

Centre for Fathering and MUMs for Life launch new support group for Malay Muslim mothers



Singapore, 8 May 2022 – In conjunction with the Year of Celebrating SG Families, Centre for Fathering (CFF) and MUMs for Life (MFL) have launched Ibu Sepanjang Hayat (ISH) [MUMs for Life for the Malay Muslim Community], at **MUMs Day Out** event – a joint mothers’ celebration by MFL and Families for Life (FFL).

Minister of State for Social and Family Development, Sun Xueling, witnessed the launch as Guest-of-Honour and took part in craft activities alongside families.

Ms Sun said: “This year’s Mother’s Day has been made extra special with the launch of ISH to support mothers in the Malay Muslim Community. We honour our mothers for the important roles they play in nurturing children and taking care of the family but we know also that mothers cannot do this alone - spouses, extended family and community networks provide important support. It is only when everyone comes together to support the family unit that we have the best shot at developing happy, resilient individuals who can go on to live fulfilling lives and make meaningful contributions to society. This year is the Year of Celebrating SG Families, and I hope more people will join us in making the AFAM SG Family Pledge (<https://go.gov.sg/celebratingsgfamilies>) and show care and concern, love, respect, and commitment to our families every day.”

Supporting mothers over shared cultural and religious experiences

Founded by Malay/Muslim mums, ISH also hopes to be better able to connect with fellow Malay/Muslim mums over shared cultural and religious experiences. The ISH complements MFL’s ongoing efforts to celebrate the inspiring role a mother plays in empowering her family in partnership with her husband, while at the same time being a positive influence in her children’s life. The ISH will also partner with Bapa Sepanjang

Hayat [DADs for Life (DFL) for the Malay/Muslim Community] to form a collaborative community where members of both groups can offer new perspectives and discuss the ways parents can be better supported.

Rahayu Ahmad Asi, co-founder of ISH said, “We believe that a mother’s journey begins with herself as an individual armed with strong values, inner resilience and clear goals. Only when a mother capitalises her strengths to the fullest, will she be able to inspire fellow mothers and support her family. It is a tough journey but with a community of mothers to support her, it will be achievable. ISH aims to do just that - providing a platform for mothers to come together - sharing, supporting and forming a collaborative community.”

MUM’s Day Out brought over 400 families together over family bonding activities on 8 May, from 11am to 6pm at the National Museum of Singapore. Mothers also received a celebratory gift bag.

This year’s event was also special as beneficiaries from three organisations – Babes, aLife and Daughters of Tomorrow, have joined in the celebrations with their families. These beneficiaries champion the cause of mothers who face even more trying circumstances as single parents and as families with persons of disabilities. Nonetheless, strong support from the community as well as their personal resilience have empowered these mothers to work, care for and raise their families.

“This year, our theme of “Family Passage - Thriving through the Seasons” serves to encourage all families to celebrate mothers for her contributions in keeping the family close and resilient during this global pandemic. Our event ‘MUM’s Day Out commemorates Mother’s Day in support of the Year of Celebrating SG Families. Through this family celebration, we honour mums for their roles in raising strong families in partnership with Dads, says Mr. Bryan Tan, CEO Centre for Fathering, MUMs for Life and DADs for Life.

Mr. Ishak Ismail, Chairman of FFL, said: “We are pleased to partner MUMs for Life in today’s event to honour all mothers and to show them the love and respect they deserve. It is important to build resilient families as they are the building blocks of

Singapore society and we are happy to work closely with CFF to empower fathers and support mums to become the parents their children need.”

For more information on the ISH and how to sign up as a member, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ibusepanjanghayat>.

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About Centre for Fathering and MUMs for Life

Centre for Fathering (CFF) is a non-profit organisation founded in 2000 to promote active and involved fathering and address issues caused by fatherlessness in Singapore. The organisation aims to turn the hearts of children towards their fathers by empowering more fathers to be better role models and an enduring inspiration to their children.

Launched on Mother’s Day 2019, MUMs for Life is a ground-up movement to celebrate a mum’s unique identity as a woman, daughter, wife & mother, whose key partner is DADs for Life because we believe that mums and dads play irreplaceable and complementary roles in parenting together.

About Families for Life (FFL)

The Families for Life (FFL) Movement aims to building strong and resilient families. The FFL Movement rallies like-minded individuals, families and organisations to strengthen family bonds through large-scale events, national celebrations and online digital campaigns.

FFL365 offers a suite of complementary evidence-based parenting and marriage programmes while FFL Parenting is an online repository of localised, research-backed parenting resources. FFL also runs Parent Support Groups, particularly for those with preschool children. FFL@Community brings all these offerings to local communities.

Visit <https://familiesforlife.sg> for tips, resources and interesting family activities as well as a wide range of meaningful volunteering opportunities as FFL volunteers.

About Year of Celebrating SG Families (YCF)

YCF is led by the Families for Life (FFL) Council with support from the Ministry of Social and Family Development and the Alliance for Action to Strengthen Marriages and Family Relationships (AFAM). It is a whole-of-society movement which celebrates the importance of our families.

The YCF logo is based on the design of a tree and celebrates the deep-rooted bonds that families in Singapore enjoy. Presented in the shape of a person with arms outstretched and feet on the ground; the tree signifies the values of strength, stability, rootedness, and the generations that comprise a family. The deep roots represent strong foundations that children need to grow up with. The leaves are in vibrant and colourful hues; each representing the four family values of love, care and concern, commitment, and respect; and highlighting the unyielding shade, protection and care that families provide. Generations to come will continue to enjoy its shade, flowers, and fruits for sustenance. For more information, please visit <https://go.gov.sg/celebratingsgfamilies>.

About Babes

Babes Pregnancy Crisis Support Ltd is a charity that empowers teens in a pregnancy crisis. We work to instil hope and change life stories of pregnant teens and their families. We envision an inclusive society where every teen girl can reach her full potential.

About aLife

aLife views every child from the moment of conception as a precious gift to be cherished and enjoyed by all. aLife is a secular, non-profit voluntary welfare organisation. It is committed to educating, advising and supporting women and their families on issues related to the unborn child and the mother's reproductive health.

About Daughters of Tomorrow

Daughters of Tomorrow (DOT) is an IPC Charity empowering economically challenged women into sustained employment, thus enabling their families towards social mobility. DOT complements existing training and workforce-related agencies by connecting volunteers and community resources to enable each woman on an individual level.

DOT's beneficiaries are women aged 20-60 from low-income families (surviving on \$200 to \$500 per capita per month), most of whom reside in government-subsidised rental flats. Many face multiple internal and external stressors that affect the job prospects and their ability to break out of poverty.