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慈善机构办开斋饭会 500低收入家庭释囚与家属欢庆

刘安琪 报道
angie@sp.com.sg

近500名来自低收入家庭的释囚与家属，一同在开斋活动中

享用开斋餐，与家人共度欢乐时光。

新生代基金 (NeuGen Fund) 4月12日 (星期三) 在卡迪内政团

队战备人员协会为约140个回教家庭举办开斋饭会 (Ifar) 庆祝活动，受邀的低收入家庭都是基金的受益者，家中父母有一人或两人是释囚或因犯。

参与活动的家庭都获赠绿包和节日礼包，除了帮助他们为来临的开斋节做准备，主办方也希望借此平台援助释囚的家庭成员，避免他们陷入代际犯罪的恶性循环。

这也是新生代基金在冠病疫情缓解后的第一个大型实体斋戒月活动。在此之前，由于疫情的影响，他们都是通过其他方式如家访、派发礼包与绿包，来帮助有需要的家庭筹备节日庆祝。

穆尔西塔 (Mursitha, 35岁，化名) 是一名单亲妈妈，丈夫2011年入狱，明年才会获释。过去十多年来，她不得不独自抚养年幼的儿子。她从2019年开始获得新生代基金的帮助，特别是在儿子的学业方面，减轻了不少经济负担。

穆尔西塔的儿子今年13岁，小学五年级时，曾遇到不小的学习障碍，数学和科学成绩非常不理想。但自从获得新生代基金的补习资助后，儿子的成绩有了很大进步；还考上了理想的中学。

对于这次的开斋饭会庆祝，她说：“出席的人好多，就像和自己的家人一起庆祝一样。我不是本地人，在新加坡没有很多朋友，能来到这里，看到那么多人齐聚一堂，真的非常开心。”

新生代基金的负责人艾维斯 (Elvis Overee) 希望未来每年都能举办这类活动，“目前，在基金下受益的孩童和青少年约有600名，我们的目标是在接下来的三年内将人数增至1000名。随着受益者的增加，也希望能看到参加活动的人数增加。”

内政部兼国家发展部政务部长费绍尔副教授 (左) 出席新生代基金的开斋饭会并为受益者送上绿包。(新生代基金提供)



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近 500 名来自低收入家庭的释囚与家属，一同在开斋活动上享用开斋餐，与家人共度欢乐时光。新生代基金 (NeuGen Fund) 4 月 12 日 (星期三) 在卡迪内政团队战备人员协会为约 140 个回教家庭举办开斋饭会 (Iftar) 庆祝活动，受邀的低收入家庭都是基金的受益者，家中父母有一人或两人是释囚或囚犯。

参与活动的家庭都获赠绿包和节日礼包，除了帮助他们为来临的开斋节做准备，主办方也希望借此平台援助释囚的家庭成员，避免他们陷入代际犯罪的恶性循环。

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内政部兼国家发展部政务部长费绍尔副教授也出席了当天的活动，他在致辞时说：“孩童是我们的未来，政府会继续与类似新生代基金这样的机构合作，确保我们的孩子在成长过程中，能获得所需的支持。”

Translation:

Charity organises Iftar celebration for 500 ex-offenders and their family members

Approximately 500 ex-offenders and their families (low-income) gathered to break fast and enjoy a good time with their families. Held at the HomeTeamNS Khatib, this was an Iftar event organised by NeuGen Fund (NeuGen) on 12 April (Wednesday) for its beneficiaries, comprising 140 low-income families with incarcerated parents.

Green packets and festive goodies were distributed to all participating families. Other than helping them get ready for the upcoming Hari Raya, NeuGen hoped to offer a platform to support families of reformed offenders in order to prevent intergenerational offending.

This is also NeuGen's first major Iftar event after the lifting of pandemic restrictions. Prior to this, NeuGen relied on home visits and deliveries of goodie bags and green packets to help needy families prepare for festive celebrations.

35-year-old Mursitha (pseudonym) is a single mother whose husband was sentenced to prison in 2011 and will be due for release next year. For more than 10 years, she has had no choice but to raise her son herself. NeuGen has been providing assistance to Mursitha since 2019, particularly in the areas of her son's education which has significantly lessened her burden.

Mursitha's son will be turning 13 this year. During Primary 5, he faced learning difficulties especially in Mathematics and Science. His grades, however, improved tremendously after getting the educational support from NeuGen Fund and managed to enrol into a secondary school of his choice.

"Seeing such a big crowd here, it felt like breaking fast with family. I am not local and do not have many friends in Singapore. To be able to attend this event and get together with so many people makes me really happy," said Mursitha.

Elvis Overee, Deputy Director of NeuGen hoped that such events can be hosted annually in the coming years. "Currently, our charity serves about 600 children and youths, and our aim is to increase the number to a thousand within the next three years. With the growth, we certainly hope to see more people attending our events."

Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development, A/P Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim also attended the Iftar celebration. "Children are our future, and the government will continue working with organisations such as NeuGen Fund to ensure that our children can get the support they need in the process of growing up," said A/P Faishal in his opening remarks.

