

# PRECIOUS GIFTS From The heart

Your financial gift will make a difference to many lives. In fact, your generosity has helped one such patient recover from his battle with a heart condition.

Mr. Quek Cheun Lock, a Heart Fund recipient, leads a self-sufficient and productive life now.

Mr. Quek Cheun Lock will tell you that he is one lucky man. "It's even better than striking the lottery – I won a chance to enjoy the golden years of my life with my loved ones," he said.

For the last decade, the exuberant 73-year-old has been living with mitral regurgitation, a heart condition in which the heart's mitral valve is unable to close completely, causing blood to flow backwards in the heart, thus failing over time. Patients become increasingly weak and breathless. After years of controlling it with medication, his condition recently worsened.

## A PATIENT IN NEED

At first, Mr. Quek was reluctant to go for surgery. "I was around 70 (years old) then, and my condition was too high risk for the

conventional open heart surgery. My specialist recommended the invasive Mitraclip procedure," he recounted. However, Mr. Quek could not pay \$43,000 for it and was left in a tight spot.

"At that time, the medication that I was taking didn't help. I was breathless and tired. My heartbeat was weak. My doctor was very concerned, and he linked me up with the Department of Medical Social Work immediately," he explained. "That's when I met the Medical Social Worker who took my case and helped me apply for the Heart Fund."

## A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

With the Heart Fund, Mr. Quek successfully underwent surgery and is able to lead a good life. He now returns to NUHCS for

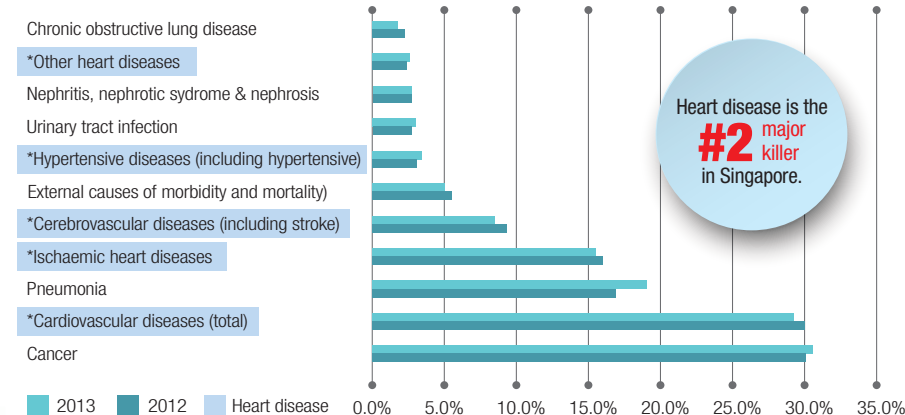
regular follow-ups but is no longer distressed over his heart condition. Instead, he has returned to work as a coffee shop assistant and enjoys simple pleasures such as eating a home-cooked meal with his loved ones.

**"I was lucky I could focus on my health without worrying about money,"** and earnestly added, **"Please share my story to let more people know more about the Heart Fund. Their gifts will empower patients who need help."**

## Know Your Heart Fund Facts

How significant is heart disease?

Principal Causes of Death in Singapore



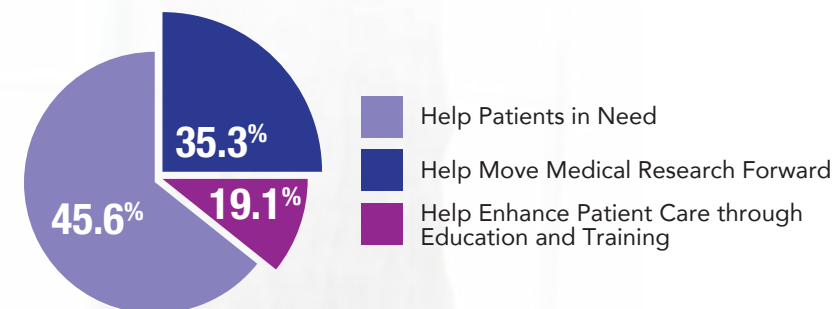
In 2013, 29.5% of deaths in Singapore are due to cardiovascular diseases.

Source: Ministry of Health.

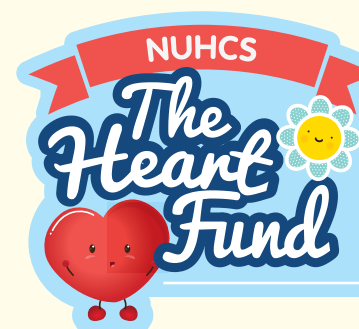
## WHAT does the Heart Fund do?

The Heart Fund was established in 2005 by NUHCS to assist its needy patients and support continuous medical research and education programs in the field of cardiovascular.

## WHAT are the funds used for?



Mr. Quek jovially spoke about how his life has changed due to the Heart Fund.



Until no patient needs us, the Heart Fund needs you! Make a heart of a difference at <http://sggives.org/nuhs>.

Find out more about the Heart Fund at <http://nuhcs.com.sg/about-us/make-a-gift.html>.

## HOW can needy patients apply for the Heart Fund?

Doctors/nurses refer needy patients to Medical Social Worker (MSW).

Patients (and their immediate family) undergo financial assessment.

MSW requests organisations like the Heart Fund to provide funding.

## By Ms. Yeo Si Ying

Intern, Communications & Development, Ops & Admin, NUHCS

Si Ying is a third year SMU student majoring in Psychology and Corporate Communication. She is currently supporting NUHCS Communications & Development team as an intern under Ms. Angeline Tan's guidance. Si Ying researches on patient motivations and partakes in a spectrum of communication responsibilities such as educational videos, patient collaterals, event publicity, fundraising and editorial support.

## By Ms. Angeline Tan

Senior Assistant Manager, Communications & Development, Ops & Admin, NUHCS

Angeline is one of the key members of the NUHCS Communications & Development team, responsible for orchestrating all events, internal and external communication. They ensure timely and effective messages on heart health matters to reach our patients, staff, media, corporate partners and the general public. Angeline manages the corporate and patient education collaterals under NUHCS, video production and The Heart Fund. She is part of the editorial team behind PULSE.