

## **Embargoed till 5 November 2014, Wednesday, 4pm**

5 November 2014

### **New Home Care Provider in Singapore**

*Tzu Chi launches its Home Care Services to serve elderly residents in the West*

The Singapore Chapter of the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation, a charity organisation headquartered in Taiwan, with offices in over 45 countries, has launched its home care services in Singapore. Supported by the Tote Board Community Healthcare Fund, this new home care provider will offer home medical, home nursing and home therapy services. It targets to serve 300 elderly residents in the western region of Singapore, including Jurong East, Bukit Batok and Clementi, within these three years. To date, it has 51 home care recipients.

2. Prior to the launch of home care services, Tzu Chi has been providing free health screenings and medical consultations at its two free clinics located in Redhill and Jurong East, as well as conducting regular home visits to needy residents.

3. The CEO of Tzu Chi Foundation (Singapore), Mr Low Swee Seh, said, “The majority of Tzu Chi’s existing care and aid recipients are elderly people. So it is a natural step for us to work with the Agency for Integrated Care to expand our services to cover home care. This way, our elderly care and aid recipients can benefit from care services that are comprehensive and holistic. I hope this gives families and caregivers with elderly loved ones living in the West more reason to consider home care as a convenient and viable option to help their loved ones age comfortably and independently at home.”

4. Tzu Chi has a dedicated team of doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals, who are supported by about 100 volunteers in their provision of care services. Guided by its philosophy of “compassionate love”, Tzu Chi places much

emphasis on providing not just good medical care but also psycho-social care, such as listening to the needs of the elderly and supporting them emotionally.

5. Senior Minister of State for Health and Manpower, Dr Amy Khor, who was the Guest-of-Honour, unveiled a plaque at the Tzu Chi Free Clinic in Redhill today to mark the official launch of Tzu Chi's home care services. She also visited the home of 88-year-old Mdm Lee Fong Mang in Redhill, to see how Mdm Lee has been benefitting from the home care services provided by Tzu Chi. Mdm Lee, who is bedbound and has hypertension and high cholesterol, is being looked after by her son, Mr Wong Long Fei, 62.

6. Chief Executive Officer of the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), Dr Jason Cheah, said, "AIC welcomes Tzu Chi as a new home care provider to Singapore. Its move to provide home care services is timely, given the growing demand for such services. In total, our providers will be able to serve 6,200 seniors needing home healthcare and 2,200 seniors needing home-based personal care annually by end-2014. More than 4,500 clients have benefitted from these home care services since January 2014. Home care is significant in our continuum of care. It helps ensure that the medical conditions of home-bound clients are well-managed, hence reducing unnecessary hospitalisations and enabling our seniors to age at home and in the community for as long as possible. AIC will continue to actively court potential service providers and grow new and existing providers."

###

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Ms Jamie Ng Xuanyi  
Tzu Chi Foundation (Singapore)  
Tel: 65692236  
Email: jamie.xuanyi@tzuchi.org.sg

Mr Foo Chen Chin  
Executive, Corporate and Marketing Communications  
Agency for Integrated Care  
Tel: 6593 3937/ 9147 8128  
Email: chen.chin.foo@aic.sg

### **About Tzu Chi Foundation (Singapore)**

With offices in over 45 countries, the Tzu Chi Foundation is one of the largest charity organizations in Asia today. It was founded by Buddhist nun Dharma Master Cheng Yen on the impoverished east coast of Taiwan in 1966. For over 40 years, the organization has been contributing to the betterment of social and community services, medical care, education and humanism in Taiwan and worldwide.

Since 1993, the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation (Singapore Branch) has been a registered society under the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). It has been providing community programmes such as befriender home visits, international relief work, and financial assistance for school children, dialysis and AIDS patients. The branch started its medical arm in 2000 with a strong pool of dedicated volunteer base of healthcare professionals.

### **About Agency for Integrated Care**

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) is set up by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to oversee, coordinate and facilitate all efforts in care integration. Our mission is to achieve best care outcomes for our patients by empowering them with health and social care information and arranging for their care when they are discharged from hospitals. We enable stakeholders to raise the quality of care, and also enhance collaboration by working with health and social care providers to increase services to support the ageing population. Our work in the community brings care services and information closer to those in need. For more information, please visit [www.aic.sg](http://www.aic.sg).