

**SPEECH BY MR PHILLIP TAN, CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST, AT
COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS CEREMONY ON 9 OCTOBER 2018, 7:40PM,
ISTANA**

Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore

Mr Desmond Lee, Minister of Social and Family Development & Second
Minister for National Development

Ms Anita Fam, President, National Council of Social Service (NCSS)

Ms Jennie Chua, Advisor, Community Chest

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good evening and a very warm welcome to the Community Chest Awards 2018! We are very honoured to have our Guest-of-Honour President Halimah Yacob, Patron-in-Chief of NCSS, grace this occasion. We are also grateful to our host, Minister Lee, Patron of NCSS, for joining us to celebrate the inspiring contributions from all of you in building a caring and inclusive society.
2. First, let me express our deepest appreciation to our donors and partners of Community Chest for joining us in the journey of caring and sharing. I am pleased to share with you that Community Chest has raised more than \$57 million in the last financial year. Your

sustained support and giving of time, talents and resources have enabled some 80 social service organisations to better serve the disadvantaged in our community. A total of 246 awards will be given out this year to celebrate exemplary efforts in building a strong community of support in Singapore.

3. As the needs of society evolve, Community Chest aims to enable more people to give holistically in the spirit of SG Cares. We need to foster greater collaboration and synergy among the people, private and public sectors so as to bring about effective solutions to enable our social service users to live a life of dignity.

Transformation of Awards

4. To encourage more **holistic caring and sharing** for the social service sector, the Community Chest Awards has been transformed from this year to recognise individuals and organisations who have given in different ways and this includes our partners who have embraced volunteerism and inclusive employment practices.
5. Three new award categories, namely the **Charity Award**, the **Volunteer Partner Award** and the **Enabler Award**, will be presented tonight to outstanding individuals and organisations, in addition to the **Pinnacle Award** and the **SHARE Award**.
6. Let me highlight a few outstanding role models who have inspired us.
 - **Ms Susan Ng**, our co-emcee for today, is a dedicated volunteer who has journeyed with Community Chest for 34 years. A presenter with Mediacorp, she has been offering pro-

bono emcee services to our events since 1985. Today, we are extremely delighted to honour Susan with the new **Enabler Award**, an award that recognises individuals and organisations for their significant non-monetary contributions.

- **Singapore Airlines (SIA)**, one of Singapore's best known brand, is a long-time supporter of our SHARE programme. Besides regular giving, SIA celebrated its 70th anniversary last year with a series of corporate volunteering and fundraising efforts in support of Community Chest. We are pleased to share that SIA will be receiving the new **Charity Platinum Award**, for its holistic giving.

7. One of the recipients of our newly introduced **Volunteer Partner Award**, the **SP Group**, is a stellar example of an organisation that has a remarkable volunteerism scheme. SP Group organises volunteer activities with TOUCH Community Services and AMKFSC Community Services, reaching out to underprivileged seniors and families.

8. I would also like to congratulate the **Ministry of Manpower (MOM)** as the recipient of this year's **Pinnacle Award** - the highest honour accorded to organisations for their exemplary commitment to care for those in need. The **MOM** has led the way in **holistic giving**, which includes monetary contributions, volunteering, and promoting inclusive employment opportunities.

- As an agency dedicated to supporting persons with disabilities for employment and training, MOM promotes a culture of

inclusiveness by improving accessibility for wheelchair users in its workplace and hiring persons with disabilities, as you will see in the video later.

- MOM also has a strong community volunteering culture, with close to 90% of its staff having volunteered with Lions Befrienders, to befriend seniors staying in rental flats to reduce their risk of social isolation.
- Today, 8 in 10 of MOM employees also contribute through the SHARE programme.

9. Lastly, I would like to make special mention of our **Special Recognition Award** recipient **Mr Hsieh Fu Hua**. He served as the President of NCSS from 2012 to 2018 for six years. Under his leadership, he has brought in his private sector knowledge and expertise to NCSS and Community Chest, to help transform the social service sector to better serve unmet needs. We are deeply grateful to him for developing the sector's organisational and service delivery capabilities.

10. Giving can come in different forms and ways. Each of us can do our bit, no matter how big or small, in giving back to society. We hope you will continue to partner us to create greater impact in empowering lives. Join us in building a more caring and inclusive society!

11. Thank you.