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MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED TILL 12PM, 4 AUGUST 2019

Community Chest Heartstrings Walk 2019 raises record \$2.56 million to support over 200 social service programmes

- *DPM Heng Swee Keat flagged off iconic event for the first time with some 8,000 participants from the private, people and public sectors*
- *Race to the Sky Vertical Marathon featured inclusive teams of climbers with corporate partners and volunteers pairing up with social service users*
- *In commemoration of the Singapore Bicentennial, the 4km Fun Walk highlighted key historical figures and a Bicentennial theme dress up*

SINGAPORE, 4 AUGUST 2019 – Singapore answered the call to “*Step Forward, Towards Inclusion*” at this year’s **Community Chest Heartstrings Walk**, in commemoration of the Singapore Bicentennial, to help meet the needs of the vulnerable groups.

Co-organised for the ninth consecutive year with **Marina Bay Sands (MBS)**, the event saw some 8,000 participants from the private, people and public sectors coming together in a collective effort to support social inclusion and build a more caring Singapore.

With the community’s support for Heartstrings Walk, over \$2.56 million was raised for over 200 social service programmes. These are programmes which Community Chest supports for five groups of service users – children with special needs and youth-at-risk; adults with disabilities; families in need; vulnerable seniors; and persons with mental health conditions. **100 per cent of all funds** raised will go towards these supported programmes, as Community Chest’s fundraising and operating costs are covered mainly by the Tote Board.

Guest-of-Honour, Mr Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance flagged off this morning’s iconic event, together with social service users, and the MBS Chief Executive Officer and President, Mr George Tanasijevich. This signature event included a **Bicentennial-themed 4 km Fun Walk** along the Waterfront Trail at Marina Bay, as well as a

Family Carnival and the annual **Race to the Sky Vertical Marathon**, which saw participants racing up 57 storeys.

Participants also had opportunities to interact with the social service agencies and their beneficiaries, who joined the event. They included YMCA Inclusive Climbers, a group of individuals with special needs with a mission to conquer Mount Fuji; WiCare Support Group for widows and their children; Club Heal, a mental health organisation; and HCSA Community Services, which serves ex-offenders and vulnerable families.

In addition, participants found out more about **four iconic figures** from the annals of Singapore history – Munshi Abdullah, Sang Nila Utama, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles and Tan Tock Seng – who were showcased along the 4-km Fun Walk. There were also interactive photo opportunities with persons dressed up as Mata Mata (a colloquial term for the ‘Singapore police’ in the old days), and Samsui women.

This year, the **Race to the Sky Vertical Marathon** featured inclusive teams of climbers to conquer the vertical marathon. Joined by Speaker Tan Chuan-Jin, a total of nine climbers with special needs and seven volunteers, raced up 57 storeys together with other participants.

To prepare for this gruelling vertical race, all participants, including those with special needs, benefited from three complimentary training sessions, led by Singapore’s very own world-class triathlete, and Deca-Ironman, Associate Professor Dr Kua Harn Wei in July.

Corporate partners continued to feature prominently in their support of the Community Chest Heartstrings Walk, with 5,900 different corporate employees giving back through time and skills for the Heartstrings Walk, such as befriending those with disabilities.

Mr George Tanasijevich said, “The Community Chest Heartstrings Walk has been a crucial platform for many to engage in holistic volunteerism, bringing people from all walks of life in support of different social service causes. We are indeed privileged and proud to continue our collaboration with Community Chest in alignment with the vision of empowering lives.”

Mr. Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest, said “The Community Chest Heartstrings Walk 2019 is a key platform that demonstrates the power of collaboration between the people, public and private sectors. This year, with the support of our stalwart corporate partners and seven new donors, we have raised over \$2.56 million to support over 200 social service programmes. More than just fundraising for the social service sector, the event also saw our

partners and donors volunteering and giving back to the causes that matter most to them. Together, we hope to continue to empower lives with care, building a more inclusive Singapore for all.”

- END -

Please refer to Annex A for media programme
Please refer to Annex B for the 4km Fun Walk map

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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 agencies 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.

About Singapore Cares (SG Cares)

SG Cares is a national movement to support the efforts of Singaporeans in building a more caring, compassionate and inclusive home for all. SG Cares aims to build capability across various sectors and organisations to create conditions and grow opportunities for volunteerism. SG Cares also aims to increase mindshare building by galvanising and inspiring Singaporeans to put values into action through active volunteerism, ground-up efforts and everyday acts of care.

Through SG Cares, we can realise a more caring and compassionate society. We may be a small nation, but we have a big heart. Learn more about the nationwide movement at www.sg/singaporecares. Sign up for volunteering opportunities at www.giving.sg.

ANNEX A MEDIA PROGRAMME

Community Chest Heartstrings Walk 2019

Marina Bay Sands - Event Plaza 1 Bayfront Avenue Singapore 018971	Date & Time	4 August 2019 (Sunday) 6.00am to 11.00am
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Time	Programme
0600-0730	Media registration
0630	Race to the Sky Vertical Marathon Flag Off
0800	Arrival of Guest-of-Honour DPM at Event Plaza
0815	Fun Walk Flag Off
0835	Tour of Family Carnival DPM will be invited to participate in the games with social service users
0915	<u>Commencement of Stage Activities</u> Welcome Address by Mr Andrew da Roza, Chairman of Community Chest Heartstrings Walk 2019 Organising Committee
0920	Percussion Performance by Very Special Arts
0925	Vertical Marathon Prize Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker Tan Chuan-Jin to present prizes to winners
0935	Presentations Minister Desmond Lee and Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tokens of Appreciation<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Contributing and Gold Partners2. Tokens of Appreciation and Cheque Presentation<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Diamond Partners3. Cheque Presentation to Community Chest<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ DPM will be invited on stage4. Group Photo-taking
1020	Dance Performance by OnWheels Dance Group
1030	Lucky Draw
1100	End of Event

ANNEX B **FUN WALK ROUTE**

