

A year of giving

As we bid goodbye to 2021, we take a look at some of the philanthropic initiatives that NUSS has organised and participated in.



Volunteers at Mandalay Guild House assembling care packages during the NUS annual Day of Service.

The Society has always placed community at its core with one of its missions to promote a more gracious social and cultural environment.

While 2021 left a deep impression on everyone as the country tried to adjust to a 'new normal', members and friends rallied together to spread joy and love through various charitable initiatives throughout the year.

Recognising healthcare workers

To show support for healthcare workers, the NUSS F&B team put together and distributed bento lunches for the medical teams at the National University Hospital (NUH) on 7 June 2021. The Society also displayed banners outside the Kent Ridge and Mandalay Guild Houses to thank healthcare workers for their steadfast dedication and commitment to their cause.

Spreading joy to beneficiaries

In 2021, NUSS had the honour of adopting two charities — Dover Park Hospice and Children's Wishing Well. NUSS signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Dover Park Hospice on 1 April 2021. NUSS also held an online signing of MOU on the collaboration with Children's Wishing Well on 28 May 2021.

On 4 September 2021, in support of the National University of Singapore's (NUS) annual Day of Service, Community Care & Cultural Sub-Committee organised two activities for the new beneficiaries which drew about 30 NUSS members who dedicated their time for the cause.

Volunteers gathered at the Mandalay Guild House to assemble care packages comprising bento lunch sets and Caregiver's Care Kits as a small gesture to bring joy to families under the Dover Park Hospice (DPH). The care kits were packed the night

before and included useful items such as hand sanitisers and herbal medicated oil. The NUSS volunteers then handed the care packages out to home care patients and their caregivers under DPH.

At the same time, another group of NUSS volunteers dedicated their morning to chaperone a group of kids from the Children's Wishing Well for a fun educational tour at the NUS Department of Food Science & Technology. The children visited laboratories to learn about food manufacturing such as flavour creation, food processing, tasting and evaluation, and food microbiology. The kids also had a hands-on experience by trying out the body composition analyser where they learned about their own body composition and received some health tips. Volunteers also shared bento lunches with the children for them to enjoy in the comfort of their home.

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Inculcating life skills and celebrating festivals

In August, September and November 2021, NUSS members volunteered at the Children's Wishing Well (CWW) FRESH event where they accompanied the child beneficiaries on a grocery shopping trip to shop for fresh groceries and personal care items. With a budget of \$30, the volunteers helped their beneficiaries pick out healthy and nutritious food items while giving their young charges a sense of responsibility and independence. The meaningful exercise also allowed volunteers to share valuable tips on money management and healthier food options.

NUSS worked with CWW again on 7 December 2021 and invited 12 children to a dental talk held at Bukit Merah Community Hub. Dr Cheah Kim Fee conducted the talk which taught children good oral health habits, while therapists and NUSS volunteers were on-site to assist with the demonstrations while keeping the learning atmosphere fun.

Over the festive period, NUSS collaborated with DPH to spread some festive cheer. Volunteers at Mandalay Guild House packed and delivered Christmas goodie bags for DPH beneficiaries.

In preparation of Chinese New Year, there was also a Lantern Workshop organised for



Volunteers handing out care packages to beneficiaries from Dover Park Hospice during the NUS annual Day of Service.



Kids from the Children's Wishing Well went on an educational tour at the NUS Department of Food Science & Technology during the NUS annual Day of Service. (Top and Below)



NUSS volunteers and their family members to learn to make Chinese New Year decorations using red packets. The lanterns made at the workshop were then gifted to DPH to create a festive mood for the patients, caregivers and healthcare workers.

Inaugural fundraising concert

The year also saw the first-ever fundraising concert organised by NUSS and the NUS Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST)

held on 25 November 2021. The concert, which was streamed 'live' on the NUSS YouTube Channel, raised over \$400,000 (with a matching grant from Tote Board) for NUS students in need.

Donors who had pre-registered for the event enjoyed the online concert with bento sets of food and wine specially curated by NUSS Chefs. The amount raised will be channelled towards the NUS Alumni Bursary Endowed Fund, NUSS Golf Section Bursary Endowed Fund and other funds for needy students in NUS.

