

For Immediate Release

Record number of bursary awards given to children from low-income families of reformed offenders

Singapore, 20 January 2024 – Happiness abounds in the atmosphere this morning when more than 400 students were celebrated for their academic accomplishments in the presence of family members. This year, close to \$130,000 will be given out in the form of bursary award and book grant to 454 approved beneficiaries, making it the largest number of recipients to-date for NeuGen Fund ('NeuGen'), a charity supporting children and families of reformed offenders.

Held at the Auditorium at Nanyang Polytechnic, the event was graced by Ms Nadia Ahmad Samdin, Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio GRC (Cheng San–Seletar) as the Guest of Honour. Prior to giving out the awards, Ms Nadia commended the recipients for their dedication and perseverance, and emphasised the vital role of community support in the collective effort of empowering the next generation. The bursary award initiative was supported by Sheng Siong Group, Lee Foundation, iWow Technology Limited and Charles & Keith Group Foundation.

In addition to the bursary award, around 20 recipients who demonstrated extraordinary academic success were honoured with the Outstanding Achievement (OA) Awards, generously sponsored by Catholic High School Class of 69/71.

One of the OA recipients, Ryan (not his real name) shared how the award has been a great motivation for him: **"I am delighted to receive the Outstanding Achievement Award. It has brought immense pride to both me and my mother. Thank you, NeuGen!"** Currently a student at local Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Ryan is dedicated to the field of Facility Management. His passion and proficiency in the subject were evident as he achieved a flawless GPA during the final semester in 2023.

Following the award ceremony, the families continued to bond over entertaining activities such as caricature drawing, balloon sculpting, face painting, and Giant Flag Eraser, marking a joyous conclusion to the celebration.

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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 \$1.1 million worth of funds has been disbursed to more than 3,700 beneficiaries (up until 2023).

Eligibility Criteria: Full criteria can be found in this <https://bit.ly/NeuGenBursary2023>.

Award Quantum:

AWARD	BOOK GRANT	BURSARY	OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT (OA) AWARD <i>Successful 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

Founded in 2018, NeuGen Fund is a registered charity with an Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status, dedicated to serving children and families of reformed offenders. Through the Neu Empowerment Model, NeuGen engages beneficiaries meaningfully in various academic and pro-social initiatives with the primary goal of preventing intergenerational offending.

Addressing intergenerational offending poses significant challenges. When a family member commits an offense, the impact extends beyond livelihoods and discrimination. Such situations can exert a strong influence, potentially perpetuating cycles of crime for children.

NeuGen believes that every child deserves a chance in life. We aim to expand impact by reaching out to more children and families in these situations, striving to realise the vision of a caring and inclusive society where lives are productive and self-reliant. Individuals or organisations sharing our vision are invited to connect with us at hello@neugen.org.sg to explore how they can contribute to our cause.

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