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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR PHILLIP TAN  
CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY CHEST  
5 FEBRUARY 2018, MONDAY, 10.05 AM  
THE POD, NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD**

Leaders of our supported charities

Fellow Community Chest Committee Members

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good morning and welcome to the launch of the #StoriesOfCare project, in celebration of Community Chest's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
2. Community Chest was first set up in 1983 by the late Dr Ee Peng Liang to raise funds for the social service sector so that the charities can focus on delivering their services and pioneering new programmes to help the less fortunate within the community.
3. We are honoured to be a part of this journey and we have indeed come a long way:
  - a) In 1984, we first reached out to rally the community to give to charity through SHARE, our monthly donation programme. SHARE continues to play a critical role in supporting social service programmes such as Family Service Centres in about 80 charities to support those who need help in Singapore.

- b) Our mascot Sharity elephant was also birthed in the same year and continues the tradition of nurturing our children to be the next generation of givers.
  - c) We had our first mass Heartstrings walk in 1983 and it continues to be our signature outreach activity to encourage caring within the community.
  - d) We also led the Care & Share @ SG50 Movement, which united the people, private and public sectors to raise \$1.3 billion in donations and government matching grant, to benefit the social service sector.
4. Today, as we celebrate this 35-year milestone of caring with the community, I am pleased to share that we have established a new Community Chest Charity Support Fund to provide funding support for smaller and under-supported charities. This additional support will go to some 60 charities over the next 3 years, to run needed programmes and services, support their capital expenses to improve service quality and efficiency, and build their capability for community engagements to benefit the service users.
5. Each of us has played a part in making a difference in the lives of others. Our service users inspire us with their determination to overcome challenges and heart to give back. With us today to share their stories are Mr Daryl Tan, Mr Tee Poh Huat and Mr Lee Cho Poon. Our volunteers, on the other hand, step forward to give selflessly while our corporate partners demonstrate holistic caring through their giving of time, money, skills and inclusive employment. And at the core of the ecosystem, our supported charities remain committed to meet the needs of the community.

6. This is why we are excited to launch the #StoriesOfCare project today to call out to the public to share their stories of what caring means to them. This is a project by the community, for the community and I encourage all of you to share your story too. 35 entries will be curated into a commemorative book to be published in October.
  
7. In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has supported Community Chest and contributed to empowering our service users to live with dignity. I look forward to partnering all of you for many more years ahead. Let us continue to put our hands and hearts together to build a caring and inclusive society. With that, we will truly be Empowering with Care, Uniting in Trust.