

## **COMFORTDELGRO'S \$150,000 GIFT TO SENIORS**

11 July 2018 – Mr Quek, 78, spends close to two hours travelling to and from his home in Bedok to a dialysis centre in Serangoon about 13 times a month for his kidney dialysis treatment.

The wheelchair-bound senior, who is usually accompanied by a medical escort from Blossom Seeds Limited, takes the bus and train to the dialysis centre due to cost constraints and the fact that folding the wheelchair can be cumbersome if he takes the taxi.

Today, ComfortDelGro is making a \$150,000 gift to three voluntary welfare organisations – Blossom Seeds, Dorcas Home Care Service and Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society – which will help seniors like Mr Quek.

The donation, which is being made in conjunction with the Group's 15th Anniversary, will include a refurbished nine-seater bus and free trips for both seniors and their medical escorts.

A Toyota HiAce bus, which used to ferry office workers and students, has been refurbished and retrofitted with a fully-automatic hydraulic lifter, foldable bench seats for up to eight passengers as well as a wheelchair locking device with an auto retract system. It will now be used by Blossom Seed seniors for their daily trips to the clinics and hospitals.

In addition, the ComfortDelGro's MediTrip Fund has been set up with \$100,000 worth of "medi trips" for a year. These medi trips will be provided by ComfortDelGro MaxiCabs between 10am and 4pm from Mondays to Fridays to Dorcas Home Care Service and Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society.

To access the Fund, the VWOs or medical escorts can book multiple medi trips for their seniors at least six hours, and up to seven days in advance using ComfortDelGro's MediTrip App<sup>1</sup>, which was specially developed for this purpose. The fare at \$55 per medi trip will be fully subsidised by ComfortDelGro through the MediTrip Fund. About 20 MaxiCab drivers have been trained to provide these trips.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to Annex B on how the App works

Said Mr Yang Ban Seng, Managing Director and Group CEO of ComfortDelGro: “There is a growing demand for medical escort and transport service and we have been working closely with the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) for several years to meet this need. In conjunction with our 15th Anniversary, we are happy to link up, through AIC, with the three VWOs to offer our donation of \$150,000 in the form of a refurbished nine-seater bus and free taxi trips to help them defray the costs of providing the medical escort and transport service and make that last mile connection that much easier for the seniors.”

Ms Ong Siew Chin, CEO, Blossom Seeds, is excited about receiving the organisation’s first bus. She said: “The bus will help us to serve more elderly who require medical escorts. As the elderly cope with health challenges, every effort to make them less uncomfortable is helpful.”

Mr David Lim, Executive Director, Presbyterian Community Services, the parent organisation of Dorcas Home Care Service, said: “With the growing demand by seniors for medical escorts, and the limited number of vehicles that VWOs have to meet the needs, this ‘Gift to Seniors’ from ComfortDelGro is significant. We are privileged to be selected for this collaboration.”

Mr Lee Kim Siang, Chairman, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society, said: “Most certainly, this initiative will help those who need help and cannot afford the service.”

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## **Background**

### **ComfortDelGro**

ComfortDelGro is one of the world's largest land transport companies with a total fleet size of over 42,100 buses, taxis and rental vehicles. We operate in seven countries – Singapore, Australia, China, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Vietnam and Malaysia.

### **Blossom Seeds Limited**

Blossom Seeds Limited is a charity with IPC status and a member of National Council of Social Service (NCSS) that currently provides free Home Help Services to needy elderly of different races and religions. Blossom Seeds is currently an approved Medical Escort and Transport Service Provider (MET) with the Agency for Integrated Care. Blossom Seeds is supported by Council for Third Age (C3A) for our Senior Volunteerism Programme (SVP) and Community Befriending Programme (CBP), engaging active seniors to serve the needy Elderly. Apart from being supported by Health Promotion Board (HPB) to empower seniors in different areas of health, Blossom Seeds has also recently been approved by Ministry of Health (MOH) to run active ageing programmes at Block 105, Canberra Street #02-01/06, Singapore S150105.

### **Dorcas Home Care Service**

Dorcas Home Care is a project of the Presbyterian Community Services. Established in 1992, its Meals-on-wheels service serve the frail elderly living in Chinatown. Many of them were early immigrants who came to Singapore to earn a living but are now old and without family support. Eventually, the Dorcas Home Care Service expanded its services and boundary to cater to the homebound elderly through meals delivery, home management, personal hygiene assistance and escort service. The current focus of the Dorcas to our clientele group is on meals delivery and escort service.

### **Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society**

Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society is a non-profit voluntary welfare organisation since 1978. Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society's mission is to serve mankind. Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society provides community-based services in the social, health, emotional, educational, family and disability sectors. Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society helps anyone who needs help regardless of race, colour, creed, language, culture and religion. Currently, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society operates more than 90 programmes and services, together with our three subsidiaries – THK Nursing Home Limited, Ang Mo Kio – Thye Hua Kwan Hospital (AMK-THKH), and Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities (THKMC), reaching out to more than 55,000 people in the community.