amongst them. Wicare interacts actively with its members through various activities and programmes to bring hope, re-build confidence and reinforce the importance of self-care; helping its members to develop life skills and assisting them to achieve self-reliance to be able to integrate with the community. Joyce has continued to volunteer her service to Wicare, and is its Founder Chairman. The achievements of Wicare today is the result of Joyce's relentless and selfless pursuit in making time to provide emotional support to other widows and their children.

Ruby Song Choo Lian



Ruby started her volunteering work 15 years ago, in 1992, when her late husband partially lost his sight, and was referred to the Association for the Visually Handicapped (SAVH) for assistance. Through involvement in the SAVH Weekly Elderly Activity Group for social support, Ruby and her husband began their journey of sharing and helping the vision impaired. Ruby is always there to give her support and volunteer her services in the various activities to help and bring meaning in life to those who have lost their vision. Ruby has continued to volunteer her services for the visually handicapped even after the death of her husband in 2002, and will "continue to do so as long as she can afford it". Despite her advanced age, Ruby was born in 1933, she has never turned down anyone who needs her help. During the weekly SAVH Elderly Group Session, Ruby keeps an eye on the senior citizens as if she was looking after her husband. She helps to prepare food and drinks for them while the group is having their exercises and cleans up the place after they have taken their meal. Ruby also escorts some of the more frail elderly home to their doorsteps when the SAVH transport brings them home. Ruby also shares her time at the SAVH's White Cane Club, a social and recreation group. Ruby's presence at the SAVH has become a permanent feature, her smiling face and kind assistance much appreciated by both staff and especially the elderly clients of SAVH.

Foo Fook Jee



Mr Foo is a retired senior citizen (born in 1929). He firmly believes that there is no age limit for anyone in Sports and that being actively involved in sporting activities is the way to keep the elderly fit and healthy. He initiated the Senior Citizens' Swimming Club and actively encourages the elderly to take up swimming, personally coaching them during regular swimming sessions. Besides water sport activities, Mr Foo also promotes the games of patanque ball and pickle ball, setting up the Senior Citizens' Petanque Ball Club and Pickle Ball Club. He also actively promotes, and mobilizes senior citizens to participate in the monthly Sembawang Healthy Lifestyle Walk. Mr Foo is indeed a great role model and motivator for senior citizens to stay healthy through engaging in an active, healthy lifestyle.

Tan May Yan, Project Chair

Eugene Tan Teck Hock



Over the past 30 years, Eugene has been helping the physically disabled obtain or repair their ambulatory appliances, such as wheelchairs, walking frames, hospital beds etc. The father of two grownup children and grandfather of two has been imparting positive values of volunteerism to his family who are supportive of his commitment to voluntary work. Eugene has given up his full time job to devote more time to assist the disabled and needy patients in the community. Eugene started the workshop at Kampong Senang Education Foundation to teach and supervise the youths/students to repair appliances to cater to needy patients and the disabled. Eugene would source for the appropriate appliances and personally deliver the appliances to them as soon as possible. Eugene has been volunteering his services at the Tampines Home since 1972 as well as the Handicap Welfare Association and Sun-Dac Centre for the Disabled. He is also actively helping the needy elderly in the community, such as escorting the elderly who have no one to accompany them for their quarterly health check-ups organized by the Hua Mei Mobile clinic, and performing other voluntary services for the elderly through TOUCH Community Services. While he was working at the Hospice Care Association as a maintenance and facility officer, Eugene had gone beyond the call of duty to support the terminally ill and their families, making a difference to those he interacted with through his empathy, assistance and efficient service.

Darren Ong Wei Sheng



Darren is a straight As student at the Anglo Chinese Junior College. Although only 17 years of age, Darren has volunteered for and participated in more community projects than many others who are much older. He strongly believes that "serving the community will always be a meaningful, enjoyable thing". No matter how busy, Darren always sets aside a portion of his time each week to be dedicated to community service while maintaining brilliant academic performance. Darren's passion to serve others is aptly seen in the many community projects that he has initiated and participated in to make a difference to the lives of those he interacts with. A keen advocate for the need for youths to conserve the environment, Darren worked with the National Environmental Agency to organise the South West CDC's 1st Environmental Networking Session for 200 youths to know more about how they can conserve the environment. Teachers at Zhangde Primary School were grateful to him for his work in collaboration with the Health Promotion Board to implement the Anti-Bullying Programme to increase awareness of issues related to bullying that led to a significant reduction in incidents of bullying. At Nan Hua Secondary School where Darren received his secondary education, he kick started the STAR programme that enables needy juniors to be tutored by alumni members to help them improve on their academic performance grades. To promote bonding with the school by new students coming in at Secondary One, Darren led the organization of various orientation programmes to make them feel at home in the fastest way possible. Darren also found time to volunteer his services at PAP Ulu Pandan Branch to help the needy draft letters of appeal, requests for assistance, etc.

5 Finalists

Wong Yuen Lung

Grace Yap

Mumtazah Mustaffa

Raja Mohan

Sahara Bte Raja Mat