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SPEECH BY MR PHILLIP TAN, CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST, AT COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS CEREMONY ON 19 OCTOBER 2021, 2.25PM, AT THE ISTANA

Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore

Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development,
Second Minister for Health

Ms Anita Fam, President, National Council of Social Service

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon and welcome to the Community Chest Awards 2021. Thank you Madam President for joining us as the Guest of Honour. We are also grateful to Minister Masagos for hosting this afternoon's event as we celebrate community giving.

2. COVID-19 continues to impact our regular way of life. However, I am glad that it has not affected our partners' commitment to give back to the community.
 - a. Thanks to your generous contributions, Community Chest was able to raise more than \$87 million in FY20, to support more than 100 social service agencies, 200 critical programmes, as well as multiple COVID-related causes like The Courage Fund and The Invictus Fund.
 - b. In FY20, we disbursed more than \$58 million to our funded programmes.
 - c. To date, we have also disbursed around \$4 million to over 4,500 beneficiaries under The Courage Fund, and have expanded support of the Fund to those who continue to be impacted by the pandemic. We have also disbursed around \$7 million to support 90 social service agencies under The Invictus Fund.
 - d. This collective positive impact on the lives of those who need assistance was only possible because of your sustained support.

3. FY20 was also a year defined by innovation and collaboration - where the people, private and public sectors developed new and creative ways to raise funds and volunteer amidst COVID challenges.
 - a. Many of you partnered Community Chest through innovative digital fundraising initiatives, such as carrying out fundraising activities on livestreams when physical events were cancelled. Others offered e-vouchers and promotion codes to donors to thank them for their donations.
 - b. Some of you leveraged technology to carry out volunteering activities, so that our service users can continue to be engaged through virtual volunteering. Others rallied employees to donate by pledging to match their contributions.
 - c. It is this dedication to doing good that has enabled us to achieve new milestones as a community last year.

4. It is thus important to us, that despite the current restrictions, we recognise and celebrate the efforts of everyone here who has made significant contributions to the community in the last year. Thank you to Community Chest Awards committee chairman Robert Chew and your team for making this event possible for us to celebrate together!

5. Every year at the Community chest Awards, we honour our valued partners – those who have made monetary donations, as well as those who have contributed their time and talents to champion holistic giving through meaningful partnerships.

6. Please allow me to share some highlights on a few of our award recipients:
 - a. Singapore Exchange Limited (or SGX), who is our Pinnacle Award recipient this year, has regularly given back to the community through its three CSR pillars under SGX Cares. These are fundraising activities, volunteerism, and efforts to foster financial literacy within the community.
 - i. One of its most significant initiatives is the popular Bull Charge Charity Run, which SGX has been holding since 2004 to rally the financial community to run for a good cause. Last year, SGX carried out the run in a virtual format, so that runners from different cities around the world could participate. The innovative initiative raised over \$3.6 million for several social service agencies supported by Community Chest, benefitting underprivileged groups like children, youths, families and seniors in need of assistance.

- ii. Through its SGX Cares outreach volunteering initiative, it also rallied employees to clock more than 1,300 volunteering hours via activities like packing and delivering care packages to lower-income families, and art jamming sessions for individuals with autism.

- b. Our Enabler Award recipient this year, Marina Bay Sands, has been a long-standing partner of Community Chest. Together, we have co-organised the Heartstrings Walk for a decade, with Marina Bay Sands generously providing its premises and assets for us to engage Singaporeans through the annual fun walk and vertical marathon.
 - i. When COVID restrictions put a stop to large-scale community events and the walk converted to a virtual format, Marina Bay Sands galvanised the support of its tenants to sponsor discount vouchers for participants who signed up for the virtual walk as an incentive.
 - ii. Nearly 2,100 participants joined the Walk and over S\$4.7 million was raised for social service agencies supported by Community Chest.

- c. I would also like to recognise our new donors who joined us on the giving journey last year. At the onset of the pandemic, homegrown brand Lam Soon Singapore wanted to do their part to support communities-in-need, and made a generous contribution of \$3.5 million through Community Chest to social service agencies that support children, youths and adults with disabilities. This was the largest one-off donation from a corporate donor who responded readily to our call for support.
7. Even as we address immediate needs, we must also prepare ourselves for longer-term challenges. With more complex needs facing our social service sector, it is important that we not only sustain our SSAs, but also build up their capabilities, so that they stay resilient and ready to meet challenges ahead.
- a. This is why Community Chest has also started fundraising for the Community Capability Trust, a fund that will enable our SSAs to have strong organisational and manpower competencies to enhance the quality of their services, and in turn support more service users.
 - b. This will also help complement regular funding for programmes. Dollar-matching from the Government and Tote Board will help triple the impact of donations.

- c. We hope our partners and donors can join us on this journey to build a strong social service sector for the future.
8. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all 190 of our valued partners present here today. All of you have faced unprecedented challenges over the last one and a half years, but your determination to help those in need of support has remained strong.
9. At this point, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our tireless emcee Susan Ng, who has been selflessly volunteering her time at this event since 1985. She was our Enabler Award recipient in 2018, and is an excellent example of the many different ways that our partners have given back to the community. Thank you, Susan, for availing yourself to volunteer at the Community Chest Awards every year.

10. On behalf of Community Chest, thank you once again to all of you for your generosity even while facing the crises of our generation. Be it outright donations, contributions to our regular giving SHARE programme, volunteerism or the provision of resources to amplify the impact of our work, your efforts are deeply appreciated. It is through this multi-faceted, collective giving, that we can build a caring and inclusive society for all Singaporeans where no one is left behind.

11. Once again, congratulations to all our award recipients. Please enjoy the afternoon ahead. Thank you.