

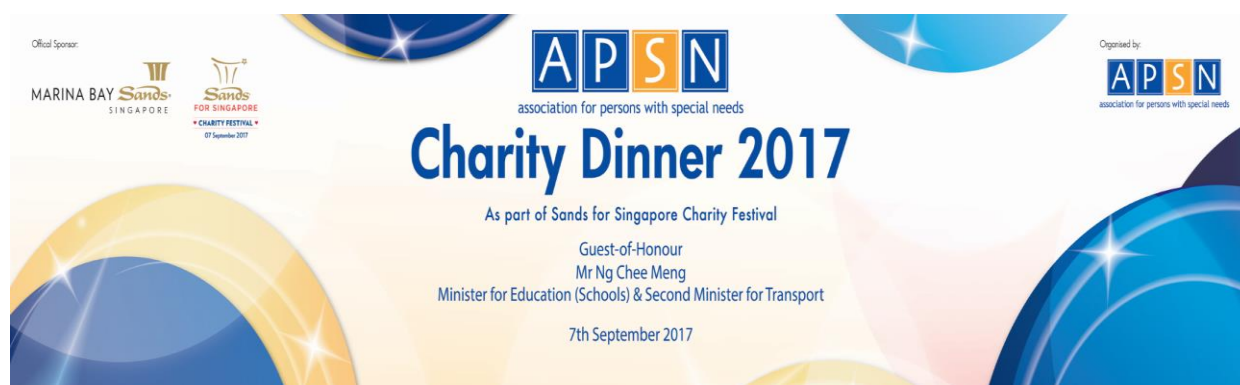


association for persons with special needs



News Release

APSN Celebrates Inclusiveness in This Year's Charity Dinner



Singapore, 8 September 2017 – Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN), a social service organisation, held its annual APSN Charity Dinner last evening at Sands Expo and Convention. The event kick-starts a series of activities organised under the broader umbrella of Marina Bay Sands' Sands for Charity Festival 2017. Officially sponsored by Marina Bay Sands, APSN Charity Dinner 2017 was graced by Mr Ng Chee Meng, Minister for Education (Schools) and Second Minister for Transport and attended by more than 300 guests comprising corporate partners, donors, volunteers and APSN beneficiaries across its four schools and centre.

Themed “Empowering Lives, Enabling Communities towards an Inclusive Society”, APSN Charity Dinner 2017 seeks to advocate an inclusive society where persons with special needs can be empowered to achieve their fullest potential and participate fully as integral and contributing members of society. In Minister Ng’s speech, he reiterated APSN’s vision: “MOE shares APSN’s vision to provide a holistic education for all students. It is important that our students learn not only skills and knowledge in the classroom, but also values and interpersonal skills that they can carry with them through life.”

A total of over \$130,000 were raised at the event, including live pledge and the sales of 6 art pieces created by APSN students. All funds raised from this event will go a long way in supporting APSN’s operations and programmes for its beneficiaries.

The pre-event reception was prepared and hosted by APSN Centre for Adults (CFA) trainees. These beneficiaries are currently undergoing training in APSN CFA’s first social enterprise, Mystical Café for All. The café provides real-world training environment to learn valuable skills that enhance their

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employability. Through its establishment, APSN hopes to foster interaction between the public and our trainees, helping employers to understand their capabilities, as well as, building acceptance towards an inclusive society.



APSN Centre for Adults trainees prepared Canapé for guests at the cocktail reception.

For the first time, APSN Charity Dinner 2017 was also co-hosted by APSN Delta Senior School student, Mr Suhairi Bin Suhani- the embodiment of what APSN strives to bring out in every child: Resilience, Commitment, Talent and the Courage to dream big. Suhairi is a familiar face in the sports arena and has represented Singapore in many overseas international competitions such as the Special Olympics Games, Paralympic Games, as well as the upcoming ASEAN Para Games in Kuala Lumpur, which he will lead the Singapore contingency as the flagbearer. He is amongst over 120 APSN student representatives who have represented Singapore in various international Paralympic competitions this year.