Adopt-A-Wish Programme

To encourage the joy of giving, NUSS partnered The Boys' Brigade in Singapore to fulfil 80 wishes from Anglican Care Centre (Hougang) and MINDS Faber Training & Development Centre from November to December 2021. All wishes were adopted by NUSS members. 📺

A look down memory lane: Key milestones in NUSS' philanthropic journey

1989 – Pledged \$1.6 million to the NUS Student Loan Fund.

2005 — Established a \$200,000 NUSS Bursary fund for NUS High School.

2010 – Set a record in the Singapore Book of Records for the largest convoy of vehicles delivering more than 2,000 grocery bags to underprivileged and elderly households simultaneously during "Groceries on Wheels".

2013 – NUS Alumni Bursary Fund (ABF) was launched with seed funding by NUSS which had pledged to donate a sum of up to \$250,000 per annum since that year to help financially needy NUS students.

2014 – Raised \$404,618 for the NUS ABF Campaign through the NUSS *Old Wine, New Spirits* Fundraising Concert.

2018 — Raised over \$500,000 for an endowed student support fund, in honour of Professor Tan Chorh Chuan at the 32nd NUSS Golf Annual Charity.



When failure is at the heart of knowledge

This year's Professorship Lecture by Professor Manu Kapur was delivered without a hitch to both physical and online audience.

Over 500 participants attended this lecture held on 21 April 2021 featuring Professor Manu Kapur, Professor and Chair of Learning Sciences and Higher Education at ETH Zurich, Switzerland. In his lecture, he introduced his breakthrough research on Productive Failure.

Mr Ng Teck Wee, Co-Chairperson of the Intellectual Pursuit & Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee, hosted the event while Mr Edward S Tay, President of NUS delivered the welcome address. Dr Patricia Chen, Assistant Professor for the Department of Psychology, and Deputy Director of the Institute of Applied Learning Sciences and Higher Educational Technology at NUS had the honour of introducing the evening's esteemed visiting professor.

According to Prof Kapur, educators must first activate the students' prior knowledge so that understanding new information becomes easier. He also said that the development

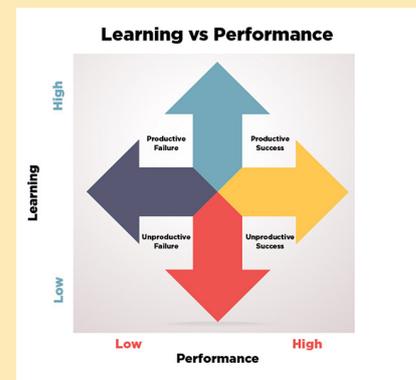


Prof Manu Kapur addressing the audience.

of creativity is path dependent, and demonstrated this by comparing the Direct Instruction (DI) and Productive Failure (PF) methods. In DI, you are given instructions first then tasked to solve the problem. It's the more common method. Applying PF reverses the order — the problem solving comes first followed by instructions.

Prof Kapur shared that when students

become aware of what they do not know or cannot solve, they are more interested to learn. The PF method also scored higher when it came to the student's ability to use the new knowledge to solve more advanced problems. More importantly, his findings on applying the PF method in small doses across 166 experimental groups showed that PF students acquired three times more knowledge than their DI counterparts. **6**



Appreciating our Healthcare Workers

The F&B team of NUS put together and distributed tasty lunch packs for the medical teams at National University Hospital (NUH) on 7 June and Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) on 8 June 2021 to express appreciation for their commitment in keeping Singapore healthy!

In addition, banners were put up outside Kent Ridge Guild House and Mandalay Guild House to reflect our sincere gratitude towards these healthcare heroes.

Thank you for everything that you do!



NUSS 2021 Virtual General Meeting and Annual General Meeting

The Society's General Meeting (GM) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) were held virtually on 25 January 2021 and on 29 April 2021 respectively in accordance with the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Alternative Arrangements for Meetings for Registered Societies) Order 2020 and NUSS Constitution.

A member would be deemed to be present at the meeting if the member had appointed the Chairman of the meeting (NUSS President, Mr Edward S Tay) as the proxy to attend, speak and vote at the meeting.

