

Late former president Mr S R Nathan personally involved in helping disadvantaged students through the S R Nathan Education Upliftment Fund

25 August 2016, Singapore – Mr Nathan continued to touch lives, even after stepping down as President. In 2011, he established the S R Nathan Education Upliftment Fund to provide financial support to disadvantaged young people by helping them to complete their education.

Given his personal experience, he had a soft spot for youths at risk of dropping out of school. Mr Nathan firmly believed that education was key to securing a better future. That was why he was especially keen to help students from the Institute of Technical Education and polytechnics attain their diplomas.

“The Fund resonated with his beliefs and conviction about giving and receiving kindness which we witnessed firsthand while working with him to manage the grants. He was always involved and would make time to meet the many recipients and get to know them and their families”, said Laurence Lien, Chairman of the Community Foundation of Singapore (CFS).

To date, the Fund has supported close to 1,000 ITE, polytechnic and university students by providing bursaries, scholarships as well as monthly financial assistance. Thanks to the generosity of Mr Nathan and other individuals, the Fund has disbursed S\$2.6 million since its inception. The Fund is held as an endowment and its value currently stands at S\$9.6 million.

Over the past 5 years, Mr Nathan took an active role in the Fund, working closely with CFS and his Grant Advisory Committee to identify the institutions as well as the types of support to be given out. He hardly missed attending any Committee meetings, except when he was feeling unwell.

“I last met Mr Nathan in May when he was receiving dialysis treatment at the Singapore

General Hospital. We spent over an hour discussing how more money could be raised for the Fund to help even more needy students. He had met some of these students at tea sessions and award ceremonies and asked me to follow up their progress. We had actually arranged a meeting on 25th August to update him. So it pains me to know that instead of telling him about their progress, the students will be bidding him farewell at Parliament House on that day,” said Catherine Loh, CEO, Community Foundation of Singapore.

Mr Nathan has touched many young lives through this Fund. His passing leaves a void but his legacy of giving lives on. We hope that in time to come, those whom he has helped will do the same by reaching out to help others.

About the Community Foundation of Singapore

The Community Foundation of Singapore (CFS) is a non-profit organisation founded in 2008 to encourage and enable philanthropy in Singapore. We bridge donors with charitable organisations to develop programmes and give out grants that support a wide range of needs in the community. Our vision is to grow a sustained culture of giving for generations to come. CFS is a registered charity with Institution of Public Character status. www.cf.org.sg

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