$1m for SMU on couple’s golden anniversary

BUSINESSMAN Wong Kwok Leong, 91, celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary yesterday, by giving money away.

Mr Wong and his wife, Madam Mah Lan Ying, 68, donated $1 million to the Singapore Management University (SMU) to establish the Wong Kwok Leong Endowed Scholarship.

From next year, at least three one-year scholarships, worth $10,000 each, will be awarded annually to deserving and needy SMU students.

The scholarship is bond-free but there is a catch - recipients must do volunteer and charity work.

They have to develop a fund-raising proposal and execute the project in consultation with the Wong family.

Mr Wong, who retired more than 40 years ago, made his fortune in the ship equipment and supplies business in Singapore, tin-mining in Malaysia and hotel business in Hong Kong.

The couple also donated $400,000 to the Leong Hwa Monastery near Moulmein Road, where they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary yesterday.

In deciding how to help others with their money, the couple were impressed with SMU’s requirement for all undergraduates to do compulsory community service.

“We wanted this to be an ongoing process, that it doesn’t just stop at the beneficiaries of the scholarship. That they pay it forward, and benefit others, too,” said Madam Mah.