

COMFORTDELGRO MARKS 20th ANNIVERSARY WITH \$200,000 GIFT TO AGED SICK

3 April 2023 – Groceries, medical aids, mobility devices and other daily necessities are headed to the homes of more than 710 seniors as a result of a \$200,000 cash donation from ComfortDelGro Corporation Limited.

The transport group, which celebrated its 20th Anniversary last Friday, presented two cheques of \$100,000 each to Lions Befrienders Service Association (Singapore) and NTUC-U Care Fund.

Lions Befrienders will be channelling the funds received to its Hardship Aging Fund which supports four initiatives – the Home Personal Care, Senior Group Home, Community of Care and Counselling programmes. The Home Personal Care assists home-bound and frail seniors like Madam Goh L.C., 70, who undergoes regular kidney dialysis treatments, and needs help with daily activities such as housekeeping, grocery shopping, exercises and personal hygiene, while the Senior Group Home programme is an assisted living model which enables frail seniors to co-reside independently in designated rental flats retrofitted with elder-friendly features. The funds will also go to the Community of Care programme to ensure that the homes of high-risk seniors who live alone have Wi-Fi so that Lions Befrienders staff can keep tabs on their wellbeing through the tablets that have been given to them. The final initiative which will benefit from the donation is Lions' Counselling and social support programme for vulnerable seniors with little or no family support.

Separately, the NTUC-U Care Fund will be channelling its \$100,000 to Health For Life Fund (formerly Eldercare Trust). The Health For Life Fund promotes the advancement of health care needs of the elderly in intermediate and long-term care, including their material, emotional, psychological and physical wellbeing. About 60 seniors-in-need are expected to benefit.

Speaking at the Anniversary Dinner last Friday, ComfortDelGro Chairman Lim Jit Poh said: “We have traditionally worked closely with organisations focussed on providing assistance to the aged sick as well as the mobility impaired. Over the last two decades, we have given close to S\$30 million to charitable organisations across all our operations worldwide.”

Mr Benjamin Tang, Member of NTUC Central Committee and Chairman of the Care and Share Committee, said: “We are grateful for ComfortDelGro’s unwavering support towards NTUC–U Care Fund over the years to better the welfare of lower-income union members and their families. ComfortDelGro’s contribution will enable seniors in need to receive the emotional, psychological and physical assistance they require. Congratulations on ComfortDelGro’s 20th Anniversary! NTUC-U Care Fund will continue to make a difference and touch more lives with the support from donors like ComfortDelGro.”

Chairman, PDG Anthony Tay, PPA BBM of Lions Befrienders, said: “I would like to express our deepest appreciation to ComfortDelGro for their generous donation, which will go a long way towards alleviating the cost of day-to-day expenses for up to 650 Lions Befrienders seniors. We are truly humbled by ComfortDelGro’s dedication in giving back to the community, and we look forward to continuing working together to make a positive impact on those we serve.”

Mr Lim, who has been ComfortDelGro Chairman since its formation, also spoke of the growth of the Group over the last two decades. He said that much has been achieved since the merger of Comfort Group and DelGro Corporation but that the “next twenty years are going to be difficult. Globalisation is being threatened. Geopolitics is unpredictable. Technology is continuing to play its crucial and disruptive role. Workforce characteristics are also changing.”

He spoke of strong foundations that had been laid across the Group including investments in future technologies like autonomous vehicles.

“We are already leaders in bus and taxi operations. In commercial vehicles, we need to take advantage of this electrification phase to accelerate and emerge as a leader. The third leg of our rail and train business is fast accelerating with operations in Singapore and New Zealand and active tender participation in Australasia and Europe. We need to build an ecosystem of catering to the needs and requirements of the aged population. Further afield we are actively looking at the logistics business. In terms of geography, we have to expand into Europe at a speed that keeps pace with what we have been doing in Australia. Plans must be afoot in preparation for expansion within our ASEAN region. We have to continue to keep large economies like China and India on our radar,” he said.

As part of the Group’s 20th Anniversary celebrations, 40 SBS Transit buses and ComfortDelGro taxis have been plying the roads with special commemorative gold and black wraps. ComfortDelGro Taxi, which has a strong relationship with its cabby partners, is also giving long-time hirers who started driving with the Group from 2003 or earlier, a one-off rental-free day on 31 March 2023.

Cabby Tan Soon Huat, 64, who has been a ComfortDelGro taxi hirer for close to three decades, was pleasantly surprised to get the one-day rental waiver. He said: “I would like to, first of all, wish ComfortDelGro a Happy 20th Birthday! I was pleasantly surprised to receive this one-off rental waiver as I wasn’t expecting it at all. ComfortDelGro is a company that looks out for its cabbies. This is especially so in the past three years when we were hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. ComfortDelGro had extended rental waivers and rebates to us and continues to do so even now.”

Background

About ComfortDelGro Corporation

ComfortDelGro is one of the world's largest land transport companies with a total fleet size of about 35,000 buses, taxis, and rental vehicles. We also run 177km of light and heavy rail networks in Singapore and New Zealand. Our global operations span seven countries – Singapore, Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China, Ireland, and Malaysia.

Lions Befrienders Service Association (Singapore)

Lions Befrienders was established in 1995 and now has more than 26 years of experience in caring for the elderly for them to age in place within the community. Over the years, Lions Befrienders strives to attend to the varied needs of more than 86,000 seniors by adopting a senior-centric approach in its eldercare services. It actively engages more than 7,800 seniors via a spectrum of integrated eldercare service to provide holistic care and ensure seniors are socially, emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually engaged. Under its Community Outreach arm, Lions Befrienders currently operate 10 Active Ageing Centres, three Cluster Support, two Senior Group Homes as well as Home Personal Care services.

NTUC-U Care Fund

The NTUC-U Care Fund was established in 2009 to consolidate the Labour Movement's fundraising efforts to better the welfare of low-income union members and their families. Since its inception, the NTUC-U Care Fund has strived to make a difference in the lives of its low-income members and their families by helping them to lessen their financial burden. Through the collective efforts of the NTUC-affiliated unions, associations and social enterprises, together with management and tripartite partners, over \$110 million has been disbursed since 2009 through the various U Care Assistance Programmes.