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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Community Chest Turns 35 with Two Initiatives to Unite and Build a More Caring and Inclusive Society

- *Members of the public are invited to contribute to #StoriesOfCare, the top 35 stories will be published in a Community Chest commemorative book*
- *New Community Chest Charity Support Fund for smaller and under-supported charities to build capability and improve service quality and efficiency*

**SINGAPORE, 5 February 2018** – **Community Chest** will be putting into action its new tagline “**Empowering with Care, Uniting in Trust**” as it marks its **35-year milestone** today, with **two new initiatives** that celebrate the spirit of caring towards building a more inclusive society.

2 **#StoriesOfCare** will be a nation-wide effort to encourage people from all parts of the community to share their stories of what caring means to them. The top 35 entries will be curated into a commemorative book to be published in October this year, in celebration of Community Chest’s 35-year journey of empowering lives with care, and uniting the community in trust.

3 Community Chest invited its partners, including social service organisations and users to participate in the **launch of the #StoriesOfCare project** this morning. Among service users sharing their stories of care were Para-athlete and former service user of AWWA Teach Me programme, Theresa Goh; Youth Worker and former service user of Youth Guidance Outreach Services, Wilson Peh; two recipients of care by the Lions Befrienders, Tee Poh Huat and Lee Cho Poon; Programme Executive and service user of Club Heal, Daryl Tan; and a volunteer for more than 30 years, Soh Swee Kiat – all of whom have received care from the community and are in turn caring for the community in their own ways.

4 The second initiative is the launch of the new **Community Chest Charity Support Fund** to providing funding support for smaller and under-supported charities to run programmes that empower social service users and families, support their capital expenses to improve service quality and efficiency, and build their capability for community engagements to benefit the service users. This initiative is in line with one of the key thrusts of the **Social Service Sector Strategic Thrust (4ST)** road-map launched last July by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) to

help charities become more effective social purpose entities that deliver quality, innovative and sustainable solutions.

5 The additional support from the Fund will go to some 60 charities over the next three years. Each charity will receive up to \$50,000 per annum for two years. In the first grant call, 20 charities not currently supported by Community Chest are expected to benefit from the Fund and they include charities like CampusImpact, NuLife Care & Counselling Services Limited and One Hope Centre.

6 **Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest**, said: *“I am very honoured to be part of the Community Chest journey that started 35 years ago. I am inspired by the late Dr Ee Peng Liang, Singapore’s “father of charity”, founder of Community Chest and President of the Singapore Council of Social Service (later renamed as NCSS). His legacy and vision of building a caring community continues today with the many lives touched through the work we do at Community Chest.”*

7 *“Community Chest looks forward to the many stories we hope to receive for our **#StoriesofCare** project. Each of us has played a part in making a difference to the lives of others and nothing is more meaningful than to share such inspiring stories to many. We are also very excited about the launch of the new **Community Chest Charity Support Fund**. This is true to the spirit of Community Chest, which was first set up to raise funds for charities, so that they can focus on delivering critical services to those in need.”*

8 **Tee Poh Huat, or Uncle Tee**, was one such person in need. After losing his voice box to cancer and the despair he felt being unable to speak with or call anyone, he shared his story this morning through a facilitator: *“I faced cancer alone, twice. Someone cared, and today, I love life and have the support of friends.”* The Lions Befrienders came alongside him to extend care and encouragement, and today, this senior is empowered to live with dignity.

9 Singaporeans may be more aware of her multiple achievements as the **nation’s most decorated and longest-serving ASEAN Para Games athlete**, and less about the journey she took to get there, having been born with congenital spina bifida. **Theresa Goh** shared her own story of how the care and support she had received helped her overcome her disability to become who she is today.

10 Members of the public can submit their stories of care through [facebook.com/comchest](https://facebook.com/comchest) and tag it **#StoriesOfCare**, or email to [stories\\_of\\_care@ncss.gov.sg](mailto:stories_of_care@ncss.gov.sg) by 10 June 2018. Submissions can be in the form of a short story, essay or poem (about 400 words), or artwork, drawing, illustration, photo (at least 300 dpi in jpeg or pdf format). Submission of artwork and

photo should be accompanied by a short write-up (about 200 words) on how it represents what it means to care. Visit <http://www.comchest.sg/storiesofcare> for more information.

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### **About Community Chest**

This year marks 35 years since Community Chest first set out to empower lives with care and unite the community in trust, to serve those in need. With the aim to enable every individual to live with dignity within a caring and inclusive society, Community Chest supports about 80 social service organisations to meet underserved, critical social needs. As Community Chest's fundraising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board Group, 100% of your contributions goes towards empowering the lives of:

- Children with special needs and youth-at-risk
- Adults with disabilities
- Families in need
- Vulnerable seniors
- Persons with mental health issues

Find out more at [comchest.sg](http://comchest.sg).

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**Launch of #StoriesOfCare project  
Monday, 5 February 2018  
The Pod @ National Library Board**

**Programme**

- 9.30 am      **Media registration**
- 10.00 am     Introduction to #StoriesOfCare
- 10.05 am     Welcome address by  
Mr Phillip Tan  
Chairman, Community Chest
- 10.10 am     Premiere screening of Community Chest 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video “Shall We?”
- 10.12 am     Screening of video for #StoriesOfCare
- 10.15 am     Launch of #StoriesOfCare and group photo (**Photo opportunity**)
- 10.30 am     Interaction with the human stories
- 11.30 am     End of programme