

News Release

Industry chiefs turn chefs for a day to prepare 5000 nutritious meals for the elderly and needy

Initiative is part of UOB's Lunar New Year outreach programme

Singapore, 3 February 2016 – Instead of crunching numbers and closing deals, UOB employees and more than 30 businessmen were slicing and dicing away at the Willing Hearts' soup kitchen this morning to prepare 5000 hot meals. Willing Hearts' soup kitchen aims to improve the lives of the underprivileged in the community, including the elderly and children from needy families, by providing them with nutritious meals every day.

It took six hours for the 60 volunteers comprising the Bank's senior management team and local corporate chiefs to prepare the festive meal for the elderly and needy families in Singapore. By noon, the volunteers had distributed all 5000 lunch boxes to the beneficiaries who were at centres located at Circuit Road, Geylang Bahru and North Bridge Road.

The initiative is part of UOB's Lunar New Year outreach programme across the region. The Bank's employees in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are also distributing food and books to their local charities in the lead up to the Lunar New Year.

Mr Eric Tham, Head of Group Commercial Banking, UOB, who helped in the kitchen this morning, said the experience was a meaningful one.

"Every year UOB organises a fundraising drive for local charities during the Lunar New Year period. This year, in addition to monetary contributions, we wanted to touch the hearts of the less fortunate by spending our time doing something just for them. I am heartened to see UOB employees and clients being so enthusiastic about offering their time and energy to this cause," said Mr Tham.

Many of UOB clients who participated in the cooking session also donated rice, vegetables and oil and provided transport. Ms Voo Choon Ling from Woodlands Transport who sponsored the vehicles used for the delivery of lunch boxes to the beneficiaries, said she was glad to have been invited by UOB to take part in such a charitable cause.

"Even though we had to roll up our sleeves to work in the kitchen from as early as five-thirty in the morning, everyone was in good spirits and working in unison towards a common goal as we knew that

News Release

lunch needed to be delivered by noon. I really enjoyed the camaraderie of the group and will definitely do this again,” said Ms Voo.

UOB to donate S\$500,000 to local charities in support of art, children and education

Continuing its annual tradition, UOB will be raising funds during its annual Commercial Banking Lunar New Year dinner which is to be held on 12 February 2016 at the Pan Pacific Hotel. The Bank is committing to match donations up to S\$250,000 with the aim to raise S\$500,000 from the evening’s fundraiser. The chosen beneficiaries are The Business Times Budding Artists Fund¹, The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund², TOUCH Ubi³ and Willing Hearts⁴. These beneficiaries support art, children and education, the key pillars of the Bank’s corporate social responsibility programme.

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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, education and children. 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 art, UOB was conferred the Singapore National Arts Council’s Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the eleventh consecutive year in 2015. 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, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

¹ The Business Times Budding Artists Fund reaches out to beneficiaries through a variety of programmes comprising art camps, workshops, signature events and fundraising initiatives.

² The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund provides pocket money to children from low-income families to help them through school. It supports 14,000 children and youth a year.

³ TOUCH Ubi Hostel offers a stay-in residential programme for people with intellectual disabilities and experiential learning to prepare them for employment and integration into society.

⁴ Willing Hearts beneficiaries include the elderly, the disabled, low-income families, children from single-parent families and migrant workers. Willing Hearts also provides tuition services to help needy children who are struggling with their studies but are unable to afford tuition services.

News Release

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