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Mr Suhairi Bin Suhani (left), APSN Delta Senior School Student and Team Singapore Athlete, co-emcee the event alongside Mr Joe Augustine (right).

At the event, 27 APSN Delta Senior School Food and Beverage students also took the roles of ushers, service ambassadors and table hosts, taking the opportunity to practise and apply the vocational skills that they have learnt. This year, two APSN representative comprising of APSN DSS student and APSN staff were also seated at each table.

The exciting programme line-up included various music and dance performances such as Latin dance, Harmonica, Acapella and Circus, showcasing the wonderful abilities of APSN students. Last night, APSN Centre for Adults Trainee, Ms Li Pei Lin, sang with Last Minute, a budding student acapella group from Raffles Institution. Such collaboration is one of many partnerships which APSN has forged with mainstream schools over the years.

Through such collaboration and the small act of inclusion, APSN seeks to educate the general public and advocate towards an inclusive society. These opportunities allow APSN students to share their skills and strengths with others, build social skills and foster mutual understanding and friendship towards a more inclusive Singapore.

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Minister Ng with students from APSN Delta Senior School (DSS) students who were involved in various duties at the event. At APSN DSS, students equipped with vocational skills may be placed for open employment or could continue receiving job employment training at APSN Centre for Adults.



APSN Centre for Adults Trainee, Ms Li Pei Lin, singing with Last Minute, a budding student acapella group from Raffles Institution.

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Circus Arts is a co-curricular activity available in APSN Katong School. Through this CCA students can develop their motor skills and hand eye coordination through props like the diablo, spinning plates and the poi.

A total of eight organisations, ABR Holdings Ltd, Cheers Holdings Pte Ltd, Fried Chicken Management Pte Ltd / Pizza Hut Singapore Pte Ltd, Siloso Beach Resort, Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort & Spa, Barclays Bank PLC, atom z! Pte Ltd and Marina Bay Sands, were also honoured for their exemplary contribution. Among these, the five Food & Beverage (F&B) and Hospitality companies were lauded for their efforts and commitment in hiring persons with special needs, including many APSN graduates and trainees, while the other three have greatly amplified APSN's fundraising and branding efforts with their passion in volunteerism and deep expertise.

Marina Bay Sands also received a special mention for its holistic approach in its long-term partnership with APSN. Marina Bay Sands' corporate giving and volunteerism with APSN began as early as 2013. That year, their donation contributed to the refurbishment of two of APSN Katong School's F&B training rooms, which help provide an industry-ready environment for students to hone their skills. Since then, they have supported APSN in the sponsorship of charity dinners, APSN van and conducted numerous hospitality workshops to benefit APSN students, trainees and alumni. Just this year, together with staff from Marina Bay Sands, APSN trainees worked to spring clean the

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homes of elderly as a means of giving back to society. To date, Marina Bay Sands has committed over \$800,000 worth of sponsorship to APSN.



Mr Victor Tay, President of APSN (centre left), Minister Ng (centre right) and the corporate partners who were commended at the event.

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About Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN)

Established in 1976, Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) is a social service organisation providing special education for persons with mild intellectual disability (IQ 50-70). Today, APSN operates four Special Education (SPED) Schools (APSN Chaoyang School, APSN Katong School, APSN Tanglin School and APSN Delta Senior School) for students aged 7 to 21, an APSN Student Care Centre for children aged 7 to 18 and an APSN Centre for Adults for persons aged 17 and older, benefiting over 1,200 beneficiaries each year.

The APSN Schools and Centre adopt a holistic approach in its curriculum, comprising academic, vocational and social skills which are important for open employment and lifelong learning. APSN seeks to enable persons with special needs to be active contributors of the society and is committed to inspire and build capabilities of its partners and community to lead and advocate an inclusive society.

To date, APSN's growing database has more than 5,000 alumni members. The Association is constantly expanding its network to reach out to and understand the needs of its members to better support them.

For more information on APSN, please visit www.apsn.org.sg.

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