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60 cents | MICA (P) 035/10/2009 **11** DECEMBER 2009



Back To School Goes Back To The Future

NTUC's U Care Fund Has Benefited 53,000 School-Going Children Of Union Members This Year



An Affordable Way Back To School... NTUC Alignment Director (Care and Share) Zainudin Nordin (centre) stops to chat with a family shopping for school essentials at the Back to School Fair at Downtown East.

important, and this is why we have concentrated part of our funds in this area.”

Mr Zainudin also took the opportunity to highlight that all the education-based efforts under the U Care Fund have achieved the Labour Movement's "Do More" mission this year to benefit nearly 53,000 children of lower-income members, about 7,000 more than last year.

“We wanted our unions and partners to do more so we started the U Care Bursary and Scholarship TOP-UP Scheme to encourage them to help more children with their educational needs. Altogether, NTUC affiliated unions and associations received over \$1.8 million in scholarships and bursaries awards. Back to School vouchers were also

A famous proverb said, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” Equipping the children of today with the necessary foundation to make them employable for life remains the central motivation behind the continued efforts placed by the Labour Movement on the educational needs of lower-income members’ children.

NTUC Alignment Director (Care and Share) Zainudin Nordin strongly impressed this point upon 300 union members and their families at the launch of the Back to School Fairs at Downtown East on 5 December 2009.

A whopping \$5.4 million worth of Back-to-School vouchers were also distributed to children of lower-income union members to help them prepare for the new school year in 2010, marking the conclusion of NTUC U Care Fund's \$23.3 million efforts this year.

Said Mr Zainudin: “Children are the future of tomorrow, as well as the future of Singapore’s working population. Providing them a levelled opportunity in education is

increased from \$5 million last year to \$5.4 million this year and \$500,000 was given to the NTUC First Campus Bright Horizons Fund.”

Recounting the humble beginnings of the Back to School programme when it started with just \$500,000 in 2005, Mr Zainudin pointed out that its success reinforced the fact that the Labour Movement will continue to “Do More” to ensure members’ children get a good headstart in life.

The same motto applies to the Labour Movement’s overall efforts to help workers cope with any tough situation, said Mr Zainudin.

“The Labour Movement has always been very inclusive. We have not just looked at the economic downturn to do more. For example, in 2008, we did more to assist workers to cope with the high inflation. Similarly, when the economy recovers next year, hopefully, the situation will change but we will continue to assist workers who are affected one way or another, be it lower income, lesser skills, or challenges in getting good jobs and good pay. We will help them to get better employment and better employability, and at the same time, assist them with their family needs and children’s needs.”



By Nicolette Yeo

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e2i Sends People To Hospital