



MEDIA RELEASE

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Twin Events in Support of Singapore Cares on Single Weekend Bring Lunar New Year Joy to Thousands

- *Annual Community Chest Fú Dài initiative and One Community Day @ Marine Parade GRC encourage giving back and volunteerism as part of Singapore Cares national movement*
- *Their sustainable volunteering models offer more Singaporeans opportunities to serve, either by causes or locale*
- *More corporate volunteers and families, including new citizens in Fú Dài initiative bring festive cheer to over 5,000 beneficiaries island-wide*
- *Ground-up initiative, One Community Day @ Marine Parade GRC will distribute groceries to beneficiaries and spring clean homes*

SINGAPORE, 14 January 2017 – Two island-wide volunteerism and festive giving initiatives organised by Community Chest and Marine Parade GRC will take place this weekend to bring festive joy and blessings to vulnerable Singaporeans. Community Chest kick-starts Fú Dài 2017 as a national fund-raising and volunteerism platform to serve seniors and families in difficulty. This is in addition to One Community Day's ground-up volunteer activation by locale, giving Singaporeans from different walks of life – families, schools, corporate organisations and individuals – a chance to make a difference in the lives of others during the festive season.

Co-organised by Heartwarmers, a volunteer group and Community Chest, the fund-raising and engagement arm of the National Council of Social Service, the **Fú Dài initiative** sets out to give back to the community, where participants donate, pack and distribute festive bags to the beneficiaries across all races. Leading volunteer efforts on 13 and 14 January this year is Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr Chan Chun Sing and other Members of Parliament, including Dr Faishal Ibrahim, Ms Joan Pereira and Dr S Vasoo, who have also come on board to pack and distribute the bags to those in need, alongside volunteers.

The 2017 Community Chest *Fú Dài* initiative has also expanded in scale with more volunteers and bags to be packed for more beneficiaries. The number of volunteers has steadily grown, from 900 volunteers in 2014 to 1,800 volunteers this year. A record number of volunteers from corporate organisations are participating in this year's initiative, including 800 employees from



Standard Chartered Bank. Other volunteers also include new Singaporean citizens eager to make contributions to their new home.

Each *Fú Dài*, which means “bag of blessings and joy” in Mandarin, is stocked with festive items and household necessities and particularly for the seniors, are based on their food preferences from feedback to Community Chest.

Following the *Fú Dài* distribution is Marine Parade GRC’s **One Community Day** taking place on 15 January (Sunday). This is a ground-up initiative where residents, schools, merchants and other community stakeholders come together to donate and distribute food to underprivileged beneficiaries, as well as assist in spring cleaning. An initiative that started out with rice distribution in Kembangan Chai Chee in 2011, One Community Day has since evolved to include health food distribution and spring cleaning. For the first time, residents can also look forward to selecting food items at one of the three marketplaces in Chai Chee, in addition to their basic food bag. This year, students from MINDS Towner Garden School, will also be volunteering in One Community Day 2017 by helping with the packing of food items.

Both of these initiatives are in support of **Singapore Cares**, a national movement to inspire more Singaporeans to care for one another. Said Ms Ng Ling Ling, Assistant CEO at NCSS and Managing Director at Community Chest, “The partnership between Community Chest and Marine Parade GRC under Singapore Cares will heighten awareness, enable shared learnings and more meaningful volunteerism experiences. The festive period can be a difficult time for seniors at risk of isolation and families in difficulty. As Community Chest continues to raise funds to support the disadvantaged, we are heartened by the growing numbers in volunteers as more Singaporeans recognise the importance of giving back to the community. It is an encouraging sign that we are moving towards an increasingly caring and inclusive nation.”

Said Mr Ong Hoon Hong, Organising Chairman for One Community Day 2017, “The beneficiaries from One Community Day are not only the recipients of the donated food or spring cleaning, but also those who donated food and money, as well as volunteers who sacrificed their time and effort in both food distribution and spring cleaning. They will not only gain first-hand experience in the ‘act of giving’ but also better understand the lives of the less fortunate.”

More volunteers have also come on board this year for both food distribution and spring cleaning for One Community Day, including corporate volunteers, schools from tertiary institutes and other special needs organisations. Three training sessions were also organised to familiarise participating volunteers on the background of the beneficiaries, with the social schemes available to beneficiaries, and to train them on understanding beneficiaries’ needs and assessing their living conditions during their visit on the actual event day. Beneficiaries for One Community Day 2017 include homes in Kembangan-Chai Chee, Marine Parade, Geylang Serai, Braddell Heights, Public Assistance Recipients and nursing homes within the Marine Parade GRC.



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National Council of Social Service (NCSS)

NCSS is the umbrella body for over 450-member social service organisations in Singapore. Its mission is to provide leadership and direction in enhancing the capabilities and capacity of our members, advocating for social service needs and strengthening strategic partnerships, for an effective social service ecosystem. Community Chest is the fundraising and engagement arm of NCSS and Social Service Institute (SSI) is the human capital development arm of NCSS.

www.ncss.gov.sg

Community Chest

For over 30 years, Community Chest has been engaging the community to support people in need through fund-raising and volunteering. Community Chest supports about 80 charities in Singapore, allowing them to focus on caring for the disadvantaged. As Community Chest's fund-raising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board and Singapore Pools, 100% of your donations will go towards helping:

- Children with special needs and youths-at-risk to reach their potential
- Adults with disabilities to integrate into society
- Relationships of families in difficulty to stay resilient
- Seniors to age gracefully in the community
- Persons with mental health issues to integrate into society

Give Hope. Share Joy at comchest.sg.

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ANNEX A: Attending Members of Parliament for *Fú Dài* 2017

MP	GRC	Constituency
Dr Muhammad Faisal Ibrahim	Nee Soon GRC	Nee Soon Central
Joan Pereira	Tanjong Pagar GRC	Bukit Merah/ Henderson
Dr S Vasoo	Ang Mo Kio GRC	Ang Mo Kio