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MAY DAY

AWARDS

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PARTNER OF LABOUR MOVEMENT

Tusirah Suradi

Migrant Domestic Worker

Nominated by the Centre for Domestic Employees.

Tusirah Suradi demonstrates a profound passion for uplifting others through her commitment as a Centre for Domestic Employees (CDE) volunteer. She dedicates her days off to outreach to migrant domestic workers (MDWs) and has become a trusted figure in the community.

Many MDWs turn to her for help and advice. She diligently follows up on their cases to ensure that they receive the support they need. She connects with MDWs as an older “kakang” (sister), often drawing on her extensive experience as she offers a listening ear whilst encouraging proactive steps. She also regularly refers complex cases that need further intervention to CDE case officers, showcasing her dedication to helping fellow MDWs in Singapore.

Sister Tusirah’s commitment and positive example have led to her selection as a volunteer leader, where she inspires fellow volunteers to provide the same level of care and support. Her efforts have not only benefited individuals but also strengthened the sense of community among MDWs.

She has dedicated nearly 30 years of her life to working as a domestic worker in Singapore, during which she has pursued numerous training courses to broaden her exposure and learning. She took courses in caregiving, language classes, sewing, barista, and money management.

Throughout her journey, Sister Tusirah has generously shared her knowledge with other domestic workers. In one instance, she enlisted the help of a friend to help in transporting her wheelchair-bound employer down a staircase. In the process, she proactively taught her friend skills to transfer a person from bed to wheelchair and vice versa.

As her main job scope is to provide care for an elderly employer, she uses her experience to relate and provide support to other MDWs who struggle with caring for older persons.

Sister Tusirah has also completed a Sagara course – a specialised training in playgroup facilitation – and she hopes to use this knowledge to help her family and empower the community in Indonesia by contributing to local educational efforts.