

**EMBARGOED TILL 8PM, 25 AUGUST 2019
PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR PHILLIP TAN
CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY CHEST
AT COMMUNITY CHEST BICENTENNIAL CHARITY DINNER 2019
ON 25 AUGUST 2019 AT GARDENS BY THE BAY**

Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore and
Patron-in-chief of the National Council of Social Service

Mr Mohamed Abdullah Alhabshee

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

1. Good evening and a very warm welcome to the Community Chest Bicentennial Charity Dinner! We are very honoured to have President Halimah Yacob to grace this event as our Guest-of-Honour. We are also grateful to our Host, Minister Desmond Lee, and special guests, SMS Edwin Tong and MOS Sam Tan, for joining us tonight to celebrate community giving. Thank you to all for making time to join us tonight.
2. As Singapore commemorates its Bicentennial this year, Community Chest would also like to take the opportunity to recognise the role and significance of community giving in nation-building, and how it will continue to contribute towards our nation's growth.
3. Community giving has always existed in Singapore's history, through the pioneering efforts of our early founders, philanthropists,

businessmen and community leaders who gave back selflessly to their communities, building schools, places of worship and supporting those in need. Many of their early contributions to the community still stand today, providing us with lovely spaces to live, work and play.

4. There are many philanthropists and community leaders who had contributed greatly to Singapore's growth and development. They have inspired many of us with their spirit of giving and tonight, we would like to take the opportunity to honour them. We have provided on your table a write-up on the contributions for some of them.
5. Like them, many of you also give holistically, both in terms of resources as well as your time, skills and talents. The culinary experience put together by our four local celebrity chefs and vibrant performances you are going to enjoy later are testament to that. Earlier this evening, 200 service users and their caregivers also enjoyed a fun time painting on lanterns, and touring the attractions at Gardens by the Bay.
6. All these would not have been possible, if not for the invaluable support from our donors and partners. I would like to thank our venue partner Gardens by the Bay, our Diamond Partners Singtel, SP Group and UOB, all the brands and individuals who have donated auction items, and all of you present today.
7. Your support is critical to Community Chest so that we can continue to engage the community and mobilise resources to help those in need to lead dignified and enriching lives.

8. This year, for example, Community Chest is pleased to raise funds for the Rare Disease Fund, a charity fund jointly set up by the Ministry of Health and SingHealth to assist patients suffering from rare genetic diseases who struggle with the high cost of their medicines which are required for life. Through this Fund, the community and the government can come together to jointly help patients with rare diseases. We have many guests here who have donated towards the Fund, and we would like to thank you for supporting Community Chest in building a caring and inclusive society.

9. I am also pleased to share about the Bicentennial Community Fund that was set up earlier this year. From now till 31 March 2020, the government will match dollar-for-dollar the donations Community Chest receives, up to 20% of total funds raised. We hope that this will encourage all to maximise their donations and join us in caring for the vulnerable within our community.

10. Together, we can achieve the vision of empowering every person to live a life of dignity in a caring and inclusive society. Thank you for coming alongside us on this journey and enjoy the rest of the night.

(611 words)