



THYE HUA KWAN
MORAL CHARITIES

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MEDIA RELEASE

Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities organises “Breaking Stereotypes: Celebrating Masculinity” Symposium to create awareness of family violence

(2 January 2024, Tuesday) – Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities (**THKMC**) will be organising a “Breaking Stereotypes: Celebrating Masculinity” Symposium on 20 January 2024 (Saturday) at Our Tampines Hub.

This event aims to raise awareness on domestic violence, promote healthy masculinity, and encourage people to come forward and seek help. It is supported by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) as part of their “Break the Silence” campaign, which increases awareness on the different types of abuse, and encourages survivors and bystanders to seek help. Ms Sun Xueling, Minister of State for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development, will be the Guest-of-Honour.

The event comprises a Symposium in the morning and a series of art workshops for families to participate in the afternoon. As part of the Symposium, there will be a keynote speech by Mr Benny Bong, Director of The Family Therapist, research sharing on the concepts and practices utilised in engagement strategies that was done in collaboration with National University of Singapore’s Social Service Research Centre (NUS SSR), sharing on impact of family violence in children by a MSF psychologist, sharing by our Brothers on their turning point and recovery journey, and a panel discussion moderated by **THKMC**. There will also be an art gallery showcasing artworks by our beneficiaries and booths from our community partners.

THK Brotherhood programme, an initiative by **THK** Family Services engages men who have caused hurt to their loved ones. They will partner us to be part of the solution to end family violence in the community. Through this process, **THK** Brotherhood aims to support the men and their families in their healing journey. Ben Ang, Principal Social Worker, shared, “We have seen the most challenging moments of our Brothers. They come to us, seeking help to be better men for their families. We journey with them by listening to them, caring for them and providing them the tools to help them in their healing process. This is crucial in their recovery. Since September 2019, 75 men have benefitted from the programme, and we hope to continuously grow this awareness, to break the stigma, so that more people will step forward.”

Brother Ismail Didih Ibrahim, who has benefitted from the programme, now works closely with **THKMC** to help others like him. He shared, “**THK** Brotherhood programme is a lifeline and has taught me how to manage my anger. The most useful thing is the encouragement and support I received from the Brothers. I know that there will always be someone who will make time for me if I need it. Everyone has critical moments when they just need someone to talk to.” Today, Brother Ismail operates a Nasi Padang stall in supporting fellow brothers from Brotherhood.

Mr Jason Lee, **THKMC**'s Chief Executive Officer said, “We are very inspired by the stories of our Brothers who have re-established their relationships with their families. It is a significant achievement, and we hope to continue supporting them and instilling positive impact. We will continue to collaborate with our partners to provide support for men who are experiencing aggression.”

We welcome media and members of the public to join us for an inspiring day where stories will be shared on how men are able to rebuild their identity of becoming “A Better Man”, and advocate for respect and non-violence in relationships. We will also explore how we can partner with the men and their families as one community towards breaking the intergenerational cycle of domestic violence and to build a life-giving cycle.

Breaking Stereotypes: Celebrating Positive Masculinity Symposium

Date: 20 January 2024 (Saturday)
Time: 9:00am to 12:35pm (Symposium by invitation)
1:30pm to 5:30pm (Art Workshop for the public)
Location: Central Plaza, Our Tampines Hub
1 Tampines Walk Singapore 528523

Please refer to the event programme in Annex A.

Media Invite

Press and media are cordially invited to the event on 20 January 2024. Please RSVP to **THK** Corporate Communications Team at corpcomms@thkmc.org.sg by **9 January 2024** to register your attendance.

About Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities (THKMC)

THKMC was incorporated on 13 October 2011 as a charity to provide multiple social and welfare services to the community at large, and achieved an Institute of Public Character (IPC) status on 18 November 2011. **THKMC** is the charitable arm of Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society, which lives by the mission – To Serve Mankind – to help anyone who needs help regardless of their race, religion, colour, language, creed and culture. **THKMC** today serves more than 70,000 beneficiaries through more than 70 programmes across five Services, which include Disability, Early Intervention for Children, Family, Seniors' Community, and Therapy.

太和观慈善机构简介

太和观慈善机构成立于 2011 年 10 月 13 日，为广大社区提供多种社会和福利服务的慈善机构；并于 2011 年 11 月 18 日获得公益机构 (IPC) 地位。**太和观慈善机构**是德教太和观旗下的实体慈善企业之一，忠于以“为人民服务”为使命——在不分种族、宗教、肤色、语言、信仰和文化的条件下，为人民服务。如今，**太和观慈善机构**通过五大服务部门，其中包括残疾、幼儿早期介入、家庭、乐龄社区、和治疗护理，提供 70 多个项目和活动为超过 70,000 名受益人提供服务。

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