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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS TO BE TRANSFORMED TO ENCOMPASS HOLISTIC CARING AND SHARING**

*Awards in 2018 to recognise gifting of time, skills and inclusive employment*

**SINGAPORE, 13 OCTOBER 2017** – The Community Chest Awards will be transformed **from 2018** to encourage more holistic caring and sharing. Beyond monetary donations, Community Chest partners who embrace inclusive employment practices, as well as contribute their time and skills to benefit the disadvantaged will be recognised. The enhancement was announced at the 2017 Community Chest Awards Ceremony, held at the Istana today.

2 The transformation of the Community Chest Awards is in line with the **Social Service Sector Strategic Thrusts (4ST)**, which was launched by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) earlier this year. The roadmap envisions empowering every person to live with dignity in a caring and inclusive society. To achieve this vision, Community Chest will play the role of an enabler, working with private companies, individuals, members of the public and the social service organisations, to provide more platforms and opportunities for vulnerable people to be included in the community. This can be done through fund-raising, volunteering and the provision of jobs.

3 “As the needs of our society evolve, we will need to look at how money, time and opportunities can be given more meaningfully and holistically. Many of our partners are already involved in holistic giving and volunteering, and we recognise that the Community Chest Awards criteria will need to be enhanced to recognise stellar examples of holistic caring and giving. Moving forward, Community Chest will work with our partners to co-create sustainable solutions to improve the lives of our social service users”, said Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest.

4 As the co-lead for **SG Cares**, NCSS has stepped up efforts to encourage volunteers to give their time to help social service organisations on a regular and

sustained basis. This has enabled us to achieve a **record high of 139 volunteering activities**, involving Community Chest partners.

5 Although the Awards transformation will only take place from 2018, several of Community Chest's 2017 Award recipients have started on their journey of holistic giving.

6 First-time award recipient **SATS Ltd**, has not only made outright donations, but has also contributed time and effort to make a difference in the community, by involving employees, including senior management, to personally pack festive bags for Community Chest social service users.

7 Mr Alex Hungate, President & CEO of SATS Ltd, said: "As a new partner to Community Chest, we are delighted to receive the **Corporate Platinum Award**. SATS adopts an overarching objective of empowering people to achieve their full potential. Through a People-led approach to managing people, we encourage our employees to tell us what we can do to build a more caring and inclusive society. This develops commitment and makes community service an important activity for them to lead and engage. We are excited about the variety of opportunities that Community Chest can provide us with its wide network."

8 **The Japanese Association, Singapore (JAS)**, a **Corporate Gold Award** recipient, is a long-standing supporter of Community Chest. Since 1983, JAS has been making yearly donations to Community Chest, as well as volunteering regularly to befriend and interact with persons with disabilities at the Singapore Cheshire Home, vulnerable seniors at AWWA Community Home, as well as children with special needs from Rainbow Centre.

9 **Special Events Silver Award** recipient **Samsui Supplies & Services Pte Ltd** is another organisation that exemplifies caring for the community in a holistic manner. In celebration of their 25th Anniversary last year, Samsui Supplies reached out to its network of suppliers to donate a portion of the sales proceeds they received from Samsui to Community Chest. They just set up a second central kitchen in Changi Prison this morning. The kitchen hires inmates and service users with special needs, to help with preparing meals, as well as packing and preparing orders. They currently provide 500,000 meals to social service organisations annually at subsidised rates.

10 The **Community Chest Awards 2017 Ceremony** was presided by **Guest-of-Honour, President Halimah Yacob** for the very first time, as Patron-in-Chief of NCSS and Community Chest. A total of 406 awards were given out to top donors who contributed close to \$35 million in FY2016. The top 56 awards were presented by

President Halimah Yacob and Special Guest, Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development, to donors this evening.

11 Among those who performed at the Ceremony, were 16-year old **Chai Chang Xun**, who has autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, 11-year old **Samuel Tan** who is raising funds for Community Chest from his debut concert, and his mentor Min Lee, Singapore's renowned violinist.

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### **About Community Chest**

For over 30 years, we have been engaging the community to support people in need through fund-raising and volunteering. We support about 80 social service organisations in Singapore, allowing them to focus on caring for the disadvantaged. As our fund-raising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board Group, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club, 100% of your donation goes towards:

- Building strong and resilient families
- Caring for vulnerable seniors
- Empowering children with special needs and youth-at-risk
- Integrating adults with disabilities into society
- Supporting persons with mental health issues

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

### **About Singapore Cares (SG Cares)**

SG Cares is a national movement dedicated to supporting Singaporeans' efforts in building a more caring and inclusive home for all. The movement invites Singaporeans 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 so as to create conditions and grow opportunities for volunteerism. 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](http://www.SGCares.sg).

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Annex A

**COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS 2017  
FRIDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2017  
ISTANA**

**Programme**

- 6.00 pm      **Media registration** (Guests to be seated by 7.10pm; note that no one will be allowed to enter Istana after 7.10pm)
- 7.00 pm      **Arrival of Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim**  
Senior Parliamentary Secretary (SPS)  
Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)
- 7.15 pm      **Arrival of Guest-of-Honour**  
Mdm Halimah Yacob  
President of the Republic of Singapore
- 7.30 pm      **Opening performance**  
MINDS Lee Kong Chian Gardens School Choir
- 7.40 pm      **Welcome Address by Mr Phillip Tan**  
Chairman, Community Chest
- 8.00 pm      **Presentation of Awards by MSF SPS**
- 8.10 pm      **Mid-Ceremony Performance**  
Ballet performance by Luo Mang, service user from Eden School  
Piano performance by Chai Chang Xun, service user from Rainbow Centre
- 8.25 pm      **Presentation of Awards by Guest-of-Honour**
- 9.15 pm      **Finale item**  
Samuel Tan and Min Lee
- 9.30 pm      **End of programme**