

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR DAVID HO
AT CELEBRATORY DINNER
22 NOVEMBER 2012, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE
DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL**

Mr Wong Ah Long, NUSS Advisory Panel Member
Mrs Wong
All our National Day Award Recipients
My Fellow Management Committee Members
All our new Life Members
Our NUSS Members
Friends
Ladies and Gentlemen

Every year, we host the Celebratory Dinner to celebrate various achievements by our distinguished members. Tonight, I have the honour to acknowledge what they have done for Singapore, the society and NUSS. We are proud of each and every one of them. They have achieved high distinctions and tonight, we want to celebrate with them.

First, let me begin with the National Day Awards winners.

We are thankful that every year we have a large number of NUSS members who are National Day Awards winners. They are on the screen above, and each one has performed beyond the call of duty to serve the community and the nation. They have done NUSS proud. Their achievements and accomplishments would definitely inspire a lot of our young members to step forward, give back to our society, as well as NUSS. I can only say, "Well done!"

Next, our new Life Members.

We are thankful that every year, there is a group of new Life Members and they are a distinguished lot. This shows that NUSS is still relevant today and we continue to meet and cater to the interests of our members and their families. Otherwise, they would have walked away. It shows that members have NUSS at heart, and stand with us for better or for worse. Over the years, NUSS has seen many developments and it is always the Life Members that answered the call. I remember many histories where Life Members were asked to support NUSS in the building the new Guild House and they did. Again, we got to move forward to look at a new city Guild House and we hope all the members, including the Life Members, would stand firmly behind us to achieve this next stage of our development.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank various active NUSS members for raising funds.

We are again thankful that we are able to celebrate with the NUSS Choir, who on 12 September this year, staged a charity concert to support research in NUS, on Alzheimer's disease and dementia prevention. The Choir raised over \$77,000 for their efforts. Believe me, it took a lot of effort, not only to perform, but to raise funds.

NUSS also celebrates our community outreach activities. We have successfully continued our very own Groceries on Wheels where more than 250 volunteers delivered 2,200 bags to the North East districts earlier this year. It is a branding we will like to continue, it is an event we are proud that we initiated and hopefully from North East districts, we will go to bigger areas and cover the whole of Singapore.

In September, we also held our first carpet auction – Weaving Hope. This successfully raised over \$70,000 to support our community care outreach programmes. I think NUSS has a strong community spirit and we will continue to energise our members to step forward, participate, as well as to raise funds for the community.

We are also thankful to all our various sponsors, partners and organising committees who continue to work with passion to drive these activities and to make us proud. We are only as good as the members who stepped forward to build the Society we want.

Finally, let me also say **we are thankful** to a very special member tonight, who has decided to celebrate his birthday with us. This is a clear recognition that NUSS is a big family, and we are among close friends. This member has contributed immensely to the camaraderie of our activities, and I would like to wish Siva Retnam a "Happy Birthday".

And I also celebrate this event with all NUSS staff who has worked very hard behind the scenes to support us in all our activities and to make this evening very enjoyable for all of us.

Please sit back, enjoy the dinner, and have fun. Thank you very much.