

Caltex takes a step forward in becoming a good corporate citizen by delivering food to needy

By Sharon Lee

TEO Keng Fatt may be only 15, but he is the sole caregiver of his family.

He does domestic chores, including daily shopping, despite suffering from Becker's Muscular Dystrophy – a progressive muscular disorder which leads to the degeneration of muscles in his legs and pelvis.

Keng Fatt's elder brother, Kai Soon, 24, also suffers from the same ailment and is wheelchair-bound, while their mother, Mdm Lau Soo Ngoh, 59, suffers from a lung condition.

Life has been tough for the trio, who live in a two-room flat at Jalan Kulok. But on July 29, their flat was bustling with visitors as they received grocery bags of food containing daily staples such as rice, cooking oil and canned food from Caltex volunteers.

The visit was part of the "Groceries for Charity" initiative that the oil giant has with the Society of the Physically Disabled, which will see more than 100 Caltex employees deliver groceries to 116 families with disabilities across Singapore in the coming year.

Supported by Singapore Compact, the society for corporate social responsibility (CSR), the scheme was launched on July 29 by Mayor of Central Singapore Community Development Council, Mr Heng Chee How.

Practical scheme

Speaking at the launch of the initiative, Mr Heng said "Groceries for Charity" is a practical scheme that speaks louder than words.

"They have extended their hands to their fellow human beings and has made the community a little bit warmer and a little bit more gracious," he said.

Agreeing, Chevron Asia Pacific Vice-President Bob Hakim said: "With the door-to-door grocery delivery, we hope to alleviate some of the mobility issues that these people face."

Applauding their move, Singapore

Food for thought



Mdm Lau Soo Ngoh (second from left) with her younger son, Keng Fatt, expressing their gratitude to volunteers from Caltex who delivered bags of groceries to their home as part of their "Groceries for Charity" initiative.

Compact President Claire Chiang said she hoped that more companies would come on board and join Singapore Compact to understand and to share their perspectives on adopting new practices of CSR.

"We hope that through this cross-fertilisation of ideas and good practices, every company has a chance then to practise CSR in their own way... because

they want to show they are a responsible corporation," she said.

To date, Caltex has raised nearly \$200,000 for the society's education programme, which provides study grants to families and individuals suffering from disabilities.

Caltex employee Daphne Yeo, 42, an administrative assistant, said she decided

to involve herself in the "Groceries for Charity" initiative after taking part in volunteer work through her church three years ago.

"It's strongly supported by the company and it's a way to get everyone who likes to be involved in a major project, which enables us to reach out to many families," she said.

Creating greater accountability

IN ANOTHER step forward to create awareness of corporate social responsibility among businesses here, Singapore Compact organised a lunchtime talk with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) at Hilton Hotel on Aug 2.

ACCA Singapore head Penelope

Phoon spoke on the need to promote transparency in companies by reporting on non-financial aspects of their businesses – in particular their social and environmental performances.

It has put in place the Singapore Environmental & Social Reporting Awards to encourage and acknowledge the efforts

of companies which have done so.

City Developments (CDL), a member of the Singapore Compact, also shared its experiences on its multi-pronged CSR approach, which included community and youth involvement, and environmental conservation.