



**Hong Leong Group**  
Singapore  
Group Corporate Affairs

## *News Release*

### **Hong Leong Foundation donates over \$7 million to causes** ***Staff volunteers celebrate Chinese New Year early with seniors***

**Singapore, 17 January 2013** – Chinese New Year came early to elderly needy when over 50 staff volunteers from Hong Leong Group Singapore visited Tai Pei Old People's Home earlier today. The home visit is part of Hong Leong Foundation's annual giveaway benefiting nearly 4,000 elderly needy people throughout Singapore.

In this year's annual event, the Foundation made donations totalling \$410,000. This includes about \$370,000 given to more than 3,000 elderly who are receiving public assistance from the Ministry of Social and Family Development, and about \$42,000 to 827 old people who hold Medical Fee Exemption cards.

For 2012, Hong Leong Foundation's overall donations came to a grand total of over **\$7 million**. Some projects that benefited include the Fragile Forest Exhibit at the Singapore Zoological Gardens, Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism with the Ministry of Education, The Heart Fund with National University Health System, the Global Education Fund for a Chinese student exchange programme at Nanyang Technological University, and Asian Women's Welfare Association for special needs students. Hong Leong Foundation's donation for the expansion of Asian Civilisations Museum was announced at the new wing's groundbreaking ceremony late last year. The new building will house more acquisitions for Singapore's national collection and new Fujian artifacts.

At today's (17 Jan) visit to Tai Pei Old People's Home, Hong Leong volunteers surprised the residents with a special treat when they brought along the soothing touch of qualified blind massage therapists from Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped. SAVH is a non-profit organisation that helps the visually handicapped integrate into society with new skills and develop self reliance.

Happy sighs were heard all around as the professional hands of the blind masseuses gently kneaded away aches and tensions to promote blood circulation.

It was indeed an afternoon of pampering and relaxation for the elderly residents. Aged between 60 and 103, they were also treated to a delicious spread of catered dim sum dishes, enjoyed a singing session by Yu Han Music Society, as well as a Chinese Opera performance by Siong Leng Musical Association. Both music groups are long-time Hong Leong Foundation beneficiaries who also wanted to give back to the needy.

Smartly decked in their Hong Leong Foundation polo T-shirt, the Group staff volunteers ensured they gave their undivided attention to each elderly, and helped with their every little need during the visit this afternoon.

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The volunteers were drawn from staff of the Group's companies - City Developments Limited (CDL), Hong Leong Holdings, Millennium & Copthorne Hotels (M&C), Hong Leong Finance, and Hong Realty. Senior management of the Group's companies were also among the volunteers who spent time with the elderly residents at the visit today.

"Hong Leong Foundation's annual event is a good way to encourage staff volunteerism. It is heart warming to see familiar, as well as new faces each year, and we appreciate them putting in the time and effort for this worthy cause," said Mr. Kwek Eik Sheng, CDL Head of Corporate Development who was part of the organising committee.

"This year we decided to focus on spending quality time with the residents at their Home, and allow for more opportunities for one to one interactions with the volunteers. The event is unique as we work with our volunteers, SAVH, and the music groups who are the Foundation's beneficiaries, to create a memorable event for the elderly," he said.

Other senior executives at the visit include Mr. Sherman Kwek, Chief Executive Officer of CDL China; Mr. Kwek Wei Hong, Director of King Hup Construction, a subsidiary of Hong Leong Holdings; and Ms. Michelle Kwek, Business Development Manager of Hong Realty.

In previous annual outings, Hong Leong Foundation has brought seniors from various homes to Universal Studios and the Maritime Experiential Museum at Sentosa.

A strong supporter of the arts and heritage, Hong Leong Foundation is a six-time consecutive winner of the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award since 2007. Its long term support extends to several arts initiatives, such as the Singapore Arts Festival, The Esplanade's Moonfest 2012, and Huayi Festival for 2013.

Established nearly 33 years ago, Hong Leong Foundation has been playing an active role in supporting a variety of causes – arts, heritage, health, education, the needy and elderly, and environmental programmes.

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