



TREVOR TAN

**WE CAN EAT AT THE TABLE:** Mdm Tan playing with two of her five children on the sofa – a gift from V.Hive, as are the dining table and chairs. Previously, the family ate their meals sitting on the floor.

## With some help, they now have furniture

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THE family of seven had meals sitting cross-legged on the concrete floor of their spartan, two-room rental flat. At bedtime, they would all squeeze onto five mattresses in the living room.

The plight of Madam Tan Mui Muay and her family moved local furniture retailer V.Hive so much that it decided to extend help beyond what it had initially planned. Mdm Tan's family was one of more than 70 needy families who received furniture under a V.Hive charity project. The company announced in April it was giving 50 wardrobes and 50 computer tables to families with incomes of less than \$1,000.

Aside from furnishing Mdm Tan's family with a wardrobe, V.Hive decided to give them an additional sofa, a wooden dining table, four

foldable chairs, a bed frame and King Koil-sponsored bedsheets. The retailer then presented Mdm Tan, who lives in Lorong Lew Lian, with another \$100 worth of NTUC Fair-Price vouchers and several other food items.

"When we became aware of their living conditions, we wanted to contribute more," said V.Hive director Michael Song.

Mdm Tan's husband, an odd-job labourer, brings home less than \$1,000 a month. He often has to take leave to look after the children whenever she has fainting spells.

Mdm Tan, whose five children are between two and 14, said: "I'm very grateful for the new furniture. At least now, we don't have to sit on the floor and eat."

V.Hive received a total of 105 entries for its charity project and spent about \$40,000 to import the brand-new furniture from Denmark.