

GROWING WITH THE COMMUNITY

One of the key reasons we had progressed so far and so fast as a nation was our strong bond as one people. We recognise that the national cohesion we enjoy is a result of conscientious effort, and not coincidence. As such, IRAS has always maintained the policy and practice of working for the good of the community at large.

One of the important services we now provide is decentralised e-Filing, to help taxpayers to transit to online income tax filing. We also mobilised volunteers to provide assistance in e-Filing to those needing such help. These are two among the many initiatives we had undertaken to render our service to ensure that the community adopts a positive take on the tax collection process. They are also excellent examples of IRAS being proactive in interacting with the community to produce a win-win situation.

As the nation forges ahead towards a new vision of a globalised city that offers exciting new lifestyles and opportunities for all, we want to make sure that no one is left behind. Answering to the call for a cohesive and caring society, we have always played an active role in philanthropic and charity work. We are growing with the nation, and we are a part of one united people.



Volunteer e-Filing Service

IRAS partnered the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore, People's Association, CitizenConnect Centres, eCitizen Helper Outlets, Residents' Committees (RCs), Society for the Physically Disabled, Retired & Senior Volunteers Programme (RSVP) and Sikh Centre to provide e-Filing assistance to taxpayers islandwide. This service by the community, known as Volunteer e-Filing Service, enabled 6,771 residents to e-File at 42 centres from 17 March to 15 April 2007. A total of 736 volunteers from all walks of life were trained by IRAS officers and deployed to the various centres. We would like to commend the volunteers who had to set aside time over the five weekend afternoons, to help the non-IT savvy taxpayers fulfil their tax obligations.



Staff Volunteerism & Fund-Raising

During the year, staff came out with creative ideas for raising funds to help the less fortunate. For example, in the annual food fair, "Makan Parade", organised by the IRRC in conjunction with the National Day Observance Ceremony, the theme adopted was "United Colours of the World". It focused on multi-racial harmony and also harmony with people around the world.

Besides "Makan Parade" and the sale of flags, staff suggested another new way of raising funds for our adopted charity - by offering photography services to staff for a fee. With the help of a roving photographer, staff were encouraged to take a photo to be submitted to the Smile Singapore 2006 campaign, which was organised to welcome delegates of the IMF-World Bank meetings held in September 2006.

Yet another creative fund-raising idea was implemented when a "live" auction of IRAS' commemorative medallions was organised as part of the IRAS Day award ceremony held on 1 September 2006. Staff and suppliers invited to the ceremony were free to bid for the 8 gold and 16 silver medallions carrying favourable numbers. These medallions were selected from a total of 888 medallions that were specially minted to commemorate President Nathan's visit to IRAS on 24 January 2006. The event was also broadcasted "live" to all staff who could watch it from their desktops via an innovative multicasting system. A total of 503 medallions were sold online (via IRAS' intranet portal, "iNex") and on-site after the IRAS Day award ceremony,

Altogether, S\$22,612.22 was raised for The President's Challenge 2006, while another S\$9,576.00 was raised for the Children's Aid Society.

Continuing from last year, SHARE representatives were appointed to assist in generating greater participation in the SHARE Programme in IRAS. IRAS' contribution

to the SHARE Programme was recognised with the SHARE Platinum Award and 5-Year Outstanding SHARE Award for FY2005/06.

To support the government's efforts in promoting and caring for the environment, two mass cleaning sessions were conducted in July 2006 and February 2007 where papers were collected for recycling. The IRRC also coordinated various other fund-raising efforts in aid of the Breast Cancer Foundation and the Disabled People's Association, and organised two blood donation drives to enable staff to donate blood at the convenience of their workplace.

