

For Immediate Release

NeuGen celebrates the academic achievements of over 400 children of reformed offenders with bursary and book grant

Singapore, 14 January 2023 – Proud smiles can be seen all around this afternoon, as over 400 children from low-income families of reformed offenders were recognised for their academic achievements at the NeuGen Bursary Award Ceremony. Held at NTUC Centre @ One Marina, this is the charity's first in-person award ceremony during post-pandemic times. Close to \$110,000 was disbursed to the children and youth from primary to tertiary levels in the presence of their loved ones.

In addition to the bursary awards, 11 students who achieved stellar academic performance were honoured with the Outstanding Achievement Award.

As the Guest of Honour, Ms Gan Siow Huang, Minister of State for Education and Manpower presented bursary awards to recipients from the Primary level. In her speech, Ms Gan congratulated the students and commended them for their perseverance and resilience. Thanking Sheng Siong Group, Lee Foundation and Catholic High School Class of 69/71 for their generous sponsorship of the awards, Ms Gan emphasised the importance of having strong community support to build a caring and inclusive society where opportunities remain open to all, regardless of one's starting point in life.

Vanessa (not her real name), one of the recipients who is currently studying in university, shared how the award has helped with her educational needs: "I feel blessed and grateful for the financial support received from NeuGen's education sponsorship and bursary award! It really lessen a lot of burden for my family, especially for my father since he is the sole breadwinner of the household." Motivated by her family to do well in school, Vanessa hopes to be a good role model for her younger siblings too.

As one of the highlights of the award ceremony, the screening of "Dear Future Self" video showcased some beneficiaries penning letters to themselves, as they envision their future in 5 years from now. Award recipients also enjoyed fun activities such as glitter tattoo and face painting with their families to celebrate the joyous occasion.

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About the Bursary Awards and Book Grants

- Target Groups:** Children of inmates and ex-offenders from low-income families, from Primary to tertiary education level (ITE / Polytechnic / Junior College / Local University).
- Objective:** To motivate, encourage and affirm students' efforts in their studies, despite their challenging circumstances. We aim to imbue a sense of perseverance in them when they are faced with stress in school and grow their resilience to bounce back from obstacles.
- 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. The cash and vouchers awarded to eligible students can be used to pay for essential school items or supplement any other educational needs.
- History:** Since its inception in 2011, over \$1 million worth of funds has been disbursed to more than 3,300 beneficiaries.
- Eligibility Criteria:** Criteria can be found in the following link: <https://www.neugen.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Bursary-Info-Sheet-2022.pdf>

Award Quantum:

AWARD	BOOK GRANT	BURSARY	OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT (OA) AWARD <i>OA recipients receive an additional \$300 cash award</i>
PRIMARY 1-2	\$50 Cash & \$50 Voucher	N/A	N/A
PRIMARY 3	\$50 Cash & \$50 Voucher	\$100 Cash & \$50 Voucher	N/A
PRIMARY 4-6	\$100 Cash & \$50 Voucher	\$200 Cash & \$50 Voucher	Bursary + \$300 Cash
SECONDARY 1-5	\$200 Cash & \$50 Voucher	\$350 Cash & \$50 Voucher	Bursary + \$300 Cash
ITE, POLY, JC, LOCAL UNI	\$250 Cash	\$500 Cash	Bursary + \$300 Cash

About NeuGen Fund

Established in 2018, NeuGen Fund (“NeuGen”) is a registered charity with an Institution of a Public Character¹ status established to serve children and families reformed offenders. Through the Neu Empowerment Model, NeuGen engages beneficiaries through various academic and pro-social initiatives with the long-term objective of preventing intergenerational offending.

Intergenerational offending is not an easy challenge to crack. When a family member commits an offence, family members are not only affected in terms of livelihoods and discrimination, but such situations can result in a gravity pull to keep the children within vicious cycles of crime.

NeuGen seeks to amplify its impact by reaching out to more children and families in such situations and fulfil its vision of shaping a caring and inclusive society where lives are rebuilt to be productive and self-reliant. If you are an individual or organisation who believes in our cause, reach out to us on how you can help at hello@neugen.org.sg.

Website: www.neugen.org.sg

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: @neugencharity

Media Contact:

Looi Jo-Anne

Senior Manager, Comms & External Relations

Tel: 6805 0806

Mobile: 8233 2810

Email: joanne@iscos.org.sg

Toh Shi Jia

Executive, Comms & External Relations

Tel: 6805 0822

Mobile: 9776 0041

Email: shi_jia@iscos.org.sg

¹ Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs) are exempt or registered charities which are able to issue tax deductible receipts for qualifying donations to donors. In other words, donors can claim tax relief from their assessable income based on the amount donated, at prevailing deduction rate. As this makes IPCs more appealing to donors in attracting donations, these organisations are rightfully held to a higher standard, both in terms of regulatory compliance as well as governance.

