



Velusamy Poomkothammal
Assistant Director, Nursing
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital
Age: 57

Attending to broken and bleeding bodies in the middle of the road was a regular duty for Ms Velusamy Poomkothammal during her many years as a nurse with the SCDF Emergency Ambulance Service. Trained in Emergency Nursing and Midwifery, she joined the service in 1980 after practising as a novice nurse with the Singapore General Hospital.

With limited equipment and no doctors for support, Sister Velu (as she is fondly known), had to rely on her clinical expertise, leadership skills and teamwork to save lives and get victims to hospital quickly. A patient advocate, she trained and mentored junior colleagues and taught first aid skills to the public so that treatment could start before the ambulance arrived, improving patient outcomes as a result. She received multiple commendations for her courage, dedication and compassion during her stint with the service.

When Sister Velu joined Alexandra Hospital in 1999, she championed quality improvement initiatives such as the Falls Prevention Programme and conducted resuscitative care training whilst managing a ward. Sister Velu also nurtured future nurse leaders so that they could run wards when the organisation moved to Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH).

Today, Sister Velu continues to strive for better patient care, training and mentoring nurses both at KTPH and beyond. She was instrumental in developing the national standards and training curriculum for private ambulance drivers and transporters and is a facilitator for nursing leadership programmes at the Healthcare Leadership College at the Ministry of Health Holdings.

Sister Velu’s dream is to groom the next generation of nurses to be insightful and resilient so as to make a positive impact on the nursing profession.

For media interviews, please contact:

Cerelia Lim
Executive, Corporate Communications, Alexandra Health System
Email: lim.cerelia.lk@alexandrahealth.com.sg
DID: 6602 2459 | Mobile: 9296 9102