

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 8 PM, 27 MARCH 2026**

Press Release

27 March 2026

## **MWS Launches Endowment Fund to Provide Sustainable, Long-Term Support for Beneficiaries**

Methodist Welfare Services (MWS) today announced the launch of the MWS Endowment Fund (MEF) to provide sustainable, long-term support for its beneficiaries and programmes. The Fund will begin with a founding contribution of \$2 million from the estate of the late Dr Ong Yong Wan.

The MEF is the first endowment fund established by a social service agency in Singapore, creating a pioneering model that strengthens long-term support for communities and enables lasting impact for those in need.

The Fund was unveiled at the MWS Colours of Love Charity Gala 2026, which also marked MWS' 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At the Gala, MWS was raising \$700,000 to meet immediate needs of beneficiaries served across its centres, such as wheelchair-accessible vehicles for its nursing home residents and therapy sessions for youth.

### **A Legacy of Giving**

Dr Ong Yong Wan was the founding Head of Haematology at Singapore General Hospital (SGH) and led Singapore's first bone marrow transplant in 1985. Under her leadership, the SGH transplant programme grew into a national centre of excellence, performing over 2,000 transplants and setting the standard for haematological care in the region. Dr Ong passed away in July 2025 at age 87 and is survived by her husband, Mr Henry Chia. As executor of her estate, Mr Chia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Gala to formalise the MWS Endowment Fund, ensuring that Dr Ong's legacy continues to benefit seniors, children, youth, and families supported by MWS.

Dr Ong and Mr Chia shared a deep commitment to service, participating in medical missions to Vietnam, Nepal, and China over the past two decades. In Nepal, for example, they made 15 trips, helping hundreds of villagers receive medical care.

### **Investments and Governance of the Fund**

Donations to the Fund start at \$250,000, offering donors a platform for legacy giving. The MEF will invest donations prudently, preserving the capital and only using the annual returns to support beneficiaries. Returns are intended to fund specific programmes, such as the MWS Family Development Programme – a debt-relief and savings initiative designed to support families in the bottom 20% income group.

The Fund will be governed by MWS' Investment Committee, with allocation approvals by the MWS Board of Governance, ensuring accountability and transparency in the use of funds.

#### **Methodist Welfare Services**

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IPC Registration No.: IPC000360 • Charity Registration No: 00166 • UEN: S81SS0088H



“We are deeply grateful to Mr Chia, and to the memory of Dr Ong, for their generosity and love,” said Mr Eugene Toh, Chairperson of MWS’ Board of Governance. “The needs in our community are real. This gift will enable MWS to innovate and fund new programmes – so that we can serve those who need it most, steadily and sustainably.”

“As the first social service agency in Singapore to establish an endowment fund, we hope it also sets a model for sustainable, long-term support for communities for generations to come,” added Mr Toh.

### **The Healing Nation – an Update**

Guests at the Gala also heard an update on The Healing Nation, a national initiative led by MWS last year to commemorate SG60 and the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Methodist Church in Singapore. The initiative raised \$1.413 million in donations and saw nearly 345,000 volunteer hours pledged through the portal, TheHealingNation.sg. To date, about \$900,000 have been disbursed to 636 beneficiaries under the care of 29 social service agencies and community partners, and 28 Methodist churches.

MWS has stopped receiving donations for The Healing Nation. However, the digital platform, TheHealingNation.sg, will continue to run till February 2027 to encourage more people to pledge hours and respond to volunteer opportunities.

***Refer to the Fact Sheet appended for more information on the MWS Endowment Fund.***

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### **About Methodist Welfare Services**

Methodist Welfare Services (MWS) is all about empowering people to have life to the full.

Our story began out of Christian love in 1981 with a simple desire to help those in need. From a humble starter project of a small nursing home for 24 sick elderly, we have grown to 24 centres and programmes island-wide, serving over 22,000 families and individuals who may experience different struggles in life, such as poor health, strained relationships, financial distress, or simply feeling alone.

The MWS network of services enables cross-referrals and multi-disciplinary interventions from a range of social and healthcare services. These include casework, counselling and therapy; parenting support; medical and rehabilitative care; pastoral care; home-based, community-based and residential care; a debt clearance and asset building scheme; and others.

We are an Institution of a Public Character and a member of the National Council of Social Service, and serve across all age groups, ethnicities and religions.

Please visit [www.mws.sg](http://www.mws.sg) for more information.

MWS Media Contacts:

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## Appendix: MWS Endowment Fund – Fact Sheet

### Key Facts

- Fund: MWS Endowment Fund (MEF)
- Purpose: A long-term fund where only annual investment returns are used to support beneficiaries and programmes, while the capital is preserved
- Initial capital: \$2 million – founding contribution pledged from the estate of the late Dr Ong Yong Wan
- Contributions to MEF start at \$250,000
- Governance: Investment oversight by MWS Investment Committee; allocation and grant approvals by MWS Board of Governance
- Term: Perpetual, until MWS ceases operations

### Summary

Methodist Welfare Services (MWS) has established the MWS Endowment Fund (MEF), the first endowment fund set up by a social service agency in Singapore. The MEF provides a sustainable source of funding for MWS programmes, allowing contributions to generate long-term support for beneficiaries. The Fund also offers a platform for legacy giving, enabling donors to honour individuals while supporting causes aligned with MWS' mission.

### Initial Funding

The MWS Endowment Fund is launched with the founding contribution of \$2 million through the Dr Ong Yong Wan Fund, established in memory of Dr Ong Yong Wan.

Dr Ong was the founding Head of Haematology at Singapore General Hospital, who led Singapore's first bone marrow transplant in 1985, a pioneering milestone in Singapore's medical history. Dr Ong passed away in July 2025 at the age of 87. She and her husband, Henry Chia, shared a deep heart for service, having served in many medical missions to Vietnam, Nepal and China in the past two decades.

### How the Fund Works

- Donations are pooled into the MEF and invested according to MWS' investment policy
- The Fund's capital is preserved, and only the annual investment returns are used
- Returns are channelled to beneficiaries and programmes

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## Programme-Based Impact

Returns are intended to fund specific programmes, such as the MWS Family Development Programme – a debt-relief and savings initiative designed to support families in the bottom 20% income group.

## Governance and Accountability

- Investments will be managed under MWS' investment policy
- Oversight by the MWS Investment Committee
- MWS' Board of Governance approves eligibility criteria for grants and annual allocation of returns
- Annual statements to track receipts, disbursements, and programme impact

## Legacy Giving

The MWS Endowment Fund provides a platform for legacy giving, allowing donors to establish named funds in honour of individuals, while supporting causes aligned with the mission of MWS.

## Tax Deduction

Cash donations are eligible for tax deduction according to prevailing Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) regulations. Contributions to the MEF start at \$250,000.

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