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## MEDIA RELEASE

**EMBARGOED TILL 7.30PM, 9 JANUARY 2021**

### **First virtual One Heart, One People Comchest Night 2021 raised over \$2.7 million to benefit more than 80 social service agencies**

- *14-week digital initiative 'Hearts as One' supported by 19 local influencers, chefs and celebrities and raised more than \$90,000*
- *Leader in materials engineering solutions, Applied Materials South East Asia Pte Ltd, donated \$800,000 to support critical social services*

**SINGAPORE, 9 January 2021** – Community Chest raised over \$2.7 million through its first virtual **One Heart, One People Comchest Night 2021** to support more than 80 social service agencies serving vulnerable groups like children with special needs and youth-at-risk, adults with disabilities, persons with mental health conditions, vulnerable seniors and families. This is more than double the amount raised from the charity concert (previously known as Getai-Xinyao Charity Concert) held in FY2019, which is over \$1.1 million.

2 “Our solidarity is now stronger than ever before, and it shows in how people have responded to the pandemic. A lot more people have been getting involved, a lot more donations, a lot more empathy and creativity in the different ways we have reached out to help others”, said Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, who was the Guest of Honour for the event.

3 For the first time, Community Chest launched a digital fundraising initiative “Hearts as One”, in support of the charity concert. This 14-week initiative saw 19 local influencers, chefs and celebrities fundraised through live streaming sessions.

4 Ms Maureen Ow, better known as renowned food blogger Miss Tam Chiak, shared, “Through this digital fundraising initiative, Hearts As One, I was given the chance to contribute by rallying our community to raise funds by supporting cuisines prepared by local chefs and restaurants, and doing what I do best by giving honest food reviews! Given these unprecedented times, I can only imagine that the needs of our vulnerable communities are heightened, so I’m grateful for this opportunity to step in and encourage the community to do good!”

5 Corporate partners were also invited to attend the pre-concert virtual networking

session with Host Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development, and Special Guest, Mr Desmond Lee, Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration. They were presented with tokens of appreciation made by service users from Metta School and MINDS.

6 One such corporate partner is leader in materials engineering solutions, Applied Materials South East Asia Pte Ltd, which donated \$800,000 to support the critical social services funded by Community Chest. Mr Brian Tan, Vice President of Applied Global Services and Regional President of Southeast Asia Applied Materials Inc shared, "On behalf of Applied Materials, we wish to give back and support our vulnerable communities, especially during this trying period our nation is facing. We felt that by donating through Community Chest, our donation will serve the social service agencies that require more support than others. We sincerely hope our donation will make a positive impact on those in need and continue to empower lives with care, building a more inclusive Singapore for all."

7 The virtual concert featured performances by artistes like Wen Zhang, Sebastian Tan and Rahimah Rahim, with performances by volunteers from Nanyang Technological University Cultural Activities Club and service users from Lions Befrienders Ang Mo Kio Senior Activity Centre. The seniors from Lions Befrienders put up an upbeat percussion performance "Jubilant Heartbeats", a percussion piece signifying great happiness. One of the seniors, 83-year-old Mdm Wee Chye Luan, said, "I hope to inspire other seniors like myself to continue to remain healthy and active! Health is wealth, there's no doubt about that!"

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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. In 2019, as Singapore reflects on its progress and milestones since its founding 200 years ago, Community Chest aims to highlight the importance of community giving and how it has been integral to the success of Singapore since its early days.

Under the Bicentennial Community Fund, the Government will provide dollar-for-dollar matching for donations\* to Community Chest, up to 20% of the total funds raised from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. Through this, Community Chest hopes to encourage the community to give and maximise the impact to enhance the sector's capabilities, create impactful partnerships and make caring a part of our everyday lives.

Community Chest supports about 80 social service agencies to meet underserved, critical social needs. As our fundraising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board Group, 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, as a fundraising arm of the National Council of Social Service, supporting about 80 social service agencies, 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 Community Chest in the qualifying period will be matched by the Bicentennial Community Fund.*

Find out more at <https://comchest.gov.sg>