

For Immediate Release

Children of inmates and ex-offenders recognised for academic excellence through bursary awards

Singapore, 14 December 2018 – 315 students were recognised for their hard work and effort through the annual Bursary Award initiative by Industrial & Services Co-Operative Society Ltd (ISCOS) and ISCOS ReGen Fund this year. Exclusively for children from low-income families of inmates and ex-offenders, a total of \$96,200 was awarded to recipients from primary to tertiary levels.

The ceremony at the Bishan Community Club this morning was graced by the Guest of Honour, Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary (SPS) of Ministry Of Social And Family Development and Ministry Of Education.

“While you continue to work hard in your studies, what is equally important is learning of how to give back to society with dynamism and empathy. I encourage you to persevere through your learning journey, and am confident in your ability to share and contribute to the society at-large,” said SPS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim in his address as he encouraged the students during the event.

Sponsored by Sheng Siong Group this year, the ISCOS Bursary Award is a major initiative under the Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP) to motivate the children and youth in their academic pursuits, regardless of their circumstances.

This year’s highlights include the introduction of two new awards, namely the Outstanding Achievement Award and Good Progress Award. The former celebrates the achievement of recipients who have performed exceptionally well in their studies, while the latter recognises the significant progress made by the students to obtain good results.

Since 2011, ISCOS has collaborated with various foundations and corporate partners to disburse bursaries to over 1,500 FGP beneficiaries who have made commendable progress in their studies. The bursary awards or book grants, ranging from \$100 to \$500 each, help to lighten the financial burden especially for the students’ preparation for the new school year.

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About the ISCOS Bursary Awards and Book Grants

The annual ISCOS Bursary Awards and Book Grants is a major initiative under the Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP).

Target Groups: Children of inmates and ex-offenders from low-income families, from primary 1 to tertiary level (Polytechnic/ITE).

Objective: To motivate, encourage and affirm students' efforts in their studies, despite their challenging circumstances.

Rationale: As part of building up the holistic well-being of our beneficiaries, we believe that education is crucial for the children to realise their potential and move up the social ladder.

History: Since its inception in 2011, \$527,000 of funds has been disbursed to over 1,500 beneficiaries.

Eligibility Criteria: Related to income, results and other requirements as stated in <https://iscos.org.sg/iscos-bursary-award-book-grant-2018-iscos-tuition-sponsorship-2019/>

Award Quantum:

Education Level	Bursary Award		Book Grant	
	Cash	Popular Voucher	Cash	Popular Voucher
Primary 1 to 3 (Lower Primary)	\$150	\$50	\$50	\$50
Primary 4 to 6 (Upper Primary)	\$200	\$50	\$100	\$50
Secondary (Technical / Normal / Express)	\$350	\$50	\$200	\$50
Tertiary (ITE / Polytechnic/ Junior College)	\$500	N/A	\$250	N/A

Highlight for 2018

This year, two new awards have been added:

1. Outstanding Achievement Award (10 recipients in 2018)
 - To recognise the students' hard work and efforts
 - Eligible bursary award recipients who scored 80% and above in their final year exam
 - Every recipient receives an award of \$300, on top of their bursary award
2. Good Progress Award (2 recipients in 2018)
 - To recognise the students' efforts for making these progress and hopefully they will continue to move up academically
 - Eligible bursary award recipients who managed to achieve an improvement of at least 15 points between their mid and year-end results
 - Every recipient receives an award of \$150, on top of their bursary award



About Industrial & Services Co-operative Society Ltd (ISCOS)

Since 1989, ISCOS has been extending friendship and support to ex-offenders and their families so that they can lead meaningful and productive lives. Together with the CARE Network/Yellow Ribbon Project partners, ISCOS takes an active role in engaging the community to help ex-offenders and their families gain a foothold in the society.

As a social Co-operative for ex-offenders under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs, our programmes and services are geared towards enhancing the skills level of our beneficiaries, connecting them with supportive employers and providing social support through positive peer groups and mentors, so that they lead meaningful and productive lives.

For more information, please visit www.iscos.org.sg.

About ISCOS ReGen Fund

The ISCOS ReGen Fund is a charity fund set up by ISCOS to offer support to children of inmates or ex-offenders from low-income families. Through the Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP), the main objective is to prevent intergenerational offending by empowering the children with the opportunity of a complete education and the skills required to be employable and financially independent in future.

About Fairy Godparent Programme (FGP)

FGP is anchored on three major components: Student Development, Family Support and Home Environment. Under the Programme, ISCOS provides academic assistance through bursary awards, sponsored tuition and mentoring to the children of ex-offenders. We place emphasis on the importance of building strong family units through family bonding activities and parenting workshops.

Backed by the support from volunteers, we also help create conducive study corners for the children at their own homes through home reorganisation and/or painting projects. Since its introduction, thousands of children from low-income families have benefited from the FGP initiatives over the years.

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