

Foundation donates \$500,000

Anonymous man sends \$100,000 cheque

THE Tan Foundation, founded by banker and philanthropist Tan Chin Tuan, donated \$500,000 to the Courage Fund yesterday.

This makes the foundation the fund's single largest donor to date, leaving aside the Government's \$1 million donation and dollar-for-dollar matching contribution.

Set up in 1976, the foundation aims to provide charitable assistance to the aged, the poor, the needy and the sick.

Ms Chew Gek Khim, council member of the foundation, said: 'My grandfather, Tan Sri Tan Chin Tuan, as well as many other members of the family have over the years benefited enormously from the care and devotion of doctors in the public sector, especially those in Singapore General Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

'We believe this is an ideal time to make that appreciation public and meaningful.'

The Courage Fund was launched on April 11 in honor of health-care workers who have been battling Sars.

Money from the fund has also started going out to all those infected by Sars.

Besides the Tan Foundation's contribution, a customer of Hongkong Bank asked the bank to send a \$100,000 cheque to the fund on his behalf. He wanted to remain anonymous.

As of yesterday, the fund had collected \$4,926,384.10 from the public and companies.

This sum does not include the Government's contribution.

Other efforts to raise funds included the Singapore Red Cross' peach-coloured ribbon distribution.

Some 300,000 ribbons - to show gratitude and support for health-care workers - were given out yesterday to the public, who could also donate to the fund if they wished to.

Said teacher Iris Wong, 54: 'Wearing the ribbon is only a small way to show our appreciation.'