



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Singapore, 25 February 2023**

### **NTU Singapore and community partners launch wide-ranging social service initiatives to benefit society**

Students, alumni, faculty and staff of **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)** have joined forces with community partners to give back to society by volunteering in social service initiatives centred on the areas of digital inclusion, health and wellbeing, social welfare, and sustainability.

These projects are part of the **NTU Service Week**, held today to 4 March 2023. It is one of three flagship events of the University's **We Belong campaign**, NTU's community outreach movement first launched last year as part of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

The impact and reach of this year's Service Week have surpassed last year's momentum. Over 900 volunteers have already contributed more than 5,800 hours of community service through 65 completed volunteering initiatives, with an outreach exceeding 4,600 beneficiaries from various community groups in Singapore and overseas.

Guest-of-honour **Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Ms Grace Fu** officially launched Service Week today at NTU, where she also visited an exhibition showcase of projects.

The community service initiatives under Service Week centre on the four focus areas aligned with the **NTU 2025 strategic plan** that lays out the University's mission in solving humanity's grand challenges: addressing technology's impact on humanity; responding to the needs and challenges of healthy living and ageing; harnessing the science, art and technology of learning; and mitigating our impact on the environment.

**Ms Goh Swee Chen, Chair of the NTU Board of Trustees**, said: "Addressing humanity's grand challenges can start with giving. Too often, we underestimate the potential of small acts of service to turn a life around. Service Week shows that committed and thoughtful individuals can make meaningful impacts in a world that thrives on compassion."

**NTU Acting President, Deputy President and Provost Professor Ling San** said: “Serving social causes that are critical to the wellbeing and advancement of society is at the heart of the NTU Service Week. The initiatives under NTU Service Week allow volunteers to make a difference to the community around them while also contributing to wider causes to change the world. Many of the community initiatives revolve around sustainability, which is an integral part of what we do at NTU. Today, NTU pledges to be a Champion under the Green Nation Pledge, taking our sustainability one step further through education, research, and technological innovation.”

### **Addressing humanity’s grand challenges through community service**

This week, over 20 service projects will take place with participants from both the NTU community and members of the public. Many of the 91 total projects are led by NTU alumni associations here and abroad.

Service Week volunteers can participate in initiatives for digital inclusion such as developing various marketing strategies for hawkers and writing engaging content for the websites of ground-up social initiatives. Other previous initiatives included cyber safety workshops for seniors in partnership with **Kampong Kapor Community Services** and **En Community Services Society**.

To improve the health and well-being of the community, other initiatives include senior befriending programmes in partnership with **St Luke’s Eldercare**, where volunteers engage them in conversation and interactive activities such as table games.

NTU has also partnered with the **Yong-en Active Hub** and **Lions Befrienders** to refashion discarded fabric into unique accessories. Seniors participated in upcycling workshops with staff volunteers and befrienders, saving old clothing and garments from the landfill.

Another initiative of Service Week is the **Seas of Silk exhibition**, held at NTU’s The Arc throughout the week. Over a month, volunteers interviewed people and penned down their reflections, which were then distilled and made into artistic silk pennants for display.

One of NTU’s key collaborators is **South West Community Development Council**, which partnered with volunteers on social welfare and sustainability projects. In January, NTU volunteers packed and distributed festive goodies at Hong Kah North, Brickland and Boon Lay to bring cheer to some 750 seniors and 1,200 households.

NTU’s overseas-based alumni have organised community service activities, such as a book donation drive in Guangdong, China and teaching children in rural villages in Thailand.

## **NTU pledges to be a green champion**

At the launch of Service Week, Professor Ling San also announced NTU has taken the **Green Nation Pledge** as a green Champion.

The pledge, a national initiative under the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, will see NTU to take action to make Singapore a green, liveable and climate-resilient home in alignment with the vision of a Green Nation.

Earlier today, NTU's student-run environmental club **Earthlink NTU** also planted 100 trees on the University's Yunnan campus as part of the NTreeU initiative in support of NParks' OneMillionTrees movement. The saplings planted today were donated by both corporate and individual donors.

Volunteers have also been collecting, repacking and redistributing donated dry food items under the "**Say No to Food Waste**" food drive programme. Steered by University Advancement Office, more than 250kg of food items have been distributed to benefit needy households and charities.

The NTU We Belong campaign kicked off on 3 February with Best Foot Forward, a virtual run that ends on 31 March. The campaign will cap off with NTU Giving Day in March, which brings the OneNTU community together to raise funds for university-wide critical needs and school-specific priorities.

Individuals who would like to take part in these events can register via the [We Belong website](#).

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### ***About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore***

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the

Engineering, Business, Science, Medicine, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

Ranked amongst the world's top universities, the University's main campus is also frequently listed among the world's most beautiful. Known for its sustainability, over 95% of its building projects are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a medical campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

For more information, visit [www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg)