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**OVER 55,000 STUDENTS TO SHOW APPRECIATION
FOR THEIR GRANDPARENTS
TO COMMEMORATE “CELEBRATING OUR GRANDS!” WEEK**



Families for Life Council members Kelvin Ang and K. Thanaletchimi posed for photos with a grandparent and her grandchildren at the “Celebrating our Grands!” event held at Child at Street 11.

SINGAPORE, 3 October 2019 – Over 55,000 students will be showing their appreciation for their grandparents in a meaningful way this week (1-6 October), by making a personalised gift in school and presenting it to their grandparents over the long school holiday weekend!

In its second run this October, the participation in “Celebrating our Grands!” is more than three times the number of students compared to last year. More than 280 pre-schools and primary schools – nearly an 8-fold increase – are giving their support this year.



Organised by the Families for Life Council, “Celebrating our Grands!” aims to promote intergenerational bonding by encouraging children to cherish the special bond with their grandparents as well as other senior members in their extended family. This year, for the first time, we also have the support of celebrity Fann Wong, who not only shared her thoughts on extended family ties in an online article but also attended the “Celebrating our Grands!” event at Child at Street 11 to mingle with the children and their grandparents.

Ms M Nirmala, Chief Executive of Child at Street 11, said, “The initiative by Families for Life Council to appreciate Grandparents is significant and timely. Grandparents form an important part of a family structure as they are elders who can impart values of filial piety, family unity and preservation of old but still relevant culture. These roles played by grandparents are important as the young need stability and a moral compass in a society like Singapore which is changing and evolving rapidly.”

Started in April 1999, Child at Street 11 offers a full-day infant care, childcare and student care programmes, with a focus on active learning through play and interaction with family members, including grandparents.

According to the Ministry of Social and Family Development’s Survey on Social Attitudes of Singaporeans 2016, grandparents play an important role in supporting their families. This includes physical support such as caregiving or helping to pick up children from school as well as emotional support. Singaporeans also hold a positive attitude towards the older generation – majority of respondents (97%) feel that it is important for grandparents and their grandchildren to maintain close ties with each other.

Mr David Chua, 71, who participated in the event with his grandchildren, said, “Grandchildren are a blessing. I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, who have all brought joy, laughter and warmth to my family whenever they are around. Being able to watch them grow brings me fulfilment.”

Families for Life Council member Mr Kelvin Ang, who attended the event, shared, “Intergenerational bonding provides our ‘Grands’ with the opportunity to share life experiences as



mentors to the younger generation. The strong bonds between grandparent and grandchild also supports children in their growing-up years. Let's set aside some time to spend quality time with our extended family members over this long weekend."

To promote grandparent-grandchild bonding, the Families for Life Council also collaborated with the National Gallery Singapore to bring a line-up of complimentary gallery tours conducted in dialect (Cantonese and Hokkien) for multi-generation families. Participants can explore selected artworks and take part in interactive activities during these tours conducted on 5 and 12 October.

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About Families for Life Council

Families for Life Council's vision is to build strong and resilient families because that makes for stronger communities and better individual well-being.

We Listen. We listen to the issues that Singaporean families are facing.

We Explore and Promote. We bring people and organisations together to create platforms for family bonding and to engage Singaporeans in conversations about families.

We Voice. We voice out concerns that people have on family issues and continue this conversation with our partners and the community.