



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Evening Student Care Service Provides Respite For Parents

Pilot programme enables parents to pursue short-term skills upgrading courses or attend to family crises

Singapore, 25 November 2016 - Parents can now seek caregiving assistance for their children in the evenings through a pilot programme known as Temasek Foundation Cares – CareNights@Morning Star. The programme was launched today by Minister Tan Chuan-Jin, Ministry of Social and Family Development officially at the Morning Star Primavera Centre at Blk 95, Bedok North Avenue 4.

2. The Temasek Foundation Cares – CareNights@Morning Star programme targets parents who need temporary respite from childcare to pursue skills upgrading courses or attend to family emergencies. It offers student care services from 6pm to 10pm, Mondays to Fridays, for children between 7 and 14 years old from vulnerable families.

3. Mr Richard Magnus, Chairman, Temasek Foundation Cares, said, “We met parents who would like to upgrade their skills to improve their employability but are limited by their family commitments to take care of the children. The Temasek Foundation Cares – CareNights@Morning Star programme gives these parents more opportunities to upgrade themselves through initiatives such as SkillsFuture. They can attend evening courses with peace of mind, knowing that their children are safe and well taken care of.”

4. He continued, “ We also want to come alongside families who may be going through a temporary crisis such as illness or marital conflicts. If they have no

adequate childcare options, we hope to provide them with respite to attend to these unforeseen challenges.”

5. Under this programme, the Morning Star Primavera Centre started offering evening student care services in July 2016. The evening services are modelled after the established day student care programme and includes homework supervision, structured play, enrichment, recreational and parent-child bonding activities.

6. Mr Kelvin Poon, Board Chairman of Morning Star Community Services said: “We decided to pilot the Temasek Foundation Cares – CareNights@Morning Star in Bedok after close consultations with partners in the community. Bedok is a mature estate with a good number of rental flats in the vicinity of our Centre. Since we started the evening service in July, we have accepted 19 children from 13 families into the programme. Many of the families are single-parent families who need temporary support for childcare.”

7. He continued, “We are mindful that families need to spend time together to form strong bonds. To that extent, we work closely with each family to help them overcome challenges as soon as possible so that the child can be at home.”

8. The programme will be implemented in three other Morning Star centres (located in Bedok North Avenue 3, Sengkang and Hougang) by 2018.

9. Temasek Foundation Cares is committing \$683,000 to fund this three-year programme. The Temasek Foundation Cares – CareNights@Morning Star programme expects to benefit beyond the 540 children served in the 4 centres to their parents, caregivers and families.

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About Temasek Foundation Cares

Temasek Foundation Cares is a Singapore-based non-profit philanthropic organisation that funds and supports meaningful and innovative community-based programmes for the benefit of Singaporeans. It aims to contribute to the well-being, dignity and livelihood of needy individuals, families and communities by building people, building communities, building capabilities and rebuilding lives. Temasek Foundation Cares is a member of the Temasek Philanthropic Platform.

www.temasekfoundation-cares.org.sg

About Morning Star Community Services

Morning Star Community Services is a registered charity and Institution of Public Character (IPC) which aims to enrich and strengthen family relationships in Singapore. By empowering individuals and families, we strive to build vibrant communities that can make a difference to society. We are a member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and Caritas Singapore.

Founded in 1999 with our first centre in Lorong Low Koon, we have since grown to eight centres. Services offered by Morning Star Community Services include after-school care services and CareNights.

www.morningstar.org.sg