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MEDIA RELEASE

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Give hope and share your joy with some 6,700 seniors and families this Lunar New Year

SINGAPORE, 30 January 2020 – In support of SG Cares and in conjunction with the Lunar New Year celebrations this year, Community Chest has rallied over 500 volunteers over three days (28 – 30 January) to pack and deliver 6,700 festive bags to seniors and families.

As the name Fú Dài (“bags of blessings and joy”) suggests, the festive bags contain various essential household and food items to spread joy to those in need in our community during the festive season. Community Chest Fú Dài is co-organised by volunteer group Heartwarmers and Community Chest and is in its eighth year. The event brings together people from all walks of life to play a part in contributing, either through volunteering or with monetary donations. Through this event, Community Chest has raised more than \$2 million through Fú Dài and 100% of the donations go towards supporting over 80 social service agencies.

While the holidays are a time of celebration and abundance for many, the organisers acknowledge that some communities in our society might not be as fortunate. The main theme for Community Chest Fú Dài is “Give Hope and Share Joy”, encouraging the wider community to give hope and share the joy of the Lunar New Year with seniors and families who might feel isolated during the festive season. Volunteers would be packing at the Arena@OTH across three days.

Chairman of Community Chest Fu Dai 2021 Organising Committee, Mr Foo Say Thye shared, “While COVID-19 has brought about uncertainties and new challenges, it has also presented us with new opportunities to support the less fortunate amongst us. I would like to thank the corporate partners, donors and community for their collective efforts in making Fú Dài a success. By coming together, we have made a profound difference in the lives of those facing challenges.”

Corporate volunteers participated in the first two days of the Community Chest Fu Dai, in accordance with safe-distancing restrictions. On Day 3 of the event, **Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Family and Social Development, Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development**, and Ms Sun Xue Ling, Minister of State, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Social and Family Development also took part, and kickstarted the delivery of festive bags with the ceremonial sounding of gongs on stage. Minister Masagos also delivered festive bags from the packing site at Arena@OTH to two families in his Tampines ward.

They were joined by other Members of the Parliament, including, Associate Professor Dr Muhammed Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development, Mr Baey Yam Keng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Transport, Ms Joan Pereira, Ms Ng Ling Ling, Mr Shawn Huang, Dr S. Vasoo and Mr Xie Yao Quan.

Holistic giving and support from corporate partners and donors are instrumental in making this annual volunteering event sustainable. Long-term supporter Standard Chartered Bank had rallied its staff as volunteers and donated generously to this event. Despite the challenging business climate, first-time Fú Dài donor, Telstra Singapore Pte Ltd, also stepped forward and contributed significantly to make Community Chest Fú Dài 2021 a success. **Said Country Managing Director of Telstra Singapore Pte Ltd, Mr James Lester.** “We are delighted to be part of this heartwarming Fú Dài initiative and hope to contribute within our means to empower the lives of the less fortunate in our communities in such tough times.”

Leading up to the Community Chest Fú Dài event, Ms Kelly Keak, Managing Director of bespoke skincare brand MTM and member of the Organising Committee of Fú Dài, co-organised an Instagram live charity bazaar with Mrs Florence Low, Founder of LuxLexicon, to raise funds for those in need. The virtual charity bazaar was held on 19 December 2020 and raised a total of \$20,000 from the auction sale of pre-loved fashion accessories. These contributions are a testament to the community's efforts in giving hope and joy to the less fortunate this Lunar New Year.

Mr Ian Peterson, Cluster Director (Northwest) of Family and Community Services at Care Corner Singapore Ltd, added: “We are truly appreciative of the community efforts in sending these bundles of happiness to our social service users despite trying times. Thank you for stepping forward to do good and support those in need.”

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About Community Chest

As the hallmark of care and share, Community Chest has been uniting the community to fundraise and serve those in need, since 1983.

Community Chest supports more than 80 social service agencies to meet underserved, critical social needs. As our fundraising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board, 100% of your contributions goes towards empowering the lives of:

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

**Donations include all private cash donations. Grants from government agencies, including Tote Board, which are not donations, will not qualify for the matching. Community Chest (ComChest) as a fundraising arm of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), supporting about 80 social service organisations, will not be subject to the \$400,000 per IPC cap. Instead, 20% of the total donation (net of the donation that is already matched by existing grants) received by ComChest in the qualifying period will be matched by the BCF.*

Find out more at comchest.gov.sg.

About SG Cares

SG Cares is a national movement dedicated to building a more caring and inclusive home for all. The movement invites all who live in Singapore to put values into action through active volunteerism, ground-up efforts and everyday acts of care. It also aims to build capability across various sectors and organisations to grow opportunities for volunteering. By inspiring and supporting one another, we can show the world that we are a nation with a big heart.

Find out more at www.sgcares.sg.