

**For Immediate Release**

**ISCOS ReGen Fund gives hope to children of inmates and ex-offenders through bursary awards**

Singapore, 21 December 2019 – This year, 320 students were recognised for their hard work and effort through the annual ISCOS Bursary Award under the Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP), which is managed by ISCOS ReGen Fund. Close to \$100,000 was disbursed to recipients from primary to tertiary levels through this initiative, which caters for the children from low-income families of inmates and ex-offenders.

Beaming with pride, the recipients went on stage to receive their respective awards in the presence of their families. The ceremony at the HDB Hub Auditorium today was graced by Ms Sun Xueling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development as the Guest of Honour.

**"May the achievements of these students also encourage us to persevere in our pursuits. More importantly, hopefully this inspires us to give back to our communities and uplift each other so that every person can realise their full potential,"** said Ms Sun in her speech to the recipients and their families.

Sponsored by Lee Foundation and Sheng Siong Group, the award is a major FGP initiative to motivate the beneficiaries in their educational journeys.

Introduced since 2011, the initiative has received support from various sponsors and donors who share the same belief on the importance of education for the beneficiaries. To date, close to 2,000 children and youth have drawn encouragement from the bursary awards or book grants, which ranges from \$100 to \$500 each to help defray some costs in preparation for the new school year.

In addition to the bursary awards, six recipients did exceptionally well to receive the Outstanding Achievement (OA) Awards. Another three students were recognised for their hard work in making significant progress in their results during the school year through the Good Progress (GP) Awards. Both the OA and GP awards are sponsored by Catholic High School Class of 69/71.

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### **About the ISCOS Bursary Awards and Book Grants**

The annual ISCOS Bursary Awards and Book Grants is a major initiative under the Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP).

- Target Groups:** Children of inmates and ex-offenders from low-income families, from primary 1 to tertiary level (Polytechnic/ITE).
- Objective:** To motivate, encourage and affirm students' efforts in their studies, despite their challenging circumstances.
- Rationale:** As part of building up the holistic well-being of our beneficiaries, we believe that education is crucial for the children to realise their potential and move up the social ladder.
- History:** Since its inception in 2011, over \$600,000 of funds has been disbursed to close to 2,000 beneficiaries.
- Eligibility Criteria:** Related to income, results and other requirements as stated in <https://irf.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Bursary-and-Book-Grant-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

#### **Award Quantum:**

<b>Education Level</b>	<b>Bursary Award</b>		<b>Book Grant</b>	
	<b>Cash</b>	<b>Popular Voucher</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>Popular Voucher</b>
Primary 1 to 3 (Lower Primary)	\$150	\$50	\$50	\$50
Primary 4 to 6 (Upper Primary)	\$200	\$50	\$100	\$50
Secondary (Technical / Normal / Express)	\$350	\$50	\$200	\$50
Tertiary (ITE / Polytechnic/ Junior College)	\$500	N/A	\$250	N/A

In addition to the above, recipients may also qualify for the following awards:

1. Outstanding Achievement Awards (six recipients in 2019)
  - To recognise the students' hard work and efforts
  - Eligible bursary award recipients who scored 80% and above in their final year exam
  - Every recipient receives an award of \$300, on top of their bursary award
2. Good Progress Award (three recipients in 2019)
  - To recognise the students' efforts for making these progress and hopefully they will continue to move up academically
  - Eligible bursary award recipients who managed to achieve an improvement of at least 10 points between their mid and year-end results
  - Every recipient receives an award of \$150, on top of their bursary award

### **About ISCOS ReGen Fund (IRF)**

The ISCOS ReGen Fund is a charity fund with origins from Industrial & Services Co-Operative Society Ltd (ISCOS) to offer support to children and families of reformed offenders. Through the Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP), the main objective is to prevent intergenerational offending by empowering the children with the opportunity of a complete education and the skills required to be employable and financially independent in future.

The name ReGen is made up of 'Re' and 'Gen' – 'Re' embodies the notion of reintegration into society, renewed and reformed life while the term 'Gen' refers to the younger generation and families of reformed offenders.

The IRF Management Board comprises Mr Alex Yeo (Chairman), Mr Albert Kong (Vice Chairman), Mr Keith Tang (Honorary Treasurer), Dr N Varaprasad (Honorary Secretary) and Ms Caroline Lim (Member).

### **About Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP)**

FGP is anchored on three major components: Student Development, Family Support and Home Environment. Under the Programme, ISCOS ReGen Fund provides academic assistance through bursary awards, sponsored tuition and mentoring to the children of ex-offenders. We place emphasis on the importance of building strong family units through family bonding activities and parenting workshops.

Backed by the support from volunteers, we also help create conducive study corners for the children at their own homes through home reorganisation and/or painting projects. Since its introduction, thousands of children from low-income families have benefited from the FGP initiatives over the years.

For more info on IRF and FGP, please refer to [www.irf.org.sg](http://www.irf.org.sg).

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