

EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR PHILLIP TAN,
CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY CHEST
25 AUG 2018, SATURDAY 9:15 AM
COMMUNITY CHEST HEARTSTRINGS WALK 2018**

Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and
Coordinating Minister for National Security

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament and Advisor of National
Council of Social Service

Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development and
Second Minister for National Development

Mr George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer of
Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Mr Richard Sim and Ms Lisa Williamson, Co-chairmen of the
Community Chest Heartstrings Walk 2018 Organising Committee

Ladies & Gentlemen;

- 1 Good morning everyone! Thank you, Deputy Prime Minister Teo, Speaker Tan and Minister Lee for joining us today.
- 2 This year, we have done something different for Heartstrings Walk. We have brought you on a journey back in time in celebration of 35 years of Community Chest. As we shared the story of our beginnings, our key efforts and the difference it has

made to the community, our heartfelt thanks goes out to our founders, leaders and partners who have journeyed with us.

- 3 Community Chest was founded in 1983 by the late Dr Ee Peng Liang to raise funds to support social service organisations so that they can focus on serving and caring for those in need. It was under the then Singapore Council of Social Service which was later restructured to form National Council of Social Service or NCSS. In his lifetime, Dr Ee devoted more than 50 years towards charitable causes. He embodied generosity, selflessness and passion.
- 4 Under his dedicated leadership, Community Chest has become a major fundraising body in the social service sector. Today, his legacy continues with the many lives touched through the work we do. Besides our initial focus on fundraising to help meet social service needs, Community Chest is also engaging Singaporeans to inspire them to give their time and skills to volunteer for meaningful causes.
- 5 At this year's Heartstrings Walk, we are glad that besides generous donations, our corporate partners are now giving back to society in a more holistic way, by encouraging their staff to give more of their time and skills.
- 6 One good example is StarHub, one of our top donors which first supported Heartstrings Walk eight years ago. Over the years, StarHub has stepped up its efforts to support us beyond money contributions to community volunteering. Their staff actively

contribute their time to volunteer and interact with service users during pre-event preparation and also during the Walk. This is the spirit of the SG Cares movement – by supporting one another, we inspire others to do the same to build a more caring and inclusive Singapore.

7 I also applaud the service users for being motivated and empowered to give their best and contribute in various ways to make Heartstrings Walk a success. METTA School, a special education school supported by Community Chest, sent their largest group of students ever to take part in the Race to the Sky Vertical Marathon this year.

8 The school's five teams, consisting of 12 students with special needs, have trained hard for this event. They were joined by Speaker Tan who made a guest appearance early this morning to support them. Congratulations on their determination and resilience in overcoming challenges to complete this marathon!

9 To keep up with changing needs in a digital age, we are on a constant look out for new innovative methods to improve our services. For the first time, participants of Heartstrings Walk can use their mobile phones to scan and donate directly to Community Chest. Simply scan the QR codes printed on posters along the Walk and 100% of your donation will go towards empowering the lives of those in need.

10 Before I end my speech, allow me to express our heartfelt thanks to all parties for making today's event a success. Firstly,

a big thank you to our co-organiser – Marina Bay Sands! This is the eighth year we are partnering you to organise Heartstrings Walk. We are truly grateful for your unwavering support and donations.

11 Our gratitude also goes to our Platinum Partners – Ascendas – Singbridge Gives Foundation, SATS Ltd and Starhub Ltd. Not forgetting many other partners who contributed generously and others who have stepped up to volunteer today. I apologise that I cannot name you one by one in my short address, but please accept our sincere appreciation.

12 Lastly to the Organising Committee – thank you for your hard work and invaluable contributions.

13 Enjoy the rest of the morning! Thank you!