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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR DESMOND LEE
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
AT COMMUNITY CHEST FÚ DÀI 2018
ON 2 FEBRUARY 2018, FRIDAY, 2.00PM
BIG BOX**

Mr Foo Say Thye, Chairman of the
Subcommittee of Fú Dài 2018,

Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman,
Community Chest,

Friends of Community Chest,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon.

2. The Lunar New Year is around the corner and I am heartened to see so many of you gathered here today with one mission – to bring festive joy to those in need.

3. I would like to thank Community Chest and Heartwarmers for organising this meaningful event, and our partners and volunteers for coming together to pack and distribute the Fú Dài to disadvantaged families and seniors. I would also like to thank the Friends of 557 for their contributions.

4. The event today, is a result of the long-standing partnership between Community Chest and Heartwarmers.

- As a ground-up volunteer group that started out in 2007 with a small outfit of about 7 volunteers led by Mr Foo Say Thye, Heartwarmers has since expanded to the 80 strong volunteers it has today.
- Together with a group of philanthropists and their active volunteers, Heartwarmers has been providing sterling support to Community Chest since 2013.

- This is what the SG Cares spirit is about, bringing everyone together to build a caring and inclusive society, to make sure that no one is left behind.

Making caring a part of our lives

5. To achieve this vision, we need to think about how we can make giving and caring an integral part of our lives, and to make volunteering, in particular, more accessible and convenient for everyone.

6. The SG Cares mobile app was launched last month for this very purpose.

- It is a one-stop community platform for sharing news, stories, resources and opportunities on social causes.
- A key feature of the app is that it aggregates volunteering opportunities, making it more accessible and convenient for Singaporeans who may want to volunteer, to take that first step.

- I am happy to note that there are currently more than 20,000 volunteer openings offered by over 400 organisations available on the SG Cares app.

7. Among these are regular volunteering opportunities curated jointly by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and its member Voluntary Welfare Organisations or VWOs, where some roles and processes have been re-designed to enable more volunteers to play an active and meaningful part to meet actual needs.

8. As a co-leader of SG Cares, NCSS will continue to connect corporate volunteers to meet the needs of the social service sector.

- The SG Cares app will enhance NCSS' efforts, by connecting corporations, like those of you here today, with members of the public and our VWOs.

- This will empower all of us to collaborate, coordinate and create solutions together
 - to meet the needs of the community,
 - and to make volunteering more sustainable.
- Public agencies alone can only do so much, but when we work together as a community, we can create a more caring, collaborative and impactful social service system.

9. I understand that Heartwarmers has been working with various communities to identify underserved groups who can benefit from the distribution of Fú Dài. I would like to commend Heartwarmers for taking it upon themselves to look out for the disadvantaged groups in our community.

10. A big thank you, also, to each and every one of you who have helped to make Community Chest Fú Dài possible –

- A Group of Philanthropists,
- Standard Chartered Bank,
- SMRT Corporation Ltd,
- Singapore Airlines,
- and our constituency partners.

11. I look forward to joining you to pack some of the Fú Dài and delivering them later today.

12. Thank you and I would like to wish everyone an early Happy Lunar New Year.