

SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund

"There is really no more relevant cause to us than helping our poor youths who desire and deserve a meritocratic medical education."

Dr Wong Chiang Yin
President, 48th Council
Singapore Medical Association



A medical education, even a highly subsidised one such as the NUS undergraduate course, remains expensive to many. A recent survey by the NUS Medical Society found that about 21%, or 250 medical students in the NUS undergraduate course, have a monthly household income of less than \$3,000. Another 26% come from households that earn between \$3,000 to \$5,000 a month.

There are a number of bursaries, financial assistance schemes and loans which can help pay for the NUS tuition fees, but *what about basic living expenses for the poorer students?* We know some of these students have managed by giving tuition – unfortunately, at the expense of their own studies.

The same survey found that a NUS medical student needs at least \$4,410 a year to survive day-to-day (transport, food, books and miscellaneous), or **\$367.50 a month**.

To help the poorer students with their basic living expenses, and in partnership with the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and with the support of the NUS Development Office, SMA has set up the **SMA MEDICAL STUDENTS' ASSISTANCE FUND**. This is a long-term commitment by SMA and we will match dollar-to-dollar donations from SMA members and well-wishers, up to a maximum of \$20,000 a year. **All donations collected will go directly to the students, and will not become part of an endowment fund. Monetary donations in any**

amount will also qualify for double tax deduction. (All contributions received before 15 December 2007 will be eligible for double tax deduction for the 2007 year of assessment. Contributions received after that will be eligible for the 2008 year of assessment.)

We urge SMA members to support this worthwhile endeavour – because medical students are already members of the medical profession and medical students are our future. ■

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE:

Make A Donation

Donations of any amount are welcome. You can make a one-time donation, or even annual contributions.

"Adopt A Medical Student"

Pledge at least \$1,800 and you would have helped to cover at least half a year of the medical student's basic living expenses.

Donations can be made by cheque, credit card or Giro. Please note that cheques should be made payable to "National University of Singapore". Please also indicate on the back of the cheque that it is for the "SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund".

Buy Christmas Cards from SMA

SMA Christmas cards are on sale at \$32 for a box of 20 cards (4 assorted designs). All proceeds from card sales will go towards the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund.

Look out for the donation and booking forms in this month's mailbag or call the SMA Secretariat at 6223 1264.



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