A total of 151 proxy forms were received for the General Meeting held on 25 January 2021, meeting the quorum requirement under Article 43(2) of the NUSS Constitution. The Proposer and Seconder of the Resolution were Mr Tong Hsien-Hui and Mr Soh Yi Da respectively. Mr Tong informed members that the proposed Resolution empowered the Management Committee to incur relevant expenditure not exceeding SGD950,000 for the renovation of the Della & Seng Gee Guild Hall (DSGH).

On the reasoning behind the Resolution, Mr Tong explained that DSGH had been the focal point for many Society events and milestones, as well as a platform for many prominent speakers in the past. Hence, it is important

to maintain DSGH for it to continue to be the focal point of future Society events.

The proposed design included a brighter and more modern feel, redesigned carpeting, fabric-based ceiling with LED ambient lighting and upgraded audio-visual equipment. Based on the proxy forms received, 116 voted for and 30 voted against while five abstained. The Resolution was carried.

Then on 29 April 2021, the Society held its virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was attended by over 70 members. NUSS President Mr Edward S Tay announced the outcome of the election of eight members into the Management Committee (MC). New members included Mr Lee Hay Keong who was appointed Deputy Chairperson for the Finance and Alumni Development Sub-Committees. He has served the Society for more than 12 years and was the Honorary Treasurer in 2012/2013.



The meeting also confirmed and approved the minutes from the last AGM held on 28 September 2020, the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year 2020, and saw the appointment of Foo Kon Tan LLP as external auditors of NUSS. Mr Tay was joined by Honorary Treasurer Mr Jeffrey Khoo, who presented the Financial Statements of NUSS for the year ending 31 December 2020, and Honorary Secretary Mr Nakoorsha A.K. 

When art is a journey

The NUSS has hosted art exhibitions for eight years and the latest to grace Kent Ridge Guild House's Art Gallery was Journey+ by local artist Poh Siew Wah, which delighted members from 1 November 2021 to 3 January 2022.

Mr Poh is a prolific artist who has exhibited both locally and internationally, including a solo show in Flensburg Stadtische Museum in Germany. He uses different media to bring his concepts to life and his works have been recognised and collected by numerous institutions such as NAFA, Singapore National Art Museum, and Wanju Jeonbuk Art Museum in Korea, as well as organisations like local and international banks, Singapore Airlines, and Ascot Holdings.

To dig deeper into Journey+, NUSS held a virtual art dialogue session with the artist on 8 December 2022, hosted by Ms Juliana Lim, and moderated by Dr Victor R Savage.

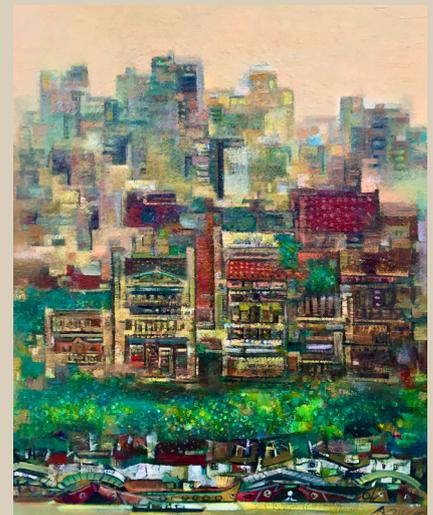
Through the online session, Mr Poh revealed that he is greatly inspired by Singaporean artist Cheong Soo Pieng who used various media and art forms like abstract art, Chinese ink drawings and

paintings, and even sculptures and murals. He also cited Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky as fundamental to sparking his interest in using abstract art to express his inner and spiritual feelings and emotions.

He even reminisced his very first painting that was exhibited at the Singapore Arts Society when he was only 15 years old.

For Journey+, his main inspiration was the various stages of life, and the pieces within the collection reflected his thoughts, feelings and perceptions. He also shared that the works in the exhibition also showed his growth as an artist as he developed his skill over time.

The session attracted over 30 NUSS members and guests, including Mr Poh's friend and avid supporter, Mr Reinhard Stephan who tuned in from Flensburg, Germany and shared what captivated him the most about Mr Poh's works. The full art dialogue session is available on the NUSS YouTube channel. 



Some of Poh Siew Wah's works through the years: Happy Grooming (1990) and Singapore River (2018).

