

**SPEECH BY MR PHILLIP TAN, CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST, AT
COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS CEREMONY ON 9 OCTOBER 2019, 7.45 PM,
ISTANA**

Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore and Patron-in-chief of the National Council of Social Service

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

Ms Anita Fam, President, National Council of Social Service

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good evening and welcome to the Community Chest Awards 2019. Thank you Madam President for presiding at our event as Guest of Honour. We are also grateful to Minister Lee for hosting tonight's event as we celebrate community giving.
2. Community Chest has evolved beyond fundraising to become a platform for holistic giving, by enabling organisations and individuals to give their time, skills and resources through meaningful partnerships. I would like to thank all of you for your invaluable contributions to empower the lives of our social service users, cared for through 200 social service programmes supported under the Community Chest.

3. I would also like to congratulate all the award recipients tonight. Many of you have stepped up to give beyond monetary donations. Some have integrated inclusive business practices in their hiring, while others use their skills and talents to make a difference in the lives of others. We hope these exemplary organisations and individuals will inspire more to take action in building a caring and inclusive society for all.

4. Allow me to share on two of our award recipients, namely the United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) and Changi Airport Group (CAG):
 - a. UOB has long been a proponent of inclusive employment through partnerships with social service agencies. Since it partnered with the Autism Resource Centre (ARC) in 2013 to employ six persons with autism for the digitisation and archival of customer documents at the UOB Scan Hub, today, the UOB Scan Hub employs 25 persons with disabilities from ARC, MINDS and SPD, as part of its strong inclusive employment policies.

 - b. The Changi Airport Group first started volunteering with Metta School in 2018. It developed two programmes to match the needs of the special education school with services that CAG and its partners could offer. Firstly, students with special needs were able to pick up daily living skills through experiential learning at CAG's premises, such as the clinic, food court and supermarket. Secondly, a job readiness programme was developed for

students aged 17 to 18, to train the students to transit from school to work and be ready for employment at the airport.

5. To celebrate meaningful partnerships in the community, we have also invited local renowned chefs Violet Oon, Daniel Tay, S.R Bala, Pang Kok Keong and Dewi Imelda Wadhwa, to partner with 13 aspiring bakers from the Association of Persons with Special Needs, to create desserts for tonight's menu. I am deeply encouraged by the support shown by the local chefs to impart their knowledge and skills to our service users so that their abilities can shine through.
6. Tonight's occasion will also mark the launch of the Step Up 200 initiative, which honours organisations and individual donors that have increased in their fundraising and engagement efforts to unlock the dollar-for-dollar matching under the Bicentennial Community Fund till 31 March 2020. Among them is the Singapore Press Holdings. SPH reached out to the public and their business partners for donations to their 'Double the Love' campaign and shared uplifting stories of service users as part of their 35th anniversary.
7. I am also heartened to share that with your generous giving and sustained support, Community Chest raised \$54.2 million in 2018. As our fund-raising and operating costs are covered mainly by the Tote Board, 100% of your donations had been channelled to support over 80 charities.

8. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, the Académie of Stars, The Songwriter Music College, and service users from the Rainbow Centre and Singapore Association for Mental Health, whom I am sure you have met on your way in this evening. I hope that their contributions of time and talent will inspire you to continue to give towards empowering lives.
9. Finally, your collective action is a testament to the enduring spirit of community giving that we commemorate as part of Singapore's Bicentennial. It has been vital to our progress as a nation and will continue to be so in the years to come. Once again, congratulations to all our award recipients.
10. I hope you will enjoy this evening. Thank you.