

## **Fact sheet**

### **THE STRAITS TIMES SCHOOL POCKET FUND**

The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund was initiated on Children's Day in 2000 by The Straits Times. It has become an annual community project that makes pocket money available for school-going children from low-income families.

The aim is to ease the financial burden faced by parents when providing for their children's education. At the same time, the funds will help children who are already facing difficulties in remaining in school to stay on.

As the official fund-raiser, The Straits Times rallies support for the cause and appeals to the public for their donation to the fund. It collaborates with different partners, from corporate organizations to interested individuals, for various fund-raising events.

The Straits Times also works closely with the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), which acts as the administrator of the fund. NCSS disburses the funds to the beneficiaries through their network of family service centres, special schools and children's homes. Currently, 38 Family Service Centres, 22 Special Schools and 10 Children's Homes have been commissioned to administer the fund.

A beneficiary in primary school receives \$30 a month while a secondary school beneficiary receives \$50 a month. The Fund today supports 10,000 beneficiaries annually.

More information on the fund can be found at [www.straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/spmf](http://www.straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/spmf).

### **THE BUSINESS TIMES BUDDING ARTISTS FUND**

*The Business Times* and the Arts House share a common belief that every artistically gifted child in Singapore should be given the opportunity to develop that talent regardless of his/her own special needs and family's financial background.

To realise this vision, the BT Budding Artists Fund was initiated by The Arts House to level up the playing field for the less privileged but no less artistically talented children. Through this fund, BT and The Arts House will engage professionals in the performing and visual arts to help nurture these young talents in music, dance, theatre and visual art.

*The Business Times* and the Arts House play the role of fund-raisers for the fund - they collaborate with different partners, from corporate organisations to interested individuals, for various fund-raising events.

The Arts House, as the administrator of the fund, will identify the young talents through different platforms such as auditions and interviews. It will disburse the funds to pay for professionals to conduct training programmes for the children as well as for the purchase of musical instruments, art materials or any other material deemed necessary to the training or performance.

Beneficiaries will be funded up to \$600 per year per person.

More information on the fund can be found at [www.theartshouse.com.sg](http://www.theartshouse.com.sg).