

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ISCOS ReGen Fund Marks its 11<sup>th</sup> Year of Recognising Children of Reformed Offenders via Bursary Awards**

Singapore, 18 December 2021 — This morning, at the ISCOS ReGen Fund (IRF) Bursary Award Ceremony, 420 students were honoured for their academic efforts and achievements. IRF is a registered charity with an Institution of a Public Character<sup>1</sup> status that supports children from low-income families of inmates and ex-offenders. Through its flagship Fairy Godparent Programme, the charity reaches out to hundreds of children and families of incarcerated individuals and engages them through a wide range of academic and pro-social initiatives, such as the Bursary Award.

Through the generous sponsorship by Mr Lim Hock Leng from Sheng Siong Group, who is supporting the Bursary Awards for the fourth consecutive year, a total of \$100,000 was distributed to beneficiaries from primary to tertiary levels. Since its inception in 2011, the Bursary Award has supported over 2,900 recipients and distributed close to \$900,000.

In his speech, Guest-of-Honour Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of National Development, congratulated the students and their parents on their perseverance through the pandemic and encouraged the recipients to continue their efforts.

The ceremony honoured 10 students who did exceptionally well in their studies with the Outstanding Achievement Awards. Another 2 students received the Good Progress (GP) Award for their significantly improved results throughout the school year. Introduced since 2018, both awards are sponsored by the Catholic High School Class of 69/71.

Crystal, one of the Outstanding Achievement Award recipients shared how the award has greatly encouraged her. "It is a rewarding feeling to know that effort does pay off and with the award, I will continue to work hard and be grateful of what I have."

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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.

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

**Target Groups:** Children of inmates and ex-offenders from low-income families, from Primary to tertiary education level (ITE / Polytechnic / Junior College / Local University).

**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, close to \$900,000 of funds has been disbursed to over 2,900 beneficiaries.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Criteria can be found in the following link <https://www.irf.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/BURSARY-INFO-SHEET-2021-FINAL.pdf>

**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 3 (Lower Primary)			\$50	\$50
Primary 4 (Upper Primary)			\$100	\$50
Primary 5 to 6 (Upper Primary)	\$200	\$50	\$100	\$50
Secondary School (Express/NA/NT)	\$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 Award (10 recipients in 2021)
  - To recognise the students' hard work and efforts
  - Eligible bursary award recipients (Primary 5 and older) who scored 80% and above in their overall end-of-year results; or obtained a Cumulative Grade Point (CGPA) of 3.2 and above out of 4 or 4.0 and above out of 5 for ITE, Polytechnic and University
  - Every recipient receives an award of \$300, on top of their bursary award
  
2. Good Progress Award (2 recipients in 2021)
  - To recognise the students' efforts for making academic progress
  - Eligible bursary award recipients (Primary 5 and older) who scored 55% and above in their overall end-of-year results and their magnitude of progress must be 10% and above from their mid-term results
  - Every recipient receives an award of \$150, 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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