Media Release

Embargoed for release until 11:00 a.m. SGT, 1 November 2026

SBF Foundation Mobilises Businesses to Advance Inclusive Employment at Istana

EmployWell: Walk for Work 2026 raises more than $1 million, bringing over 100 companies, their employees and families together to expand access to work

Sunday, 1 November 2026, Singapore – SBF Foundation, the social impact arm of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), has rallied more than 1,000 corporate participants from over 100 companies, including trade associations, to raise more than $1 million for inclusive employment at EmployWell: Walk for Work 2026. The milestone reflects the business community's collective commitment to expanding access to meaningful work for individuals facing barriers to employment and building a more inclusive, resilient workforce.

2. Held at the Istana for the first time on Sunday, 1 November, the second edition of SBF Foundation's signature fundraising event was graced by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Patron of SBF Foundation, as Guest-of-Honour. Held in conjunction with the Istana Open House celebrating Deepavali, the event brought businesses, employees, families and community partners together around a shared purpose: creating more opportunities for people to contribute their talents and participate meaningfully in the workforce.

3. Funds raised will support EmployWell, SBF Foundation's flagship programme that brings social service agencies and employers together to prepare jobseekers for work, connect them with suitable employment pathways and provide support to help them sustain employment. By mobilising businesses to contribute resources, expertise and employment opportunities, SBF Foundation aims to translate the spirit of inclusion into tangible outcomes for individuals and employers alike.

4. President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Patron of SBF Foundation, said: "Good jobs bring more than better incomes. They give people dignity and the opportunity to contribute, and help uplift all our spirits."

5. SBF Foundation extends its appreciation to all donors for their generous support and commitment to advancing inclusive employment, including Kuok Group Singapore, Micron Technology, Mitsubishi Corporation RtM International, Singapore Business Federation, Sing Lun Group and TS Group Pte Ltd, TCI Express Pte. Ltd., UOL Group Limited, and more.

6. Ms Janet Ang, Chairman of SBF Foundation, said: "Our goal is to drive inclusive hiring. We are encouraged by the tripling of companies responding to this year's EmployWell: Walk for Work. This reflects the business community's growing efforts to create more employment opportunities for individuals facing barriers to work. We hope more businesses will join us, not only by contributing resources, but also by opening their workplaces and creating pathways to lasting employment."

Community Partnerships Turn Opportunity into Lasting Employment

7. For jobseekers facing barriers to work, securing a job is only one part of the journey. Building confidence, developing employability skills, finding the right job fit, and receiving support after placement can all play an important role in sustaining employment.

8. Through EmployWell, the Foundation partners community organisations, including the Singapore Association for Mental Health (SAMH), Daughters of Tomorrow and New Hope Community Services, to support individuals navigating different challenges to employment. Through job coaching, employability workshops, employer engagement and inclusive hiring initiatives, the programme bridges gaps between jobseekers and employers, helping more individuals access suitable work and build sustainable careers.

9. Since its pilot in 2022, EmployWell has helped over 2,700 individuals receive employability support, and enabled more than 1,200 individuals to

secure jobs with over 200 inclusive employers. These outcomes demonstrate the importance of bringing businesses and communities together to create pathways to meaningful employment, while providing individuals with the confidence and support they need to thrive at work.

10. Mr Nicholas Lee, CEO of SAMH, said: "For someone who has faced barriers to employment, a job can mean much more than a monthly pay cheque. It can restore confidence, create a sense of belonging, and open new possibilities for the future. But the journey does not end when someone is hired. When employers are willing to understand individual needs and community partners can provide support along the way, people have a better chance of staying in work and moving forward with confidence. That is the value of partnerships like EmployWell."

Equipping Businesses to Put Inclusive Employment into Practice

11. Creating a more inclusive workforce requires more than good intentions. Employers need practical guidance, access to the right support and opportunities to connect with community partners who can help them put inclusive hiring into practice.

12. At EmployWell: Walk for Work 2026, SBF Foundation introduced the Strategic Talent Playbook, an e-resource designed to help employers explore approaches to talent development and inclusive employment. The event also featured a Community Marketplace, bringing together community partners, inclusive hirers and community agencies to help businesses better understand the inclusive employment ecosystem and explore practical ways to adopt inclusive hiring practices.

13. Together, these initiatives reflect the Foundation's efforts to move businesses from awareness to action, helping employers identify opportunities to widen their talent pools, strengthen workplace practices, and create more accessible pathways into employment.

14. Micron Technology, an industry leader in memory and storage and an inclusive employer that has supported EmployWell: Walk for Work since its inception in 2025, has been among the businesses supporting this collective effort.

15. Mr Joshua Lee, Corporate Vice President and Singapore Country Manager at Micron Technology, said, "At Micron, we are committed to creating an inclusive workplace where everyone feels valued, supported and empowered to contribute their full potential. Our support for Walk for Work reflects our commitment to extending opportunities beyond our workplace to help more people realize their potential. Together with our community partners, we can build a stronger workforce and create lasting, positive impact in the communities where we live and work."

Extending Employment Pathways to More Individuals

16. Looking ahead, SBF Foundation plans to expand EmployWell to include seniors, recognising the importance of enabling people at different stages of life to participate in the workforce and continue contributing their experience and capabilities.

17. Working with businesses and community partners, the Foundation aims to explore new employment opportunities and pathways for seniors, while helping employers recognise the value of a diverse talent pool. This next phase will build on EmployWell's existing partnerships and experience to respond to evolving workforce needs and broaden access to meaningful employment.

18. Far East Organization, a founding donor of SBF Foundation, was among the Foundation's Corporate Purpose Roundtable strategic donors with employees participating in this year's EmployWell: Walk for Work. Mr Jonathan Ng, Chief Executive Officer of Far East Organization, said: "These efforts underscore the wider commitment to mobilise businesses to co-create practical, collaborative solutions, creating meaningful employment opportunities for individuals, employers and the wider community."

Building a More Inclusive Workforce through Collective Action

19. Ms Yap Su-Yin, Chief Executive Officer of SBF Foundation and Chief Social Sustainability Officer of SBF, said: "EmployWell: Walk for Work 2026 is a timely reminder that building a more inclusive workforce requires collective action. As we look ahead, the SBF Foundation will continue to work with our partners to strengthen inclusive hiring practices, measure the impact of our efforts and extend employment pathways to more people, including seniors. Ultimately, inclusion is not merely a social responsibility, but also an opportunity for businesses to build stronger, more resilient workplaces and a more inclusive Singapore."

20. Through EmployWell and its wider partnerships with businesses and community organisations, SBF Foundation will continue to champion a more inclusive approach to employment; one that recognises the potential of individuals, helps employers access a broader pool of talent and enables more people to participate meaningfully in Singapore's workforce.

###

For media queries, please contact:

Mr Jeffrey Tan

Director, Programmes and Partnerships, SBF Foundation

Mobile Number: +65 9742-9517

Email: Jeffrey.tan@sbffoundation.org.sg

Ms Priscilla Woo

Account Manager, Zeno Group

Mobile Number: +65 9479-3984

Email: priscilla.woo@zenogroup.com

About SBF Foundation

SBF Foundation is the social impact arm of the Singapore Business Federation. It mobilises the business community to create positive social impact through collective action, partnerships, and sustainable solutions to social needs. Through initiatives such as EmployWell, the Foundation works with businesses and community partners to advance inclusive employment and create opportunities for individuals facing barriers to work.

For more information, please visit our website: www.sbffoundation.org.sg