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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS CELEBRATE HOLISTIC CARING WITH THREE NEW AWARD CATEGORIES

*Organisations and individuals demonstrate holistic caring through giving of time, talents and treasures, with some embracing inclusive employment*

**SINGAPORE, 9 OCTOBER 2018** – This year's Community Chest Awards will celebrate individuals and organisations who have stepped forward to embrace holistic caring and sharing. Three new award categories, namely the **Charity Award**, the **Volunteer Partner Award** and the **Enabler Award**, will be presented to individuals and organisations, in addition to the **Pinnacle Award** and the **SHARE Award**.

2 These new Awards recognise the need for greater collaboration between the People, Public and Private sectors to build a more caring and inclusive society where every person is empowered to live with dignity. This is closely aligned with the **Social Service Sector Strategic Thrusts (4ST)**, a five-year strategic roadmap launched by the **National Council of Social Service (NCSS)**.

3 "Giving can come in different forms and ways. Each of us can do our bit, no matter how big or small, in giving back to society. We hope more will continue to partner us to create greater impact in empowering lives, and join us in building a more caring and inclusive society", said Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest.

4 At the ceremony, the newly introduced **Volunteer Partner Award** will be given out to organisations in recognition of their exemplary volunteerism scheme. One of the award recipients, **SP Group**, has strong corporate volunteerism culture among its staff, known as SP Heart Workers. Since February 2017, SP Group started service-based volunteering with TOUCH Community Services, which included befriending the elderly through morning exercise and serving breakfast, as part of a seven-month pilot with NCSS and TOUCH Community Service.

5 The emcee for the ceremony, **Ms Susan Ng**, will be receiving the **Enabler Award**. Ms Ng has been a Community Chest volunteer since 1985. She contributes her time and talent by hosting Community Chest events on a pro bono basis. The Enabler Award serves to recognise an organisation or individual that has made

significant non-monetary contributions, through other means such as their talent, capability, or network.

6 Ms Ng said: “To me, giving is a way of caring. So if I can do my part by lending my time and talent where it is needed, I would gladly do so, for as long as I can. I hope others too will step up and do likewise, because together we can make a collective, lasting impact on someone else’s life.”

7 Co-emceeding with Ms Ng will be **Mdm Sarinah**, a service user of Club HEAL who battled depression for years and now gives back to the community as a volunteer.

8 The **Ministry of Manpower** (MOM) will be receiving the **Pinnacle Award**, in recognition of their holistic giving via monetary contributions, volunteering, and promoting inclusive employment opportunities. In 2017, MOM partnered Lions Befrienders Service Association (Singapore), with the aim of reducing the risk of social isolation among the seniors staying in rental flats. Close to 90% of MOM employees have participated in the initiative as of the end of 2017.

9 “We believe that people want to make a positive difference to others around them. At MOM, we provide opportunities for our officers to do so, and support them fully. Giving back to the community adds greater meaning to MOM’s day-to-day mission,” said Mr Aubeck Kam, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower.

10 In support of their staff with disabilities, MOM made alterations to the doors, installed ramps, lowered employee card access points and improved accessibility within the buildings. The longest-serving person with disability has been with the Ministry since 1980.

11 One of the recipients of the inaugural **Charity Platinum Award** is **Singapore Airlines (SIA)**, a long-time supporter of SHARE, Community Chest’s monthly giving programme. The Charity Award aims to recognise organisations and individuals who have made significant monetary contributions through various sources, including outright donations, fundraising events and SHARE.

12 The **Community Chest Awards 2018 Ceremony** will be presided by **Guest-of-Honour, President Halimah Yacob**, who is also the Patron-in-Chief of NCSS. A total of 246 awards will be given out to top donors at Istana on 9 October 2018, of which 39 awards will be presented in the evening by President Halimah Yacob and Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development and Patron of NCSS. A total of \$57.2 million was raised by Community Chest in FY2017 in support of about 80 social service organisations.

13 Opening the Ceremony will be a performance by Cherelle Tan, a finalist from the local edition of singing competition, The Voice, accompanied by the MINDS School Choir, an inclusive choir comprising children with special needs. Also performing at the Ceremony will be special needs students from the Eden School Handbells Troupe, and 11-year-old violin prodigy Chloe Chua.

14 In addition, selected youths from the Hi-Job! Programme, under the **Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS)**, will be in for an empowering moment, when they show their appreciation by serving food at the President's table. This will be the first time that social service users are allowed to serve at the President's table in Istana.

15 This year also marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Community Chest in its journey of empowering lives with care, and uniting the community in trust. To mark this milestone, a **ComChest 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book** was presented to President Halimah Yacob.

16 The Book comprises specially curated entries, milestones in the journey of Community Chest, as well as winning stories from the #StoriesOfCare project. This project was launched in February 2018 where members of the community were invited to share stories of care that they have experienced, or illustrate what caring meant to them.

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## **About Community Chest**

This year marks 35 years since Community Chest first set out to empower lives with care and unite the community in trust, to serve those in need. With the aim to enable every individual to live with dignity within a caring and inclusive society, Community Chest supports about 80 social service organisations to meet underserved, critical social needs. As Community Chest's fundraising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board Group, 100% of your contributions goes towards empowering the lives of:

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

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

[www.sgcares.sg](http://www.sgcares.sg)

### **For media enquiries, please contact:**

#### **Ms Christina Stanley Lee**

Ogilvy Singapore

Tel: 9835 3500

Email: [christinastanley.lee@ogilvy.com](mailto:christinastanley.lee@ogilvy.com)

#### **Ms Chia Ting Ting**

National Council of Social Service

Tel: 9841 3378

Email: [chia\\_ting\\_ting@ncss.gov.sg](mailto:chia_ting_ting@ncss.gov.sg)

## Annex A

### **Community Chest Awards 2018 PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
6.00pm	<b>Foyer</b>	<b>Media registration</b> (Guests to be seated latest by 6:55pm)
7:00pm	<b>State Room</b>	<b>Arrival of Minister Desmond Lee</b> Minister for Social and Family Development and Patron of NCSS
7.10pm	<b>State Room</b>	<b>Arrival of Guest-of-Honour President Halimah Yacob</b> President of the Republic of Singapore
7.10pm	<b>State Room</b>	<b>Meet-and-greet with Minister Lee and President Halimah Yacob</b> Mingling with Inclusive Choir and Kiwanis and Cherelle Tan, ushers from MINDS, students from the Eden School Handbells Troupe and Chloe Chua
7.30pm	<b>Banquet Hall</b>	<b>Opening Item by MINDS School Choir and Cherelle Tan</b>
7.40pm		<b>Welcome Address by Mr Phillip Tan</b> Chairman, Community Chest
7.45pm		<b>Food service by youths with special needs from Hi-Job! MINDS Programme</b>
7.55pm		<b>(Video) #StoriesOfCare: A Journey with the Community (Video) Celebrating Impact through ComChest Awards Transformation</b>
8.15pm		<b>Presentation of Awards by Minister Desmond Lee</b>
8.30pm		<b>Mid-Ceremony Performance Item by Eden Ensemble</b>
8.40pm		<b>Presentation of Awards by President Halimah Yacob</b>
8.50pm		<b>Presentation of ComChest 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book (#StoriesOfCare) to President Halimah Yacob</b>
8.55pm		<b>Table Photos &amp; Networking with President Halimah Yacob</b>
9.20pm		<b>Finale Item by Chloe Chua &amp; Closing</b>
9.35pm	<b>Main Staircase</b>	<b>Group Photo with President Halimah Yacob</b>
9.45pm		<b>End of Programme</b>