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Media Release



DOVER PARK HOSPICE
Every Moment Matters

More non-cancer patients getting help from hospice

Dover Park Hospice reaching out to the public about non-cancer palliative care and debunking hospice myths at its 1st Community Roadshow in the Heartlands.

23 September 2017 : More non-cancer patients are receiving palliative and hospice care at Dover Park Hospice. The number has doubled in the last 5 years from 6% of its patients in 2012 to 15% in 2016. With an ageing population and a rise in chronic diseases, the number of patients with end-stage organ failure, advanced dementia and neurological diseases requiring palliative and hospice care is set to increase.

Dover Park Hospice CEO, Mr Timothy Liu said, “While we ramp up to meet the needs of non-cancer patients, whose care is quite different from cancer patients, we also need to reach out to the public. Many do not know how palliative and hospice care can help non-cancer terminally ill patients and may not have considered this option when faced with aggressive medical treatment that has become futile. We hope to provide a viable option so that patients and their families can be well supported and patients can live life meaningfully during this stage of life.”

Through its first Community Roadshow in Bishan Community Club this weekend, Dover Park Hospice aims to reach out to the public about how palliative and hospice care can help non-cancer terminally patients.

At the same time, local celebrity and television personality Gurmit Singh is joining forces with palliative care professionals to de-mystify hospice care myths. Gurmit who is Dover Park Hospice’ first celebrity ambassador is bringing the message, “Hospice care is a wise choice” to heartlanders through a carnival-like roadshow that includes games, performances, informational booths and talks. He is hosting the entire event on both days (23 September and 24 September 2017) from 10am – 4pm, de-mystifying hospice care and sharing his personal experience with end-of-life care.

Mr Timothy Liu said, “Through Gurmit and this Community Roadshow, we hope more people will understand hospice care better, and view it as a viable choice for a person with terminal illness. We have deliberately made this a carnival as we want the public to know that a hospice is not gloomy and not about “death” but it is about life and living meaningfully.”

He added, “We had “Open Houses” at our Hospice and also set up booths at events before. Yet not many people are well-informed about hospice care and continue to hold mis-perceptions. Therefore we want to widen our reach and bring the hospice to the heartlands, where the people are. We hope through this roadshow, the public, specifically the elderly and those looking after elderly parents can gather useful information on their choices for end-of-life care. “

Gurmit will be sharing the stage with 12 palliative care experts from Dover Park Hospice and its partners. Doctors, nurses, social workers and the music therapist will be engaging the audience through English and Mandarin talks on palliative care, how to care for a dying loved one at home, music therapy for the dying, Advanced Care Planning and more.

Residents from Bishan and as far away as Bukit Batok will be attending the roadshow. The public can also speak with healthcare and community professionals from Dover Park Hospice, Agency of Integrated Care (AIC), Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore Cancer Society and WINGS at their booths.

This Community Roadshow which is part of Dover Park Hospice's 25th Anniversary outreach campaign will be officially opened by Dr Lam Pin Min, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transport.

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Who are we?

Dover Park Hospice was founded in 1992 as a secular, non-profit organisation to meet the growing need in Singapore for hospice care for terminally-ill patients. It is Singapore's first purpose-built hospice, designed to provide a serene environment close to nature.

Dover Park Hospice was started by volunteers, and today volunteers continue to play an integral role in all aspects of hospice work, from patient care to social activities and administrative support. They are an important complement to the permanent staff, working together for patients and their families.

Open to everyone regardless of age, race, religion or income level, Dover Park Hospice is dedicated to meeting the unique physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those who are nearing the end of life's journey. The goal is to enhance the living, comfort the dying and support the grieving with compassion and dignity.

At Dover Park Hospice, Every Moment Matters. Since 1992, we have brought care and comfort to more than 11,000 terminally-ill patients and their families through a programme of active and compassionate service.