

# BLESSING OUR

In the midst of a depressed economy, Trinity Christian Centre was cited into action by giving a total of \$100,000 to the South East Community Development Council (CDC). The money would be used to assist financially challenged families and individuals in the district.

Of the \$100,000, \$30,000 was given on May 21 for the CDC's Upsized Breakfast Programme which supports 2,053 needy students in 13 primary schools, while the remaining \$70,000 was presented to Mayor Matthias Yao at the LIFE Charity Concert Gala Night on June 26 last year.

Initially termed the 'Interim Relief Scheme', the fund has since been renamed the Trinity Christian Centre (TCC) Assistance Fund. Money is withdrawn in tranches of \$10,000. To date, South East CDC has assisted more than 210 needy families and 414 students.



**Beneficiary 1** Mdm A\*, aged 63, is a widow. She used to stay with her only son in a rented room in a shophouse before he was caught for Criminal Breach of Trust and sentenced to nine months of imprisonment. Before her son was caught, he had informed the landlord that they would be moving out because he had found new accommodation. Thus, Mdm A was unexpectedly forced to move out of the rented room as the landlord had already found a new tenant.



Mdm A was not eligible to go to MCYS's Destitute Home as she is still currently receiving her \$297 every month under the Minimum Sum Scheme (MSS). In addition, she did not have any friends or relatives that could take her in.

A CDC officer handling Mdm A's case found her accommodation in a home for the aged. As Mdm A is unable to afford the \$520 monthly nursing home fees, she is assisted under the TCC Assistance Fund with \$250 per month from Dec 2009 to Mar 2010 to help with her nursing home fees until his son is released from the prison.

# NEEDY

God's vision for the poor and needy is that they will experience the 'whole gospel' –physical, economic, spiritual healing and restoration. Last year, Trinity Christian Centre pledged \$100,000 to South East CDC to help needy residents in the district. Here are the four stories of recipients of this financial blessing.

**Beneficiary 2** Mdm B\*, aged 31 is a housewife with a three year old daughter living in a 1-room rental flat. She has been depending on her husband for basic living expenses all this while.



However her relationship with him has become very strained and he refuses to contribute anymore. They are currently undergoing divorce proceedings; she also has minimal support from her own family.

As both Mdm B and her daughter are permanent residents, they are not eligible to have support from the National Scheme under its guidelines. The TCC Assistance Fund has aided her with \$200 per month from November 2009 to December 2009 during this interim period.

## Beneficiary 3

Junior C\*, aged seven, lives with his grandparents who are retirees in a 1-room rental flat. His father is currently serving his prison sentence until March 2013 and his mother abandoned him in 2006.



Junior C is also unable to get the support of his grandparent's children as they are low-income earners themselves.

Although Junior C was aided by the MOE Financial Assistance Scheme and the School Pocket Money Fund for schooling expenses, they are still insufficient to cover his basic living expenses. Under the TCC Assistance Fund, the South East CDC is assisting Junior C with \$200 per month to cover his basic living expenses.

**Beneficiary 4** Mr D\* is the sole breadwinner and a low-wage worker who is married with three children aged nine, eight and six. His wife, an Indonesian on a social visit pass, has a son aged 12 from a previous marriage who is studying in Singapore. The family of six live in a two-room rental flat.

The family has accumulated arrears since early 2009 and their financial situation has worsened since Mr D was imprisoned from May to July last year.

South East CDC assisted the family with a \$61 rental voucher and \$60 utility voucher from December 2008 to May 2009. As the family did not have savings, the assistance was increased to include \$250 in cash, \$26 Services and Conservancy Charges voucher from June to July 2009.

The schools that the children attend have also helped by placing them under the MOE Financial Assistance Scheme and CDC Upsized Breakfast Programme so that the children will be able to have proper meals in spite of their financial difficulty.

*\*Names have been changed to protect the identities of those featured.*