ANNEX A – FACTSHEET ON FOSTERING

A Fostering Scheme

MSF administers the Fostering Scheme for children and youth aged below 18 years old who have experienced abuse, neglect or abandonment and need an alternative care arrangement. Foster care is a temporary arrangement that provides a safe, stable and nurturing home environment in which children can grow and fulfil their potential. Where it is safe to do so, the goal is to reunite foster children with their birth families after their birth parents have been assessed to be able to care for them safely.

As of December 2025, there were 525 foster children and 646 foster families. MSF is always looking for more families to step forward as foster parents so that more children can benefit from family-based care. Having a larger pool of foster families allows MSF to match each child to a foster family that best suits their needs, and ensures that there are available foster families to take placements when required. Studies have shown that family-based care offers more personalised, stable and responsive caregiving, vital for a child's social, emotional, and mental well-being. MSF and our partners are committed to supporting foster parents in caring for foster children, and we hope to continue increasing the pool of foster families.

Foster parents are volunteers under the MSFCare Network. Families who are interested in fostering can find out more details and submit their application through the MSF website at www.msf.gov.sg/fostering.

B Fostering Agencies

MSF has appointed four Fostering Agencies (FAs) – Boys' Town Fostering Services, Epworth Foster Care, Gracehaven Fostering, PPIS Oasis – to support and grow foster care in the community. The agencies also organise outreach initiatives to raise awareness on the need for more foster parents.

Boys' Town Fostering Service (Boys' Town)

Boys' Town Fostering Services (BTFS) was appointed by MSF as a Fostering Agency in 2015. In 2019, BTFS expanded its services to support children in kinship care. BTFS supports children in care to achieve their potential through a stable, safe family environment that meets their needs.

BTFS resides under Boys' Town, a charity that provides residential care, fostering, adventure therapy, youth outreach and other community and school-based programmes and services. Their beneficiaries are children and youth up to the age of 21.

Epworth Foster Care (Epworth Community Services)

Epworth Community Services was appointed by MSF in 2015 to set up the first Fostering Agency in Singapore, Epworth Foster Care. Their mission is to provide quality care and support to foster parents, and connect them to a wider network of resources. Epworth

Foster Care aims to ensure that foster families are well equipped to ensure the well-being and holistic development of foster children in a safe, nurturing and caring family environment.

Gracehaven Fostering (The Salvation Army)

Gracehaven Fostering was appointed by MSF as a Fostering Agency in 2017. Gracehaven Fostering collaborates with foster families to provide a safe and secure home for foster children and young persons who require care and protection.

Gracehaven Fostering is a part of The Salvation Army (TSA) which aims to serve the underprivileged in the community. It runs a network of social services, including youth and children services, family support services, services for families who are incarcerated, childcare and student care centres, a nursing home, and day centres for seniors. TSA runs residential services as well as family reunification work to support vulnerable children and families.

PPIS Oasis

PPIS Oasis was established to be appointed as a Fostering Agency by MSF in 2017. It is part of PPIS, which is a non-profit organisation focused on community services. PPIS runs three core community services, namely Family Services, Student Care and Early Childhood Education.

PPIS Oasis provides casework management, therapeutic and support services to foster children and foster parents. It also conducts outreach and recruitment activities to encourage more families to consider fostering.