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MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Chest commemorates the Singapore Bicentennial with the Community Day Out and Charity Dinner

- *President Halimah Yacob joined 200 social service users and caregivers for the Community Day Out at Gardens by the Bay*
- *Charity Dinner commemorates the history and spirit of community giving in Singapore, with funds raised to support over 80 social service agencies*
- *Bicentennial Community Fund to match donations to Community Chest, up to 20% of total funds raised till 31 March 2020*

SINGAPORE, 25 AUGUST 2019 – Since its establishment in 1983, the role of Community Chest has evolved through the years. From what begun initially as a centralised fund-raiser for social service agencies, Community Chest has evolved to become a connector between givers and the social service sector today, catalysing impactful partnerships and engaging the community in holistic giving.

This year, in commemoration of the Singapore Bicentennial, Community Chest curated its Bicentennial Community Day Out and Charity Dinner, bringing together service users, donors and partners to care for the community.

Bicentennial Community Day Out – For the Community, By the Community

In the first part of the activities, 200 social service users and their caregivers were treated to an afternoon of exciting activities at the Gardens by the Bay, sponsored by donors of Community Chest. They had the opportunity to participate in a lantern painting session at the Bayfront Pavilion, and tour the new Floral Fantasy, in addition to the Flower Dome and Cloud Forest. During the lantern painting session, they were also joined by Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore, as well as Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Family and Social Development. The completed lanterns will be hung up at the Colonnade of Lights at the Gardens by the Bay during its Mid-Autumn Festival 2019.



Bicentennial Charity Dinner – Celebrating Community Giving

The Community Chest Bicentennial Charity Dinner saw different partners, donors and givers coming together in a demonstration of holistic giving, sharing talents and skills while raising funds to support over 80 social service agencies under Community Chest.

Local celebrity chefs, Mok Kit Keung, Violet Oon, Haikal Johari and Aziza Ali, prepared a four-course menu that was specially curated to pay homage to the multi-cultural heritage of Singapore. Guests were also treated to an inclusive fashion runway performance involving persons with disabilities and Mediacorp artistes, and a star performance by local jazz singer Joanna Dong. The photo wall was also specially created by Glenn Phua, an artist with autism represented by social enterprise The Art Faculty.

As part of the Dinner, tribute was paid to the spirit of community giving in the history of Singapore. Acknowledging the significance and role of community giving, Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman of Community Chest, shared, “Since the early days of nation building, philanthropists, businessmen and community leaders gave back selflessly to the community, through building schools, places of worship and by supporting those in need. This spirit of community giving not only helped to build a nation, but is what continues to drive our vision of empowering every person to live with dignity in a caring and inclusive society.”

Up to 20% of all funds raised by Community Chest from now till 31 March 2020 will be matched by the government through the Bicentennial Community Fund. Community Chest supports over 80 social service agencies that provide critical services 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. With fundraising and operating costs covered mainly by the Tote Board, 100% of donor contributions goes towards Community Chest’s supported causes and charities.

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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

Find out more at comchest.sg