

UOB donates S\$16.6 million to Singapore charities to commemorate its 80th anniversary

Total of S\$20 million donated in 2015

Bank's gift to Community Chest and Care & Share Movement is the biggest by a private entity donor

Singapore, 11 December 2015 – To commemorate its 80th Anniversary, United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) today announced a S\$16.6 million donation to local charities that support those with special needs, children and the elderly. This is in addition to the S\$3.57 million¹ the Bank had donated to Community Chest earlier in the year.

Of the \$16.6 million, Community Chest will be biggest beneficiary with S\$11.8 million to help those with disabilities. The Bank is giving another S\$2 million to the Care & Share Movement. Coupled with the S\$3.57 million donation made earlier in the year, the Bank's combined gift of S\$17.37 million to Community Chest and the Care & Share Movement is the biggest by a private entity donor in 2015. With the Singapore Government's dollar-for-dollar matching, the social service sector can expect to receive up to S\$34.74 million to help those in need.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB Group, said that today's announcement builds on UOB's eight decades of giving back to the communities in which it operates since its founding in 1935.

"2015 marks UOB's 80th Anniversary and Singapore's Golden Jubilee. As we celebrate how far we have come as a bank and as a nation, we are grateful to those who have helped play a part in our development, in particular, the many who are entering their twilight years. At the same time, we want to show our continued support for those with special needs and disabilities. By working together with Community Chest and other charitable organisations, we believe we can touch the lives of those in need," said Mr Wee.

¹ This includes funds raised for the Community Chest through the UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk and an art auction, as well as a \$2 million donation towards the UOB Ability Hub at the Enabling Village.

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UOB's donation will support Community Chest in its network of voluntary work organisations (VWOs) that help nurture children with special needs and support those with disabilities to help them lead independent lives. The funds will go towards education, development and rehabilitative programmes.

The S\$2 million gift to various charities under the Care & Share Movement will go towards VWOs that support Singapore's aging society, from care for the elderly to those who suffer from dementia and Alzheimer's. The remaining funds will be disbursed to the PAP Community Foundation and other organisations that support art, children and education – the focus of UOB's corporate social responsibility programme.

Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of the Care & Share Movement Steering Committee and Chairman of Community Chest, said, "UOB's donation to the social service sector is a perfect example of its values and commitment to the society. Community Chest is delighted to have a corporate partner like UOB who is a role model in CSR efforts and in enabling the disadvantaged. What is more heartening is that UOB embraces the concept of holistic giving through its gifts of time, talent and treasures, as well as being an inclusive employer who hires persons with special needs. I hope UOB's big-hearted contributions will inspire more corporations to follow its lead to support the Care & Share Movement. This way, our charities can continue to provide help to those in need and the sector will have more resources to better serve our clients in the years to come."

Enabling an inclusive society

In November 2015, UOB set up the UOB Ability Hub within the Enabling Village, in partnership with Community Chest and SG Enable. The UOB Ability Hub will include UOB Auditorium which is the first of its kind in Singapore equipped with hearing loop technology to improve the clarity of sound for the hearing impaired. The auditorium will also have portable ramps, space reserved for wheelchairs and steps fitted with LED lights to illuminate the surrounding area so that those who have difficulty seeing will be able to find their seats easily.

UOB has also established a training facility at the Enabling Village, in collaboration with the Autism Resource Centre's Employability and Employment Centre. The training facility is for potential employees of the UOB Scan Hub – the Bank's operations centre for the checking, digitisation and archiving of documents. People with autism represent about 30 per cent of the employees at the UOB Scan Hub.

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In addition to the donations to charities this year, the Bank set up the *Wee Cho Yaw Future Leaders Award* to provide tertiary education opportunities for students of National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, from less privileged backgrounds. The S\$50 million scholarship programme to develop future leaders was established with a S\$20 million gift from UOB and a 1.5 times matching grant from the Singapore Government.

In 2014, UOB was the only bank in Singapore to receive the Top Community Care Company in Asia award at the Asia Corporate Excellence and Sustainability Awards.

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About United Overseas Bank

United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is a leading bank in Asia with a global network of more than 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Western Europe and North America. Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. UOB is rated among the world's top banks: AA1 by Moody's and AA- by Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings respectively.

In Asia, UOB operates through its head office in Singapore and banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, as well as branches and representative offices.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on art, children and education. It has, over more than three decades, held the longest-running art competition in Singapore, the UOB Painting of the Year, which has since been extended across Southeast Asia. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB was conferred the Singapore National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the tenth consecutive year in 2014. UOB also encourages its employees across the region to be involved in its regular volunteer activities. This includes the annual UOB Heartbeat Run which is held in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

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