

For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE



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News Editor

SPREADING FESTIVE WARMTH THROUGH PIPING HOT CHRISTMAS-THEMED BENTO MEALS



- **CapitaLand, through its philanthropic arm, CapitaLand Hope Foundation (CHF) supports a total of 900 homebound seniors and vulnerable children in the South West District through two initiatives: Love-in-a-Bento @ South West and Back-to-School @ South West programmes with about \$130,000 funding support and involvement of staff volunteers**

- **Close to 100 staff from CapitaLand joins volunteers with special needs to distribute specially curated hot Christmas-themed bento meals prepared by SHATEC as well as festive packs to more than 400 homebound seniors over five rounds of Love-in-a-Bento @ South West distribution**

In view of Giving Week and the upcoming festive season, more than 400 homebound vulnerable seniors in the South West District received hot Christmas-themed bento meals and festive packs between 6 October and 14 December 2020. This is part of the collaboration between the South West Community Development Council (CDC) and CapitaLand's philanthropic arm, CapitaLand Hope Foundation (CHF) for the Love-in-a-Bento @ South West programme in 2020. CHF is a long-time partner of the South West CDC with strong advocacy of volunteerism and championing Corporate Social Responsibility. The partnership between CHF and South West CDC started back in 2011 to help vulnerable children through common-based programmes such as My Schoolbag programme, Kids' Food Fund and CapitaLand Young Architect programme.

2 On 9 December 2020, Mayor of South West District Ms Low Yen Ling, together with 30 volunteers from CapitaLand, volunteers with special needs from MINDS as well as care providers, went door-to-door to distribute hot bento meals and festive packs to homebound seniors, in an effort to share festive joy with them.

3 Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District says, "Besides serving up healthy meals, Love-in-a-Bento @ South West packs a punch to uplift and bring cheer to homebound seniors this Christmas. The bento box not only bears our love in this season of giving, it also represents the diversity of our partners coming together as one to meet needs in tangible ways. We have CapitaLand staff volunteering and students from SHATEC contributing their culinary skills, as well as volunteers with special needs from MINDS stepping forward to make a difference. They are joined by care providers, TOUCH Home Care, Dorcas Home Care and Thye Hua Kwan Home Help Services. This unique combination of different talents

serving our vulnerable residents is all the more commendable during this trying period. Despite the difficulties in the hard-hit F&B sector, SHATEC is still giving to the community, and the volunteers from MINDS are going beyond their personal challenges to serve others. Their spirit of resilience is admirable and warms our hearts this festive season.”

4 The Christmas-themed bento meals are specially curated, customised and prepared by culinary students from Singapore Hotel and Tourism Education Centre (SHATEC). The students included festive elements of the holiday into the bento meals, such as Christmas spiced wholemeal madeleines for the seniors to get a taste of Christmas menu. CHF also sponsored a festive pack to be distributed to these vulnerable seniors during this season of giving. The festive packs, worth approximately \$50 each, comprises grocery and care items as well as COVID-19 related items such as disinfectant sprays and antiseptic wipes so seniors can keep their surroundings clean and prevent the spread of the virus.

5 86-year-old Mdm Lim Sin Hoe, TOUCH Home Care client and a recipient of the bento meals and festive packs shared, “I really appreciate these volunteers visiting me to deliver the hot bento meals which I can enjoy immediately. The food is delicious and there is always a different element to it depending on the occasion, which is really thoughtful of them. This time, there is even a festive pack that comes handy with antiseptic wipes and disinfectant sprays for me to keep my items clean.”

6 Mr Tan Seng Chai, Chief Corporate & People Officer for CapitaLand Group and Executive Director of CapitaLand Hope Foundation says, “CapitaLand has stepped up our support for the communities during this challenging year, and staff volunteerism is a key tenet of our philanthropic efforts. We are glad to continue our partnership with South West CDC to bring joy to the less privileged and rally our staff volunteers to pack and distribute the meals and necessities. This year, CapitaLand, through our philanthropic arm CapitaLand Hope Foundation and with support from like-minded partners, has so far provided more than 44,000 meals and food bundles to over 9,000 elderly, children and other vulnerable groups. More than 900 staff and

their family members have also selflessly volunteered their time to support our community initiatives. We hope to make a difference to the lives of the vulnerable by showing care and compassion.”

7 Ms Florence Teo, a CapitaLand staff volunteer shared, “I am happy to be part of this meaningful initiative to distribute festive packs and bento meals to the elderly seniors. It makes me happy when I see smiles on the beneficiaries’ faces and spurs me to want to contribute more to the community. I look forward to participate in more activities in the future.”

8 Love-in-a-Bento @ South West 2020 is an initiative between the South West CDC, CapitaLand Hope Foundation, Singapore Hotel and Tourism Education Centre (SHATEC), TOUCH Home Care, Dorcas Home Care, Thye Hua Kwan Home Help Services, and MINDS. Together, the partners will distribute customised festive bento meals to over 400 seniors who are not able to cook or buy their own meals due to mobility issues, under the Meals Service @ South West programme. This initiative serves to remind the community to remember the vulnerable seniors during festive celebrations, while celebrating inclusivity in the community.

9 Apart from homebound elderly, CHF also supports vulnerable children in the South West District through the Back-to-School @ South West programme. Under this programme, 500 underprivileged children aged 7 to 9 will each receive \$200 worth of vouchers to purchase school necessities like school shoes and books.

10 [Photos](#) and [videos](#) from the distribution can be downloaded at the respective links. For more information, please contact our media liaison officer 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".