

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

2017 MODEL CAREGIVER AWARDS
Celebrating Caregiving

SINGAPORE, 25 MARCH 2017 – 40 exemplary family caregivers from all walks of life were recognised at the 2017 Model Caregiver Awards presentation ceremony officiated by Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Health. About 280 guests including caregivers’ families and friends, as well as professionals from the social and health sector attended the ceremony at The Grassroots Club earlier this afternoon.

The biennial Awards saw the highest participation since its inception in 2007, counting 66 nominations from 18 agencies across the Intermediate and Long-term Care (ILTC) and Social Service sector. Organisations, from which 40 recipients were selected across the 5 categories – Model Caregiver (Individual), Model Pioneer Caregiver, Model Caregiving Domestic Helper, Young Model Caregiver and Model Caregiving Family.

Of these, 10 were recognised with the Model or Merit awards, while 30 received commendations. A significant development this time is the prominence of male family caregivers receiving four individual awards (Model Caregiver Award, Model Pioneer Caregiver and the Merit Awards in the Pioneer and Young Caregiver categories).

Initiated by AWWA Caregiver Service in 2007, organisation of the awards process took on a collaborative sector-wide approach this time. AWWA worked with the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) and the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), as well as four community partners - Caregivers Alliance, Movement for the Intellectually Disabled Singapore (MINDS), St. Luke’s Eldercare and Thye Hua Kwan Moral Services.

Mr Manmohan Singh, Director, AWWA Caregiver Service, said “The role of family caregivers has taken on greater significance in Singapore, with our ageing population and longer life expectancy, as well as more young as well as middle-aged persons and seniors being diagnosed with disabilities, special needs or mental illness. Family caregivers play a vital role in providing care at home to enable their loved ones to continue to enjoy quality of life at home. We hope each caregiving story will touch other caregivers and help motivate and affirm their roles. We are also thankful to all our community partners and nominating agencies for their support in joining us to affirm everyday heroes in our community”.

The biennial awards celebrate the tenacity, perseverance and dedication of family caregivers of all ages and backgrounds including young students, working adults, retirees or domestic helpers.

The committee began accepting award nominations from organisations across Singapore’s social service, healthcare, special education, eldercare, and disability sectors in 2016. Shortlisted nominees were interviewed in November/ December 2016 by a panel of judges from AWWA, Caregivers Alliance, Movement for the Intellectually Disabled Singapore (MINDS), St. Luke’s Eldercare and Thye Hua Kwan Moral Services as well as senior representatives from the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), National Council of Social Services (NCSS) and SG Enable.

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About AWWA Caregiver Service

AWWA Caregiver Service (formerly known as the Asian Women's Welfare Association Centre for Caregivers), was established in 2006 as a key organisation to look after the well-being of the Singapore family caregiving community. We work with like-minded community partners to advocate for caregiver-friendly policies, support and services for all families in a caregiving situation. Since our inception, we have engaged more than 35,000 people in Singapore through various public education and outreach initiatives. We are part of AWWA's Family & Caregiver Support services.

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