In The Kitchen With NUSS Chefs

With Work-From-Home arrangement being the norm arising from the authorities' safe management measures, our "In the Kitchen" series in 2021 was well-received by members. The online cooking demonstrations by NUSS' Executive Chefs and Senior Sous Chef, gave members the chance to upgrade their culinary skills by learning how to prepare signature dishes.

In May, Executive Chef Chester from The Bistro (Suntec City Guild House) provided a step-by-step tutorial on how to prepare a perfectly seared ribeye steak and rustle up a spicy and aromatic Seafood Aglio Olio. There were lots of interesting questions posed by members during the Question and Answer session.

This was followed by a cooking demonstration by Executive Chef Aw from The Scholar Chinese Restaurant (Kent Ridge Guild House) in June. During the cooking demonstration, Chef Aw shared the secrets behind two staple dishes, Coffee Pork Ribs and Tempura Eggplant with Golden Floss. Then in July, Café on the Ridge's Senior Sous Chef Sara demonstrated how to whip up a tasty and hearty Chicken Dum Biryani. 🍴



Clockwise top left: Executive Chef Aw (The Scholar Chinese Restaurant, Executive Chef Chester (The Bistro), and Senior Sous Chef Sara (Café on the Ridge)

NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme

It's another strong year for the mentorship programme which is currently in its eighth year.

The NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme is back for the current 2021/2022 academic year. Since its inception nine years ago, the programme has continued to attract both mentors and mentees. In this cycle, NUSS successfully matched a total of 116 mentors and about 186 mentees — an increase from the previous academic year which had 105 mentors and 172 mentees.

The continued success of this programme would not have been possible without the generous support of NUSS mentors—34 of whom are repeat mentors—who invested their time and resources to guide their mentees. Through the programme, there are able to share their wealth of experience and professional expertise to our students.

Dr Foo Check Woo, who mentored Ms Celine Cho Qi An, a student from Environmental Engineering of NUS, shared, "It gave me great pleasure to have this privilege of mentoring in the previous academic year. The greatest testimony of the success of this mentorship is that we remain in communication long after the



An appreciation session was organised at the Della & Seng Gee Guild Hall to thank the participants.

mentorship period has concluded, and our active interaction continues into her current working life."

The mentees too, have benefited greatly from the programme, be it in terms of personal or professional growth.

Ms Hnin Azali, a Year 3 Computing student said, "My mentor Ms Theresa Tan, told me about her professional life journey and work ethic. Her principles align with my personal values and to hear from a female leader in technology empowered me." 🍴

Going beyond to deliver for a good cause

The National University of Singapore Society (NUSS) and the NUS Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST) broke new ground with the eighth instalment of Beyond The Score: 'Simple Gifts and Springs of Transcendence' on the evening of 25 November 2021.

It was the first time the concert went online to be livestreamed on the NUSS YouTube Channel and it was also the first time the concert was held as a fundraising event.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Tan Eng Chye, President, NUS, thanked everyone who had generously supported the fundraising concert with their donations, time, efforts and talents, which will help needy students receive the support they need to fulfil their potential and aspirations during their time in NUS.

In his welcome address, Mr Edward S Tay, President, NUSS, also thanked the generous members and friends of NUSS who had donated towards the worthy cause, with special mention of Mr Tan Choon Huat for his \$50,000 donation and Assoc Prof Tan Tin Wee, Mr Tan Teik Chin and Mr Yeo Keng Joon for their \$25,000 donations.

He was happy to announce that the event has raised more than \$400,000, which includes a matching grant from the Tote Board, exceeding the initial target of \$250,000. As a result, the See Meng Hong Bursary, Tan Meng Chuan & Soh Nyet Sim Bursary, NUS Global Biotech Singapore Bursary and the Malaysian Community – Khoo Beng Hwa Bursary have been set up.

The 13-member orchestra, comprising YST students and conducted by Mr Jason Lai, Principal Conductor, YST Conservatory Orchestra, performed on string and wind instruments as well as a piano.

A sumptuous dinner and wine treat was delivered to donors who had donated \$280 and more. The livestream of this online event was also posted on YouTube and has nearly 750 views to date. 📺

