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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR ANDREW DA ROZA
CHAIRMAN OF ORGANISING COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY CHEST HEARTSTRINGS WALK
4 AUGUST 2019**

Mr Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament and Advisor of National Council of Social Service

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

Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman, Community Chest

Ms Jennie Chua, Advisor, Community Chest

Mr George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

And all friends from our strong community of corporate representatives, social service agencies, and sponsors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 1 Good morning! Welcome to the ninth edition of Community Chest Heartstrings Walk, co-organised with Marina Bay Sands. On behalf of Community Chest, thank you, DPM, Speaker Tan and Minister Lee for joining us today.
- 2 The role of Community Chest has evolved through the years. More than just fundraising for the social service sector, we also connect

our partners and donors through volunteering. We find ways to partner with the corporates to build on their capabilities for CSR. Through our funded programmes, service users, such as persons with disabilities are empowered with skills to work. We hope more employers will create opportunities for people with different abilities to be meaningfully employed.

- 2 The Heartstrings Walk aims to unite people from all walks of life, to walk as one. We would specially like to thank all of you here – the corporates and community - for showing your tremendous support for social inclusion.

Flash photos of Vertical Marathon Training Sessions

- 4 Community Chest is also pleased to involve our social service users more in this event, such as the YMCA Inclusive Team. To conquer the Vertical Marathon earlier this morning, they trained with their teams and volunteers in sessions led by Singapore's very own world-class triathlete, and Deca-Ironman, Associate Professor Dr Kua Harn Wei last month.

- 5 Persons with disabilities can harness their abilities with support from the community. This was an opportunity for them to achieve the goals they have set for themselves.
- 6 Lastly, with your strong support, Community Chest has raised a record high of \$2.56 million this year to support over 200 social service programmes. We could not have done it without you.
- 6 Next year will be the 10th anniversary of Heartstrings Walk. We look forward to seeing you next year in celebrating a decade of your valuable support. So now, let's get ready to step forward towards inclusion! Have a wonderful day, everyone. Thank you.