

EMBARGOED TILL 5 AUGUST 2023, 6.30PM



MEDIA RELEASE

Community Chest increased funding for programmes supporting persons with mental health conditions

SINGAPORE, 5 AUGUST 2023 – Against the backdrop of greater awareness and need for support towards persons with mental health conditions, Community Chest allocated \$10.4 million to support mental health programmes like counselling, employment support and therapy in Financial Year (FY) 2023. This is an increase of 18% from \$8.8 million in FY2022.

2 One such Community Chest-funded programme is the Suicide Crisis Intervention Programme by Samaritans of Singapore, which was allocated \$4 million in FY2023. Its hotline, for example, is the only 24-hour hotline in Singapore that offers confidential emotional support to those facing crises or contemplating suicide.

3 “Building a more caring and inclusive society for persons with mental health conditions requires everyone to play a part – at homes, in schools and at workplaces. Besides looking out for your loved ones and encouraging them to seek help early, you can also donate to and volunteer with mental health agencies, as well as rally those around you to join you in your endeavours,” said Mr Chew Sutat, Community Chest Chairman.

Community Chest provides avenues for corporates and individuals to give

4 Besides persons with mental health conditions, Community Chest also raises funds to support adults with disabilities, children with special needs and youth-at-risk, and seniors and families in need of assistance. As part of its 40th anniversary plans, Community Chest and its partners have a series of events, initiatives and campaigns that raise awareness for its supported causes and to encourage the community to partner Community Chest to give in various ways. One such event is the Community Chest Heartstrings Walk co-organised with Marina Bay Sands (MBS), which took place today.

5 The event included two physical segments - the Race to the Sky Vertical Marathon, which took participants up 57 storeys of Marina Bay Sands Hotel Tower 3, and Heartstrings Walk around the Marina Bay area. In celebration of its 40th anniversary, Community Chest also introduced a new Relay Majulah Virtual Challenge, which was held from 27 June 2023 to 5 August 2023.

6 About 5,000 individuals, comprising members of the public, representatives from corporates and service users, participated in the three segments, which promoted inclusivity through encouraging people of all ages and abilities to participate as well as exhibited solidarity in the collective effort to support communities in need. The Walk and Vertical Marathon was attended by Guest-of-Honour **Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and National Development**, and Host **Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Social and Family Development and Culture, Community and Youth**, respectively.

Corporates and individuals gave holistically

7 The event is also held in support of the Year of Celebrating Social Service Partners, which seeks to recognise the integral contributions of partners in building strong families and a caring society. Corporates play an important role in supporting the social service sector in a sustainable way so that it is adequately resourced to meet current and future challenges.

8 One such corporate is co-organiser MBS that has partnered Community Chest since 2011. In addition to its generous venue sponsorship and donations, MBS rallied over 100 staff volunteers to help with the packing of goodie bags and sent representatives to take part in the Vertical Marathon. Apart from this event, MBS will also be donating proceeds from the food trucks at its signature Sands for Singapore Charity Festival to Community Chest.

9 Mr Paul Town, Chief Operating Officer at MBS, said: “We are thrilled to welcome back the Community Chest Heartstrings Walk to the Event Plaza at Marina Bay Sands. The walk, held alongside our signature Sands for Singapore Charity Festival, embodies our theme for this year’s festival, *Where Hearts Come Together*. As co-organisers since 2011, we take immense pride in our enduring partnership with Community Chest, and we look forward to seeing people from all walks of life come together for the betterment of our community.”

10 Many other corporates showed their support in their own ways. A new supporter of the event, City Developments Limited, rallied about 200 of their employees and their sister company Hong Leong Group’s employees and their family members for the walk. Singapore Disability Sports Council, on the other hand, helped to raise awareness of the event by spreading the word to its network, as well as rallying its staff, service users and their caregivers to join the Walk. Over 30 volunteers from OUE Limited also volunteered to help distribute water during the event.

11 For the newly introduced Relay Majulah Virtual Challenge, participants can choose to take part in the challenge at their own pace as individuals or gather their colleagues, family and friends to participate as a team and rally supporters to contribute to their fundraising campaign. Mr Patricvk Tan was one such individual who took part and rallied over 40 friends to support as a team. These are good examples of how corporates and individuals can contribute to empower individuals, families and communities in need to achieve their fullest potential, despite the challenges they face in life.

Annex A – Translations of Key Terms
Annex B – Heartstrings Walk route map

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About Community Chest

As the hallmark of care and share, Community Chest has been uniting the community to mobilise resources and raise funds to serve those in need since 1983. Community Chest supports more than 100 social service agencies to meet underserved and critical social needs. As our fundraising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board, 100% of your contributions goes towards empowering the lives of:

- Adults with disabilities
- Children with special needs and youth-at-risk
- Families in need of assistance
- Persons with mental health conditions
- Seniors in need of support

For more information about Community Chest, visit www.comchest.gov.sg.

ANNEX A: TRANSLATION OF KEY TERMS

Year of Celebrating Social Service Partners	欢庆社会服务 伙伴年	Tahun Meraikan Rakan Khidmat Sosial	சமூக சேவைப் பங்காளிகவளக் ககாண்டாடும் ஆண்டு
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Names

Mr Chew Sutat Chairman Community Chest	周士达 公益金主席
Mr Paul Town Chief Operating Officer Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd	保罗。敦 首席运营官 滨海湾金沙
Community Chest Heartstrings Walk	公益金心弦义走

ANNEX B: HEARTSRINGS WALK ROUTE MAP

