



## PRESS RELEASE



### **COMMUNITY IN PARTNERSHIP – SHELTERED HOME IN TOA PAYOH EAST/KIM KEAT INSTALLS AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR FOR USE BY THE COMMUNITY**

- *Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can save lives in the event of cardiac arrests*
- *1<sup>st</sup> Sheltered Home for the Aged in Singapore to install AED*
- *Open for use by anyone in the community; Staff, volunteers and RC members trained*

**Singapore - 13 March 2009** - Adventist Home for the Elders (AHE) at Block 195 Kim Keat Avenue will be the first sheltered home for the aged in Singapore to be equipped with AED - Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Point.

An official launch will be held on Sunday 15 March 2009 and the event will be graced by Mrs Josephine Teo, MP for Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC.

Based on a survey by AHE of the 19 sheltered homes for the aged in Singapore, AHE is the first to install an AED and also the first time an AED point is placed in a HDB precinct area accessible to the public. Block 195 Kim Keat Avenue, where AHE is located, is a 12-storey Housing & Development Board (HDB) block comprising 600 dwelling units. Hence, at least 600 households will have access to the AED.

AHE had decided to install an AED at the home for two reasons: (1) to save lives in the event of cardiac arrests, available for residents of AHE and residents of the vicinity, as well as (ii) to be a form of community service effort on the part of AHE.

Prior to the installation, certificated AED+CPR training have been provided to AHE staff by Singapore First Aid Training Centre ([www.firstaidtraining.com.sg](http://www.firstaidtraining.com.sg)) as well as volunteers and Toa Payoh East Residents' Committee (RC) Zone 5 Committee members.

With the AED signage at Block 195 and publicity materials at RC notice boards, it is hoped that residents will become aware of the availability of this medical device in their vicinity. More training sessions are being planned for the future.

“As a home for the aged, we believe that an AED will bring extra assurance to our Home elders. In fact, when the idea was first mooted by our Chairman Mr. Wan Kwong Weng to install this medical device and share it with the community, we heartily agreed and have been working towards this aim,” says Irene Tan, Executive Director of AHE.

Commenting on this community partnership, MP Mrs Teo says: “I applaud the Adventist Home for installing the AED and opening up the use of its AED to the Kim Keat Avenue community. I also congratulate those volunteers who signed up and attended the AED+CPR training. As more training will take place in the near future, more should attend. All these will go a long way in helping to save more lives.”

AHE has also sought guidance from Professor V Anantharaman, Chairman of National Resuscitation Council (NRC) prior to implementing this AED project. Commenting on this initiative to make available the AED to the public, Professor Anantharaman says: “it is efforts such as these which will help us increase the survival rate of our community citizens who collapse from heart disease from the current 2% to at least 20%. Each of these lives saved could live an average of additional 6 years. This is achievable especially in Singapore. I am glad that the Adventist Home for the Elders has made that extra effort for the community.”

An AED is a dedicated medical device that can be used to save lives in the event of cardiac arrests. When the heart rhythm is chaotic or irregular, an AED can send an appropriate shock to the heart so that it can resume normal rhythm. When used together with CPR, an AED is seen as an important step in the chain of survival, especially in the first 10 minutes of collapse.

In Singapore, it has been observed that an increasing number of AEDs have been installed in public places in recent years, including schools and shopping centres. The AED installed by AHE cost about \$3,000 excluding other setup costs, and is fully funded by a few private donors as well as a \$1,000 contribution from Adventist Community Services.

AHE is a voluntary welfare organization (VWO) with Institution of Public Character (IPC) status, that has been operating a sheltered home at the Kim Keat Avenue location, for some 38 elderly and aged destitute, regardless of race or religion, since 1981.

AHE is pleased to play its part in the Toa Payoh East/Kim Keat community and looks forward to other collaborations in the near future.

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