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SINGAPORE
International Convention &
Exhibition Centre

MEDIA RELEASE

Launch of Singapore's Volunteer Month The Great Chicken Soup Cook Out

National Volunteer Centre Chief, Willie Cheng, Leads 13 Volunteer Agency Heads To Cook Up A Chicken Soup Storm For Their Volunteers 5 Dec (Thurs). 12.45PM, Suntec Kitchen

5 December 2002, Singapore - On 5 Dec, countries around the world celebrate International Volunteer Day (IVD). Here in Singapore, the National Volunteer Centre (NVC) will use that day to launch December as Volunteer Month with **The Great Chicken Soup Cookout event**. The theme for this year's Volunteer Month is "*Thank a volunteer today!*". With this first-time move to promote December as Volunteer Month annually, NVC hopes in this season of giving good cheer to celebrate our volunteers and to draw attention to good works of the voluntary sector.

Chiefs become Chefs for the day

For the very first time, Suntec Singapore is opening its Kitchen to laypersons to cook in - in this case, 13 heads of volunteer agencies joined by NVC's Chairman Willie Cheng, Executive Director Mrs Tan Chee Koon and Suntec Singapore's CEO Mr Warren Buckley. Personalities include Mrs Ivy Singh-Lim (Netball Singapore), Ms Jessie Phua (Tenpin Bowling), Mr Ho Sun Yee (YMCA), Ms Tisa Ng (AWARE) and Mr Phua Kok Tee (SAGE). They will peel, slice, wash over 60 kgs of vegetables as well as de-bone, de-skin and chop 25 chickens (see recipe attached). For photo-opportunities, we invite reporters and photographers to join us for the cook out at 12.45pm. Following the cook out, the heads will serve their respective volunteers, some 200 in total. The cook out is inspired by the book "Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul" which has just arrived at Singapore bookstores.



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NVC's Chairman Mr Willie Cheng says: "The Great Chicken Soup cookout is a fun way to draw attention to Volunteer Month and its key message, "Thank a Volunteer Today". It ties in neatly with the arrival of "Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul" book into Singapore, which would make a most appropriate Christmas gift for volunteers, by whoever appreciates their work."

Suntec Singapore CEO Mr Warren Buckley says: "We recognise the importance of contributing to the society that we operate in and we want to do our part in building the social fabric of the community by supporting events like these. We also want to honour the volunteers that give their time and efforts freely to those in need. This is very much in line with our core values at Suntec Singapore."

Volunteer Month Activities

1) Volunteer Cabbies as Ambassadors of Volunteerism

Winners of NVC's National Volunteerism Awards 2002 'Outstanding New Volunteer Initiative' category, CityCare Charity Group drives home the volunteer message during Volunteer Month.

Every weekday from 5 Dec to 31 Dec, between 11am to 12pm, five cabbies a day (in total, about 100 cabbies) will donate their earnings for the hour to The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund. For every dollar collected by the CityCare Charity Group, CityCab Pte Ltd will donate a dollar to the fund. Estimated amount to be raised for the fund - \$2,000 from CityCare and \$2,000 from CityCab.

The CityCare Charity Group's 200 cabbies will also distribute 42,000 flyers and 12,000 stirrers with the message "December is Volunteer Month. Thank a volunteer today!" to their passengers during this period.



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CityCab's Chief Operation Officer, Mr John Lee says: "We are very heartened to see our cabbies actively involved in various community projects and fund-raising activities even during this current economic climate. We believe their spirited enthusiastic participation will help foster a closer sense of community service and will inspire other cabbies to also do their part to help the less fortunate. CityCab will continue to work hand-in-hand with the CityCare Charity Group to reach out to those in need."

CityCare Charity Group's Chairman, Cabby Tan Hock Hee says: "Being volunteers ourselves, we believe we can be effective ambassadors in spreading the volunteer message to our commuters. And as taxi-drivers who get to meet passengers' everyday, it would be an easy task for us to help share our experiences as volunteers with our commuters. And who knows, if they were touched by our stories, some commuters might even join our volunteer wagon! In support of Volunteer Month, we have also decided to donate a part of our earnings to the ST School Pocket Money Fund to help the less fortunate children. Although it is not a big amount, we hope that it will provide some financial relief for some."

2) Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul

The Chicken Soup book has inspiring volunteer stories on ordinary people making an extraordinary difference. Popular Book Co will donate \$1 from every book sale to NVC's Volunteer Development Fund. This is for the period 1 Dec to 10 Jan. For bulk purchases, with up to 15% discounts, contact the National Volunteer Centre at 1800-3250965.

In partnership with Ngee Ann Polytechnic, School of Film and Media Studies, Book Writing and Publishing Team, NVC will be producing a book of Singapore volunteer stories to be launched next year during Volunteer Month 2003.



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3) Volunteer Month stirrers

20,000 stirrers will be distributed to members of the public through our Volunteer Month partners - CityCare Charity Group, Golden Village Marina and Heartware Network (at Celebration Tree@Orchard).

4) A Special Movie Screening of Treasure Planet

236 volunteers will be treated to popcorn, drinks and Walt Disney Picture's latest animated space adventure following the chicken soup reception.

Event Sponsor

Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre

Supporting Partners

CityCare Charity Group
CityCab Pte Ltd
Popular Book Co
STP Distributors
MediaCorp Radio, NewsRadio 93.8FM
Golden Village
Heartware Network



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Fast Facts About

National Volunteer Centre (NVC) is the national agency promoting volunteerism in Singapore. Officially launched by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on 7 July 2000, it is the first-step information, resource and networking centre for volunteers and Volunteer Hosting Organisations (VHOs). The first of its kind in South-east Asia, its core mission is to promote and develop volunteerism across all sectors and all levels of society. To find out more about volunteering, call 1800-3250965 or visit www.nvc.org.sg

See attached for List of Heads. Catch the Heads in cook out action.

When: 5 Dec (Thursday)

Time: 12.45 pm

Where: Meet at the information counter, lobby area of Suntec, Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre

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Programme:

- 12.45PM Heads arrive at Suntec
Demonstration on ingredients preparation and cooking method by Mr
- 1.00PM Richmond Lim Executive Chef, Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre
- 1.30PM Preparation of ingredients and cooking
- 4.30PM Chicken soup cook out completed
- 5.45PM Arrival of volunteers
- 6.00PM Chicken soup reception
- 7.00PM Depart for special 'volunteers only' movie screening of Treasure Planet

List of Heads

Mr	Willie Cheng	Chairman	National Volunteer Centre
Mr	Warren Buckley	CEO	Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre
Mr	John Lee	COO	CityCab Pte Ltd
Mrs	Tan Chee Koon	Executive Director	National Volunteer Centre
Dr	Koo Wen Hsien	CEO & Medical Director	Dover Park Hospice
Mrs	Ivy Singh-Lim	President	Netball Singapore
Mr	S Vivakanandan	CEO	Singapore Indian Development Association
Mrs	Maureen Ng	Steering Committee Member	Parents Advisory Group for the Internet
Mr	Phua Kok Tee	CEO	Singapore Action Group of Elders
Ms	Jennifer Lim	Executive Director	Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped
Mr	Ho Sun Yee	CEO	YMCA of Singapore
Ms	Tisa Ng	President	Association of Women For Action and Research
Mr	Lukshumayeh	President	Singapore Hockey Federation
Ms	Lee Yoke Lan	Director of Special Projects	KK Women's & Child's Hospital
Ms	Tay Swee Lin	General Manager	Sculpture Square
Ms	Jessie Phua	President	Singapore Tenpin Bowling Congress



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Recipe

INGREDIENTS

Chicken Stock

Capon Skinless (Chicken)

Water

Bay Leaf

A) Dice

Carrot

Cabbage

Leek

Celery

Onion

Potato

(B) Dice/Whole Peeled

Button Mushroom

Canelloni Bean (Italian Bean)

Chopped

English Parsley

Soft Butter

Garnish

Dice Chicken Meat

Cooking Method:

- 1) Clean the capon and remove the skin. Blanch through hot water and add water to boil and simmer for at least 2 hours.
- 2) Trim, wash and cut ingredients (A).
- 3) Dice the button mushroom, remove the skin of canelloni beans and chop the parsley.
- 4) Sweat the butter and sauté ingredients (A). Add chicken stock and ingredients (B). Bring to boil and simmer for at least two hour.

Add seasoning and sprinkle with chopped parsley before serving