

# SINGAPORE CHRISTIAN HOME RELOCATES with the Help of its Partners

Photo credits: Singapore Christian Home



*KTPH's staff volunteers assist Mdm Lee Wai Heng in settling into her new ward at SCH's new premises*

On 22 May 2013, Singapore Christian Home (SCH) relocated from Jalan Tan Tock Seng to 20 Sembawang Crescent, assisted by 80 staff volunteers from its new neighbour and healthcare partner, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH). The endeavour was part of the hospital's ongoing community engagement efforts and helped ensure residents settled well into their new home.

One of the KTPH staff shared, "Some of our volunteers wheeled residents to their new beds while others chatted with them to put them at ease as some residents felt scared and a little unsettled." Lim Shuiling, Nurse Manager, KTPH, also fondly recalled how she had danced with a resident who happily chatted with her and advised her to be more *chin chye* (Hokkien for easygoing) about life. Another team, in the meantime, prepared a scrumptious lunch for SCH residents and staff. Reflecting on her first time volunteering in a nursing home, Lai Yew Loon, Assistant Manager, Operations, KTPH, said, "This experience has given me some good insights on the workings of a residential home."

Of the three<sup>1</sup> relocating homes that are part of the Ministry of Health's (MOH) Build-Own-Lease (BOL)<sup>2</sup> scheme this year, SCH has seen the largest increase in bed capacity – from 75 to 248 beds – and will now include male residents. With this enhancement, there has been a concurrent need to train and hire new staff, including male staff to care for male residents. Operations have also been adjusted to better function in the new nine-storey building.

Preparations, however, began long before the move. Jane Long, Director (Nursing), SCH, said, "Our emphasis on training has enabled staff to be better equipped to manage these challenges."

Yip Moh Han, Executive Director, SCH, added that the move was not only about relocation to a new building, "We constantly asked ourselves how we could bring about changes, raise standards and capabilities without compromising the personal and homely touches." She also shared that the home would be embracing a new work approach with the community – one of collaboration and partnership with other organisations in the area to offer a more holistic and seamless continuum of services. New collaborations with existing partners like KTPH would also be forged. She said, "Since 2012, KTPH has supported SCH's work and we are working to expand this to include dietary services, telegeriatrics and rehabilitation. In addition, we are also working together, through AIC, to provide speedy and smooth nursing home placements."



*Mechil P. Balongag, Nursing Aide, SCH, helps Mdm Lee unpack personal items into drawers in her new ward*



View additional photos at: [aic.sg/mosaic/gallery/sept13](https://aic.sg/mosaic/gallery/sept13)

<sup>1</sup> Bright Hill Evergreen Home and Villa Francis Home for the Aged relocated in March and September respectively this year.

<sup>2</sup> Under the BOL scheme, the MOH builds, furnishes and leases facilities to operators based on a renewable term.