

Wanted: Youth with desire to serve

Two new scholarships
aim to promote spirit
of community service

By JANICE TAI

STERLING grades may not land you these two new scholarships. Instead, their sponsors want youth with the passion to serve society.

Recipients will have to play a part in community development projects within Nee Soon GRC, instead of fulfilling a company bond.

The two scholarships – the Dymon Asia Scholarship for Social Impact, and the Chong Pang Scholarship for Social Impact – are given to undergraduates by the Chong Pang Citizen Consultative Committee.

“Many scholarships are pegged to academic grades. The new programmes seek to go beyond that by promoting the spirit of community service,” said MP for Chong Pang K. Shanmugam, who is also Minister for Foreign Affairs and Law.

The scholarships were initiated by a group of grassroots leaders and successful Singaporeans who were looking to nurture community leaders on a longer-term basis, the minister said.

Grassroots leaders from Chong Pang will fund the Chong Pang Scholarship for Social Impact; the other will be funded by Dymon Asia, a hedge fund founded by Singaporean Danny Yong.

There are other, similar scholarships. The recipients of Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC’s community scholarships, for example, pledge to do community service in grassroots organisations during school holidays and after they graduate. However, those scholarships are for students from low-income families.

Recipients of the two new scholarships are expected to put in about 30 hours a month during their tenure to help out with community development projects, such as championing animal rights or elderly care.

Two scholarships from each programme will be awarded every year. There is no minimum academic criteria, and the full range of the applicants’ accomplishments will be taken into account. These include the ability, desire and track record of the applicants to engage in community work.

The students will get \$6,000 for the first year, and \$10,000 for subsequent years of school.

The Dymon Asia Scholarship for Social Impact is open to Singapore citizens residing within Nee Soon GRC. The Chong Pang Scholarship for Social Impact is for those who live within the Chong Pang constituency.

Applicants must be undergraduates from the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technology University, Singapore Management University and Singapore University of Technology and Design. Exceptional applicants from beyond Nee Soon GRC will also be considered.

For more information, visit <http://www.chong-pang.org/scholarships-for-social-impact/>

The deadline for applications is Aug 19.

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