

## For Immediate Release

# ISCOS ReGen Fund supports children of inmates and ex-offenders with bursary awards and Steady Start special initiative

Singapore, 19 December 2020 – Close to 500 students were recognised for their hard work and academic success at the ISCOS ReGen Fund's (IRF) annual Bursary Award ceremony, a major initiative of the Fairy Godparent Programme which IRF manages. IRF is an Institution of a Public Character<sup>1</sup> charity that supports children from low-income families of inmates and ex-offenders. A total of \$160,000 was awarded to students from primary to tertiary levels this year, under the sponsorship of Lee Foundation and Sheng Siong Group.

Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim was the Guest-of-Honour at this year's event, which was held online via Zoom this morning. While the virtual event meant that the students were not able to receive their awards in person, this year's event included the sharing of testimonials by several award recipients. Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim and several sponsors also delivered words of encouragement to students.

In his speech at the event, Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim commended award recipients for their dedication and challenged them to make a difference in their community: **"Achieving success from difficult beginnings is deeply rooted in our collective history. It is central to the Singapore story, a story which continues through the success of today's Award recipients. May you serve as an inspiration to those around you, and in time to come, may you pay it forward, to help others in need."**

Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim also highlighted the efforts of award recipients who managed to excel in their studies despite the disruption to learning and challenges to adapt to home-based learning brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who did exceptionally well were also given the Outstanding Achievement Award, which was sponsored by the Catholic High School Class of 69/71.

This year, in conjunction with the Bursary Award event, every school-going child who has applied for the bursary award will be part of the Steady Start special initiative, each receiving \$200 worth of vouchers to relieve the families' burden in preparing for school supplies and needs for the next term. Benefitting close to 600 students, the Steady Start is one of the new initiatives rolled out by IRF to support the beneficiaries hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Other initiatives include the Family Steady Pack which include essential items such as reusable masks, sanitisers and other useful household items; as well as the Steady Growth initiative which includes diapers and formula milk for families with young children.

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<sup>1</sup> Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs) are exempt or registered charities which are able to issue tax deductible receipts for qualifying donations to donors. In other words, donors are able to claim tax relief from their assessable income based on the amount donated, at prevailing deduction rate. As this makes IPCs more appealing to donors in attracting donations, these organisations are rightfully held to a higher standard, both in terms of regulatory compliance as well as governance.

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### **About the Bursary Awards and Book Grants**

The annual Bursary Awards and Book Grants is a major initiative under the Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP).

- Target Groups:** Children of inmates and ex-offenders from low-income families, from Primary 1 to tertiary level (Polytechnic/ITE).
- Objective:** To motivate, encourage and affirm students' efforts in their studies, despite their challenging circumstances.
- Rationale:** As part of building up the holistic well-being of our beneficiaries, we believe that education is crucial for the children to realise their potential and move up the social ladder.
- History:** Since its inception in 2011, over \$760,000 of funds has been disbursed to close to 2,500 beneficiaries.
- Eligibility Criteria:** Related to income, results and other requirements as stated in <https://www.irf.org.sg/bursary-awards-and-book-grants-2020/>

#### **Award Quantum:**

<b>Education Level</b>	<b>Bursary Award</b>		<b>Book Grant</b>	
	<b>Cash</b>	<b>Popular Voucher</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>Popular Voucher</b>
Primary 1 to 2 (Lower Primary)			\$50	\$50
Primary 3 (Lower Primary)	\$150	\$50		
Primary 4 to 6 (Upper Primary)	\$200	\$50	\$100	\$50
Secondary	\$350	\$50	\$200	\$50
Tertiary (ITE / Polytechnic / Junior College / Local University)	\$500		\$250	

In addition to the above, recipients may also qualify for the following awards:

1. Outstanding Achievement Awards
  - To recognise the students' hard work and efforts
  - Eligible bursary award recipients who scored 80% and above in their final year exam
  - Every recipient receives an award of \$300, on top of their bursary award

### **About ISCOS ReGen Fund (IRF)**

The ISCOS ReGen Fund is a registered charity fund to support children and families of reformed offenders. Through the Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP), the main objective is to prevent intergenerational offending by empowering the children with the opportunity of a complete education and the skills required to be employable and financially independent in future.

The name ReGen is made up of 'Re' and 'Gen' – 'Re' embodies the notion of reintegration into society, renewed and reformed life while the term 'Gen' refers to the younger generation and families of reformed offenders.

### **About Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP)**

FGP is anchored on three domains: Student Development, Family Support and Home Environment. Under FGP, IRF provides holistic support through bursary awards, sponsored tuition and pro-social initiatives such as after school activities to the children of reformed offenders. We place emphasis on the importance of building strong family units through family bonding activities, parenting workshops, mothers' support group and festive celebrations.

With the support from volunteers, we also help create conducive study corners for the children in their own homes through home reorganisation and/or painting projects. Since its introduction, thousands of children from low-income families have benefited from the FGP initiatives over the years.

For more info on IRF and FGP, please refer to [www.irf.org.sg](http://www.irf.org.sg) and the social media channels ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)).

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