

**SPEECH BY MR CHEW SUTAT,
CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST, AT
COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS CEREMONY ON
25 OCTOBER 2023, 7.15PM AT THE ISTANA**

Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore

Ms Jane Ittogi

Ms Sun Xueling, Minister of State (MOS) for Social and Family Development and Home Affairs

Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary (SPS) for Social and Family Development, and Culture, Community and Youth

Ms Anita Fam, President, National Council of Social Service

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

1. Good evening and welcome to the Community Chest Awards 2023. Thank you, Mr President, Mrs Tharman, MOS Sun and SPS Chua for joining tonight's event as we celebrate the community's achievements in sustained and holistic giving.

2. The Awards ceremony recognises partners who have donated, contributed their time, and offered their resources to champion every potential. This is also in line with Ministry of Social and Family Development's (MSF) Year of Celebrating Social Service Partners. Community Chest has been partnering with MSF to recognise and affirm our partners from within and beyond the social service sector who work with us and each other in nurturing and building lives together.
3. Although this ceremony takes place annually, each occasion holds a special place in our hearts as we express our gratitude to you – our donors and partners, who have journeyed with us over the years. Your continuous support has enabled us to build a more caring and inclusive society for all.
4. Indeed, with needs becoming more complex, it is critical for us to rally our partners and the community to adopt sustainable philanthropy practices. Through giving holistically and regularly through donations, volunteering and providing resources and network, we can enable the social service sector to be adequately resourced to meet current and future challenges.
5. SP Group is one such exemplary role model. From enabling customers to donate through their platforms in a sustained way to embracing inclusive hiring, SP Group has demonstrated that there are many ways corporates can contribute. For these efforts, SP Group will be receiving the highest accolade, the Pinnacle Award, this year.

6. As part of our 40th Anniversary and in line with our push towards sustainable philanthropy, we would also like to take the opportunity this year, to recognise pioneer partners of the Change for Charity initiative and acknowledge the many long-term individual donors who have contributed regularly to our SHARE programme.
7. Through Change for Charity, corporates can incorporate a giving mechanism into their business models to enable customers to donate conveniently. We are proud and grateful to recognise our 'Pioneers of Change' partners for their unwavering efforts in making giving way of life.
8. As Community Chest turns 40, we are thankful to the many long-term donors on SHARE, our regular giving programme and we are pleased to have two individuals - Mdm Lim Kim Lan and Mr Gerald Rodrigues, representing this group this evening. Mdm Lim has been a SHARE donor since it first started in 1983, while Mr Rodrigues has been actively giving for 38 years since his time in the Singapore Police Force.
9. This evening, we are thrilled to showcase the incredible talents of our performers today, featuring a dance performance by students from the Diverse Abilities Dance Collective and the Maya Dance Theatre, as well as a duet by two artistes with visual impairments. The grace and beauty of the art that these performers have dedicated themselves to underscore the potential that individuals can achieve when given the appropriate support and opportunities.

10. As the philanthropy and engagement arm of National Council of Social Service, Community Chest has direct access to information on sector trends, needs and gaps. This means 100% of your donations will be channelled to areas with greatest needs, to support more than 200 critical social services, empowering over 93,000 individuals in need.

11. On behalf of Community Chest, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all our award recipients. I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr Tan Puay Kern, Chairman of the Community Chest Awards 2023 Organising Committee, and his team for organising yet another successful event!

12. In closing, I would like to thank everyone for journeying with us to empower every person to live with dignity and achieve their full potential, despite the challenges they face in life. Please enjoy the evening ahead.