



3 November 2009

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SMRT's "Gift of Mobility" Programme extends help to Bright Vision Hospital**

*Donation of decommissioned taxi gives beneficiaries the freedom to travel*

1. In its latest initiative to meet the needs of the community, SMRT Taxis has donated a decommissioned taxi to Bright Vision Hospital, to help caregivers learn to move their loved ones in and out of vehicles with care. The donation is part of the "SMRT Gift of Mobility Programme", which aims to better the lives of the needy and physically disabled in Singapore and provide greater mobility to a less mobile, aging population.
2. SMRT Taxis Vice President Mr Lo Chee Wen explained the rationale behind SMRT's latest sponsorship: "At SMRT Taxis, we are always looking for ways to provide greater mobility choices for the needy in our community. Apart from donating money to organisations to provide taxi services for less mobile patients, we also focus on how we could use our taxis to allow the less mobile to get out and about. Our latest 'Gift of Mobility' donation to Bright Vision Hospital is one of the ways to use our decommissioned taxi to help caregivers of the less mobile learn how to better take care of their loved ones."
3. Dr Jean Ong, Chief Executive Officer of Bright Vision Hospital said: "This donation will definitely enhance the rehabilitative programme for our patients. The generous donation from SMRT will help us to provide the level of care needed to rehabilitate these patients back into the community. Many of them pose challenging and extensive recovery and training needs. Our care team of doctors, nurses and

**Media Release**

- 2 -

therapists will be able to have additional tools to assist patients and their families in specially tailored rehabilitative programs.”

4. Mdm G, 57-years-old, (name withheld for patient confidentiality reasons) is a beneficiary and has been a patient in Bright Vision Hospital’s rehabilitation programme since September 2009. She met with a traffic accident and survived a right neck of femur fracture and a right distal radius fracture. Madam G said: “I would prefer to go for my medical appointments by taking taxis as it is more convenient for me. It is good that I can have the opportunity to practice the technique here.”
  
5. SMRT’s Gift of Mobility Programme has benefited more than 720 people since 2008, with \$180,000 worth of taxi services donated to four hospitals and two voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs). Beneficiaries of the programme are financially needy patients who require travel services for medical treatment, therapy sessions or to work. SMRT also donated \$171,000 to the National Council of Social Service through the Trailblazer-Chan Chiew Ping Special Schools Fund to provide transport assistance to needy students from 20 special education schools. Bright Vision is the latest hospital to benefit from the programme.

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### **About Bright Vision Hospital**

Bright Vision Hospital is a voluntary community hospital supported by the Ministry of Health. It is a fully integrated step-down care hospital offering a seamless continuum of holistic and quality care, especially to the needy, the sick, and the elderly regardless of race and religion. The hospital has a total of five inpatient wards. With the ability to provide up to 302 beds, services provided covers the nursing home, rehabilitation, sub-acute, chronic sick and palliative care. At Bright Vision Hospital, we are committed to providing excellent quality healthcare services to our patients.

### **About SMRT Corporation**

SMRT Corporation Ltd is Singapore's premier multi-modal transport service provider offering integrated island-wide transport services. It delivers safe, reliable and friendly travel for commuters through its comprehensive network of 58 Mass Rapid Transit stations, 14 Light Rail stations, as well as a fleet of over 2,600 taxis and 930 buses. In addition, SMRT leverages on its experience and unique strengths to offer maintenance consultancy and project management services for railway systems, as well as commercial and advertising space within its transport infrastructure.

## **MEDIA FACT SHEET: SMRT CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAMME**

### ***SMRT Cares***

SMRT operates in the heart of the community and through our activities, we aim to make a positive impact on the economic, social and environmental well-being of those we serve.

Our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, SMRT Cares, is centred on our people, community and environment. We aim to build an inclusive society and make a positive impact on the communities we serve through a sustained programme of employee engagement, corporate philanthropy, volunteerism, community outreach and environmental conservation.

Some key activities under *SMRT Cares*

- Silver Tribute Fund – focus on the elderly and their caregivers
- SMRT is Green – care for the environment
- SMRT Corporate Volunteer Programme, with three adopted charities:
  - Geylang East Home for the Aged
  - Ang Mo Kio Family Service Centres
  - Singapore Red Cross Blood Donor Recruitment Programme
- SMRT Gift of Mobility Programme – support for financially needy disabled and less mobile

### ***SMRT Gift of Mobility Programme***

The SMRT Gift of Mobility Programme is a key CSR initiative under *SMRT Cares*, to better the lives of the needy, physically disabled and less mobile in Singapore. It is a concerted effort by the company to dismantle the physical and mental barriers that impede the progress of our disabled citizens, and to provide greater mobility to a less mobile, aging population.

Over the past years, SMRT has rolled out many initiatives under the SMRT Gift of Mobility Programme. These include the provision of wheelchair spaces in our upgraded trains, purchase of wheelchair-friendly Euro V buses, the donation of a van to the Handicapped Welfare Association as well as the donation of a decommissioned taxi to Bright Vision Hospital.

Some of the recent highlights of SMRT's Gift of Mobility Programme include:

- **SMRT “All-In-One” SPACE taxi** – This is Singapore's first large-capacity taxi (2.5 litre diesel-run Hyundai Starex) that is retrofitted with a hydraulic ramp to provide easy access to wheelchair users.
- **Cash donation of \$180,000 to four hospitals and two VWOs** – SMRT has donated \$180,000 in cash to four hospitals (Alexandra Hospital, Changi General Hospital, KK Women's & Children's Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital) and two VWOs (Bizlink Centre Singapore and Society for the Physically Disabled) for them to disburse money to the financially-needy who require point-to-point travel services.
- **SMRT Taxis Medical Chaperon** – To better cater to the needs of the wheelchair-bound, SMRT has 60 taxi drivers who have been trained as Taxi Medical Chaperons. Certified by the Singapore Taxi Academy, our taxi partners are equipped with skills to assist and transport less mobile passengers as well as knowledge about medical service providers in Singapore.

- 5 -

- **Donation of \$171,000 to the National Council of Social Service (NCSS)** – SMRT has donated \$171,000 to NCSS through the Trailblazer-Chan Chiew Ping Special Schools Fund to provide transport assistance to needy students from 20 special education schools in Singapore for two years.

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The decommissioned taxi helps caregivers to learn how to move patients from wheelchair to taxi.



Decommissioned taxi donated by SMRT to Bright Vision Hospital

